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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.

The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly. October 21, 1998
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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25

9:00am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00am; **"Medical Aid to Iraq"**. Guest speaker Kathy Kelly from Voices in the Wilderness.

1200-12:45pm; **PLEDGE KICK-OFF LUNCH.**

Sunday, November 1

No Choir Rehearsal

10:00am; **"All Souls' Day"**, led by Ruth Calden.

Thursday, November 5

7:30-9:00pm; **Prairie Orientation (1st Session).**

Saturday, November 7

Chicago Art Institute Bus Trip to the exhibit "Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman."

Sunday, November 8

9:00am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00am; Introduction to series on poverty presented by Steve Pierce.

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

7:00pm; **Social Action Committee Meeting** at Prairie.

Thursday, November 12

7:30-9:00pm; **Prairie Orientation (2nd Session).**

Saturday, November 14

7:30pm; **Prairie Playreaders** meet at the home of Jean Matos, 324 So. Mills Street. 255-2209 if you have questions.

Sunday, November 15

9:00am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00am; **"Doctor/Patient Relationships"**. Part II in Cindy Haq and Gary Giorgi's lay ministry series.

11:30am; **Prairie Board Budget Meeting.**

11:30am; **Potluck Lunch following service.**

12:30pm; **Fall Parish Meeting.**

Monday, November 16

7:00pm; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck** at the home of Ema Pachon, 1130 Williamson Street, Apt. B. Call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 if you have questions.

Thursday, November 19

7:30-9:00pm; **Prairie Orientation (3rd Session).**

Sunday, November 22

10:00am; Introduction to Anne Pryor's series on art and religion.

Wednesday, November 25

7:30pm; **First Unitarian Society Thanksgiving Eve Worship service. Sermon by Max Gaebler. Music, liturgy and refreshments jointly by First**

Unitarian, Prairie, James Reeb and Free Congregation of Sauk City.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Nov. 1st OUR SOCIETY

PLEDGE DRIVE KICK-OFF LUNCH

Sunday, October 25, 12:00-12:45pm is Prairie's Pledge Drive Kick-Off Lunch. It's pledge time!!! Prairie's Proposed Budget for '99 will be revealed! Find out about Prairie's goals and needs and how you can help financially. Pick up your pledge packet. SOUP, BREAD AND BROWNIES! Your generosity keeps our Prairie alive and growing. Join us! Child care provided.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments:

1. *Change* ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP (Pat Watkins wrote about her proposal in the last Prairie Fire):
 - A. Members of the Society are those persons sixteen years or older who are in sympathy with the Bond of Union of the Society and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and have signed the official Membership Book, and have either made a monetary pledge equal to or exceeding the annual area, district, and national dues, or have requested in writing a waiver of all or part of these dues.
2. *Delete* language requiring inclusion of minority position in publicity under certain circumstances in Article V: BUSINESS MEETINGS:

No actions, unless delegated by the Bylaws of the Society, shall be official unless voted upon by a majority of the Members present and voting at a properly called business meeting. Any member may require inclusion of a minority report in the minutes ~~and that public announcements of the action be accompanied by a statement declaring the existence of a minority position and the percentage of votes cast in support of the action.~~
- 2 *Improve readability* of the last sentence: of the above article:

Membership shall be in effect until a member dies, resigns in writing, or the membership committee, ~~per Article VII,~~ has determined that the person has discontinued contact with the society, ~~per Article VII.~~
3. *Add to Board responsibility* by adding Article VI,E,10:

10. Maintain a Policies and Procedures Manual for the Society.

4. *Combine* Article VII, B and C into a single title and *create a new committee:*

B. ~~Special Committees with appointed chairs not serving on the Board~~

C. ~~Special Committee~~

1. Caring Committee

a. This committee shall establish and maintain a support system for Prairie members, identifying resources and contacts within the Society and community.

b. The committee shall encourage members to be caring and determine their areas of interest.

