

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.* March 10, 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

Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Everyone welcome.
Phone 233-5795.

Sunday, March 14

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

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

11:45 am; **SECRET FRIENDS PARTY**

Saturday, March 20

8:00am-5:30pm; **3rd Annual Central Midwest District Interweave Conference**, Urbana, Illinois
U.U.Church of Urbana-Champaign, 309 Green St.
See flyer on bulletin board.

Sunday, March 21

9am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10am; The first in Orange Schroeder's series on **"The Church Across the Street"**. For grownups.
After service; **SPAGHETTI LUNCH AND ALL COMMITTEE FAIR** coordinated by the Committee on Committees. Everyone invited! See article.

Prairie Fire Deadline

Monday, March 22

6:30pm; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck** at Prairie.
Contact Kate Tucker at 221-2168 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 for further info.

Saturday, March 27

7:30pm; **Prairie Play Readers** at the home of Pat

Saturday, March 27

9:00am-12 Noon; **"Being Gay and Unitarian-Universalist: Nurturing Ourselves and our Reflections."** An adult education class at First Society led by Mary Ann Macklin. Phone 233-9774 for registration information.

Sunday, March 28

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

11:45: **Prairie Women's Group**

Sunday, April 4

10am; **Easter Intergenerational Program**

Monday, April 5

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

Sunday, April 11

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

Tuesday, April 13

6:00pm; **Madison Urban Ministry:** "Society and Educating Our Children." What alternatives are there to the mainstream messages our children learn by movies, TV, Internet, advertising, peer activities and social expectations? Moderated by Katie Sai of WISC-TV. Fitchburg Community Center.

Sunday, April 25

SPRING PARISH MEETING!!!

**Next Prairie Fire Deadline is
Sunday,
March 21st.**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 14

“The Madison Gospelaire’s.” Guests, Will and Dot Williams, the founding members of the Madison Gospelaire’s, 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 grown-ups.

Sunday, March 28

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

Sunday, April 4

EASTER INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

March 14:

Greeting Visitors: Lisa Glueck

Coffee Set-Up: Phoenix Wardell

Coffee Clean-up: Phoenix & Metje Butler

March 21:

Greeting Visitors: Paula Pachciarz

Coffee Set-Up: Kay Frazier

Coffee Clean-up: KK Anderson & ??????

Program Taping:

Instructions for taping are in the cabinet.

March 14: Jim Glueck

March 21: Paula Pachciarz

Snow Removal:

We have two new shovels for your shoveling pleasure!

March 14-20: Al Nettleton

March 21-27:

Dean Schroeder

A certain distinguished astronomer once declared at a scientific meeting: “To an astronomer, man is nothing more than an insignificant dot in an infinite universe.”

“I have often felt that,” said Einstein. “But then I realize that the insignificant dot who is man is also the astronomer.”

OUR SOCIETY

Prairie Play Readers

Everyone is invited to Pat Watkin’s home at 230 N. Meadow Lane, for play reading, on Saturday, March 27, 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.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The UUA Board of Directors met in January and voted for two measures, which may be of interest to the members of the congregation. The first vote was to approve allowing congregations of fewer than 100 members to have two delegates at General Assembly. They were formerly allotted only one delegate, and the rationale for the change was to enable every delegate to travel and/or share with at least one other person from his or her own congregation. The second vote was to increase the number of delegates for congregations of 101 - 150 members to three. Both of these will have to be voted on at the 1999 General Assembly. You may wish to let Prairie delegates know your wishes, as the passage of the second by-law change would give Prairie three delegates in the year 2000, with an

additional \$500 added to the Prairie budget. Talk to Pat Watkins or Nancy Schraufnagel. Another vote by the Board was to hold the 2003 GA in Boston. And, in case you like to make really advance plans, the 2000 GA will be held in Nashville on June 22-27; the 2001 in Cleveland on June 22-26, and it is expected that the 2002 GA will be held somewhere in Canada.

Central Midwest District has announced the “fair share” dues for the fiscal year 7/1/99 through 6/30/2000: The UUA dues will be \$40.00 per member and the CMWD dues will be \$14.00 per member. We are usually billed \$1.00 for the Area dues, but have as yet received no communication from them. This would mean that Prairie is expected to remit \$53.50 per member for the 1999 calendar year.

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, separately. Call Marilyn Chavera at 262-2354 for more info.

Attention Prairie Musicians!

Franz Liszt is coming May 9. This prolific composer lived a fascinating and romantic life. We may not approve of him (he is a Faust-like figure), but he fascinates. He has many pieces for piano and many songs for solo voices and some songs the Prairie choir can sing, and we can probably find music for guitar, violin, clarinet, etc... Think about Liszt pieces you would like to perform, and if you want suggestions, contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru at 238-4970.

Lost and Found

A folding, small, black umbrella and a small child's colorful fleece jacket are still among the items in the Lost & Found bag or on the rack in the outer vestibule. Check out the baseball caps and sweat-shirts! In Prairie Society's kitchen, on the counter, on the left, past the stove, an array of unclaimed dishes remains from glorious potluck feasts. Please look to see if yours

is there.

