

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 our Bond of Union.

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
An e-mail version is available at <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>*

December 7, 1999

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Guest Editor: Rick Ruecking (608) 838-8540;

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, December 11 –

An evening at Folklore Village (social events)

Sunday, December 12 -

9:00 am, **Choir rehearsal**

9:15 am, **Nifty Gifty** – annual holiday gift-making activity for all children.

10:00 am, **“The Madison Equal Opportunity Commission,”** with guest speaker Dr. Anthony Brown, EOC Executive Director (See article opposite)

11:45 am Women’s Group meeting

Sunday, December 19 -

9:00 am; **Choir rehearsal**

10:00 am; **Intergenerational Symbol Tree Service** – Annual holiday program; this year led by the High School class. Holiday potluck follows. (See opposite)

Sunday, December 26 -

10:00 am, **Seasonal Sharing Circle** with Karen Gross
No Religious Education classes. (See opposite)

Friday, December 31

Ring in the new year (social events-RSVP).

Sunday, January 2, 2000 –

New Year’s Program – opening our time capsule

Saturday, January 29 –

Save this date for RE’s Wild Wintering at Prairie

Saturday, March 18, 2000

Save this date for our fundraiser to the Art Institute.

***Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday,
December 19***

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, December 12

The Madison Equal Opportunity Commission is the fifth program in Pat Watkins’ lay ministry *Going About Denominational Business*. It continues the theme of the UUA resolutions on racism--specifically Economic Racism, which is the subject of the 1998 Study/Action Issue to be approved by the congregation and voted on as the Statement of Conscience at the UUA General Assembly in June 2000 at Nashville. Our speaker will be EOC Executive Director Dr. Anthony Brown.

Sunday, December 19 Potluck Sunday

The High School Class will lead the annual "Symbol Tree" service for our holiday celebrations of Solstice, Christmas, and Yuletide. We will recall fabulous holiday lore of the past two millennia and sing timeless carols. On hand may be "the night-before-christmas-guy" and an appearance by "the millenium’s official timekeeper”.

- **bring symbols of remembrance for our tree**
 - **bring millennial mementos for our time capsule** (this stuff won’t be disturbed in a millenium!)
 - **bring delicious foods to share in our potluck**
- An event this big won't happen again at Prairie in this millennium. Don't miss it!

Sunday, December 26

SEASONAL SHARING CIRCLE

We'll take time to center, focus and process the holiday season as we look forward to the year 2000. Bring a tale about your favorite holiday experience, information about the new millennium or reveal something you have

Sunday, December 26(continued)

always wanted to do but were afraid to dream. If you have musical talents and want to perform at this service, please call Karen (at 259-0556).

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Hospitality Helpers

December 12

Greeting Visitors	Kathy Helm
Coffee Set-up	Kathy Helm
Kitchen Clean-up	Pat Cautley & Marilyn Ruecking

December 19

Greeting Visitors	Aileen Nettleton
Coffee Set-up	Judy Skog
Kitchen Clean-up	KK Anderson & Cindy Haq

Program Taping

December 12

Gary Giorgi

December 19

Robert Park

Snow Shoveling

December 12

Warren Hagstrom

December 19

Rick Ruecking

December 26

Osh Andersen

OUR SOCIETY

Nifty Gifty this Sunday

Prairie's annual Nifty Gifty celebration is this Sunday, December 12. Please remember the special 9:30 starting time. Even if you have not signed up to help lead a project come downstairs and and enjoy the festive holiday atmosphere. Donations of wrapping paper, shopping bags, small cardboard gift boxes and envelopes w/ canceled stamps will be gratefully accepted.

Interim Office Administration

Persons responsible as we seek a new Administrator:

- Communications, building rental and office hours (Monday & Wednesdays 10:30am - 12:30 pm) – Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195
- Prairie Fire – Rick Ruecking, 838-8540 (editing); Marilyn Ruecking (printing, mailing).

- Order of service – Program Committee: Nikki Bromberg, 251-0976; Rachel Long, 608-328-4899)
- Interviewing for a new administrator is underway. For information contact Judy Skog, 273-4813.

Case of the Missing Sheet Music !

Rosemarie Lester is missing a small cloth bag of German design that contains sheet music for the piano. Please call her at 255-7039 or rklester@facstaff.wisc.edu if you know the whereabouts of this bag. Thanks.

Ouch! That Y2K hurts.

Please submit all pledges and receipts for reimbursement to Judy Skog by **December 15**. We don't want any glitches at the bank. Thanks.

Women, Wisdom and Wellness Conference

First Unitarian Society, Milwaukee, January 28-30,2000
Call (414) 964-3764. The conference cost is \$75 if registered by December 10.

