

Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711

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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.* February 24, 1999

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>

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, February 27

CHICAGO ART GALLERY TRIP CANCELED.

Sunday, February 28

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10am; **"Homelessness in Dane County"**. Guest speaker Marilyn Feil.

11:30am; **Social Action Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 4

6pm; **Joining Forces for Families - School All Stars**. See coming flyer for more details.

Sunday, March 7

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10am; **"Shrines and Grottoes of the Wisconsin Landscape"**. This will be the second in Anne Pryor's lay ministry on **Art and Religion**.

12-1pm; ANNUAL PRAIRIE SERVICE

AUCTION with Pizza Lunch. This is Prairie's main fund-raiser of the year. See article for more details!

Monday, March 8

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Tuesday, March 9

6pm; **Madison Urban Ministry:** "Family and Community." How does a community become family friendly? Fostering family supportive attitudes/beliefs.

Relating as opposed to isolating. Moderated by Mike McKinney of WMTV. Atwood Community Center, 2717 Atwood Avenue.

Thursday, March 11

7-9pm; **"Original Spirituality"**. The first in the "What We Believe" series presented by MAIN begins with basic indigenous spirituality beliefs. At Borders West.

Sunday, March 14

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10am; **"The Madison Gospels"**. Guests Will and Dot Williams. This is the third in Anne Pryor's lay ministry on **Art and Religion**.

SECRET FRIENDS PARTY

Sunday, March 21

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10am; The first in Orange Schroeder's series on **"The Church Across the Street"**. For grownups.

11:30am; **Spaghetti Lunch and All Committee Fair** coordinated by the Committee on Committees.

Everyone invited! See article.

Monday, March 22

6:30pm; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck** at Prairie.

Contact Kate Tucker, at 221-2168, or Rosemary Dorney, at 238-4382, for further information.

Saturday, March 27

7:30pm; **Prairie Play Readers** at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Everyone welcome.

Sunday, April 25

SPRING PARISH MEETING!!!!!!

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, March, 7th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, February 28

Marilyn Feil will lead a discussion of “**Housing and Homelessness in Dane County**”.

Sunday, March 7

“**Shrines and Grottoes of the Wisconsin Landscape**”. Anne Pryor will lead a slide show tour of how religious buildings and sculptures (mostly Catholic) mark the Wisconsin landscape and help to tell a social and political history. Such sites as the Dickeyville Grotto, Belgium and German roadside chapels, and Holy Hill, will be featured.

Sunday, March 14

“**The Madison Gospelaire**s”. Guests Will and Dot Williams, the founding members of the Madison Gospelaire, will perform and talk about their traditional style of African-American a cappella gospel.

Sunday, March 21

The first in Orange Schroeder’s series on “**The Church Across the Street**”. For grownups.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

February 28:

Greeting Visitors: Paula Pachciarz

Coffee Set-up: Kathy Helm

Coffee Clean-up: Marilyn & Rick Ruecking

March 7:

Greeting Visitors: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Set-up: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up: *Need Volunteer*

March 14:

Greeting Visitors: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Set-Up: Phoenix Wardell

Coffee Clean-up: Phoenix & ??????

Program Taping:

Instructions for taping are in the cabinet.

February 28: Paula Pachciarz

March 7: Bob Park

March 14: Jim Glueck

Snow Removal:

We have two new shovels for your shoveling pleasure!

Feb. 28-Mar. 6: Robin Carre

March 7-13: Ken Skog

March 14-20: Al Nettleton

OUR SOCIETY.

**ANNUAL PRAIRIE SERVICE AUCTION,
MARCH 7, 12:00-1:00pm**

Come to the Service Auction, Prairie's main fund-raiser of the Year! Events start with a bake sale in the lobby. Pizza lunch is at 12:00 (\$5.00 adults, \$2.00 for kids). Bidding for services will take place during lunch with Auctioneers Orange and Rick. Bring your checkbook and be generous with your bids for Prairie!

-Some of the services that will be auctioned are:

Pakistani dinner

Cast brass pendant or pin

Errands/shopping

Egg rolls by Yao and Larry

Guided spring walk for edible plants

Panegyric poem

Home soup

Easter egg decorating lesson

House cleaning

"Greens and Beans" dinner

Home repairs

Child care

Hand-made bas relief

Garden tilling

Fresh delivered bread

Massage

Your favorite songs on midi-computer

Weekend at Ruecking farm

Summer barbecue

WANTED SERVICES: Snow shoveling? Rent a car-lift? Install closet shelves? Horticultural advice? Can you offer one of these or other services? If so, contact Jennifer Parker by Sunday.

BAKE SALE ITEMS: Please bring bake sale items Sunday morning.

The Service Auction is a great way to connect with other Prairie members and contribute to Prairie at the same time. See you March 7. (Child care provided.)

Prairie Play Readers

Everyone is invited to Pat Watkin's home at 230 N. Meadow Lane, for play reading, on Saturday, March 27th at 7:30pm. These are entertaining evenings, exploring a playwright's work. Everyone is welcome.

HELP WANTED: Music Coordinator for Sunday Programs

Kay Frazier and Deb Phelps have been doing credit to their predecessors in coordinating music for the adult Sunday services, but now they want relief and help. This is a fun opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about Prairie's musical resources and musicians - and who wants a say in what music will be heard on Sundays. No musical performances will be required of persons in this position! If you are interested in taking or sharing the job for a while, contact Kay, Deb, Nancy Schraufnagel or Warren Hagstrom.

