



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 23, 1998

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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. See directions on back page.

12:15 pm; **Ethnic Dinner Circle** will Brunch on Israeli food at the Ivy Inn. Reservations were due on June 24th.

Sunday, July 5

2:30 pm; **Independence Day Picnic** at the home of Shirley Grindrod. See further details under Upcoming Programs. No service at the meeting house.

Sunday, July 12

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

11:30 am; **Program Committee** meets at Prairie following the service.

Monday, July 13

7:00 pm; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck** will meet at Amy Schulz's home at 2304 S. Syene Rd., 273-2639.

Sunday, July 19

10:00 am; **"The UW Arboretum - Green Prairie and the Savannah Project"**, presented by Molly Fifield Murray, Outreach program manager at the Arboretum.

Sunday, July 26

Summer Celebration - Joint Program at Sauk City. Members of Prairie, the James Reeb

Society, and the Sauk City Free Community will share stories, poems, and music at the historic meeting house of the Free Congregation in Sauk City. There will be an outside potluck afterwards. Directions will be provided in the next issue of the Prairie Fire.

OUR SOCIETY

Daisy Peterson Elected Prairie Treasurer

On Sunday, June 21, in a special election, Daisy Peterson was elected our Treasurer. Congratulations Daisy! (Everyone make sure those receipts you turn in for reimbursement are clear and legible.) Thanks once again to our outgoing treasurer, Judy Skog, for all her time and patience with the day to day finances of Prairie.



Social Action

Volunteer counselors (both youth and adult) are needed for the Allied Drive/Madison Urban Ministry Day camp which will run from August 3 -14 this summer. For more

information, check the flyer on the Social Action Bulletin Board or get in touch with Robin at 286-9165.

URGENT!! Wetherby Fund needs donations!

We urgently need to replenish the Wetherby Fund. Contributors, please make checks payable to **Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society**. Designate that your contribution is for the Wetherby Fund. Give your check to Daisy Peterson, Treasurer, or mail it to her at 5502 Kroncke Drive, Madison, WI 53711.

The Wetherby Fund was established to provide small cash awards to Prairie Members or participating Friends who temporarily lack basics such as housing, food or clothing, for which resources are not readily available. Payback is encouraged but not required.

The Wetherby Fund was named for Dorothy Wetherby, a long-time Prairie member.

Hey PYG's (grades 6-12)

We still need people to sign up for summer childcare on Sundays when there is a service at Prairie. There is a (nearly empty) sign-up sheet on the RE bulletin board. You will be paid \$10 if you work alone or \$5 if two people work. In addition, \$10 goes into the PYG's fund. The next date we need someone is July 12. I (Robin) will be on vacation the next two weeks, but if you want to work, leave a message on the Prairie answering machine or e-mail Prairie.

RE Corner

Thanks to all the parents who have returned RE evaluations. For those of you who haven't yet had the chance to fill yours out, the RE committee would really appreciate your input.

We are still looking for teachers for next year. We need one teacher each in K-1-2, 3-4-5, and High School. Please contact Robin or Anne Pryor if you are interested. There are also a couple openings on the RE committee.

Desperately Seeking Upham Woods Program Coordinator!

We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the Upham Woods retreat programs

the second week of October. Call Nancy Schraufnagel or Karen Gross to volunteer.

Thank you Susan Hagstrom and Phoenix Wardell for volunteering to work on registration for Upham Woods!

Ad hoc Committee Evaluating Prairie Fire

During Barb Park's tenure as president, the board appointed Al Nettleton and Anne Urbanski to serve as an ad hoc committee to evaluate our newsletter and offer recommendations on ways to improve it. We have met once and plan to meet with Kate Heiber-Cobb, Prairie Fire editor, in the near future. We encourage members and friends of Prairie to submit their own suggestions for ways the newsletter could be improved. We can't promise to incorporate all of them, but all suggestions will be considered. We would like to develop a list of recommendations by September 1998. Please send your suggestions to Nancy Schraufnagel, President, c/o Prairie UU Society, 2010 Whenona Dr., Madison, WI 53711.

Volunteer Schedules

Grass Mowers:

June 28 - July 3: Paula Pachciarz

July 4 - 11: Linda Sheehy

July 11 - 18: Blake & Amy

Hospitality Helpers & Program Taping:

June 28: *Outdoor Service*

July 5: *Independence Day Picnic*

Prairie UU Society and You: opportunities

As a lay-led religious fellowship, Prairie UU Society's members and friends have a wide range of opportunities for involvement in the congregation. Enclosed in this issue is a listing of Prairie UU Society's 1998 Officers, Committee Chairs, Lay Leaders and Staff with Committee descriptions. Several committees have expressed needs for more members. Please consider serving on a committee and contact the Chair with any questions you may have.

Are there other programs, activities or services you'd like at Prairie? Would you like to get to know people, use old or develop new skills, feel pride in your contributions, make a difference, have fun? Each person has a unique blend of talents, experiences, interests, ideas and concerns. We have the ability to contribute in

different ways at different times in our lives. Please consider the ways in which you would like to be involved at Prairie.

