... 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.*

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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**

**Saturday, December 12**
7:30pm; *Prairie Play Readers* meets at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace, 271-2173. Bring a snack or dessert to share.

INTERFAITH AWARENESS DAY. As part of Interfaith Awareness Week (Dec. 6-12). Contact 236-0089 for more info. Or email jonbrian@chorus.net.

**Sunday, December 13**
9am; Choir Rehearsal
10am; "Transformations". Interactive service led by Deb Phelps and Mary Mullen on the topic of becoming even more welcoming towards people of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender orientations.

**Thursday, December 17**
6:30pm; Spanish Speaker's Potluck at Bill Schaffers's home at 3718 Gregory St., 233-8266.
6-8:30pm; Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh Holiday Wish List Celebration at Good Shepherd Church.

**Sunday, December 20**
9am; Choir Rehearsal
10am; **Winter Solstice Intergenerational Service** led by Erin Bosch.

**Monday, December 21**
WINTER SOLSTICE. Help celebrate the light.

**Sunday, December 27**
No Choir Rehearsal
10am; "I Remember the Year....", led by Arleigh Birchler. No Religious Education, but child care provided.

**Sunday, January 3**
10am; New Year's Intergenerational Program.

**Sunday, January 10**
10am; "Fulfilling the Promise" survey. Ken Skog coordinating.

**Sunday, January 17**
10am; "Getting to Know You". Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh service.

**Saturday, February 13**
Prairie "Habitat for Humanity Workday", at Harmony Park.

**Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, December 20th.**

**OUR SOCIETY**

**Thank you**
Pat Watkins sincerely thanks all of those in Prairie whose cards, donations, caring, and help at the memorial service for my mother made a very difficult time bearable. I couldn't have done it without you, and so much appreciate your being there for our family.

**Hello From the Thompsons**
Marian Thompson sends thanks from Carl and her for the card from Prairie. She reports that Carl is at home, quite frail, but able to get around the house, and that they have a good visiting nurse that comes in daily.
Reminder: Christmas Letters

If you are in the habit of sending a Christmas letter to family and friends, please set aside an extra copy to bring to Prairie and put it in the folder on the back table in the meeting room. About six or seven people remembered to do this last year and it was really enjoyable reading their letters.

Updates on Pledges

Pledge reminders to make your final payments for 1998 will be in the mail soon. (If you are on schedule, you will not receive a reminder.) Please send checks to our treasurer, Daisy Peterson, 5502 Kroncke Dr., Madison, 53711 and note on the memo space if the check is for your 1998 or 1999 pledge. (Call Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair, if you have questions about your pledge.)

Thanks to everyone for your pledges during the recently completed pledge drive for next year. With several additional pledges that have come in since the budget meeting, we should be on solid financial footing for the next year!! We appreciate all your support.

Allied Community Center Thanks Prairie

This letter came to Prairie recently. I wanted to include it in the Prairie Fire and I will also put the original on the bulletin board in the meeting room. “Dear Prairie Unitarian Society

Thank You for all the donations that you have contributed to the Allied Community Center. With your help our center served 43 families in the month of October. We appreciate your consistency in helping us serve the families in the Area. A special thanks to Paula and may God bless and Keep you in his care.

Sincerely,
Antoinette Davis
Administrative Asst.

Social Action Update

A sincere thank you to all those who baked or bought (many did both) for the SAC Holiday Bake Sale last Sunday, December 6th. It was a huge success, bringing in over $145.00! Special thanks to Pat Cautley, Kay Frazier, Kathy Helm, Jan Howe and Jennifer Parker, and special, special thanks to Henry Fox, our Claasen connection.

A reminder that the Guest at Your Table boxes may be returned the first two Sundays of January (3rd & 10th).

Another reminder that Wish List gifts for Allied-Dunn’s Marsh neighborhood children should be delivered to the community center or to Paula Pachciarz by Friday, December 11.

As long as children are dying daily because of lack of food and basic medical supplies, the US/UN Sanctions Against Iraq will remain a timely issue. We encourage you to write to President Clinton (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500 or president@whitehouse.gov) to protest the sanctions, and to sign the petition on the SAC bulletin board (provided by Betty Jallings of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom).

Religious Education Report

Pre-School

Our Pre-school teachers have been quite busy lately. We’ve had as many as six students in a given week. Undaunted, Heidi and Heather keep them all constructively occupied.

K-1-2

Recently the K-1-2’ers were quite involved in writing and drawing pictures about the UN Sanctions on Iraq. The following Sunday they got their fingers quite sticky making pine cones with peanut butter feeders for our bird friends.

3-4-5

Recently this class was writing postcards to express their dismay over the UN Sanctions against Iraq. They were also learning about Buddhism by a group drawing of Buddha’s life and teachings.

6-7-8

Challah making…clever way to learn about Judaism.

High School

The high-schoolers drew some graphic portraits to protest UN Sanctions on Iraq. Their letters were also quite heart-rendering. They attended the adult service on Buddhism and Art.