Gifts From the Heart

Generous Prairie Society blood donors in February were Al Nettleton, Barbara Park, Phoenix Wardell, Ken Reinebach, Bob Purvis and Daisy and John Peterson. Yes, you can give again after eight weeks, and John and Daisy were among our Christ-mas Eve donors who gave again on February 25th!

How Unbiased is the Press?

Chain ownership of local and small town newspapers has become so pervasive that giant corporations play the music to which most newspapers dance. Seventy-five percent of America's 1548 daily newspapers are in the hands of chains. Seventy-four percent of our country's state capitals are served by chains, thus severely affecting the news available to the legislators who count on these papers. And, it has reached the point where the large chains are now gobbling up the small ones. Just four chains--Thomson, American, Gannett and Donrey--own 21% of all the daily newspapers in the United States. In other words, only four--yes, FOUR--chief executive officers control more than one-fifth of the nations daily papers. You should find this frightening. Do you?

-paraphrased from *The Washington Spectator*, July 1, 1996

Note this Address Change in your book!!!

Kathy Helm & Gary Giorgi
5401 Marsh Road
McFarland, WI 53558
(It used to be Madison.)

SUCCESSFUL SERVICE AUCTION!

Thanks to everyone who donated services, food, and help, our Annual Service Auction was a great success! Special thanks to Finance Committee members Nikki, Jennifer, and Daisy for coordinating services and the auction, Rick Owens and Brian Kuzdas, our auctioneers, Linda Sheehy for all the food organizing, all the kids and teens who set tables and served, and everyone else who assisted in so many ways! (We got a great discount on our pizzas from Dominoes, too.) All

together with lunch, the bake sale, and services bought, we will collect a total of almost \$2,900.

A reminder to all who bought services - be sure to contact the "service provider" to set up a time to collect on your service! Schedule ahead - we are all busy people!

SPAGHETTI LUNCH March 21st

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!

Prairie Needs You

The Committee on Committees still has Chair positions left to fill. We are seeking candidates for: Program Committee; Housing and Property; Finance; and Religious Education. We have at least one volunteer for the other committees. If you would like to be on the Board, and be a part of Prairie in a dynamic way, consider one of these positions. If you wish to be a candidate or can suggest a nominee or need additional information, let us know. The Committee on Committees consists of Dean Schroeder (256 - 8813), Marilyn Ruecking (838-8540), Barb Park (273 -8775), Kay Frazier and Rachel Siegfried (271-2173). We welcome your call.

Upham Woods Request

The Committee on Committees is searching for two volunteers to help with our fall retreat. One person will take registration; the other organizes the program. Everyone enjoys they're stay at the Dells and participation is fun. Please contact Marilyn Ruecking (838-8540) or Rachel Siegfried (271 -2173) or any other C on C member if you can help with these essential activities.

Lay Ministry

It's time to think of lay ministries for the coming year 1999 - 2000. Anyone who would like to do a lay ministry or would like to recommend someone please contact any member of the Committee on Committees.

A lay ministry has a central theme and usually covers three to six non-consecutive Sunday services. There is a small re-numeration for the presentation. Themes usually represent a topic near and dear to the speaker and we all can remember presentations that touched us, sparked our imagination, or encouraged us to participate in lively discussion. We encourage your participation in this Prairie tradition. If you are interested, please submit a general plan or outline to the Committee. We also invite you to think of ideas for a Lay Ministry. For example, White Privilege; Racial Issues; Spirituality; Roots of Religion; History of Religious Sects; Aging in America; Health Care and Social Security. Hope these topics inspire you to think of something you'd like to present as a Lay Ministry or see presented. Let the Committee know your thoughts.

Interfaith Committee For Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin

That is the name for the new Religion & Labor Coalition, which just formed in Madison in January. I will be giving you updates and reports as to their activities. Please call or e-mail me if you'd like to register your ideas. I'll pass them along to the committee. The ICWJ met in February. An executive slate of offices was elected. The group is composed of a diverse group of unions and religions. We decided on a dues structure. Organizations or individuals can join at different rates. Struggling organizations can pay as little as \$15. Membership would give us voting rights and at a later time a newsletter. The next categories of membership begin at \$100. I think Prairie can be classified as struggling. Want to join? Also, you could take out an individual membership.

At our last meeting we discussed a program idea of RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING. This program would target companies employing sweatshop labor. We would educate consumers as to their purchases and help develop codes of employer conduct for employment in the apparel industry. This is all still in the incubation stages. The students who lobbied to end the university's purchasing of sweat shop produced goods were at our meeting. Our efforts would be similar, but it would include the larger community of employers and would have a local consumer focus. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 29th. Contact me, Karen Gross, for more details or questions at 259-0556 or

karengross@gdinet.com.

***“Light breaks on secret lots...
Where logics die
The secret grows through the eye.”
-Dylan Thomas***