And Renumber Ministerial Relations Committee from 1 to 2 and

And-Modify paragraph c:

Not less than once every three years during a professional minister's tenure, the committee shall review his/her tenure.

And renumber Ceremonies Committee from 1 to 3.

5. *Modify* Article X. NON-DISCRIMINATION:

As a Welcoming Congregation, the Society welcomes members, friends, and guests, and hires employees, including lay ministers and professional ministers, without regard to age, race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or ~~physical or mental~~ disability.

AGENDA FALL PARISH MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 1998

- 1) Minutes of Spring 1998 Parish Meeting.
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Election of Secretary
- 4) Budget
- 5) Bylaws Revisions
- 6) Committee Reports
- 7) President's Report

It's That Time Again: Your Financial Contributions Pledge For 1999

What do you need and want from Prairie? Are there specific programs, services or environments you'd like continued or improved? The Committee Chairs and the Finance Committee may answer your specific questions. There are a variety of ways that individuals can contribute to Prairie. ***Please take some time to consider how you want to contribute to Prairie, including financially.*** Thanks! Your Prez, Nancy Schraufnagel

Joint Choir for Thanksgiving Eve Service

A joint choir will be part of the Thanksgiving Eve service at First Society. If you are interested in being part of this special choir, come to a rehearsal on Sun., Nov. 22 at 1:00pm at First Society and a rehearsal on Wed., Nov. 25 at 6:15pm prior to the service at 7:30pm. Please let Barb Park know if you plan to join and I'll give Ellsworth Schneider some sense of the number of people.

Orientation for New Members or the Merely Curious

Every year about this time we set aside three dates for meetings to talk about Unitarianism in general and Prairie in particular. These are very informal presentations and discussions that are meant as introductions for prospective members, or new members, or the merely curious. We will have the meetings even if no one "pre-registers", but I would appreciate it if you would call and leave a message if you plan to attend (I need to know how many cookies to bring). The dates are November 5, 12, 19, 7:30-9:00pm. Call or e-mail Erin Bosch at 238-6285 or journal@pfs.pcsinet.com.

Caring Alert

Are you interested in becoming a Caring person? Rather than incur the cost of an insert, this message will serve to alert you to a questionnaire which will be handed out at the annual business meeting. Please think about how you can share your experiences with a fellow Prairie member, fill out the questionnaire and return it or telephone your response. Marilyn Ruecking

Defining Prairie's Mission

This is one of the tasks the Unitarian Universalist Association is asking our congregation, and all the UU congregations to do in 1998-99 as part of the 5 year FULFILLING THE PROMISE PROJECT. The purpose of the 5 year project is to evaluate and renew the promises we make to each other within congregations, and among congregations. One aspect of clarifying our promises is to establish a mission statement for Prairie.

A mission statement answers the questions:

Why does our congregation exist, who do we exist for, and in what ways do we live out and give expression to our purpose, among ourselves and in the surrounding community?

An Ad hoc Prairie committee has been formed - THE FULFILLING THE PROMISE Committee to

- a) guide steps for the congregation to establish a mission statement and mission objectives, and
- b) seek to cooperate with other Madison UU societies to study self governance within and among congregations.

Three steps are proposed to prepare a Prairie Mission Statement and Mission Objectives

- a) Conduct a Needs and Aspirations survey of Prairie members and youth and compare results to the National survey results during a Prairie program.
- b) Conduct a program and workshop to prepare a mission statement for Prairie, and
- c) Coordinate an effort to prepare 5 year mission objectives to implement the Mission statement.

YOU CAN HELP! -Please join the FULFILLING PROMISE COMMITTEE if you would like to help with the tasks in establishing a Prairie Mission statement and objectives. Please contact Ken Skog at 273-4813. THANK YOU!

Get A Piece Of The Action

Interested in being part of the Social Action Committee team? Concerned about an issue you'd like to see addressed? We welcome you to check us out at our next meeting, Tues., Nov. 19 at 7:00pm at Prairie. Here's an update on a few of our current projects.

