

Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711

(608) 271-8218

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



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1604

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.*

April 21, 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>

President: Nancy E. Schraufnagel (608) 273-3195
prairieu@execpc.com

Editor: Kate Heiber-Cobb (608) 250-6512;

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, April 24

7:30pm; **Prairie Playreaders** at Rosemary Dorney and Timothy Fast's home, 4205 Odana Rd., 238-4382. See article for details.

Sunday, April 25

10am; **"Windows to the World"**, with guest speaker David Giffey. The third in Anne Pryor's lay ministry "Art and Religion."

11:30am; Potluck Lunch

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

Sunday, May 2

10am: **"Prairie People Serve: How Are We Living Up to Our UU Principles?"**. A discussion led by Doleta Chapru.

12-2:30pm; Training for Interfaith Hospitality volunteers, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 12-2:30, childcare available.

Friday, May 7

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

Sunday, May 9

10am; Music Program: **"Franz Liszt, a Really Romantic Composer,"** music by members of the congregation, coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. Before and After the Service; Social Action Committee Bake Sale.

Sunday, May 16

10am; **"Developing Prairie's Mission Statement,"**

led by Ken Skog, Prairie Long Range Planning Committee.

Sunday, May 23

10am; **TRANSITION SUNDAY**, Erin Bosch, MC.

Sunday, May 30

Memorial Day Picnic at the home of Carl and Marian Thompson. Details to come in a future Prairie Fire.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, May 2nd.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, April 25

Guest David Giffey will present a slide show and discussion on icons, focusing on the icons he's painted for the Greek Othodox Church of the Assumption in Madison.

Sunday, May 2

"Gee, I didn't know that." I heard this response several times recently when discussing community service activities of various unsung Prairie heroes. After twenty years in Prairie I'm still discovering more and more about members and friends who sit around me on Sunday morning. Our May 2nd service will focus on individual Prairie people's service to the greater

community. Please come to share and to learn.
“Sharpening our ethical awareness and broadening our sense of social responsibility” involves us all. -Doleta Chapru

“In time, life went on, and new secrets encircled old ones like the rings inside trees and the bark that covered them.”

-Brian Keith Jackson

Walking Through Mirrors

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

April 25:

Greeting Visitors: Erin Bosch

Coffee Set-Up: Phoenix

Coffee Clean-up: *Need 2 volunteers*

May 2:

Greeting Visitors: Rita Reffner

Coffee Set-Up: Kathy Helm

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

Program Taping:

May 2: *Need Volunteer*

Sign-Up for Lawn Mowing!!!!!!

OUR SOCIETY

Obituary

Longtime Prairie member, Odell “Tally” Taliaferro died April 12, 1999 at St. Mary’s Long Term Health Care Facility. Tall was fortunate to have his former neighbor, Sue Hubbard, as a volunteer health care advocate for the time he was at St. Mary’s Health Care Facility. Here are excerpts from the letter she wrote neighbors.

This morning Odell Taliaferro died. He was 92 years of age and continued to enjoy life until this past Thursday. He was found in the morning unresponsive and examination revealed several serious and life threatening scenarios. Tali (as we all called him) made a decision for him-self when given the options for treatment. He chose no tests, no exams, and no more hospitals. He refused anti-biotics for possible infection. He accepted treatment to make him comfortable only. He was told that he might live two to three days if the treatment team honored his decision. He said that was fine. He was tired. He only worried about the pain his

daughter, Joan, might feel. We called Joan on the phone and he told her of his decision.

We kept him as comfortable as we could, the staff were wonderful at St. Mary’s. He was given pain medication, muscle relaxants to decrease the frequency and severity of spasms, medications to decrease congestion in his chest, oxygen to breath, and finally, lots of TLC. He was ready to die, and we believe that he chose his time.