Thanks to all of you for all you have given to Prairie: your selves, your thoughts, works, time and (money). **This is your Society, our community.** Help us stay and grow as a congregation and as individuals.

-Your President, Nancy Schraufnagel

Creating a Jubilee World **October 16 -18th at James Reeb**

Created by UUA's Black Concerns Working Group, this weekend workshop is meant to help each congregation dismantle racism. We as participants will examine both personal (and there's a little in most of us, right?) and institutional racism, and thereby become more able to develop a plan to move our congregation forward in working for racial justice.

There will be a Friday evening reception with snacks, a seven hour Saturday workshop (1 hour break for a provided lunch), and a special Sunday service. UU's from around Wisconsin are being invited to take part, so please consider attending and creating a good showing from Prairie, and/or volunteering home hospitality, and/or attending the Sunday service.

Pat Watkins (233-5795) and Nancy Graham (273-2326) are on the preparation committee for this event. Please contact either of us for further information.

Did You Hear About the Party?

How many of you know that Prairie was the site of a large party this spring on the evening of Tuesday, April 28? The Allied/Dunn's Marsh community celebrated Asian American History Month, it's school attendance "all stars", and community volunteers. Maybe you saw the photos on the Social Action Committee bulletin board. The SAC wasn't involved in making Prairie the site of the party, but we were proud to represent our congregation there. And was it ever a party! There was great food, varied and entertaining dancing, and strong community spirit. Our mayor, Sue Bauman, was present for most of the evening.

Now for some news about projects at Allied Drive that we are involved in. We participate in Allied Partners, a group of area

churches organized to work together in the Allied Drive community. Allied Partners is assisting Madison Urban Ministry with a summer day camp at Belmar Park (in the Allied Drive neighborhood) for grades 1-5 in August. MUM is requesting \$75.00 from each congregation to make the camp possible. It is also encouraging volunteers to help with running the camp. Most of you are aware of the high population of children in that community and the need for positive, organized activities. You responded generously to the special collection on May 10 and the SAC has already sent in the \$75.00 from Prairie. Please feel free to contact a SAC member if you wish to volunteer for this project.

We appreciate your support for this project and your continuing participation in ongoing SAC activities:

Donations to the Food Pantry have been steady. The need is always there, though.

We've been gratified by the great support Prairie people have shown for our fundraisers and letter writing events (look for another one soon!). We especially encourage any of you to initiate writing letters about an issue important to you. Let us help with the materials and organization. The political agenda should be formed by all of us.

We are proud to have helped to carry on Prairie's longest social action commitment -- the monthly staffing of the Homeless Shelter. Prairie now shares that commitment with Shaarei Shamayim, but we still are responsible for providing and serving breakfast for 50 men. Currently, Shaarei Shamayim members work the Monday evening shift, and Prairie members and friends work the Tuesday morning shift, but this is a very open arrangement. You may sign up for either time slot. We will be passing around the sign-up sheet at services. We encourage those of you who have never volunteered at the shelter to do so. We will be happy to answer any questions about the expected duties and the unexpected compensations.

Well, that's it in not exactly a nutshell. It's hard to be brief! But one more message. We feel we are a healthy, active committee, but to stay healthy we need ideas, input, members! Any of those are welcome, especially the third. If you would like to work with the committee,

please contact one of us or come to a meeting. And who are we? We are: Shannon Hayes and Paula Pachciarz, co-chairs; Robin Carre, Nancy Graham and Ken Reinebach, members.

GOT NAKED WINDOWS?

This is a "Pro-Seeds to Prairie" offering.

I have two unused cellular window shades, (a relatively new concept in insulated window coverings). They are double-celled, light beige, and were custom-made to be mounted inside window openings of 31" and 43". They are a \$198.00 value, and are available for a donation to Prairie, whatever amount you want to give. -Metje Butler (244-3659)



OLD COMPUTER FOR SALE

The manuals have been located for the 1990 vintage Macintosh II computer used by Prairie until last year. It is not compatible with current Macintosh computers, but it may still have some value to a home with no computer. If you would like it, in exchange for a small contribution to Prairie, contact Bob or Barb Park at 273-8775. You can try out the computer at their home.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

July 18 - Sabbath morning service. 9am - 2pm

July 24 - Sabbath evening service. 6:30-9:30pm

Aug. 1 - Tisha B'Av service. 7-10pm

Aug. 15 - Sabbath morning service. 9am - 2pm

Aug. 28 - Sabbath evening service. 6:30-9:30pm

Next Prairie Fire Deadline

is July 12th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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 5th, but at 2:30pm, 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!

Sunday, July 12

David & Marcia Johnson will discuss their volunteer work at the **Oxford federal prison.**

Sunday, July 19

"The UW Arboretum -- Green Prairie and the Savannah Project", presented by Molly Fifield Murray, Outreach program manager at the Arboretum.