

Prairie UU Society ꞑ 2010 Whenona Drive ꞑ Madison WI 53711

(608) 271-8218

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



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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.

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>

May 19, 1999

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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.

Sunday, June 6

10am; **"The Religious Significance of Dogs,"** presented by Nikki Bromberg and Warren Hagstrom.

June 5th and 6th

Community Thrift Store Sidewalk Sale.

Sunday, June 13

10am; Annual Outdoor Service at Picnic Point: **"Making Connection with the Natural World"**, led by Susan Hagstrom and Metje Butler. No service at Prairie unless it rains.

Monday, June 14

7:30pm; Prairie Board Meeting.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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.

Sunday, June 13

10am; **"Making Connection with the Natural World"**. This is Prairie's annual outdoor service. This year, it will be led by Susan Hagstrom and Metje Butler. We will experience nature, stimulated by the presence of one another and by some musings coordinated by Susan and Metje. **DIRECTIONS:** If walking is easy for you, please park in the lot across the street from the Picnic Point entrance (on the side of the road away from the lake). For those unsure feet, an easier path will be marked. Walk inside the Picnic Point entrance, then walk roughly perpendicular from the main path past the large wooden sign. (Other signs with arrows will be provided.) The site is roughly 125 paces past the wood sign. Go up a slight grade on the leftmost dirt path into the woods. We will meet in a

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is
Sunday, June 6th, 1999.

clearing in the woods. Assistance will be available for those needing help or to provide directions. Bring something you don't mind getting dirty to sit on. In case of rain, we'll meet at the Prairie Meeting House.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

May 23:

Greeting Visitors: Orange Schroeder

Coffee Set-Up: Phoenix Wardell

Coffee Clean-up: Kay F. & Marilyn R..

May 30:

No Service at Prairie.

Program Taping:

May 23: Need Volunteer

Lawn Mowing

May 23-May 29: Need Volunteer

May 30-June 5: Ken Skog

OUR SOCIETY

Social Action Update

THANK YOU to all who helped make the SAC bake sale a success. Special thanks to Henry Fox, Lisa Glueck, Vincent Peterson and Ben Rodriguez. The sale netted over \$62.00! Also, we received a check from the Community Thrift Store for \$34.28 for the first quarter of 1999, thanks again to your participation. These amounts put the SAC in very good shape for the next few months. Following are the ways in which we plan to use some of our funds.

-purchasing breakfast monthly for the Men's Homeless Shelter

-contributing to the Eviction Prevention Fund at Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Center

-contributing to the MUM Day Camp at the A-DMNC

-contributing to the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network

In addition to the day camp being planned for this summer, Allied Partners (a church cluster committed to A-DMNC) is organizing a School Drop-In Program for that two-week period after day camp and before the start of school in the fall. We are seeking volunteers for both long and short-term commitments, for these two programs. Perhaps you could teach a craft, or tell a story, one or two times a week. Perhaps you could help provide or prepare a

meal for kids from first through fifth grades. If helping in any of these areas interests you, please contact Paula Pachciarz.

Memorial Fund

The family of Odell (Tally) Taliaferro, have identified Prairie Society, along with the First Unitarian Society Social Justice Fund and the Dane County Humane Society as preferred organizations for memorial contributions. If you choose to make a contribution to Prairie in Tally's name, please send it directly to Daisy Peterson. Be sure to indicate the memorial fund on your check.

Yard Signs

Our temporary yard signs are becoming tattered and worn.. The board discussed removing them from our lawn. If anyone would like to comment please call me and I'll relay it to the board. I'm also interested in knowing your thoughts about continued sign-age to reinforce the need to understand, accept, tolerate and embrace diversity.

Karen A Gross (608)259-0556

Auction Reminder

Do you know who purchased your services at the Service Auction?? If you were not at the auction, you may still need to get your list of purchasers and should get a copy in the mail this week. Still not sure? Please call Aileen, 238-6053. We know several people have already "collected" on their service and others are being arranged. Remember, if you made a purchase, be sure to contact the "provider" soon to arrange a time that is agreeable to all. Enjoy!