RE NEWS

We continue our exploration of the multiple truths of the world's religions...Exchanging letters with "Secret Friends" has begun.

Pre-School

Dramatic play continues to occupy most of the pre-schoolers time: serving food at the restaurant (soup anyone?), making sure the baby gets plenty of sleep....

K-1-2

The focus of this class' work during the last couple of weeks was the Jewish holiday of Purim. It is one of the most festive of all Jewish holidays, a day of much merrymaking. Underneath the mirth is a concern about discrimination against Jews and minorities in general. There was a lively discussion of the nature of discrimination.

3-4-5

Marie, Mei-lien, Toby and Isaac continued their immersion in African religions. African religions were compared to the other religions studied so far this year. The masks they created from paperboard, aluminum foil, glitter and artificial feathers definitely has a trance-creating quality about them. These masks could definitely have a powerful influence in an African religious ceremony!

6-7-8

These children made a visit to the Friends Meeting House to learn about the Quaker religion first-hand. They attended a religious education class where the similarities and differences between UUism and the Quaker religion were discussed.

High School

Seven thoughtful souls returned to Prairie to continue learning more about Buddhism. They talked about Theravada and Mayayana, two themes in Buddhist practices.

Next Week: Service Sunday centered around the work of the United Nations.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Power of \$30

Did you know there are 860 Unitarian Universalists in the Central Midwest District who believe in the power of our faith and want to share it with others? They are Chalice Lighters and each year they donate \$30 to help three churches in the district fulfill their mission to include more people in Unitarian Universalism..

Chalice Lighters began in the spring of 1996 by the district's Growth and Support Committee. Since then over \$43,000 has been donated for eight churches in the district. A Chalice Lighter is an individual who pledges to give a minimum of \$10 three times a year for a specific project related to membership growth.

Each church in the district may apply for a Chalice Lighter Award. Chalice Lighters from small churches support larger churches and Chalice Lighters in larger churches support smaller churches in their efforts to bring more people into Unitarian Universalism.

Chalice Lighter Awards are given for the following: Initiating a new congregation; Acquiring or enlarging meeting space for an existing congregation; Hiring professional staff; For outreach or public

relations and publicity programs.

If you believe in the power of Unitarian Universalism and want to share it with others, become a Chalice Lighter. It just might be the best tax deductible money you give all year. See or call Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173 for more information.

From Africans to Afro-Americans: Image and Reality of Blacks in German Cultural History

is the title of the two session course being taught by Rosemarie Lester at 7-8:15pm on March 30th and April 6th at the Pyle Center (formerly the Wisconsin Center) on the UW campus. The cost is \$16 for both classes or \$9 for either each separately. Call Marilyn Chavera at 262-2354 for more information.

Activity Groups

The following names were omitted from the list of interested persons in the last Prairie Fire because they signed up after I had copied the list: Phoenix Wardell, Shirley Grindrod, Kathy Converse. Please know that you are invited to the potluck on Feb. 27th. Call Pat at 233-5795 to RSVP.

General Assembly

It's coming up again. If you have an interest in being a delegate please contact Nancy Schraufnagel or Pat Watkins as soon as possible.

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Habitat for Humanity Workday

This workday took place on Saturday, February 13. "The Magnificent Six" team from Prairie (Colin Bosch, Erin Bosch, Metje Butler, Paula Pachciarz, Katy Skog, and Ken Skog) joined with people from three other groups in a fulfilling, productive day. Some of the jobs we worked on were cleaning out workspaces, hauling materials, putting up drywall, putting up ceiling strips and tiles, putting up walls and preparing surfaces to be painted. Food and drink for a midmorning break and lunch were provided and we ended before three. One reason the day went so well is that our coworkers and project supervisors were friendly and pleasant to work with. Supervisors Dave Kinyon and Marzo combined professional expertise with patient teaching, much appreciated by the unskilled members of our group. The committee will certainly

organize another workday for this project again, and we may not wait until next year to do so. Photos can be seen on the SAC bulletin board.

Homeless Shelter

Last Sunday the contribution to the shelter breakfast fund was generous. Thank you for your support.

Reminders

You can still bring personal items for the Interfaith Hospitality Network and donations to the Community Thrift Store to Prairie. Labeled boxes are available in the foyer for the smaller items.

Columbia "Sister City" Needs Help

Madison's sister city: **San Jose de Apartado, Colombia**, calls itself a community of peace. It was given an award by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The women need a way to earn money! Therefore, if you have a good used sewing machine in workable condition you would be willing to donate, please call Margaret Stevenson 257-7372 or Dolores Grengg 233-8979.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH MARCH 21

The Committee on Committees invites everyone to stay for a social Spaghetti Lunch right after the service on Sunday, March 21. Then share dessert and chat with members of the Committees that insure Prairie's continued vitality. You're invited to join the one(s) that sound the most interesting to you -as always, Prairie's success depends on our volunteer participation!

The Committee on Committees:

Kay Frazier, Barb Park, Marilyn Ruecking,
Dean Schroeder, Rachel Siegfried

*"If we seek solace in the prisons of the distant past
Security in human systems we're told will always,
always last
Emotions are the sail and blind faith is the mast
Without the breath of real freedom we're getting
nowhere fast."*

-Sting

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sat., Feb. 27, 9:30am; Shabbat Service.

Sat., March 6, 3-6pm; Class

Fri., March 12, 6:30; Service

