

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.*

May 5, 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

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.**

Monday, May 10

7:30pm; **Transitional Board Meeting.** All Exiting, Continuing, and New Board Members.

Tuesday, May 11

6-8pm; **Dialogue Forums: "Reconnecting Our Lives and Values"**. Guest speakers, Bonnie Block and David Newby. Moderator Neil Heinen of WISC-3 TV. \$6, Box Supper provided. 256-0906 for reservations or scholarships.

Thursday, May 13

4:30pm; **Memorial Service for Odell Taliaferro** at the First Unitarian Universalist Society, 900 University Bay Dr.

Sunday, May 16

10am; **"Developing Prairie's Mission Statement,"** led by Ken Skog, Prairie Long Range Planning Committee.

All-Prairie Picnic after the service. See article for

details.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE.

Saturday, May 22

8:30am - 5pm; **Transitional Board Retreat.** All Exiting, Continuing,, and New Board Members, Ceremony and Caring Chairs.

Sunday, May 23

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

Tuesday, May 25

6:30pm; **Spanish Speakers Potluck** at the home of Prudence Barber, 1050 Jenifer St., 251-0852.

Sunday, May 30

Memorial Day Picnic at the home of Carl and Marian Thompson. Look for details and directions in the article under Our Society.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, May 16th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, May 9

Music Program: **"Franz Liszt, a Really Romantic Composer,"** music by members of the congregation, coordinated by Warren Hagstrom.

Sunday, May 16

“Developing Prairie’s Mission Statement,” led by Ken Skog, Prairie Long Range Planning Committee.

Sunday, May 23

“Transition Sunday,” Erin Bosch, MC.

Sunday, May 30

12 Noon; **MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC.** At the home of Carl and Marian Thompson. No Service at the Meeting House. See Article under Our Society for details and directions.

Sunday, June 6

“The Religious Significance of Dogs,” presented by Nikki Bromberg and Warren Hagstrom.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

May 9:

Greeting Visitors: Barbara Rames

Coffee Set-Up: Barbara Rames

Coffee Clean-up: John P and Nicole B.

May 16:

Greeting Visitors: Aileen Nettleton

Coffee Set-Up: Paula Pachciarz

Coffee Clean-up: *Need 2 Volunteers*

Program Taping:

May 9: Bob Park

May 16: *Need Volunteer*

Lawn Mowing

May 9-May 15: Dean Schroeder

May 16-May 22: Karen Gross

OUR SOCIETY

Pick Up Your Dishes!

Kitchen dishes left from potlucks are on display for you to find your missing favorite bowl.... **Get yours now!** Kitchen lost and found items will be offered for sale with proceeds going to Prairie and any remaining items will be taken to Goodwill.

Pledge Payments

Remember to send your pledges to our treasurer, Daisy Peterson, 5502 Kroncke Drive, Madison,

53711. Save us sending you a reminder and save Prairie postage. Thanks for your continued financial support of Prairie! Aileen Nettleton, Finance Committee Chair

For Sale

I have a Pentium 133MHz computer for sale. It has 65MB of ram memory, 2 hard drives with over 3GB of storage between the two of them, a stereo sound card, 33.6 Fax/Modem, 1.44MB floppy drive, Phillips 8x CD-ROM drive, keyboard, mouse and 15” flat digital color monitor. Windows 98 operating system. The first \$375 takes it. Call Jose’ at (608)839-5607 during the day.

Memorial Day Picnic-Potluck

The short drive to Marian and Carl Thompson’s home south of Oregon will be well worth the time. Their lovely home is secluded in the country with beautiful views of the surrounding trees and grass-land. This will be a chance to get to know other Prairie members and friends.

