



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* August 4, 1998

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
e-mail version available: <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>*

President: Nancy E. Schraufnagel (608) 273-3195

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, August 9

10:00 AM; "A Day in the Life of a Western Monk in Thailand", presented by Larry Nahlik. Before & After Program: **Denominational Affairs Committee** will be collecting donations to continue funding of the Prairie announcement on WHA for 1998/99. See Ruth Calden and/or Pat Watkins.

Monday, August 10

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

Saturday, August 15

3:00 PM; **Denominational Affairs Committee** meets at the home of Pat Watkins. Please phone 233-5795 if unable to attend.

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".

Sunday, August 30

10:00 AM; "If I Were a Rich Man...(or Woman)", presented by Pat Watkins.

Saturday, September 5

One day **canoe trip down the Sugar River**, putting in near Attica about 10am. Call Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970 if you are interested.

Sunday, September 6

10:00 AM; "Putting Labor Back in Labor Day", led by Betty Jallings and Karen Gross.

Wednesday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 13

Chalice Lighter sign-up in Prairie lobby, before and after the service. See Rachel Siegfried and/or Pat Watkins.

October 9 -11

Upham Woods Retreat for Prairie Members and friends.

October 16-18

Creating A Jubilee World: A Regional Anti-Racism Conference, hosted by the Racial Justice Committee of the James Reeb UU Society. Save these dates now and plan to attend. There will be a special emphasis on the participation of district teens. More details later in future Prairie Fires.

Saturday, November 7

Chicago Art Institute Bus Trip to the exhibit "Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman." We will be asking Prairie members and friends to display posters for this fund-raiser at their places of business or other locations they frequent. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

OUR SOCIETY

Upham Woods Retreat Oct. 9-11

Thinking about the wonderful days of fall? Thinking about the special times of Upham Woods? Well, it's time to volunteer - adult program leaders, talent show coordinator, children's program leaders, teen program coordinator, dining room supervisor, etc.. Please

contact Phoebe Rosebear, Program Coordinator, with ideas and suggestions at 280-8990.

Thought of Teaching in R.E.?

If you have considered being a teacher in the religious education program of Prairie Society, I want to encourage you to do it. It will be a growth experience for you. When first such a responsibility was thrust on me, years ago, and I had to read and question others to prepare, one quotation impressed me as so true: "Whenever any program of enrichment is planned, it's the one who does the planning that gets the enrichment." -Barbara Rames

One In A Million? Well, One In Twenty!

It is estimated that everyone who reaches 72 years of age will need blood at some time in they're life. Only five per cent of the population gives blood! Will you be one of that wonderful one in twenty? Latest Prairie donors are Aileen Nettleton, Barbara Park, and Laurie Larson, and each has given a pint many times in the past. Hours of the Sheboygan Avenue Red Cross donor center are on little cards that you can pick up at our greeter's table, and a list of special donor sites this month, at various locations, is on our bulletin board.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Have you written "food pantry" on your market list? Our donations have been slight because we have not been in the meeting-house every Sunday, but our neighbors' need for food still is great.

Volunteer Schedules

Grass Mowers:

Aug. 9-15: Larry Nahlik

Aug. 16-22: Al Nettleton

Aug. 23-29: Rick Ruecking

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

Aug. 9: *Need Volunteer*

Aug. 16: *Need Volunteer* Coffee Set-up:

Aug. 9: Pat Cautley

Aug. 16: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up:

Aug. 9: Betty Jallings & *Need Volunteer*

Aug. 16: Pat Cautley & *Need Volunteer*



Member Biography - Shannon Hayes

"A life of service" would be one way to categorize Shannon Hayes' professional career...but it is interesting for several other reasons!

Born in Pasco, Washington, and growing up in Vancouver, WA, she attended University of Oregon, majoring in Community Service. "Fresh out of college" she was married to Arleigh Birchler, and remained in Salem, Oregon, working as program coordinator for a group home for mentally retarded adults and children.

Shannon had "grown up Unitarian" --- that's rare in our Prairie Society --- and after three years of marriage she and Arleigh decided to go to Starr King School of Theology, the Unitarian school in Berkeley, California. In that city, she again worked with developmentally disabled, as Support Services Coordinator in a workshop program. Both Shannon and Arleigh hold degrees as Master of Divinity, but neither one filled a pulpit for our denomination. Shannon worked in crisis intervention, by phone and personal contact, for Lancaster County, Nebraska, while Arleigh served an internship there, part of his Starr King curriculum. They returned to the Bay area for another seven years, and their three children were born.

