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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.

The two most recent issues may be seen on Prairie's Web site at <http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org>

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7790

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April 25, 2003

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 27

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. "Coming Out as Sacrament" presented by Reverend Scott Prinster from FUS.

April 27-May 4

Prairie's Second Interfaith Hospitality Network Shift

Sunday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. "Caring for the Homeless" a program featuring two speakers from the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Monday, May 5

6:00 p.m. WOW at Prairie

Friendship Shower for Dorothy Krause

May 25

Memorial Weekend Picnic at the Briggs' home on Storytown Road in Oregon. Time and details to be announced later.

September 12-14

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society's Retreat.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, May 4, 2003

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 27

"Coming Out as Sacrament" presented by Reverend Scott Gerard Prinster, Associate Minister, First Unitarian Society. The struggle that lesbians and gay men live with--how authentic to be in a hostile world--is one that we all can relate to on multiple levels. What dimensions of your identity do you find challenging to live authentically? We will explore together what the "coming out" struggle can teach us and address the risks and rewards of being authentic people.

Sunday, May 4

"Caring for the Homeless" pretty well describes what Prairie takes part in three to four times a year through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Two speakers associated with the IHN will join us. One of them a former guest who was helped by the program.

OUR SOCIETY

WOW

WOW will celebrate its one year anniversary with a Friendship Shower for Dorothy Krause. It will be at Prairie and will begin with soup and salad followed by desserts and games. You can make this as formal dress and silly as you like. Hats, gloves and old prom dresses are welcome as well as any other wild thing you desire. WOW is about fun and friendship and this will be the night to celebrate both. Mary Somers will make the soup, all others please bring a dessert or salad. All women of Prairie and James Reeb are invited, and bring a friend if you like.

Growth Workshop On Saturday, May 3

Prairie Members and Friends,

As a means to help continue our planning for growth of Prairie. I would very much like to have a group of at least 3-4 Prairie people attend a workshop on Congregation growth sponsored by the Central Midwest District on Saturday May 3 in Green Bay. (see information below)

It would be an opportunity to ask many questions about our growth planning and would allow an opportunity to draft an action plan outline.

There may be interest to car pool with Reeb and First Society members.

Please let me know if you would be willing to attend with me.

Thank you,

Ken Skog

**SPONSORED BY THE NORTH
CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL**

Congregational growth

A workshop presented by Angela Merkert,
Congregational Services Director of the Central

Midwest District of the UUA.

May 3, 2003

Green Bay Area Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
2201 S. Oneida Street, Suite #4
Green Bay, WI

GROWTH

Large or small, established or emerging, growth is vital to all of our congregations. It challenges us to transform, and is essential to our ongoing development.

Join us for a discussion on congregational growth led by the Congregational Services Director of the Central Midwest District, Angela Merkert, as we explore this crucial issue.

Topics to be covered include: factors that support growth; factors that are a barrier to growth; the role of leadership in supporting change and moving through transitions into different ways of working as a congregation; publicity and outreach; and develop your own action plan template to take home to your congregation.

Bring information on numbers of people attending services and RE over the past 3 years if available. Angela recommends that each congregation send 3-4 participants.

When: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Registration begins at 8:30

Please register or inform fellowship of intent to attend by April 28, 2003

Religious Education Corner

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee calendar of events has been update to include the Earth Week events list which Galen called to our attention on Sunday.

Also added to the calendar is information on the grand opening of the environmentally friendly liquid carbon dioxide dry cleaning plant in east Madison. (<http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/events.htm>)

MEMBERSHIP

Local Invitation

Contra Dancing

Enjoy an evening of dinner, music, dancing with the family at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Sunday, May 4. Dinner is at 5:30. Contra Dancing with Dark of the Moon begins at 6:30 p.m.

James Reeb is a welcoming community located behind East High at 2146 E. Johnson Street.

Dark of the Moon, a women's band based in Madison, plays traditional music from the British Isles, America, Scandinavia, and other countries for dancing and listening.

Dark of the Moon specializes in music for contra dancing, such as jigs and reels, and also play waltzes, polkas, schottisches, folk songs, and other traditional music. Caller is Norma Briggs.

Donations requested for the band and expenses

Office Hours for Office Administrator

Tuesday and Friday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on May 10, 17 & 24th.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909

For your Consideration

Submitted by Wendy Williams

Untitled

By Susan Meyers

Wren. I considered
open-mouthed words--love
honor, even melancholy
for the sound of it--
afraid I might waste
this chance, like the one wish.
Then I remembered last Thursday's
small brown bird on a rail,
its head tilted back
in what I imagined as sudden joy,
though I know its trill,
sweet and full,
rose from the breast of instinct,
the throat of an ordinary day.

Rainbows

By Nancy Woods

Rainbows still live in the sky
and green grass
is growing everywhere.
Clouds have familiar shapes
and sunsets have not changed color in a long time.
Thunder still follows lightening
and spring still comes after winter's misery
A tree is still a tree
and a rock is still a rock.
A warbler sings its familiar song
and coyotes howl in disconcerting harmony.
Grasshoppers hop to their own music,
bees still buzz with excitement,
and squirrels still jump like acrobats.
Mountains still contain mystery
and oceans surge with eternity.
Bears still sleep in winter
and eagles fly higher than other birds.
Snakes have an affinity for the ground,
while fish are content in water.

Patterns persist,
life goes on,
whatever rises will converge.
Do what you will,
but strengthen the things that remain.