To get to their home, head south from Madison and Fitchburg on Hwy. 14 east, past the town of Oregon. Turn left on Old Stage Road (CAUTION: this has sometimes lacked a road sign.) Old Stage is 4.4 miles south of the Oregon turnoff, or 1.2 miles south of County A. When you see the White Rock Inn on the left you have just missed the turnoff! Old Stage is a bucolic one-and-a-half lane blacktop road that winds through the countryside. The Thompsons’ driveway is 4.8 miles on the left, number 3418. When you pass the Graves Cemetery on the left you are about halfway there. The house is about ¼ mile up a dirt driveway, over a hill and down into a dale.

Memorial Service for Odell Taliaferro

The memorial service for Odell Taliaferro will be held Thursday, May 13, 4:30 PM at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Tali was a long-time member of Prairie.

Membership Thanks

I would like to thank some people that have made my 2-year tenure as Membership Chair easier: Barbara Rames for doing many "behind-the-scenes

tasks, like greeting visitors when someone forgets or no one has signed up, and sending out postcards every week to visitors, etc.; Marilyn Ruecking for taking the coffee money and doing the necessary grocery shopping; Marian Thompson for writing Prairie Fire stories about new members; Metje Butler for making nametags for new members; Rick Ruecking for organizing the photo directory project; Rick, Marilyn, and Pat Watkins for assisting with fall orientations; Diane Derouen for help with Circle Dinner configurations; Reid Miller for helping to organize various social events, and everyone who enthusiastically participated in such events. I hope everyone will give your new Membership Chairs, Rita Rueffner and Kathy Helm, your continued support.

-Erin Bosch

All-Prairie Picnic

On May 16, after the service, there will be an intergenerational all-Prairie picnic at Marlborough Park, which is right down the block from Prairie. We will have three-legged races, a balloon toss, and other games. If you'd like to play softball, bring a glove. We will have a potluck meal (grills provided). Bring your own plates, utensils, drinks, and blankets or chairs to sit upon. Let's hope the weather cooperates as well as last year - it was a glorious day. But if it rains, we'll gather indoors and play other types of games.

Letter from UU Littleton, CO

Dear Friends in our UU Faith,

Here in Littleton we are receiving your calls and emails, and need them in this terrible tragedy. Your messages give us solace.

While no UU children were killed, our children and teachers - UUs among them -- had to hide in terror and watch classmates and students die. We have only begun to overcome our stunned disbelief and will need your thoughts and prayers in the weeks to come. Several Unitarian Universalists will be appearing on national television in the coming days, among them Dr. Susan Dressel, Rev. Joel Miller, and Columbine H.S. Teacher Paula Reed.

After speaking last night on national television, and expressing my anger and dismay at those who believe guns are an acceptable method of solving problems, Columbine UU Church has also received many abusive

pro-gun calls, and calls from "Christians", complaining that I did not use the opportunity to demand that Christian prayer be forced upon our public schools.

Our nation needs this faith we share now more than ever! You can do something for us. First, Columbine UU Church is a New Congregation, and there are hundreds of people who will have a UU church where there was none before. People need us; please reach out to them. Start more UU congregations. Also, understand that this isn't somebody else's problem but a problem for us all, and as Unitarian Universalists talk and pray and think in your communities and congregations about what this means for us and what we can do about it.

Rev. Joel Miller

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
Littleton, Colorado

Spanish Speakers' Potluck

Spanish Speakers will have their next meeting at Prudence Barber's, 1050 Jenifer St., phone 251-0852, at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 25th. All levels of Spanish are welcome. We are very informal. Bring a dish to share for potluck, if you can - it doesn't have to be Latino!

In April the Spanish Speakers met at the very interesting home of Theron Caldwell Ris. Many of you will remember Theron, a local artist and Prairie old-timer who was once our RE director. Theron busies herself these days with painting, and with caring for her small grandson, daughter Megan's child. Megan will graduate from the School of Veterinary Science this month.

Several of Theron's six adult children and their spouses, are fluent in Spanish, partly due, no doubt, to the year they lived in Torremolinos, Spain. We Spanish Speakers benefit enormously from Theron's command of the language.

