



PRAIRIE FIRE

... As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another. *From
Prairie's Bond Of Union* May 5, 1998

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President: Barb Park (608) 273-8775 bpark1@facstaff.wisc.edu

Editor: Kate Heiber-Cobb (608) 250-6512; prairieu@execpc.com

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, May 10

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00 AM; **"Embracing Difference"**, led by Gail Coover.

Monday, May 11

7:30 PM; **Prairie Transition Board Meeting.**

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 PM; **Madison Urban Ministry Series: Beyond Violence--Judgement, Guilt and Forgiveness.** Prof. Robert Enright of the UW Dept. of Education and Educational Psychology speaks on "How Could You Ever Forgive That," which deals with how people forgive someone who has hurt them, and explains the scientific outcomes of this forgiveness process. This is the final program in the 97/98 series. Blackhawk Evangelical Free Church, 110 North Whitney Way. Please call 256-0906 in advance to sign up. Cost is \$5, including light meal.

Friday, May 15

5:30 PM; **Playreaders' Annual Fish Dinner** at Irish Waters, corner of University Ave and Whitney Way, followed at 7:30 by a short play and dessert at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow La. You are welcome to join either or both parts of the evening. Dinner participants **must** phone Pat at 233-5795 before May 13 for dinner reservation.

Sunday, May 17

10:00 AM; **"Taking Care in Business: The Soul of Selling"**, by Carol "Orange" Schroeder.
11:30 AM; **Prairie Picnic at Marlborough Park (a block from the Prairie building.)** If it rains it will be held in Prairie.

Prairie Fire Deadline!!

Tuesday, May 19

7:30 PM; **GLSEN Meeting** at Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St. "Working Within the Law" will explore legal rights and responsibilities and discuss rights in curriculum, teachers' rights, and students living with gay parents. This is the final meeting of the 97/98 year.

Saturday, May 23

1:00 PM; **Denominational Affairs Committee** is invited to a luncheon meeting at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow La. RSVP to 233-5795.

Sunday, May 24

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **Transitions Intergenerational Service**, led by Erin Bosch and Robin Carre.
12:15 PM; **Ethnic Dinner Circle** will meet at Chi-Chi's, 414 Grand Canyon Drive. Call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 no later than Wed., May 20 for reservations.

Thursday, May 28

7:00 PM; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck.** At Prairie. Questions? Call 238-4382.

Sunday, May 31

12 Noon; **Memorial Day Picnic-Potluck at the Home of Marian and Carl Thompson. NO SERVICE AT THE MEETING HOUSE! Directions to the Thompsons' can be found in article under Our Society.**

Sunday, June 7

10:00 AM; **"Homelessness: Realities and Relationships"**, presented by Zoe Murphy.

Sunday June 14

10:00 AM; "**Homelessness: Experiencing and Responding**", presented by Zoe Murphy.

OUR SOCIETY

Happy Mother's Day to Kay Frazier from Jose' and Ben!!!!!!!!!!!!

A Note From the Petersons

We did find a new home on 5502 Kroncke Dr. and plan to move in at the end of May. Thanks to all who have been thinking of us in the last few weeks.

Jennifer Parker Looking for Housemate.

Available May 1. Private room with shared kitchen and dining facilities. 246-4304.

Housing Wanted

I am looking for an apartment or small house to rent starting as soon as May 15 or as late as August 31. I am a female grad student and have an 11 year old Collie. References available. I would like a simple, quiet place within five miles of the UW campus. Ideally, this would be a place with garden space, hardwood floors, a porch, clothesline, claw foot tub...I would consider a house-sharing arrangement in exchange for yard work and snow shoveling as part of the rent. Please call 238-3131 (eves) or email Osh Anderson at bjander2@students.wisc.edu

Greetings from Christopher Ris

I am the son on Dr. Hania Ris. My sister and I are planning the memorial service for my mother on Sunday, June 14 at 2 PM at the Unitarian Church in Shorewood. Dr. Hania Ris was born June 15, 1913 and died March 24, 1998. You can email him for more info at chrisris@aol.com

Prairie Board Meeting

The transition from the old to the new Board will occur on May 11th. This is the official change in officers for the Society. Old Board members: please bring materials that you will need to pass on to your successor. Thanks again to all those who have served on the Board and all those who have agreed to serve during the next year. Remember that all the committees officially "sunset" at this meeting, so new committee chairs will be contacting you to ask if you want to continue to serve on their committee or to join their committee. This is a great time to volunteer for the committee you have always secretly wanted to join!

