

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.* September 7, 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

Sunday, September 12

2:00-3:30pm; **Town meeting** on "Lessons from Littleton" at Prairie.

No morning service at Prairie and no religious education classes in the morning.

♥ 3:45pm; **R.E. Teachers, Parents and Committee Members' Meeting** at Prairie.

Tuesday, September 14

7:30pm; **Prairie BOD Meeting** at Prairie.

Sunday, September 19

10am; **"Introduction to Prairie People and Programs."** *Religious Education Program begins.*

11:45am; **Prairie's Womens' Group** meets at Prairie. Potluck lunch. Meets every 3rd Sunday of the month after services.

12-2pm; **"1999 Monona Spoke Out to Prevent Child Abuse,"** at Olin Park Shelter.

Sunday, October 3

11:45am; **Social Action Committee Meeting** at Prairie.

Don't forget to submit your committee meeting dates and times for the Prairie Fire.

The Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, September 19th, 1999.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, September 12

2:00-3:30pm;

LITTLETON: IT'S EFFECTS AND LESSONS

The Program committee is planning a special program for Sunday, September 12th from 2:00 - 3:30 at Prairie. Come prepared for a town hall discussion by our youth on Littleton and its effects. This will take place instead of a Sunday morning program in order to avoid conflict with Rosh Hashanah activities in the morning, and to make it easier to invite other Unitarian youth and adults to participate.

If you're not familiar with a town hall format, the youth will be seated in a circle at the front and will be led in a discussion by a facilitator, while the audience observes. There will be an opportunity for audience members to present questions for discussion, but the audience will not participate in the discussion with comments or debate. This is a chance to encourage our youth to present their own ideas and experiences, and for us to learn from them!

All Prairie youth are encouraged to participate - there is no limit as to number. Youth will meet one hour prior to the program in order to talk about what questions they're interested in and how the program will work. The Program committee has come up with starter questions, but we're interested in input by our young people.

The facilitator of this discussion will be Darald Hanusa, Ph.D., who is knowledgeable in the field of violence and in working with young people. He provides treatment for anger and violence problems, teaches a course in domestic violence in the School of Social Work at U.W. Madison, and presents at workshops and conferences nationally and internationally.

The Program committee hopes that you will set this afternoon time aside in order to hear our youth thoughtfully present their opinions and experiences. It is important for all of us to think about what we can learn from this disturbing incident.

Sunday, September 19

10am; **Introduction to Prairie People and Programs.** Our annual Fall Introductions and re-introductions to what's happening and available at Prairie UU Society.

Prairie's Religious Education Program begins.

Sunday, September 26

10am; **"Thinking Like Leonardo,"** presented by Robin Carre.

And he said:

*Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's
longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they
belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,*

*which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek
not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor carries with
yesterday.*

-Kahlil Gibran

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers:

Sept. 12:	Town Meeting at 2pm
Greeting Visitors:	
Coffee Set-Up:	Not sure of our needs.
Coffee Clean-up:	
Sept. 19:	
Greeting Visitors:	Ruth Calden
Coffee Set-Up:	Phoenix
Coffee Clean-up:	Phoenix & ???

Program Taping:

Sept. 12:	Are we taping it?
Sept. 19:	Need Volunteer

Lawn Mowing

Sept. 12-18:	Need Volunteer
Sept. 19-25:	Need Volunteer

OUR SOCIETY

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HELP! We still need two teachers for the 1999-2000 year, starting September 19! RE is divided into five classes; preschool, K-1-2, 3-4-5, 6-7-8 (junior high), and high school. We need two co-teachers for every class. As of 9/5/99, we do not yet have a second teacher for either the 3-4-5 or the junior high classes. Please consider taking on this fun and rewarding job. No experience necessary! The RE committee (Arleigh Birchler, Rachel Long, Larry Nahlik, and Anne Urbanski,) the RE director Randy Converse, and your co-teacher are all there to support you. Our religious education program is essential to bringing new families into Prairie, and it is how we pass on our traditions and

beliefs to the next generation. Volunteer! Call any of the board members or Randy.

The next RE committee meeting will be after the afternoon service Sunday, September 12, about 3:45pm. Teachers (and potential teachers) are invited to attend.

R.E. Teachers, Parents & Committee Meeting

Sunday, 9/12, ~3:45 PM, after "Lessons from Littleton." We must recruit two more teachers IMMEDIATELY. All teachers should attend to receive their curricula packets, list of registered students, and Fall R.E. calendar.

Social Action Update

The SAC is planning a bake sale fundraiser for early or mid-October. We believe the sale will come at a good time as this is just about when we all need to start building those fat cells for the cold winter.

The donations to the Community Thrift Store have been generous and of good quality and we appreciate them. However, the thrift store has been struggling lately so please consider other ways in which you can contribute, namely, by shopping at the store or volunteering to sort and display donated items. The store receives plenty of quality goods but is backlogged in getting them out on the floor. The CTS has been in operation for about a year now and has the potential to become very successful but it does depend on the participation of its member groups.

The SAC is very interested in developing a link or adding a page to the Prairie website. Does anyone have a skill or an interest in doing this for the committee? Please contact Paula Pachciarz.