Social Action Update

The *Guest at Your Table* program of the UUSC continues. Pick up a donation box and brochure available at Prairie. The brochure will give you a clearer picture of the people you will be affecting and of the programs you will be supporting through your contribution. *We would like you to return the Guest at Your Table box, or donation, by January 9.* Thank you.

Holiday Wish List: If you would like to purchase a gift for a child from the Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood, please contact Paula Pachciarz.

The *Habitat for Humanity Work Day* will be Saturday, January 29, from 8 am to 3 pm. Please sign up on the SAC bulletin board or contact Paula Pachciarz. You may commit for a full or half day.

The *SAC bulletin board* has website and resource information to follow up on Warren Hagstrom's service on conspicuous consumption, including a sheet for you to contribute your own suggestions on how to consume more responsibly.

Thanks to the donors who send in a steady stream of foodstuffs for the food pantry, and to those who donated last Sunday to buy breakfast supplies for the men's homeless shelter. – *Paula Pachciarz*

Prairie's Light to Shine on WORT

Help make Prairie's light shine. The Denominational Affairs Committee is buying time on WORT radio to make our presence better known in the community.

The ad will read: "WORT thanks its listener-sponsors and Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, located in southwest Madison at 2010 Whenona Drive.

Prairie Society is a lay-led, liberal religious congregation, welcoming persons with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. Services are held at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning with religious education and child care provided.”

Ruth Calden will collect donations for these ads on December 12. Make checks payable to Prairie UU Society with “WORT Ad” written at the bottom left of the check. Or you can send your check to Ruth at 4606 Waukesha St., Madison, 53705.

Let’s let our light shine!

Religious Education News

Wild Wintering is January 29. In the past two weeks the RE programs have engaged in the following activities:

Pre-School kids made animal collages from recycled cards! We talked about the independent web of life.

K-1 students spent time “making friends” with our fears. We did this by reading such stories as “Monster Trouble” and making stars light to light up those “fearful nights”. We also practiced how cooperation can build friendships (UU principle 3) by making “gorp” and sharing it with the middle and high school classes.

3-4-5 students worked diligently on our rainbow banner portraying in seven colors the UU principles – each color symbolizes a principle! We got quite involved in learning more about UU principle 2 (to treat everyone fairly) by reading “Sneech and Other Stories.”

6-7-8 students did some thinking about UU principle 1 (every person is important). To us this means: do not pick on people; listen to people; you are a valuable person whether rich or poor; do not eat ants; and follow the Golden Rule.

The high school students worked very hard on our contribution to the “Conspicuous Consumption” service. We presented an original play by Lisa Glueck entitled “Nothing Left To Give.” And we have been considering the second UU principle affirming justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

-- Randy Converse, RE Director

Going about Denominational Business:

The UUA and Racism

The draft of the Statement of Conscience which will come before the General Assembly in Nashville in June 2000 is entitled “Economic Injustice, Poverty and Racism: A Journey of Action and Reflection.” It is one in a long series of UUA Resolutions that avow the UUA’s stand against discrimination, segregation, and racism. The following two paragraphs are taken from this draft. **Please read them carefully**, and determine whether you concur, or would like something changed.

Please bring this to Prairie for the December 12

service on the E.O.C. We are called upon by the UUA to return our amendments and changes to Boston.

“Justice is central to our common Unitarian Universalist faith. We understand justice as being rooted in the equality of all persons and we strive for a community in which each individual possesses equal opportunity. We must relate to other human beings on the basis of who they are as individuals, not on the basis of characteristics or circumstances which lie beyond their control. As Unitarian Universalists with a fundamental belief in justice encompassing all manner of social and economic relationships, we must not feel indifferent, secure or complacent when someone else is the victim of injustice. This belief motivates us to change the existing inequitable distribution of wealth, opportunity and entitlement.

“As Unitarian Universalists, we have a theological and moral obligation to challenge the growing complacency of the middle and upper classes, to which many of us belong. We commit to fighting injustice wherever we find it, no matter how much or little we are adversely affected by it, even if we reap benefits from it. We are called as Unitarian Universalists to embark boldly, compassionately, and respectfully on this journey of action and reflection to better understand who we are as a people of faith.

“We cannot sit silently. We must make our voices heard in defense of justice. We must organize ourselves for action within our congregations and beyond their doors. Economic injustice invades our communities and our lives in the form of denied opportunities for equal pay for equal work; denied equal access to housing, social services, and education; government and corporate policies that have failed to promote economic investment in the urban core and rural counties; and unequal voting rights and other such entitlements.

“Economic injustice also is sustained through the dynastic transfer of inherited wealth to heirs, thereby perpetuating an inequitable distribution of unearned social and economic privilege, and also perpetuating the entrenchment of the privileged class. Economic injustice also flows through the socio-economic rewards for associating exclusively with others like us, and the penalties for associating with those who are different.