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is May 17th.

PICNIC - EVERYONE INVITED!

On Sunday, May 17, after the service, there will be a Prairie Picnic at Marlborough Park (a block from the Prairie building). Activities will include: a semi-serious softball game for ages about 10 and up who can throw and catch (bring your glove); a just-for-fun t-ball game for all ages; volleyball; duck, duck goose etc. Bring portable potluck food, lawn chairs, blankets, etc. If the weather isn't great, we'll have a potluck and play indoor games at Prairie. All ages are invited; less active people make great spectators. Call Erin Bosch (238-6285) with questions, or suggestions, or to say that you can lend a tee for the t-ball.

1998 Prairie B.O.D. Officers and Committee Chairs

The following members were elected to serve on the 1998 B.O.D. at the Spring Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 19.

Nancy Schraufnagel: President
Dean Schroeder: Vice-President
Erin Bosch: Membership
Anne Pryor: Religious Education
Judy Skog: Interim-Treasurer for three months
Ken Skog: Long-Range Planning
Aileen Nettleton: Finance Chair
Paula Pachciarz/Shannon Hayes: Co-chairs
Social Action Committee
Mark Wehrly: Secretary
Marian Thompson/Warren Hagstrom: Co-chairs
Program Committee
Pat Watkins: Denominational Affairs
Karen Gross: Building and Property

For their dedication to Prairie we thank ALL the out going committee chairs and E-board members who served on the board last year.

Thank you! Barb Park: President; Rob Steinhofer: Social Action; Kate Tucker: Secretary; Rosemarie Lester: co-chair of Program Committee. Thank you additional members who served on the Prairie Board: Rick Ruecking, Randy Converse, Mike Sheehy, and Mary Mullen.



Treasurer Urgently Needed for Prairie Board

Committee on Committees is seeking 1998 nominee to Prairie BOD to fulfill the role of treasurer. Access to a computer and use of either Microsoft Money or Quicken is helpful. Must be willing to learn and willing to do timely work. Training and backup support while you are learning is available. Will take two to three hours of work a week. If you're interested please contact the Committee on Committees: Karen Gross, Paula Pachciarz, Marilyn Ruecking, Pat Cautley or Phoenix Wardell.

Also, two volunteers are needed to organize the Fall Retreat at Wisconsin Dells Upham Woods retreat center. We need one volunteer who will organize the program and another to take registration.

Lay-Minister Sought to do 4 to 6 services for Fall and Winter of 1998-99.

The Committee on Committees seeks Prairie members or other interested parties who will submit a proposal to do 4 to 6 services with a common, interwoven theme. Please submit your proposals to the Committee on Committees. Call Marilyn Ruecking at 838-8540.

Home For Sale

Peg Barratt and Will Hayes are moving to East Lansing, MI and selling their home on Sheldon Street. The 3-bedroom home is in a great neighborhood in the Dudgeon-Monroe area of Madison. Open House will be on Sundays, May 10 and 17, 1-3 PM. Call Peg at 233-6449 for further information.

Housing Needed

There will be a large contingent of people, originally from Tibet and now living in Minneapolis, who are coming to Madison to see the Dahli Lama. They will arrive on the evening of Thursday, May 14th and be here until Saturday morning, May 16th. The trip is being sponsored by one of the UU churches in Minneapolis. Housing is needed for family units of from 2-4 people for the 2 nights. If you could house such a group, contact Jackie Muehl at 231-2927.

Volunteers Needed

The "Working for a Just Economic Community" Study Group is still seeking Prairie family members or friends to participate in a short interview and answer some job-related questions. If you or someone close to you is, or has been, recently employed, either full or part time, permanent or temporary, in any of the following types of businesses: restaurants, bookstores, hotels, dry cleaners, retail stores, day care centers, grocery stores, manufacturing, fast food, banks or theaters, please call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 and leave a message stating which kind of business the job experience has been in. One of our group members will contact you.

Chicago Voice Exchange Concert

You are invited to a concert by the Chicago Voice Exchange (twice winner of the Midwest A cappella Harmony Sweepstakes), at 7:30 PM on Friday, May 15th, at West High School. CVX combines the harmony of The Nylons and the humor of Weird Al. A four-man oldies group, BC3, is also on the bill. This is a benefit concert for the Madison Children's Choir. Tickets are available at the door or at Orange Tree Imports.

