



# 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* June 9, 1998

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## **PRAIRIE CALENDAR**

### **Friday, June 12 thru Sunday, June 14**

Prairie Youth Group Retreat at the Ruecking's farm.

### **Sunday, June 14**

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

11:30 AM; **Program Committee** meets after the service.

### **Wednesday, June 17**

7:00 PM; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck**, at Bill Shaffer's home at 3718 Gregory St. Questions, call 233-8266.

### **Sunday, June 21**

10:00 AM; "**The Boy Scouts of America and the Right of Conscience**", led by Doleta Chapru.

### **Sunday, June 28**

10:00 AM; **Annual Outdoor Service at Picnic Point. "Making Connection with the Natural World"**, presented by Metje Butler with help from Susan Hagstrom. **No Service at Prairie unless it rains.**

12:15 PM; **Ethnic Dinner Circle** will Brunch on Israeli food at the Ivy Inn. Call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 no later than Wed., June 24 to make your reservation.

### **Sunday, July 5**

2:30 PM; **Independence Day Picnic** at the home of Shirley Grindrod. See further details under Upcoming Programs.

### **Sunday, July 12**

10:00 AM; David & Marcia Johnson will discuss their volunteer work at the Oxford federal prison.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **SPECIAL ELECTION:**

#### **For Prairie Treasurer**

Daisy Peterson has accepted the Committee on Committee's nomination to be Prairie's Treasurer. According to the Bylaws, we will hold a special election on Sunday, June 21, 11:30 AM (after service). Please plan to attend for we need a quorum to make it official!

### **Lay Ministers Sought to do Four to Six Services For Fall & Winter of 1998 - 1999**

The Committee on Committees is seeking Prairie members or other presenters (who are recommended by Prairie members and friends) who will submit a proposal to do 4 to 6 services with an interwoven theme. If you have attended our Prairie programs for awhile you know that we've had services with a wide range of topics, orientations and creative, artistic components. We are looking for you to share your unique perspective in a series of 4 to 6 ministries. Contact Marilyn Ruecking at 838-8540 or Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806.

If you wish to do one or two ministries you may submit a proposal directly to the program committee by contacting Warren Hagstrom or Marian Thompson.

### **Upham Woods Retreat Volunteer Needed**

We need a volunteer to organize the Fall retreat at Wisconsin Dells Upham Woods retreat center. If you can volunteer your time to

organize this fun and busy retreat please contact Karen Gross or Nancy Schraufnagel.

### **Dr. Hania Ris Memorial Service**

The memorial service for Hania Ris will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 2:00 PM at the First Unitarian Society in Madison. Dr. Ris was born June 15, 1913 and died March 24, 1998.

### **Travelogue**

Several people have asked Nancy Graham about the details of her eight months of trailer travel over the fall and winter. She wrote a long letter every couple of months to send to family and friends. She has kindly made copies of these letters and has put them, for your pleasure, in the member-info book near the phone in the kitchen. Her warning is: "It's long...15 double pages".

### **Governorship**

Ed Garvey plans to run against Tommy Thompson for governor in November. He needs 100,000 signatures by early July. If you have not yet had your name counted in that number, Nancy Graham and Nancy Schraufnagel will have the papers available every Sunday after service in June.

### **Blood Donations**

Recently Rick Ruecking, Bob Purvis and Laurie Larson each gave a pint of blood. Please join their volunteer efforts.

### **Volunteer Schedules**

#### **Grass Mowers:**

**June 14-20:** Warren Hagstrom

**June 21-27:** Jim Glueck

**June 28-July 3:** Paula Pachciarz

#### **Hospitality Helpers:**

**No updates available. Come to the service willing to volunteer.**

#### **Program Taping:**

**June 14:** Pat Cautley

**June 21:** *Need a volunteer.*

### **Member Biography**

#### ***DAISY PETERSON***

A new member who responded to Prairie Society's urgent need for a treasurer! That's Daisy Peterson, wife of John and mother of Vincent, 7, and Lushana, 5. Born and educated

in Switzerland, in a suburb of Basel, she studied math and science, then graduated with a degree in music and the arts. She then earned a master's degree in education, with some training in special education.

Daisy's father had chosen her first name because he like Donald and Daisy Duck; to California (but not to Disneyland) his daughter went between the two big education degrees: she worked as an au paire for a family with three children. Shortly before her return to Switzerland for her master's degree studies, she was introduced to JOHN by mutual friends. Some "really good letters" then began to fly across the Atlantic after that!

Again Daisy worked as a professional nanny after her master's degree; this time she lived in Washington D.C., and since John was in Philadelphia he often came down to our nation's capital for a weekend visit. Daisy's visitor's visa was expiring, and she needed to return to Switzerland to obtain a "green card" allowing her to work in the U.S.A.. John Peterson traveled with her, and on that trip, he proposed marriage. Their wedding was in Belmont, Massachusetts.