As always, we ate well and enjoyed our time together. I am proud to note that this group has now existed for some 12 years. Not bad for a strictly ad hoc bunch whose only agenda is to enjoy a meal together and try out our Spanish on one another!

Condolences

Prairie extends its condolences to Sharon Scattish and her son, Louis, on the loss of Sharon's ex-partner Fuz Mullen earlier in April.

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.

RE News

Everyone is invited to Prairie's end of the year picnic on May 16th right after the service. Please bring your sense of fun and something edible to share.

Class News

High Schoolers: They spent part of their May 2nd class in the Prairie furnace room! The purpose of this excursion was to create a religion that might exist in an environment that looked like a furnace room!

3-4-5 Class: This class has been studying Viking religion. The Vikings' conversion to Christianity might have slowed their plundering of far-over lands!

K-1-2: This class spent time discussing Shavuot: The giving of the law, i.e. Moses receiving the 10 Commandments. They made mother's day cards to honor their mothers - Commandment #5!

6-7-8: They delved into the intricacies of Native American religions.

Service Sundays:

We spent two sessions this year on the UN: the first involved letter writing on the UN's sanctions of medical and food aid to Iraq and the second writing letters urging that the U.S. resume paying it's dues to the UN.

On the third service Sunday, our first task was to package personalized personal care pouches for the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our second challenge was discussing the Mission of Prairie as part of "Fulfilling the Promise" Project of the whole Prairie congregation.

During our final Spirit Circle of the year we watched the video entitled "Kids Killing Kids and Kids Saving Kids." The stories graphically showed ways to solve conflicts and personal self-esteem issues with and without using guns. The emphasis was on the positive -

how to prevent gun violence. It was an unusual Spirit Circle, but quite appropriate given the Littleton, CO tragedy.

From the Administrator

Some things to note from the office of Prairie. The answering machine is not working very well. I have been waiting for approval from the Board to replace it. There have been some delays due to the decision of computerizing it or not. Hopefully this will be dealt with in the coming week! Also, a couple of Thursdays ago the Prairie basement flooded. It definitely was the most water we have taken in, in the two years I have worked here. An emergency, work-crew was gathered by Aileen Nettleton and they worked hard mopping and vacuuming up water, carrying out and drying wet carpets and such. Thank you to all whom participated in that cleanup! It was a beautiful day and flood cleanup is never a pleasant task.

Unfortunately, during that cleanup the answering machine was unplugged and never plugged back in. Because I was sick last week and it was not a Prairie Fire week it went unnoticed longer than it should have been. I discovered this because of many frustrated calls from Prairie people and also Shaarei Shamayim people. I apologize for this mix-up.

Now that I have been here a couple of years and certainly have met, or by the phone, are familiar with most of you, I encourage you to call me at home if you have trouble reaching me at Prairie. When I first started here that was too over-whelming, but I feel more comfortable with it now. Another way to reach me is my home email address, which is <seventhheaven@mailbag.com>

Another item; I have recently begun working two days a week for Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivering flowers. This has made me a less flexible with my time scheduling. I am now working at Prairie on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-noon approximately. Two things that that may affect for people, is the Prairie Fire deadline on Sundays really being on Sundays, with not a lot of flexibility. Also, it would mean that the order of service info should be into Prairie by Tuesday night late, or very early Wednesday mornings, so I can do it on Wednesdays when I'm there. Hopefully this schedule will remain for awhile. Thank you for your understanding! Questions? Call me at home.

I also want to pass on that my sister lives just a few miles from Columbine High School in Colorado. Though my niece and nephew are not of high school age, this of course affected everyone in that community. It has been raining or snowing there for over two weeks. They definitely need our prayers and good wishes to heal from the tremendous losses and the resultant grief they are all experiencing. One thing she said was that it put everything else in her life into a different perspective. -Kate Heiber-Cobb