

Prairie UU Society ½ 2010 Whenona Drive ½ 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 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, March 27

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

Sunday, March 28

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

11:30 am; **PARISH POLL:** Please remain after the service to participate in this. Note article in this issue regarding the poll for the UUA General Assembly this spring.

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

12 Noon--2pm; "**The Growing Economic Divide**":

A forum presented by Bonnie Block, Chair of the Economic Task Force of MUM, and Co-chair of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. First Society. Phone 233-9774 for info.

6pm; "**Coming Out Coming Together Annual**

Dinner Meeting", at Plymouth Congregational Church, 2401 Atwood Ave. Tammy Baldwin is the guest speaker. Call 249-1537 for reservations.

Sunday, April 4

10am; **Easter Intergenerational Program. "Gonna Make this Garden Grow"** led by Rick and Marilyn Ruecking, Warren Hagstrom and Rachel Siegfried.

5pm; **Shaarei Shamayim Community Passover Seder** at Prairie. See article for more details.

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.**" Members will be encouraged and guided to visit other churches (who will have invited us) in the community.

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.

Thursday, April 15

6:30pm; **Interweave Area Congregations Social Event Planning Meeting** at Prairie.

April 16-18

Central Midwest District Annual Meeting in Peoria, IL.

Sunday, April 18

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

11:45am; **Prairie Women's Group Meeting**

Sunday, April 25

11:30am; Potluck Lunch

12:30pm; **Prairie's Annual Spring Business Mtg.**

Friday, May 7

7:30pm; **Interweave Intergenerational Mixer and Dessert Potluck** at Prairie.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, April 4th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 28

The second in Orange Schroeder's series on "**The Church Across the Street**". Guest speaker Dale Mainer will be discussing the history and beliefs of the followers of Baha'i.

Sunday, April 4

EASTER INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM.

Among the activities we will do to celebrate the arrival of Spring and the renewal of life will be to plant seeds that we can transplant to our gardens as sprouts when the weather permits. We will provide seeds, potting soil, containers, music and encouraging words. BUT NOTE, if you have seeds you would like to share with others, bring them along to share.

Sunday, April 11

Visitation Sunday. Members of Prairie will go visit various places of worship, including the Deer Park Buddhist Center, the Quaker (Friends) meeting and the Greek Orthodox Church. We may also have a speaker at Prairie for those interested in getting together there to learn more about the Muslim faith.

Sunday, April 18

Orange Schroeder's "**The Church Across the Street**" concludes with a panel discussion talking about our experiences with other religions. The Middle School and High School RE classes will participate.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

March 28:

Greeting Visitors: Karen Gross

Coffee Set-Up: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up: Marilyn Ruecking & Metje B.

April 4:

Greeting Visitors: Robin Carre

Coffee Set-Up: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up: Rachel Siegfried & John Peterson

Program Taping:

Instructions for taping are in the cabinet.

March 28: Phoenix Wardell

Snow Removal:

March 28 - April 3: *Need Volunteer*

April 4-10: *Need Volunteer*

OUR SOCIETY

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.

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.

Prairie UU Society ANNUAL SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Prairie UU Society's Annual Spring Business Meeting will be held Sunday, April 25th at 12:30pm. Please submit agenda items, including slate of officers and lay ministers, by Sunday, April 4th to Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195 or K.K. Anderson, Secretary, 255-3596.

I hope that many of you attended and enjoyed the Spaghetti Lunch and All Committee Fair. There are a variety of ways that individuals can contribute to Prairie. Please consider participating in Prairie by agreeing to Chair or be a member of a Committee or volunteer. Committee on Committee Members and other Committee Chairs and Officers can answer your

questions about the work, opportunities and services available (Dean, 256-8813, Marilyn, 838-8540). Thanks for your time, consideration, thoughts, works and contributions. See you after the potluck lunch.

Your Prez,
Nancy Schraufnagel

Parish Poll

Prairie's Parish Poll is scheduled for **Sunday, March 28th after the service**. We will be voting for four resolutions for the UUA General Meeting.

The list of resolutions is as follows:

9-1 "War on Drugs": A Liberal Alternative

Issue: Critics of the "war on drugs" in Canada and the United States argue that it confuses and mis-leads the public, fails to address drug abuse problems adequately, wastes government money, and erodes civil rights protections. Can Unitarian Universalists formulate and advocate drug abuse policy which does not dehumanize drug users, infringe on civil liberties, or target minorities?

9-2 Waking up to the Threat of Global Warming

Issue: What should Unitarian Universalists do to slow global warming?

9-3 Responsible Consumption as a Moral Imperative

Issue: Irresponsible consumption endangers our future as it wastes raw materials and precious resources, depriving people in other countries as well as our own future generations. Can Unitarian Universalists and their congregations influence people to become more responsible in our consumption of resources?

** Prairie co-sponsored, and therefore have to give our vote for it.*

9-4 New Immigrants: Their Problems and Our Responsibilities

Issue: How should Unitarian Universalists respond to the social, educational, economic, and political problems affecting today's immigrant groups?

{PRIVATE}

9-5 Improving the Quality of Life for Youth

Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote non-violence, constructive behaviors, and a better quality of life among youth in our communities?

9-6 Democracy Demands Full and Fair Representation

Issue: What reforms of our democratic system do Unitarian Universalists believe are necessary to assure full and fair representation for all citizens?