The committee strongly supports the push to require Madison area landlords to accept tenants with Section 8 vouchers. The County Board will vote on this probably in the second week of October. If this issue is important to you, we urge you to contact your County Board Supervisor and possibly

testify at the hearing. Kevin Kesterson, County Board Chair, can receive your input and those of you residing in Mark Opitz' (District 26 in Middleton) may want to contact him, as he is undecided as of the time this newsletter goes to print. One result of the current bias against renting to Section 8 tenants is that the few landlords who do rent have most of their properties clustered in the same areas, thus contributing to the concentration of low-income families in certain parts of the city.

Lastly, you may have noticed the bare space on the wall in the foyer where the SAC Bulletin Board used to live. It will return! It's due to go back up in time for the beginning of the RE year, with a new look.

Found Items at Prairie's Retreat

In cleaning up the Prairie Center at Bethel Horizons, the following objects were found: a blue washcloth, a Scrabble game, a disposable camera. You can pick them up at Prairie on the coat rack. Also, Toby Wacker lost a blue and black sandal.

Also, Mary Mullen and Paula Pachciarz would like to remind the poetry workshop participants to please mail, give personally, email, telegraph, put in my SAC box or send by messenger to Paula the poems they wrote so that she can compile and disperse them. Also please indicate which poems you do NOT want published in the PF or in the Prairie Biography notebook.

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CIRCLE DINNER SIGNUP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone no: _____

Number of persons participating at this address: _____

Mail to Prairie UU Society, Attention Membership

*

PYGs Car Wash

Remember that car wash you purchased at the last Prairie Auction? Well, Prairie Youth Group members will be washing cars at Prairie on Sunday, September 19 following the morning service. People who already paid for one car wash are listed below, but we'll also wash other cars that day too. The price is \$5 per car. If you purchased a car wash and can't make it to Prairie on that morning, please let Anne Pryor know (244-7099).

Warren Hagstrom (2 cars), Barb Park, Rachel Long
Erin Bosch, Al Nettleton

Artwork to Grace Meeting Room & Reflect "Who We Are"

Members, Jose Rodriguez and Kay Frazier have begun an initiative to enhance our meeting room with a focus work of art. This work might be a quilt, a mural, a sculpture, stained glass, etc. It could include music as well as visual art. It should express, to Prairie members and guests, "Who We Are," expressing our feeling of pride in our spiritual community. In short, it should enrich the experience of a Prairie gathering for all. Do you have an idea or a proposal for this artwork? We'd like to hear ideas from everyone, and proposals from the artistically talented (or their friends). Please contact or chat with Jose (839-5607, bit@globaldialog.com), or with Dean Schroeder (256-8813, appelsin@aol.com) or Nancy Schrauf-nagel (273-3195, prairieu@execpc.com).

September Prairie BOD Meeting Sept. 14th

CHAIRS & OFFICERS: Please bring your year 2000 budget proposals, with separate budget lines for your committee's position's financial needs to the Sept. 14th BOD meeting. Also, we will decide on the site and date of the 2000 Annual Prairie Retreat at this meeting.

Bob Reuschlein's New Address

Hey folks, get your directories out and change the address for Bob Reuschlein to 3264 Stonecreek Dr., Madison, WI 53719. His new home phone number is (608)848-5248.

Heart, Mind and Spirit

The first issue of "Heart, Mind and Spirit", an electronic magazine for UUs on campus, has now been distributed

to all who put themselves on the Heart, Mind & Spirit e-mailing list. You can still get this by contacting their home page at:

<http://umn.edu/home/parkx032/HMS.html>

Prairie Needs New Finance Committee Chair

Due to Barb Park's necessary resignation as Finance Chair we are in need of a new one. The Finance Chair, with the Committee,

- 1) Prepares proposed annual budget with cooperation of Treasurer, Committee Chairs, Board and presents to membership for approval
- 2) Conducts annual pledge drive of members and friends.
- 3) Keeps ongoing records on pledges received via Treasurer.
- 4) Sends quarterly pledge updates and end-of-year tax statements to pledgers.
- 5) Plans and carries out fund-raising events to support the annual budget.
- 6) Monitors the overall financial state of the organization (monthly Treasurer reports to the Board).

If you are interested please contact KK Anderson, Chair of Committee on Committees at 255-3596.

Prairie Playreader's September Meeting

Prairie Playreader's is a group which meets each month to read plays. Along with the play reading are treats for the readers. The next meeting of the group is being held September 25, 7pm, at the Hagstrom's, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705. Any questions call 238-4970 or my work phone, 267-4797. We will organize the play reading schedule at that time so please come and bring your calendars. For September, I have chosen three alternatives. The first is an eccentric drama by the name "A Company of Wayward Saints", full of Harlequins and Columbines. The other two are classics: "The Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde, and "Caesar and Cleopatra" by G.B. Shaw. My penchant is for the first, but, we'll see.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sept. 19, 5:30-10:00pm; Yom Kippur Service

Sept. 20, All Day; Yom Kippur Service

Sept. 21st through 25th; In the evenings people from Shaarei Shamayim will be constructing a Sukkah in Prairie's yard.

Sept. 25, 9am-12:30pm; End of Yom Kippur Service.

*When the angels fall
Shadows on the wall
In the thunder's call
Something haunts us all
When the angels fall
-Sting*