In Arlington, Massachusetts, Daisy applied for a teaching position in a school for emotionally disturbed children. The person who interviewed her was impressed with her philosophy of teaching, for she had studied the works of Rudolph Steiner (of the Waldorf Schools). She was hired, and herself became a learner, in that stressful, but stimulating environment.

But John wanted to return to Switzerland, to study photography there, so the couple crossed the ocean again, and Daisy became a special education teacher---and a mother!

They came to Madison for John's work as an eye photographer. On May 30, 1998 they spent their first night in their new home here at 5502 Kroncke Drive, Madison, 53711. We hope they'll stay!



- Please note that over the coming months we will try to be including more member biographies in the Prairie Fire. Barbara Rames is kindly putting many of these together and

making them available to Kate for publication in the newsletter.

# Thankyou

## A Panegyric for Barb

**"Cheerful" is the common theme of all your friends' suggestions;  
Genuine, accepting, kind, respectful of our questions.**

**Your empathy is right up front, we see it in your eyes.  
Working hard behind-the-scenes, you seek to compromise.**

**Skydiving and ski patrol prepared you for the job  
Of serving well as commander of this eclectic mob.**

**You juggled being president and choir rehearsalist  
Never letting us forget we're Universalist.**

**You handled serious matters with competence and grace.  
Your spirit made it easier to worship in this place.**

**You gave us thoughts to ponder through readings of your choice.  
Occasionally you blessed us with your clear soprano voice.**

**Seemingly unsinkable, you still took time to rendezvous  
With Robin, Mischa, Ian, Bob, a Samoyed and a Peekapoo.**

**The gavel has been passed to Nancy, your big task is over.  
Take at least ten minutes off before you start another.**

**Doleta Chapru  
5/24/98**

### **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**Sat., June 20** - Shabbat morning service at Prairie. The service will include the Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Kohl-Riggs. Potluck lunch following the service.

**Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, June 21.**

## **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**General Assembly 1998: Rochester, New York.** Bon Voyage to our two delegates, Deborah Phelps and Barbara Park, who will have left for GA by the time our next Prairie Fire is received. Have a great conference. We will eagerly await all of the news you will return with.

**Denominational Affairs Committee Members for the 1998/99 Church Year are:** Ruth Calden, Mary Mullen, Barbara Park, Debbie Phelps, Sharon Scratish, and Rachel Siegfried. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please phone Pat Watkins, Chair, at 233-5795.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**Sunday, June 14**

**"Homelessness: Experiences and Responding"**, the second of Zoe Wade's programs on homelessness. This program will be more experiential, asking us to imagine homelessness and the homeless, and then to reflect on our experiences and our responses to them.

**Sunday, June 21**

**"Boy Scouts of America and the Rights of Conscience"**, presented by Doleta Chapru.

On March 23, the California Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America is a private organization according to California law. CA Boy Scout organizations may now exclude, from membership and leadership, people who are agnostic, atheist or gay.

On March 2, a New Jersey appeals court ruled that Monmouth Council of Boy Scouts' dismissal of a gay assistant scoutmaster violated that state's anti-discrimination law. Boy Scouts are appealing to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Related legal cases are arising throughout the country. Soon the U.S. Supreme Court may be asked to rule on the public or private status of Boy Scouts related to state and federal anti-discrimination laws and the separation of church and state.

Prairie's June 21 program will include: 1) scouting as experienced by our own Prairie members, 2) background of BSA's stance on gay and non-religious people, 3) UU reaction to the California ruling, 4) legal issues regarding BSA's public/private status, and 5) discussion.

As UUAs we affirm "the rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in the society at large." Be prepared! Prepared, that is, to examine your own conscience regarding Boy Scouts, the law, and your UU beliefs.

**Sunday, June 28**

**"Making Connection with the Natural World"**.

A series of musing on your own personal experience joining with the natural world. Come ready for sharing in the natural habitat of Picnic Point. This will be Prairie's annual outdoor service. Service leaders -- Metje Butler with assistance from Susan Hagstrom. DIRECTIONS: If walking is easy for you, please park in the lot across the street from the Picnic Point entrance (on the side of the road away from the lake). For those unsure of feet, an easier path will be marked. Walk inside the Picnic Point entrance, then walk roughly perpendicular to the main path toward the large wooden sign. (Other signs with arrows will be provided). The site is roughly 125 paces past the wooden sign. Go up a slight grade on the leftmost dirt path into the woods. We will meet in a clearing in the woods. Assistance will be available for those needing help or to provide directions. Bring something you don't mind getting dirty to sit on.

**Sunday, July 5**

**Independence Day Picnic at the home of Shirley Grindrod.**

There will be no Sunday morning program on July 5, but at 2:30 pm, at the home of Shirley Grindrod (5235 Harbor Ct., Madison), there will be a picnic potluck lasting as long as you want! Bring a dish to pass, and a swimsuit if you wish to swim in Lake Mendota. A grill will be available if you want to bring something to grill for yourself. If the weather is bad, we will picnic on the deck, so come anyway!