(Italics are those of the Denominational Affairs Committee)

Young Adult Outreach Network (YAON)

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and interested in Why Unitarian Universalists Respect Spirituality, Humanity, Individuality & Peace then WUURSHIP may

be for you. WUURSHIPS are weekend-long gatherings geared towards young adults and the issues they face. If you are interested contact Genni Birren at 233-6693 or CMWDUUYAN@YAHOO.COM

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Many UUs are trying to give up conspicuous consumption related to the Christmas holidays. One of the best gifts that can be given is the gift of time. During the holiday season the Interfaith Hospitality Network Day Center will need additional volunteers as it is currently staffed by students, many of whom will be gone or finished with their volunteer class. Please consider giving this gift of time. Call Shannon Hayes at 274-0553.

First Call for Help

The Caring Committee has been established to help 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. Primary contact for December is **Linda Sheehy 273-3895**. The primary contact has a master list of volunteers with specific support roles.

Attention Prairie Musicians – Celebrate Ellington!

Our January 23, 2000 program will be devoted to the life and music of Duke Ellington. Everyone is invited to play or sing Ellington's compositions, or compositions made famous by him. Call Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970 with your preferred pieces, or ask either of them for suggestions. (In any case, those attending will have an opportunity to sing.)

Barb Bailly turns 50 in February

Barb, a former Prairie member, looks forward to the "Big 50" on February 28, 2000. Barb says, "Nobody told me that menopause can be fun." She would love to hear all encouraging words from all who care to write or call. Barb Bailly, 624 Portsmouth Place, Wheeling IL 60090-2633 Telephone 847-541-3337.

Wanted: Ceremonial Readings

The Prairie Ceremonies Committee seeks poems or short readings appropriate for weddings, gay/lesbian unions, child dedications or memorial services. We have some good material but need a greater selection. If you have a special piece, please photocopy or print it on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and give it to Doleta Chapru at a Sunday service or e-mail it to Dchapru@aol.com.

We can also use suggestions for music, either the actual music or the name of the composition and, ideally, the composer and publisher.

Central Midwest District Assembly in April 2000

Mark your calendar for the Central Midwest Annual Assembly 2000 which will take place in Appleton, WI, April 28-30. Our theme is "Music: Our Unifying Spirit." Keynote speaker will be Carolyn McDade (composer of "Spirit of Life"). Our guest artist is Trevor Stephenson, 18th and 19th century keyboard artist. Many workshops built around the musical theme and workshops designed for youth of the district will also be offered. Registration deadline is March 31, 2000. Cost is \$55 per adult (\$75 for late registrations). For more information contact, Fox Valley UU Fellowship, attention Margit Kindl. Watch for more detailed information.

SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Folklore Village Evening on December 11

Marilyn and Rick Ruecking invite you to join them in going to Folklore Village on Saturday, December 11 for the potluck supper and dance. The Santa Lucia program brings a special holiday beauty to Folklore Village that we'd like to share. Appropriate for all ages. Bring a potluck dish and donations of about \$5 to support FLV programs. All dances are taught. Meet at Prairie at 6 pm to carpool. Questions, call Rick at 838-8540.

Women's Group Meeting Rescheduled

The Women's Group will meet after the morning service on December 12. New attendees are always welcome.

Millenium Party!

Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru invite millenium-free folks to their Shorewood home December 31 for games, charades, singing, snacks and good friends. At midnight we will traipse to the University playing fields (near the Nielsen Tennis Stadium) to welcome the new year by starlight, clouds, snowflakes or whatever.

Place: 916 Shorewood Blvd. Time: 8:30 p.m.

RSVP: 238-4970 or warrenolaf@aol.com.

Prairie Playreaders

Prairie Playreaders, a Prairie group dedicated to reading plays together, now has a schedule of times and hosts:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>HOST</u>
Jan 8	7:30 pm	Rachel Siegfried
Feb 12	7:30 pm	Al & Aileen Nettleton

April 1* 7:30 pm Pat Watkins
April 15 7:30 pm Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast
* Date changed from March 18 due to Art Institute trip

No one is scheduled to coordinate the May-June annual fish fry/one act Playreaders. Interested? Call Susan Hagstrom, work 267-4797, home 238-4970.

Your Idea Here

The next issue of Prairie Fire could list the social event that you create for Prairie right here! Is it a movie or a day hike, a political discussion or a dance party? No idea is unrewarded. Put us on your social calendar soon.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Friday, Dec. 10, 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Evening Service

Saturday, Dec. 25, 8:30 am -12:30 pm, Morning Service