Religious Education Scheduling Note

Dec.13 - Nifty Gifty
Dec. 20 - Intergenerational Service - No R.E.
Dec. 27 - Intergenerational Service - No R.E.

If you are coming to Nifty Gifty on Dec. 13th bring along some of these items if you can: glass jars
on the small side), school photo of yourself, inkable stamps, beads with holes of at least 1/16” in diameter, shoe box, new pencils with erasers and pipe cleaners. Thanks!

District Committee Seeks New Members
The Central Midwest District Committee on Disability and Access is seeking new members.
Do you care about issues of accessibility? Are you looking for an outlet for your many talents? With only 4 to 6 meetings per year you will have the opportunity to work with other UUs throughout the District to have a positive impact on many peoples' lives into the 21st century. If this interests you, please phone Patricia Kipp, Chair, at (847)526-3193 or e-mail to <MamaCatPat@aol.com>.

Need Fencing? Pro-Seeds to Prairie
Eight feet of cedar picket fence 4' high, may be had for a donation to Prairie (a $35.00 value). Call Metje Butler at 244-3659.

Homecomings Bed and Breakfast Directory
Homecomings is the Bed and Breakfast Travel Directory for Unitarian Universalists and all religious liberals.
Since 1981 Homecomings has been helping UUs form an interdependent web of Travelers and Hosts throughout the U.S., Canada, and other parts of the world.
According to letters received over the years, our network has fostered camaraderie and made possible a rewarding exchange of ideas among widely scattered UUs. There are many who say that Homecomings is strengthening our denomination.

Madison Area Interfaith Network Website
Visit the MAINlink web site: the events page is hyperlinked to a bulletin board area for posting of local events and announcements of religious and spiritual significance; the holy days page is one of the more in depth calendars of holy days for 13 different faith traditions; the links page has the most diverse links to local religious and related groups on the internet, organized by faith tradition.
Http://danenet.wicip.org/mainlink.

Political Action on the Governor
Dennis Coyier is encouraging people and organizations who may have a grievance with the governor to state your case at the Unofficial Governor’s Inaugural Rally on the Square on January 4, 1999 beginning at 11am. Additional information can be found at <www.execpc.com/dcoy/januarysurprise>. An optional planning meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13, 11am, at 750 E. Main St., Madison.

A Prayer For Animals
Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.
Albert Schweitzer

Prairie Fire Deadlines for 1999

| January 3 | January 17 |
| February 7 | February 21 |
| March 7 | March 21 |
| April 4 | April 18 |
| May 2 | May 16 |
| June 6 | June 20 |
| July 11 | only one issue in July |
| August 1 | August 15 |
| September 5 | September 19 |
| October 3 | October 17 |
| November 7 | November 21 |
| December 5 | December 19 |

*Watch for new Prairie Fire guidelines and improvements in January 1999. Thanks to everyone who makes my job easier by submitting articles in a timely manner and an easy to read or paste format.
Volunteer Schedules
Hospitality Helpers:
Dec. 13: Greeting Visitors: Barbara Rames
Coffee Set-up: Barbara Rames
Coffee Clean-up: Marilyn Ruecking & ???
Dec. 20: Greeting Visitors: Need Volunteer
Coffee Set-up: Need Volunteer
Coffee Clean-up: Need Volunteer

Program Taping:
Dec. 13: Pat Cautley
Dec. 20: Robert Park

Snow Removal:
Dec. 13-19: Karen Gross
Dec. 20-26: Need Volunteer

Upcoming Programs

Sunday, December 13
"Transformations", presented by Mary Mullen and Deb Phelps. Prairie has come a long way towards being a truly welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. Yet, like all the other Welcoming Congregations in the UUA, we are probably falling short of being a fully transformed institution. Come to learn some fine points of how to determine where we fall on the continuum of change from a discriminatory closed organization to a transformed body. You'll also hear some great news about how young people in Madison are accepting their homosexual peers. And you will have the joy of singing to the accompaniment of many guitars and a few melody instruments. Young and older Prairie people will be part of the "guitar orchestra". Don't miss it!!! We think you will come away uplifted and stronger in your resolve to make Prairie and the world a better place to be for all of us.

Sunday, December 20
"Intergenerational Winter Solstice Celebration", coordinated by Erin Bosch. This is the program where we do our traditional "Symbol Tree." Bring an object to hang on the tree that symbolizes something important that happened to you this past year - and share that story. Also, bring cookies, cider, or other treats to share after the service.

Sunday, December 27
"I Remember the Year...", led by Arleigh Birchler. The Sunday service between Christmas and New Year is traditionally a very quiet morning when a few folk gather for quiet fellowship. We will have coffee and share memories of years that have meant much to us. Remember, no Religious Education, but there will be child care provided.

Sunday, January 3
"New Years Intergenerational Program.

"Once you get people laughing, they're listening and you can tell them almost anything."
-Herb Gardner