The SAC has become a non-profit partner of the Community Thrift Store. This provides a means of raising funds for the committee that does not depend on direct appeal to your pocketbooks. We encourage supporters of the SAC to donate clothing and household items to the Community Thrift Store in the name of "Prairie Social Action". The committee then receives a percentage of sales of those items. The Community Thrift Store is located at 1814 South Park Street. Donations are made in the rear, which is also

the best entrance for those who may have difficulty with stairs. The store is open noon to 7pm, Wednesday through Sunday. A complete list of items which the thrift store does NOT accept is on the SAC bulletin board . The store does not require volunteer labor, but help is greatly appreciated, as there is only one paid employee. See Paula Pachciarz if you can help out.

We are still coordinating one shift a month at the Men's Homeless Shelter located at Grace Episcopal Church. However, it has become very difficult lately to staff this shift. The question of Prairie's ability to commit will be on the agenda of the Fall Parish Meeting.

We have long been interested in participating in a Dane County Habitat for Humanity project, and feel there is support for this within the Prairie community. We have now set a date. On Saturday, February 13, a small group from Prairie will work at the former Eric Circle location, renamed Harmony Park. (Isn't that a great name!?) Look for more information and a sign-up sheet towards the end of the year. The group will need to consist primarily of adults of at least 18 years of age.

Volunteer Schedules

Hospitality Helpers:

Oct. 25: Greeting Visitors: Ruth Calden

Coffee Set-up: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up: Kay Frazier & ????

Nov. 1: Greeting Visitors: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Set-up: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up: *Need Volunteer*

Program Taping:

Oct. 25: Bob Park

Nov. 1: *Need Volunteer*

I THINK GRASS MOWING IS OVER!

“The beauty of the world, the health of its creatures, the emotion of love, and the thirst for justice are sacrificed every day to the will of power, and it astonishes me that all political systems, no matter how different they appear, end up with the same singular result: that of placing life last among all their pre-occupations.” -Claudine Herrmann

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, October 25

“Medical Aid to Iraq”.. Kathy Kelly, from Voices in the Wilderness, will talk to us about the impact of US/UN sanctions against Iraq. Malnutrition and epidemics resulting from the sanctions have brought about the deaths of over half a million children. The deprivation and suffering of the Iraqi people is an ongoing tragedy not mentioned in most media coverage of Iraq. “It’s ironic, said one VIW member, “that there are weapons inspectors here looking for weapons of mass destruction, when they need look no further than the US/UN economic sanctions.” We hope you have time after the service to sign postcards urging the US to end the sanctions.

Sunday, November 1

“All Souls’ Day - Rituals of Remembrance,

coordinated by Ruth Calden. There will be time in the service for people to share their memories for a few minutes of someone close to them who has died. If you wish to participate please bring a photograph and an object which you associate with that person. It could be a favorite book, a letter, a tool, a musical instrument or perhaps something they have made. Call Ruth Calden at 233-5715 for more details.

Sunday, November 8

Steve Pierce presents an introduction to his **Series on Poverty.**

Sunday, November 15

“Patient/Doctor Relationships”, presented by Cindy Haq and Gary Giorgi. This is the second session in a series that they will conduct dealing with concepts of health, equity and social justice. The goal of the series is to enhance awareness regarding the complex determinants of health, explore the interaction of physical, psychological, spiritual, cultural, socioeconomic and political factors on health, and to engage Prairie members and friends in discussions of how we nurture health and compassion in our own community and beyond.

The first session dealt with the meaning and identifying actions to improve health, equity and justice for all. The second session (Nov. 15) will address the changing

nature of patient-doctor relationships, education and collaboration for health. The third session (Dec. 6) will deal with nurturing and healing at the end of life. The content of the fourth session (Feb. 21) will be determined through discussion in earlier sessions.

Participants are invited to bring stories of their experiences to share in these sessions.

Sunday, November 22

Anne Pryor presents an introduction to her **Series on Art and Religion.**