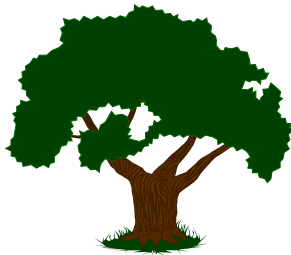
In 1991 Shannon and Arleigh moved to Madison so that she could attend the University here; she earned her Master's degree in educational psychology with a focus on gifted children in 1994. She had begun to work for the Salvation Army as a social worker for families. Divorced from Arleigh in 1995, she has all three children living with her in a house near Midvale Plaza.

Her daughter, Andria, who garnered much attention when she played football, is now 17 and she attends Memorial High School, as does Todd, 15. Kevin is 13 and is in the Accelerated Learning Academy. All three have been active in service projects of Prairie young adults. Shannon's volunteer activity is representing the Salvation Army on the Board of Madison Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, encouraging churches to cooperate in setting up overflow shelter for homeless families. Here at Prairie she is Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee with Paula Pachciarz.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Denominational Affairs Committee Members for the 1998/99 Church Year are:

Ruth Calden, Mary Mullen, Barbara Park, Debbie Phelps, Sharon Scrattish, Rachel Siegfried. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please phone Pat Watkins, Chair, at 233-5795, or come to our August 15 meeting (see calendar).



WHA Radio Announcement

Have you caught the Prairie announcement on Wisconsin Public Radio? Since last December, it has been aired on the Sunday afternoon program *To the Best of Our Knowledge* on the first and third Sundays of each month. In August you can catch it at 2:59pm and in Sept. it can be heard at 12:59pm. One month the announcement comes during the "Culture" segment of the program and the next month during the "Science" segment, hoping this way to reach different listeners. The announcement reads, "Contributors to Wisconsin Public Radio include Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society -- a lay-led liberal religious voice in Madison" and costs twenty-five dollars per announcement. Last fall Prairie raised \$450.00 for these announcements, which will cover us through the

month of September. The Board, at the last Board meeting, approved the continuation of this announcement through the coming year and our congregational support of Wisconsin Public Radio. We will have a table in the lobby of Prairie on Sunday, August 9th to collect contributions to continue Prairie's announcement on WHA-AM. Committee member Ruth Calden has volunteered to handle this aspect of the committee's work, and checks may be given or sent to her. Please make sure that the memo space on your check states that it is for the WPR announcement.

Chalice Lighters

Chalice Lighters did not receive the number of sign-ups that we had hoped it would get for the coming church year. This will begin Chalice Lighters third year of operation, and so far over 800 members in the Central Midwest District have contributed over \$16,000 to help financially support congregations in the district in their commitment to membership growth. Grants are awarded three times a year by the CMD Growth and Support Committee, of which Jonalu Johnstone of Madison's James Reeb Society is this year's chair. Chalice Lighters make a \$10 pledge three times a year. Won't you become a Chalice Lighter? Rachel Siegfried is Prairie's Chalice Lighter liaison, and looks forward to signing you up. The first call letter will be sent out on November 1st, and we will have a table in the lobby on Sunday, September 13 to provide information and facilitate sign-ups.

The following is reprinted with permission from the Washington Spectator, March 15, 1998, and was written by David Shipler, author of A Country of Strangers: Blacks and Whites in America. Mr. Shipler is a former correspondent of the New York Times, and a Pulitzer Prize winner.

"Today, when explicit discrimination is prohibited and blatant racism is no longer fashionable in most circles, much prejudice has gone underground. It may have diminished in some quarters, but it is far from extinct. Like a virus searching for a congenial host, it mutates until it finds expressions in a belief, a statement, or a form of behavior that seems acceptable. The camouflage around such racism does not make it benign. It can still damage life opportunities...Many institutions that look integrated are often segregated within, for integration has largely meant the mere physical mixing of people of various races, not the sharing of power and the blending into an integral whole. Therefore, blacks who enter mostly white institu-

