



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* July 14, 1998

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

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

10:00 AM; **Three U-U Societies' Joint Program at Sauk City**, followed by a potluck lunch on the Free Congregation's grounds (or indoors if it rains). See directions and details under Upcoming Programs.

Sunday, August 2

10:00 AM; **"The Realities of Sister City in the Post-Cold War Era: the Madison-Arcatao Project"**, presented by Maria Hansa and Mark Rosenthal.

After program: **Special Parish Meeting. See details under Our Society.**

Sunday August 9

10:00 AM; **"A Day in the Life of a Western Monk in Thailand"**, presented by Larry Nahlik.

Monday, August 10

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

Sunday, August 16

10:00 AM; **"Why We Go To War"**, presented by Bob Reuschlein.

Sunday, August 23

10:00 AM; Nikki Bromberg will discuss **"Vipassane Buddhism"**.

Wednesday, September 9

7:00 PM; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck**, at the home of Betty French, 4111 Twin Valley Rd., Middleton, 831-5224.

OUR SOCIETY

Special Parish Meeting on Sunday Aug. 2

There will be a Special Parish Meeting Sunday August 2nd after the program. We will vote on a proposal for placing two yard signs "Madison supports its Lesbian and Gay Communities" on Prairie U. U. Society's grounds. This is in part a response to the anti-gay billboard and yard sign controversy in our newly named city of tolerance. Please plan to attend to discuss and vote on this timely and important stand.

K.K. Andersen needs hugs

On Friday, July 10th, Mildred Stone, K.K.'s mother, died. She wanted everyone to know that she needs your hugs. Our hearts are with you in your grief K.K.

Upham Woods Reunion

It has been suggested that we designate this year's Upham Woods Retreat as a reunion event for Prairie members who have "fallen away" for one reason or another. The dates are October 9-11. Try to set aside that weekend to get reacquainted. The registration materials will be in the Prairie Fire in September.

Pledge Updates

Please send your Prairie pledges to our new treasurer, Daisy Peterson, 5502 Kronke Drive, Madison, WI, 53711 or bring to Prairie. Mid-year pledge reminders were recently sent out. If you did not receive a note, you are probably keeping on schedule with your pledge--thanks! And thank you to each of you for your ongoing contributions to help us keep Prairie alive and growing.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to publicly thank Judy Skog for all her excellent, hard work over the past years as our Prairie treasurer. Judy made our job as Finance Committee run smoothly with her careful record keeping and watchful eye on our finances. We look forward to working with Daisy as she takes on this important responsibility for our society. Thanks, Judy and Daisy!!

If you have questions about your pledge status, call Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair, 238-



6053.

Volunteer Schedules

WE NEED GRASS MOWERS!

Grass Mowers:

July 19-25: *Need a Volunteer*

July 26-Aug. 1: *Need a Volunteer*

Aug. 2-8: *Need a Volunteer*

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

July 19: Rachel Siegfried

July 26: *Joint Service at Sauk City*

Aug. 2: *Need a Volunteer*

Coffee Set-up:

July 19: *Need a Volunteer*

July 26: *Joint Service at Sauk City*

Aug. 2: *Need a Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up:

July 19: *Need two volunteers*

July 26: *Joint Service at Sauk City*

Aug. 2: *Need two volunteers*

Program Taping:

July 19: Pat Cautley

July 26: *Joint Service at Sauk City*

Aug. 2: *Need a volunteer*

PYGs Needed!

This summer, the Prairie Youth Group is providing the childcare during the Sunday morning services. \$10 goes to the PYGs who work (to be split between the two of you) and another \$10 goes to the PYGs bank account. This is a great way to provide a needed service to Prairie, have fun with some of our youngest and cutest members, and earn money for future PYGs projects. Molly Howe is signed up for July 10 and the schedule is open after that. Please sign up on the RE bulletin board at the top of the stairs, or call Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

Teachers Needed!

The RE Program still needs three teachers for the upcoming academic year. The theme of the curricula for all of the class levels will be comparative religions. No one needs to be a scholar to lead these classes. They're activity based and rely more on your creativity and enjoyment of children than on any great knowledge of other religions. At this time, we need a teacher to work with Amy Wilcox in K-1-2, another to work with Anne Urbanski in 3-4-5, and a third to teach with Rick Ruecking in 9-12. Our 6-7-8 teachers will be Carl Wacker and Judy Skog. Thanks to all who have volunteered so far, and who help the RE program in so many ways throughout the year. Please consider if you can make a commitment to one of these classes. To discuss the possibility or to find out more about the curricula, contact either Robin Carre at 286-9165 or Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

Wisconsin Folklife Festival

For ten days, the culture of Wisconsin was celebrated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. A milking parlor in a big red barn, master cheese-makers, polka bands from around the state, Norwegian wood carvers, African American doll makers, Ojibwe flute maker, Hmong marriage broker, ice shanties, and games of euchre and sheepshead in a tavern were met with delight by the Washington and Maryland audience. Anne Pryor helped to organize the festival in her job with the Wisconsin Arts Board, the primary agency responsible for the festival.

