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.

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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

Sunday, January 3
No Choir Rehearsal
10am; "Hunting for Hope": New Year's Intergenerational Program led by Rick and Marilyn Ruecking. No Religious Education, but childcare provided.

Sunday, January 10
No Choir Rehearsal
10am; "Fulfilling the Promise" survey, Ken Skog coordinating. Religious Education classes resume.

Monday, January 11
7:30pm; Prairie Board Meeting at Prairie.

Thursday, January 14
6:30pm; Spanish Speakers’ Potluck at La Hacienda restaurant. Questions? Call Rosemary Dorney 238-4382

Sunday, January 17
9am; Choir Rehearsal resumes
10am; "Getting to Know You" Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh residents and service providers discuss strengths, needs and volunteer opportunities.
11:45am Women's Group Meeting Potluck, downstairs

Wednesday, January 20

5-9pm; Hmong Celebration, Girls' Power Group, Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh

Wednesday, January 20
7pm; Social Action Committee Meeting at Prairie?

Sunday, January 24
10am; second service in Ann Pryor's lay ministry on Art and Religion.

Saturday, January 30
8:30am-3:00pm; Death, Grief & Family Dynamics led by HospiceCare at First Unitarian Society for lay ministers, caring committee members and others with approval.

Saturday, January 30-Sunday, January 31
Wild Wintering at Prairie

Sunday, February 7
10am; second service in Steve Pierce's lay ministry on Poverty in Dane County

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

Sunday, February 14
VALENTINE’S DAY INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM Sunday, February 21
10am. fourth service in Cindy Haq's and Gary Giorgi's lay ministry on Health and Social Justice.

11:45am Women's Group Meeting
Potluck, downstairs
**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**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 childcare provided.*

**Sunday, January 3**
"Hunting for Hope": New Year's Intergenerational Program"
Anyone who looks honestly at the human prospect realizes that we face enormous challenges: population growth, environmental degradation, species extinctions, epidemics, and doomsday weapons, to name only a few. Because young people can sometimes despair in face of this human condition, Marilyn and Rick Ruecking will lead a discussion and activities related to discovering hope and the steps we may take to nourish our families and our community. Please consider the ways you put hope in your lives; i.e. family, nature, beauty, activism, simplicity.

**Sunday, January 17**
On Martin Luther King Day, the Sunday Program will be a panel discussion with residents and service providers from the Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh neighborhood. The purposes of this service are to acquaint members of our Society with people who live and work in the neighborhood, to inform us of opportunities to volunteer and become more involved in the Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh neighborhood, of which we are a part.

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

**Hospitality Helpers:**
Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew
Dec. 27:
Greeting Visitors: Need Volunteer!
Coffee Set-up: Arleigh Birchler
Coffee Clean up: Need Volunteer!
January 3: Need Volunteers!!!!
January 10:
Greeting Visitors: Karen Gross
Coffee Set-up: Karen Gross
Coffee Clean up: Need Volunteers!!
January 17:
Greeting Visitors: Need Volunteer!
Coffee Set-up: Kay Frazier
Coffee Clean up: Need Volunteers!
Program Taping:
Instructions for taping are in the cabinet.
December 27: Need Volunteer!
January 3: Need Volunteer!
January 10: Bob Park
January 17: Al Nettleton
January 24: Lisa Glueck
February 7: Karen Gross
February 14: Bob Park

**Snow Removal:**
We have two new snow shovels for your shoveling pleasure!
December 20-26: Ken Skog
Dec. 27-Jan. 2: Rick Ruecking
January 3-9: Dean Schroeder
January 10-16: Larry Nahloki
January 17-23: Paula Pachciarz
January 24-30: Jim Glueck

Thanks to all who volunteer to keep Prairie UU Society going and growing! Your Prez, Nancy E. Schraufnagel

**OUR SOCIETY**

**Questionnaires and Surveys**
Please return your "UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM --Needs and Aspirations Survey" to Ken Skog by Sunday December 27th. This survey will be discussed at the January 10th service and is the beginning of Prairie UU Society's "Fulfilling the Promise" redefining our covenant processes. Please return your "Caring Committee Questionnaire" to

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(Prairie Fire Deadlines for 1999 were published in December 8th issue of Prairie Fire.)
Marilyn Ruecking or Nancy Schraufnagel by December 31st.

