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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.* September 22, 1998

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

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

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

10:00am; "**The UUA and the Struggle to Eliminate Land Mines**", presented by Bob Alpern.

11:30am; **Prairie Bylaws Meeting**

7:00pm; "**Sustaining Gift of Faith**", Reverend Bill Johnson, National Minister for HIV/AIDS and LGBG Minority Concerns United Church of Christ at the Lake Edge Lutheran Interfaith service, sponsored by Coming Out, Coming Together (Madison's Coalition of Religious Groups Welcoming Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender People).

Saturday, October 3

3:00pm; **Denominational Affair Committee**, home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow La. Phone 233-5795 if unable to attend.

October 4, 11, 18 & 25

7-8:30pm; University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave., Room 105. "**Clobber Texts and Comfort Texts**", Bible study for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons (and their friends). Steven E. Webster, Religious Studies graduate student; sponsored by Coming Out, Coming Together.

October 10

1:00pm; **Upham Woods** (we were too late to get on the printed program). Please plan to attend if you are a member of this group, as only three of the ten members attended the last scheduled meeting, and we have the surveys ready for distribution.

October 9-11

Upham Woods Retreat for Prairie Members and Friends.

Tuesday, October 13

6:00pm; Madison Urban Ministry: "**My Job Plan, Today's Reality**". Am I doing what I set out to do? How can we make work/volunteer time more enriching? Moderated by Patty Loew of WHA-TV. Starlight Room, Madison Civic Center.

October 16-18

Creating a Jubilee World: A Regional Anti-Racism Conference, hosted by the Racial Justice Committee of the James Reeb UU Society.

Sunday, October 18

10:00am; "**Sidney and God**", a play by Anne Urbanski with a cast of Prairie members.

Monday, October 19

7:00pm; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck**, at the home of Rosemary Dorney, 4205 Odana Rd., 238-4382.

Saturday, October 24

7:00pm; **Prairie Playreaders** at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker. 273-4806.

Sunday, October 25

10:00am; **Medical Aid to Iraq**, coordinated by Pat Watkins, Robin Carre and Paula Pachciarz.

11:30-12:15pm; **Pledge Drive Kick-Off Lunch**

Saturday, November 7

Chicago Art Institute Bus Trip to exhibit "Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman." We will be asking Prairie members/friends to display posters

for this fund-raiser at their places of business or other locations they frequent.

OUR SOCIETY

Upham Woods Reminders

Preliminary Schedule:

Friday:

Potluck, "I love my neighbor" with Erin Bosch.
Campfire with songs & Smores.

Saturday Morning:

Canoeing, Peanut Butter Mountain, Poetry Corner, "Chalice Lighters or Recovenanting" & "Walking the Walk" Talks, Ultimate Frisbee, Blackhawk Island Hike, Walk with the Earth and Carl's Craft Box.

Saturday Afternoon:

Tai Chi by the River, Canoeing, Drawing Animals, "Nuts & Bolts of Prairie Budget" & "Rituals & Remembrances" talking periods, Volleyball, Playreading (One-Act!), Children's Story Hour, Kite Flying.

Saturday Evening:

Vespers, Talent Show, Dancing, Movies.

Sunday:

Keylog Service, Cleanup.

The food count will be sent in Friday, Sept. 25, so late registrations are possible before then.



Food Pantry Update

All of Prairie's food pantry donations go to the pantry located in the Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Center. Here are some facts about recent use of that pantry.

1. There has been a 53% increase in the number of individuals using the pantry.
2. Two thirds of the families served work either full or part-time.
3. About two thirds of the remaining people served are not able to work.
4. Almost all of those served use only the Allied Drive Food Pantry, no other pantries.

Here is another list, one which you may want to clip out. It is a list of items requested by pantry users in a recent survey, and by the Allied Drive Women's Group. Some of the items on the list are personal care items and cannot be purchased with food stamps. They do not strictly belong in a "food" pantry, but the need for them seems to be ever present. The items most needed are in bold print.

Dry peas, corn, beans, vegetables, peaches, fruit, rice, butter, cheese, **powdered milk**, apple juice, V-8 Splash, fresh milk, fresh meat, eggs, sugar, soap, powder, bath soap, toothpaste, toilet tissue, deodorant, feminine napkins, **disposable diapers**, baby formula, corned beef hash, spam, chili, crackers, foods that make a meal, **jelly**, pancake mix, syrup, meals in a can, baked beans, cream soups.

Although it is economical to buy large amounts of such things as laundry soap, smaller containers are those most helpful to those who use the pantry. Those little shampoos, soaps and lotions from motels and hotels are very useful.

Good News: The Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh Food Pantry is now a member of the Dane County Food Pantry Network and so now has access to the foods distributed through the Community Action Coalition, such as commodities. This also means that the pantry can now share in foods collected through community food drives. More good news, a State of Wisconsin Hunger Prevention grant has been awarded for a part-time position at the center for a person to work with families in issues of nutrition, meal preparation, food money management and food pantry coordination.

Our support of the pantry over the years, and that of the other contributing churches, have made a difference in the lives of many of the neighborhood residents, and I know we will continue to do so. (The information above was supplied by Patti Daubs of Allied Partners, a coalition of representatives of various churches involved in the Allied-Dunn's Marsh neighborhood.)

Thanks to Erin Dopp

Thankyou to Erin Dopp for donating the book In God's Underground, by Rev. Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran minister. The book is

his account of the 14 years he was a religious prisoner in Rumania, much of the time in solitary confinement. He was released in 1964.

"Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind." -Dr. Albert Schweitzer

Office Position open at James Reeb UU

Office Coordinator needed for east side Madison UU congregation. 10 hours/week with flexible schedule. Organizational, computer and bookkeeping skills required. Please send resume and references to:

James Reeb UU Congregation
2146 E. Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53704



Report from Day Camp Volunteers

For two weeks this summer, Metje Butler, 68, and Kevin Hayes, 13, worked at the Madison Urban Ministry's day camp for Allied-Dunn's Marsh neighborhood youngsters. Metje was busy with second and third graders and Kevin helped out with first graders. They were both happy to share their experiences with us.

Kevin worked four hours every day for two weeks with the six and seven year olds. The typical day began with all the day camp kids eating breakfast together, then listening to a storyteller. At this point the kids split up into groups according to age level. The next activity in the day was arts and crafts, (for example, drawing pictures showing friendship), followed by a snack around 10am. The groups joined back together again for organized games until lunch-time and then it was time to go home.

Kevin's group was a small one of three or four kids. He had thought he would be working with a bigger group but was glad to be working with fewer kids, and got to know each of them

pretty well. One of his favorite experiences was being able to go off with just one kid if he or she didn't want to participate in an organized activity. Kevin and the camper would have fun doing something the camper wanted to do.

Kevin's clown training came in handy the day a juggler came and demonstrated juggling. Being a juggler himself, Kevin was able to help his group practice afterward. His kids thought it was cool that he could juggle and they were excited about learning to do it themselves. The parade on the last day was a lot of fun for Kevin and the kids. To prepare, campers practiced playing kazoos, drums and whistles and made masks. Channel 15 filmed part of the parade and if you were watching the news that evening, and looking very sharply, you would have seen Kevin with his campers.

Kevin says he enjoyed working with the kids and that the day camp was a "pretty good thing" for the kids participating because "they liked to be there better than sitting at home." He thought the camp was well run and when asked, he said yeah, he "would do it again."

Metje found working for four hours a day with seven and eight year olds "trying but fun." The first week of camp was rainy and much of the time was spent inside, where the challenge was keeping the noise level under control. Keeping the kids focused was a challenge throughout the two weeks, as any small incident could potentially distract the children completely. The kids would usually come "all wound up" and it would take a while to center them. Then there would be a poem on a topic such as littering or keeping promises. The kids would then move on to projects, often involving crafts. One project was making a "litterbug" out of litter collected at the park. (The litterbug is now on view at the center.) Another day Metje shared her insect collection with them. Once they made and strung clay beads. Metje found that it took a few days to be accepted, but she knew that had happened once the kids began making eye contact with her.

In the final two days, the kids worked hard making "feelings" masks in preparation for a parade on the last day. Each mask represented a good or a bad feeling. Metje remembers clearly an incident in which one boy took a mask from another boy. The second boy was incon-

solable until, a while later, the first boy gave the mask back to him. The second boy then asked around until he found out the first boy's name, located him and thanked him. The parade was a lot of fun and an excellent closing celebration.

Metje's approach to working with the kids was based on her feelings that children need to be accepted as themselves and so she tried to share with them what she had to offer rather than impose particular religious values on the children. Overall, Metje found her experience "interesting, enlightening and very positive."

Thanks to Paula Pachciarz for the article



Circle Dinners

If you are interested in being in a Circle Dinner group, please sign up soon. There is a clipboard being circulated on Sunday mornings. An alternative is to call Erin Bosch (238-6285). If you leave a message, please indicate your preferences: small or large group, children or no children, vegetarian, etc. and also how many people in your household will be participating.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sept. 29- Evening Service for Yom Kippur. 5:45-8:30pm.

Sept. 30- Yom Kippur Morning Service, 9:30am-1:30pm.

Yizkor (Memorial) Service, 2:00-3:00pm.

Meditation & Study Session, 3:15-5:15pm.

Avodah (Offering) Service, 5:30-6:00pm.

Neilah (Closing) Service, 6:00-7:00pm.

Pot-Luck Break Fast, 7:00pm, reservations required for this event.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, September 27

"The UUA and the Struggle to Eliminate Land Mines", presented by Robert Alpern. He was Director of the UUA Social Justice Office in Washington, D.C. from 1975 to 1995 and attended the historic treaty signing in Ottawa this past December that banned the use of land mines. Retired, he currently is the Field Secretary for the Friends Committee in Northern California and Oregon, part of the Quaker group lobbying national legislation.

October 9-11

Upham Woods Retreat

For Prairie Members and Friends. Late registration needs to be called in to Susan Hagstrom at 238-4970 before September 25 and then also sent to Prairie.

Sunday, October 18

"Sidney & God", a dramatization by Anne Urbanski. In early 1996 a long-time UU named Doug Muder wrote a short story called *Sidney & God* which he published on the UU Internet discussion list (aka "UUS-L). With Doug's permission I have dramatized this story. *Sidney & God* depicts some of Doug's ideas about possible resolutions to one apparent conflict between science and religion: Is Genesis true, or is evolution true -- or could they both be true simultaneously? Did "the creation" take six days or 10 billion years? And what the heck does Einstein have to do with all this? Come and hear one UU's take on the issue. Our cast will include George Calden, Warren Hagstrom, Al Nettleton and Anne Urbanski.

Sunday, October 25

"Medical Aid to Iraq", coordinated by Pat Watkins, Robin Carre and Paula Pachciarz.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Oct. 5th.