According to Tali’s wishes, there will be no funeral. His family is planning a memorial service at the Unitarian Church sometime during the week of May 9th. If you wish to send a card to his daughter, Joan, her address is:

Joan and Tom Harsborn
4589 Emerson Road South
Cleveland, OH 44121

Hazel continues to reside at St. Mary’s Health Center and although she is generally in stable health, she does not demonstrate recognition of familiar persons. Tali spent time with her daily and he did not think that she recognized him. She has not been told and the family would appreciate this being honored by anyone visiting. It is difficult to determine if she is able to process this cognitively and emotionally.

I know that Tali would thank you for being part of his life.

Prairie Playreaders

Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Timothy Fast and Rosemary Dorney on Saturday, April 24, at 7:30pm. We live at 4205 Odana Rd., 238-4283. All who are interested are welcome! As you may know, the hosts select a play, and those who come read it “cold.” It works out surprisingly well! Usually we have refreshments half-way through, then some discussion (informal always) afterwards if it’s not too late. You don’t have to be either an experienced actor or a gifted reader. Just come and enjoy!

One Request: Tim has serious, chronic health problems, that makes it imperative he not catch “minor” illnesses. So, if you’re coughing, or not feeling up to par, we’ll miss you—but we will really appreciate your thoughtfulness in not sharing you germs. (And no, we have not made our final play choice yet, but we’re getting close!)

"We practice being human in every waking moment. And the more mindfully we practice, the more often our conflicts dissolve, the more easily we create new possibilities for relationship and community."
-Philip Simmons.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Set to Open

Interfaith Hospitality Network is set to open April 25, 1999. Clear your calendars! All those interested in being a volunteer for our churches involvement with MAIHN are required to attend the volunteer training May 2, 12 noon, at Midvale Community Lutheran Church on Tokay and Midvale. There will be a potluck at noon followed by the training. Bring your calendars as well, as we will have a large sign up board. We will be joined by the volunteers from our host church, Midvale Lutheran, and by the volunteers from the other buddy church, which is Glenwood Moravian. It will be fun and a good time to meet new friends. Child-care will be available. The rotation schedule has been set. Our first rotation will be the week of May 23rd. If you absolutely can not make it you need to call me and I will tell you where another training will occur. Teens and children welcome. See you all there! Shannon Hayes, 274-0553

Westside Senior Center Annual Book Sale

The Westside Senior Center is now collecting used books for their Annual Book Sale. The sale will be held from June 12th through June 19th. Books can be dropped off at the Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace. All proceeds from the sale go towards senior programming. If you have any questions about the sale, please call the Senior Center at 238-0196.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR KOSOVO

Join us every day for the next thirty days, from April 4 to May 4, in a prayer vigil for peace in Kosovo. Beginning at 12 noon PST, 3pm EST, 8pm in London, 9pm in Paris, 10pm in Cairo, 11pm in Moscow, 6 am in Australia, etc., people throughout the world will spend a minimum of TWO MINUTES every day, in silent prayer and meditation, harnessing spiritual power in service to the people of Kosovo and the world. Please do this, and pass the word to others.
CONCENTRATED, COLLECTIVE PRAYER IS

OUR GREATER POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

"FIRST CALL FOR HELP"

The Caring Committee has been established to help other Prairie members in need. The types of support offered are writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and a community resource list. We also have a small library.

If you have or know of a member or friend who has a special need that the Caring Committee should know about, feel free to call our primary point of contact for this month: Marilyn Ruecking 838-8540. The primary person has a master list of volunteers who can be called upon depending on the support needed.

RE Welcoming Board

This board, at the bottom of the stairs, welcomes RE people into the "inner sanctum" of RE life at Prairie. This year the RE committee is making it more interactive. We're doing this by posing a question each month for people to respond to in graffiti type ways.

In April the Question of the month was "What Women Do You Admire and Why?" Some of the answers are:

"My Mom, Anne Pryor, because she's wonderful (full of wonder)."

"My Mom, she's the best!"
Alison, Eleanor

"Yoo Nahlik because she's a great COOK!"