Our Sympathies:
We at Prairie extend our sincere sympathies to Kate Heiber-Cobb, our Office Administrator on the loss of her mother, Ken Skog on the loss of his father and Erin Bosch on the loss of her sister.

Hospice Training
The four area Unitarian Universalist congregations of South Central Wisconsin have arranged for training by Hospice on death, grief and family dynamics. This is intended for lay ministers, caring committee members and other members with the approval of their minister, President, Caring Committee Chair or other designated Board Member. Any Prairie members who are interested may contact Nancy Schraufnagel 273-3195 or Marilyn Ruecking 838-8540: Registration is due January 19th and a fee of $10 or less will include lunch.

Prairie Board Approves GA Topic Proposal
Al and Aileen Nettleton recently received a proposal for a General Assembly (GA) discussion topic from Orie and Elinor Loucks entitled "Moral Imperatives for Responsible Consumption". They referred the letter and proposal to Prairie’s Board of Directors who discussed the matter at the Dec. 7th Board meeting. Essentially the issue entails the high level of consumption of the world’s resources by the United States and proposed that the UUA investigate the role that our pulpits and RE programs could play in challenging this seemingly ever-increasing rate of consumption. The Board approved of the spirit of the resolution and voted to become a co-sponsor when the resolution is submitted to the Commission on Social Witness for next year’s GA. A copy of the full resolution is posted on the Prairie bulletin board for your review.

Religious Education Highlights
Spirit Circle: The theme for this month’s Spirit Circle was Special Gift Giving. We spoke about three kinds of gifts: (1) a blind person helping a sighted taxi driver appreciate clouds more deeply, (2) purchasing gifts from companies that donate a portion of their profits to non-profit causes and (3) singing "Tis a Gift to be Simple" as a community.

Pre-school: Book reading and Nifty-Gifty participation were the chief activities during the last couple of sessions. Those snow globes were something else!

K-1-2: The theme of the December 6th class was religious freedom. Chanukah was used as an example. They talked about the use of a Menorah and played with dreidels they had made themselves. The K-1-2ers were very involved making such Nifty Gifties as fabric cards, rockin’writers and garlands.

3-4-5: We rocketed back in time in our time machine to the Indian subcontinent again to conclude out study of Buddhism. We tried to find similarities among Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism and found the theme of Balance. This discovery prompted us to create Yin/Yang pictures and try to balance ourselves on a log. Nifty Gifty found us doing sponge prints, fabric cards and stamped notepads.

6-7-8: On December 6th the class ventured to First Unitarian Society to participate in their service. They learned much about the similarities and differences between First Society and Prairie… During Nifty Gifty, the candle holder project proved to be the most challenging! Jainism was the religion under scrutiny this half of the month. The tenets of Jainism were compared to those of UUism.

UPCOMING EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!
Wild wintering… January 30. Consider joining the fun during the evening and/or topping it all off with sleeping over, a rather benign experience!

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Jan. 9; 3:15-5:15pm
Jan. 16; 9am-2: 30pm
Jan. 22; 5-10pm
Jan. 30; 9am-12; 30pm
Jan. 31; 3-9pm
Caring Committee Questionnaire

In our spring survey many of you indicated an interest in becoming part of the caring committee.

We plan on setting up a rotating schedule of one person per month who will act as an assistance coordinator to people in need. Your telephone number will be listed in the Prairie Fire and we will encourage people to call if they need assistance or if they know of someone who would like support.

Would you like to be an assistance coordinator?

YES  NO

In addition, to understand our resources, please indicate below how you can help the assistance coordinator and other Prairie people by circling areas of support that interest you:

Write notes of comfort and support.
Telephone and “chat”.
Prepare food.
Visit to home.
Visit to hospital.
Provide information on resources available.
Child care.
Rides.
Delivery of Sunday morning tapes.
Can help people dealing with:
grieving
divorce
illness
crisis
unemployment
aging parents
abuse
financial problems
legal

Name _______________________________

Telephone ____________________

Please return this form to Prairie or call Marilyn Ruecking (838-8540) or Nancy Schraufnagel (273-3195).