

Prairie UU Society 210 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711

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Located off the south frontage rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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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.

December 23, 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
5-9pm; **Hmong Celebration**, Girls' Power
Group, Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh

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

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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, January 31

10am; "The Spirituality of Small Book
Publishing", led by Fran Zell

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



Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Jan. 3rd.

(**Prairie Fire Deadlines for 1999** were published in December 8th issue of Prairie Fire.)

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 Nahlik

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

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 Ori 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 our 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! **High School:** The high school "crew" was most helpful during Nifty Gifty. They served as good supervisors and role models by creating their own gifts for others to see! They produced many creative gifts, most notably ornament holders, rockin'writers, garland, stamped notepads and sponge print cards. 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).