"Barbara Rames"

"Our Moms!"

"Imogene Cunningham: talented photographer-ahead of her time in the art world of photography."

"Elizabeth Kubler-Ross: her groundbreaking work with death and dying issues."

Art Shegonee of Menominee-Potawatomi heritage and member of "Drums for Peace" will lead us in a celebration of our Earth family following the work detail. A pot-latch lunch will be held in the McKay Center; so bring a dish to pass, along with your own eating utensils and plate. Cups and beverages will be provided.

Join us as we help to protect and enhance some of Madison's precious remaining greenspace. Contact Delores Haak at 238-9525 or kjhaak@execpc.com for additional information.

Bread and the Spirit
by Lynn Olcott
published in the Sept./Oct, 1997 issue of World

Blending the moist ingredients with the dry, I stir deeply, enjoying the strength of the wooden spoon. Something is trying to be said in my soul. If I keep stirring, I will learn what it is.

Turning the dough out on the counter, I knead it and hum a childhood hymn, and my heart awakens to the Spirit always in me. Kneading the dough can be like dancing. On my toes in an old ballet step, I lean my palms into the floury mass.

There it is, in the words to the barely remembered hymn I am humming. Years of Christian words are pressing lessons on me about Him, He, His - the message of female unworthiness in a Christian world.

Breathing deeply, I roll and turn the warm dough into a ball and then nestle it carefully into a bowl.

In an hour the dough has doubled in size. I press it small again and let it rest. I think of all the translating I've learned to do in church after church, distilling the Spirit's love from a theology that never absolves us of the original sin of being born female.

Shaped into loaves now, the dough rises again. I'm good at translating. God is really a Mother playing with her babies in a pie-fragrant house. It makes more sense than a God who controls the outcome of football games.

I place the bread pans in the searing oven. Grandma Moses used the same six bread pans from the time she married at 17 until her death, many loaves and great-grandchildren later. She took great joy in her faith. Did she mind the He pronouns?

“Wise” words from R.E. Committee: be a source of admiration and volunteer to teach an RE class next year!!!!

Member Biography

Jim Glueck was born in Cleveland, Ohio and went to grade school there, then went to Purdue University with an engineering major. But, that “left out the artist part of his personality” (Lisa’s words) so he transferred to U. of Michigan an Ann Arbor with a major in architecture. After two years’ work in that field he earned his master’s degree in that field. Madison seemed a promising place to follow his interest in community architecture, for he had heard of Design Coalition. He worked for that organization eleven years, then decided to form his own company: Glueck Architects, preparing plans for residential buildings both new and remodeled, apartment buildings and senior residences. Busy, but Jim takes time to participate in his sons’ activities, too. An accomplished guitarist, he and his son, Brian, collaborate on arrangements, picking our harmonies and playing together. We enjoyed hearing Jim as part of the Spring 1998 Prairie Sunday service about the music of Richard Rogers, singing with the men,
“There Is Nothing Like a Dame”!

Earth Day Outing for Local UUs

On Saturday, April 24, Unitarian Universalists from the James Reeb, Prairie and Sauk City FUS congregations are all urged to gather at the 1207 Seminole Highway entrance to the UW Arboretum (under an identifiable banner). The annual inter-religious "Peace and Ecology Festival" will be held rain or shine, so dress appropriately! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The day will begin with a service project. Participants will chip trails from 9 to 11:30am. This will protect the flora and fauna from being trampled and it prevents the soil from being overly compacted. (Please bring labeled shovels, rakes, pails, pitchforks and small wagons.)

The spirit is greater than gender. The Spirit is greater than theology. The Spirit is a universe of love, and all life is prayer. I offer this bread to my family from the Spirit. I offer the Spirit to my family in the bread. The Spirit is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The message from the Spirit is clear.

Our sympathies to Mary Mullen on the death of her ex-husband, Francis (Fuz) Mullen.