9-7 Biotechnology: Ethics, Power, and Equity

Issue: What are the moral implications of genetic engineering in the field of biotechnology, and how should Unitarian Universalists respond morally to this exploding technology?

9-8 Advancing the Liberal Vision for Public Education

Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to revive support for public education and advance a liberal education vision?

9-9 Abolish Nuclear Weapons Everywhere

Issue: How can Unitarian Universalists work for total nuclear disarmament?

Please read the latest issue of UU World for full text of the proposed Study/Action Issues.

Shaarei Shamayim Community Passover Seder

"The Seder of the children of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar." Sunday, April 4th at 5:00pm at Prairie UU Society there will be a Community Passover Seder. Come and participate in a Seder created for the purpose of promoting Palestinian-Israeli peace-making and liberation. There will be lively discussion, good company, tasty foods and lots of singing. Bring a kosher-for-Pesach* vegetarian dish to pass (main dish, vegetable or dessert) and volunteer to help with a seder task. Bring your family kiddush cups, seder plates, candle-sticks and other ritual items. Child care will be provided during the seder. Suggested donations of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child under 10 will be accepted at the door, the night of the Seder.

**Kosher-for-Pesach at the Shaarei Shamayim permits the use of legumes and rice, following the practice of Sephardi Jews. Because many people follow the Ashkenazi practice of excluding these foods, it is requested that all dishes be accompanied by cards listing their ingredients. Any questions, please contact Rabbi Brian at 245-3775.*

ALL-COMMITTEE FAIR ENJOYED BY ALL

On Sunday, March 21, we celebrated the arrival of spring with a big spaghetti lunch, followed by the Prairie Committees' Dessert Invitational. This was an opportunity for Prairie members to get to know what the committees do, and what they might like help with. It was a very social occasion, as most of the morning attendees (including guests and kids) stayed and enjoyed the lunch. Many thanks to the committee chairs for providing desserts: Aileen Nettleton from Finance, Al Nettleton from Housing & Property, Warren Hagstrom from Program, Paula Pachciarz and Shannon Hayes from Social Action, Ken Skog from Long Range Planning, Erin Bosch from Membership, Anne Pryor from Religious Education, Pat Watkins from Denominational Affairs, Doleta Chapru from Ceremonies, and Marilyn Ruecking from Caring. And thanks to all who have volunteered and who continue to help on these committees. Remember, you don't have to join a committee - you can always help one-time on a specific project or event. Your participation, in what ever way you can, contributes to Prairie's continued vitality.

The Committee on Committees

Social Action Update

A big thank you to the Committee on Committees for organizing the spaghetti dinner and all-committee fair. The food was delicious and the event was an enjoyable mix of fun and productivity. We enthusiastically welcome new members Jan Howe and Phoebe Rosebear to the SAC and look forward to a great year.

We are also happy to announce that after a lot of work by a dedicated bunch of people, The Interfaith Hospitality Network has been launched. (This is a joint effort by Madison churches to provide temporary housing and support to homeless families.) Prairie's first commitment will be on Sunday, May 23. Cultural awareness training will be available to volunteers the preceding Sunday, May 16. You will receive details about the training in future service announcements and in the Prairie Fire. The collection of personal items to be distributed to homeless families is going well.

You may still bring your donations to Prairie and leave them in the IHN box in the foyer.

Ongoing is the collection for the Community Thrift Store. (The SAC receives a percentage of sales of items donated to the store in its name.) If you are unable to take donations to the store (1814 South Park, 12-7 Wednesday through Sunday) you may drop off items at Prairie any Sunday, or contact Paula Pachciarz or Shannon Hayes to arrange for pick-up at your home.

Home to Share

Rachel Siegfried (271-2173) is looking for a person to share her home. Large bedroom, own bath, share kitchen. Non-smoker and no pets. Available April.

R.E. NEWS

Pre-School

"Mainly we roll along with our happy songs..."

K-1-2

We spent time learning about the Roman Catholic holy season of Lent on March 7th. We made spectacular chalices out of clay. Chalices are a symbol used in Lenten season. On March 14th we did a play about the 1st Passover and the use of animal blood. We got very involved! We discussed and sampled some home made, matzah crackers.

3-4-5

We learned a lot about the Celtic religion: the communicated their ideas orally and wrote nothing down, they worshipped in forests and used no buildings to worship in. We made trees out of recycled newspapers because the Celts were tree worshippers.

6-7-8

On March 7th Cindy Haq was our guest. She made a graceful presentation of Islam. On March 14th Lisa Glueck taught us about Buddhism and about how to meditate, Buddhist style.

High School

We engaged in an intriguing discussion of the various forms of the supernatural on March 7th. On March 14th we talked about the Tao and acted out the Yin/Yang facets of our lives.

Service Sunday

This month's Serviced Sunday focused on the United Nations, it's history, structure and reasons for

existence. Through this activity we hoped to better understand its need to impose sanctions on the country of Iraq. We wrote letters to Senator Helms and President Clinton urging them to support the U.S. to resume paying it's dues to the UN. Also, we created "People chains" as a symbol of what the UN tries to do in the world, i.e., create bonds of cooperation among the world's people.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sun. April 4, 5pm; Community Seder

Sat., April 10, 2-5pm; Annual "Envisioning Our Community" meeting.