In August for four days, the festival will be re-staged in Madison. From Aug. 20-23,

Thursday through Sunday, all of the participants who went to D.C. will meet again in Madison to again demonstrate and perform their unique skills. The festival will be staged on the south side of the Capitol and in James Madison Park. It will also be expanded by five of Wisconsin's sister states joining us. Delegations from Hessen, Germany, Chiba, Japan, Heilongjiang, China, Nicaragua, and Jalisco, Mexico will exhibit and perform on Martin Luther King Avenue. All Prairie members and friends have a special invitation to attend, and of course to volunteer. For details contact Anne at 244-7099.

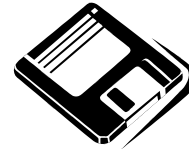
Member Biography

We tend to like people who, on joining our Prairie Society, begin immediately to share in the "work" that makes the Society "go". Mark is one of those: he already is secretary! Bravo!

Beginning life in Omaha, Nebraska, Mark moved to Portland, Oregon while very young, and he went to grade school there, then to a liberal Jesuit all-male high school. That idealistic, serious institution had a strong influence in his life. A major change was his college career in New York City, at Columbia University, with a major in religion, then studies on a Fulbright scholarship in Germany. There he came to know the works of Hans Kung, a heretical Catholic clergyman. Back at Columbia, he began his law school education, then completed that back in Oregon. He worked as a local government attorney for eight years before returning to academia for a master's degree in public administration.

How did he meet Gail Coover, his perky wife? Both were graduate students working toward Ph.D's at U. of Southern California in Los Angeles! They moved to Madison together when Gail accepted her job in Communication Arts at the university here. Mark now works for a software firm, in marketing.

When asked about hobbies, Mark named biking, but added that he's "Gail's slave labor in the garden"; both pursuits have many comrades within the Prairie Society.



From the Administrator's Desk

I want to let people know that for a month or so my hours on Thursday will be in the afternoon instead of the morning, due to medical appointments that have to be at that time.

Also, the week of August 6th through the 14th I will be gone on vacation. The August deadlines for Prairie Fire are Aug. 2 and Aug. 14th, so my vacation will not interfere with the publishing of the newsletter.

I met with Anne Urbanski and Al Nettleton (the ad hoc newsletter committee). In the last Prairie Fire you may have read the article explaining this committee and asking you to submit suggestions and feedback to it. I encourage you to do so, because guidelines for submissions and editorial work will come partly from that. Send them to Prairie.

In the meantime some suggestions for submissions to Prairie Fire are as follows: be on time, submit through our e-mail address (on the front page of each newsletter) if possible, disk submission if possible (we use Microsoft Word using a Times New Roman font), and keep your articles concise. Long articles submitted often do not get in due to lack of space, or they get severely edited, if possible. Remember, I'm always looking for poetry, sayings, etc. that can be used as fillers and to lighten up the content.



AIDS Walk in Milwaukee

The yearly AIDS walk in Milwaukee is coming up in the Fall. The Madison organizers are looking for groups to participate. They would prefer the groups to be 10 or more people and they have buses going from Madison that they are trying to fill. If anyone is interested in participating or organizing a group call Tom at 249-7453.

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
Sept. 20 - Rosh Hashanah service. 5-10pm
Sept. 21 - Rosh Hashanah service. 9:30am-2pm
Sept. 22 - Rosh Hashanah service. 9:30am-2pm
Sept. 29 - Yom Kippur service. 5-10pm
Sept. 30 - Yom Kippur service. 8:30am-10pm



Some Unitarian Ditties from the Internet

(Thanks to Thomas Cook)

You may be a Unitarian if you think socks are too formal for a summer service.

You may be a Unitarian if even your goldfish gets to vote on TV viewing choices.

You may be a Unitarian if you and your cat share the same therapist.

You may be a Unitarian if you know at least five ways to say - Happy Holidays!

You may be a Unitarian if the letters PC still mean personal computer to you.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, August 2nd.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, July 19

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

Sunday, July 26

Three Society Meeting & Potluck at Sauk City Free Congregation

We and members of the James Reeb Society have been invited by the Free Congregation of Sauk City to join them in a collaborative worship experience. The Free Congregation (founded over a century ago as the Freie Gemeinde by German immigrants) will have something about the early free thought movement, James Reeb will discuss liberal Christianity and Judaism, and Prairie people will have something about native American religion.

The Free Congregation building is a beautiful historic building situated in a large tree-shaded park. A friendly potluck brunch will follow the service, in all likelihood outside (it hasn't rained for years on this event). Bring a dish to pass. This is a family event.

Take highway 12 into Sauk City. Take a right on Water Street. Travel two blocks, then turn left on Polk. The Free Congregation is two blocks down on the right, in the center of their beautiful Park. You can't miss it if you wander around the north side of Sauk City.

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