Volunteer Schedules

Grass Mowers:

May 10-16: Rick Ruecking

May 17-23: Dean Schroeder

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

May 10: Mark Wehrly

May 17: *Volunteer still needed*

Coffee Set-up:

May 10: Rachel Siegfried

May 17: Kathy Helm

Clean-up:

May 10: Marilyn Reucking & *need volunteer*

May 17: *Still Need Two volunteers*

Taping of Programs:

May 10: Bob Park

May 17: Al Nettleton

Memorial Day Picnic-Potluck

The short drive to Marian and Carl Thompson's home south of Oregon will be well worth the time. Their lovely home is secluded in the country with beautiful views of the surrounding trees and grassland. This will be a chance to get to know other Prairie friends and members.

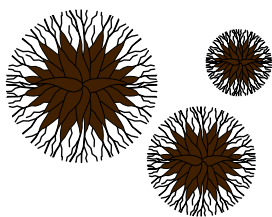
To get to their home, head South from Madison and Fitchburg on Hwy. 14 East past the town of

Oregon. Turn left on Old Stage Road.
(CAUTION: Last yr. there was no road sign at Old Stage.) Old Stage is 4.4 miles south of the Oregon turnoff, or 1.2 miles south of County A. When you see the White Rock Inn on the left you have just missed the turnoff! Old Stage is a bucolic one-and-a-half lane blacktop road that winds through the countryside. Their driveway is 4.8 miles on the left. When you pass the Graves Cemetery on the left you are about halfway there. Marian will hang orange streamers on both sides of the road. It's about 1/4 mile up a dirt driveway, over hill and down into the dale where their lovely home sits.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

General Assembly 1998 will be held in Rochester, New York on June 25-30. To date, only one person has applied for delegate status to my knowledge. Please let Pat Watkins know if you are interested.

Central Midwest District Annual Assembly. I felt honored and privileged to be selected as a delegate along with Barb Park, to represent Prairie at this function. And, I felt very proud, to wear not only the delegate ribbon, but also the ribbons which signified that Prairie had paid (in the past fiscal year) both the "fair share" dues to the UUA and the dues to the District. I was very pleased that four other Prairie folds were in attendance in addition to your delegates. They were Robin Carre, Karen Gross, Rick Ruecking, and Nancy Schraufnagel. George and Ruth Calden and Doleta Chapru (the Ethnic Connection) provided the music at the Monona Terrace banquet, Nancy and Barb worked at the Registration Table, Rick was on a workshop panel, and Pat served on the planning committee and provided home hospitality. Highlights of the assembly for me were two very inspiring sermons, one given by Michael Schuler at the Saturday vespers. The other given by the Rev. Charles Gaines, who flew in from Groton, MA for Jonalu Johnstone's installation on Sunday. Also, there was a really good workshop on diversity put on by "Rev" Johnstone, which I am going to try to wheedle out of her for a Prairie service.
-Pat Watkins



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, May 10

"Embracing Difference", led by Gail Coover.

Sunday, May 17

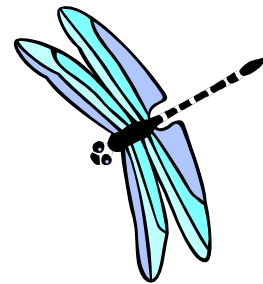
"Taking Care in Business: The Soul of Selling", led by Orange Schroeder.

Sunday, May 24

"Transitions Intergenerational Service", led by Erin Bosch and Robin Carre, will honor our graduating 8th graders, say farewell to members who are moving away (Peg Barratt, Rebecca Dumlao, and their families, and Rob Steinhof), and welcome new Prairie people.

Sunday, May 31

"Memorial Day Picnic-Potluck" at the Thompsons. NO SERVICE AT THE MEETING HOUSE! See article for picnic details and directions.



Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Fri., May 15 - Shabbat evening service. 7:15 pm

Sat., May 16- Havdalah service. 5:00 pm for potluck dinner, service begins at 6:30 pm. No childcare at this child-friendly event.

Fri., June 12- Friday night service from 6:30 to 10 pm.

Sat., June 20- Saturday morning service from 9 am to 2 pm.