"...Children, the wind in leaves
feeds fire
gives you dreams
and words
to move your lives..."

Look, little ones
all places are holy..."

-Linda Hogan

"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: Erin Bosch at 238-6285.

The primary person has a master list of volunteers who can be called upon depending on the support needed.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Interfaith Hospitality Network training. It was a great show of support. For those of you who were there and signed up, I will be calling you before our week to remind you of your day and assignment. For those of you who signed up with me in the fall, but could not go to the training, you will be receiving a call from the Midvale Lutheran coordinators to schedule your time. If I have missed you please give me a call.

For volunteers that are doing a shift at Midvale, there will be a list of duties that need to be done at the church, an coordinators will also be either on site, or available by phone. Our week is the week of May 23rd. Shannon Hayes at 274-0553.

Sidewalk/Anniversary Sale

The Community Thrift Store is having a sidewalk sale June 5th and 6th. Then on June 22nd we will be celebrating our 1 year Anniversary with a big sale. We are asking all our partners to please get the word out about these events. If you would like to make donations for these events, please drop off before 6pm May 23rd. Any questions please call Diane Sallee at 250-1986, W-F, noon - 7pm.

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

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 grassland. 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 1/4 mile up a dirt driveway, over a hill and down into a dale.

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!

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.

Celebrate the Beautiful Diversity of UU Families

Collect pictures of your congregation's UU families and display them in your church and then bring them to GA in Salt Lake City. Let's have thousands of pictures of all kinds of UU families! The SLC media will be doing stories and commentaries on Family images and Family values from these UU visitors in their Mormon town. Take them to Keith Kron or Pat Hoerdoerfer at GA and we'll create a UU Families wall.

Prairie Member Biography

As a new member of Prairie Society in early 1998, Deb Phelps was willing to be helpful right away: she became a delegate to General Assembly in Rochester, N.Y. She had moved to Madison when her partner, Mary Ann Macklin, became intern minister at First Society. Their household includes Mary Ann's mother.

Though she calls herself "a casual kind of person", her academic and professional work show steady progression toward her goal: a career in geriatric medicine, creating home-like environments in a community of all ages - for elderly people. In her words, "What has driven me my whole life has been a keen interest in knowing the "whys" and "hows" of a person's entire being: emotional, intellectual, and spiritual realm."

With a bachelor's degree in musical composition and theory, and a minor in medical technology, she gained an MA in music composition at Indiana University in Bloomington, then another BA in music therapy. While employed as a music therapist, she also worked as a physical therapy aide. Performing as vocalist and guitarist, she made recordings of original music for many years. She and Mary Ann wrote an opera together in 1997, "Fire In My Bones". Her hobbies include camping, bird watching and listening, quilting and gardening. She has shared her musical talents with us in Sunday morning services at Prairie Society.

Top 10 Reasons to Give Blood

- 10) Free food.
- 9) You can pretend you're on ER.
- 8) You know all the answers on the "yes" or "no" health history.
- 7) Great way to lose weight.
- 6) It will make you feel good about yourself.
- 5) You've got plenty!
- 4) Squeezing a ball builds forearm strength.
- 3) Opportunity to socialize with other thoughtful, generous people.
- 2) Where else can you lie down on the job and your boss won't mind?
- 1) You'll be a hero to patients who need blood!

In This Room

*It is not hurled like a bolt
from high places,
thundering down on bowed heads;
it does not pierce like an arrow
stained with the deep red glass
of martyred blood,
a bittersweet cup;
it is not made narrow
to fit inside, then find
itself splintered,
flickers in dark interiors
to spare our sight.*

*No, the light here enters eye-level,
quiet and unveiled
through bare-shouldered panes;
it reveals azalea, dragonlily, and pine-
epiphany enough-
then stays,
bright midwife to plain passion:
from the humble we unfold the divine-
light floods.*

*Barbara Sharra Gibbons
Fourth Unitarian Society
Mohegan Lake, NY*

[graphic not included]

Above: David Breeden, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church,
Charlotte, VA. Family, Soapstone Sculpture