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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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July 11, 2003

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### **Sunday, July 13**

10:00 a.m. A Report from Our Delegates to the UUA  
General Assembly: Sarah Lord, Pat Watkins, and  
Nancy Schraufnagel.

### **Wednesday, July 16**

7-9 p.m. IHN training (see article)

### **Sunday, July 20**

10:00 a.m. "First Fiction: The joy, the pain, the terror"  
presented by Fran Zell. Dave Johnson will also  
participate in this program with a short story.  
11:30 a.m. Potluck and Long Range Planning  
Committee Report.

### **Sunday, July 27**

Five congregation service at the Free Congregation in  
Sauk City. Details and directions to follow.

### **Tuesday, July 29**

Men's Homeless Shelter Breakfast

### **Wednesday, July 30**

6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck.

### **August 3-10**

Interfaith Hospitality Network

### **Thursday, August 14**

7-9 p.m. IHN training

### **September 12-14**

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society's Retreat. See  
Registration form on page 4.

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, July 20, 2003***

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, July 13**

Sunday, July 13th A report from General Assembly that  
took place in June in Boston, will be led by Sara Lord.  
This is Sara's first trip to general assembly and she will  
share her experiences of what it was like. She will be  
assisted by Nancy Schraufnagel and Pat Watkins,  
veterans to GA, who will also give us information on  
what happened this year.

### **Sunday, July 20**

Fran Zell's service will deal with her first attempt to  
write fiction about 20 years ago and how it changed her

life and politics. She would also bring in first fiction of a couple of other people. The service will also deal with the social impact of writing, as her first book (never published) was about an Iranian in Chicago during the hostage crisis of the early 80's.

Fran Zell is a writer, teacher and friend of Prairie. Her first book of fiction, *The Marcy Stories*, won the 2002 Banta Award from the Wisconsin Library Association. Many Prairie people will remember her musical play, "Lavender Rose," from its Madison staging in 2000. She also writes poetry and essays. She is a former feature writer and restaurant critic for the Chicago Tribune. Fran has lived in Madison since 1992.

### **Sunday, July 27**

Janesville UU will join Prairie, James Reeb, First Society and Sauk City to share a service at Sauk City. The details are going to be worked out on July 7th, after this Prairie Fire deadline, so the specifics will be given at the next two Sunday services as well as on the prairienews email. If you would like more information you may call Mary Somers at 276-8397.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **IMPORTANT!!! Long Range Planning Report**

*Submitted by Barbara Park, Committee Chair*

On July 20th, there will be a pot-luck after the morning program followed by a report from the Long Range Planning Committee on their progress in searching for a new building. The committee will bring everyone up to date on the search and review a summary of features that members have already suggested. Child care will be available.

### **Pledge Reminder**

*Submitted by the Finance Committee*

You may take a vacation from Prairie in the summer, but our bills don't!! Thanks to all who are keeping right on target with your pledges, and a reminder to others to mail your checks to Prairie UU Society, Attn: Susan

Hagstrom, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI, 53711.

### **Memorial Service for John Diehl**

*Submitted by Mary Lou Diehl & Mary Somers*

John M. Diehl, died on June 27. A memorial service will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, July 12, at the Lower Meeting House of the First Unitarian Society. (Some of the old-time Prairie folks will remember John's and my three "kids"—John Vogel Diehl, Tim Diehl, and Alicia Diehl. They, of course will all be there.)

### **Dedicate Hymnals**

In August we will present the 15 new UU hymnals, "Singing in the Living Tradition." On the inside cover of each there will be a bookplate with the Prairie Bond of Union and space for a short dedication, such as "for the memory of John Lennon from Yoko," or "from Anonymous," or (what Doleta and I did) "An die Musik..." If you wish to make a dedication, send it to Orange Schroeder, e-mail at [appelsin@aol.com](mailto:appelsin@aol.com) or by mail to her at 1909 West Lawn Ave., Madison 53711. AND send a check for \$28 to the Prairie Treasurer, Susan

Hagstrom, in the collection plate or to her at 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, 53705. LAST CHANCE!

### **Recent Programs**

*Submitted by Warren Hagstrom*

Prairie is so wonderful. Our members and friends introduce us to people and ideas that we would never encounter in the ordinary course of things.

On June 15, Rev. Gordon Gibson related experiences he and other UUs in the South had in the civil rights movement, talking about "Small Acts of Great Courage." He had a great preaching style. Rev. Gibson was introduced to us by Catherine and Larry Mandt, who invited him to Madison to celebrate the marriage of their daughter.

On June 22, there were 21 of us at Picnic Point to celebrate the solstice. Dan Proud and his son Martin led us in the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun." Sun symbols, ranging from Larry Nahlik's mirror-inlayed Thai carving to a pendant of a Hindu sun-god, glistened under the

magnificent canopy of swaying leaves. And, in one of many Prairie serendipitous events, Jean Matos invited a Yoga visitor she met while directing members to our site from the base of the point. The visitor played a resonant Eastern gong, which was marvelously sensual and spiritual.

John Lewis continued the theme with his program on June 29 about "Nature and Spirituality in Modern and Ancient Religions." Emphasizing our oneness with the natural world, John linked ideas from ecological thinkers to UU theologians (see the article about process theology in the latest UU World). His talk was enhanced by slides of ancient drawings and peaceful nature scenes. John introduced us to Tom List, who played his beautiful American Indian flute (and gave something like a twenty minute seminar on the instrument following the service).

## **New Office Administrator**

Dan and Robin Proud will jointly handle the Prairie Fire and Office Administrator responsibilities. Please direct all future articles, as well as any questions and concerns to them. They may be reached at [prouds@tds.net](mailto:prouds@tds.net) and 661-0776.

## **For your Consideration**

### **Thank You**

*Submitted by Wendy Williams*

Thanks to all you good Prairie folk for allowing me to work with you the past year and a half. It was good to work for and with you, in a place that was not my own but one you generously shared with me.

I wish you all good things as you sort through your plans for the future. I will look forward to bumping into some of you at General Assembly in the years ahead.

### **The Low Road**

*By Marge Piercy*

What can they do

to you? Whatever they want.  
They can set you up, they can  
bust you, they can break  
your fingers, they can  
burn your brain with electricity,  
blur you with drugs till you  
can't walk, can't remember, they can  
take your child, wall up  
your lover. They can do anything  
you can't stop them  
from doing. How can you stop  
them? Alone, you can fight,  
you can refuse, you can  
take what revenge you can  
but they roll over you.

But two people fighting  
back to back can cut through  
a mob, a snake-dancing file  
can break a cordon, an army  
can meet an army.

Two people can keep each other  
sane, can give support, conviction,  
love, massage, hope, sex.  
Three people are a delegation,  
a committee, a wedge. With four  
you can play bridge and start  
an organization. With six  
you can rent a whole house,  
eat pie for dinner with no  
seconds, and hold a fund raising party.  
A dozen make a demonstration.  
A hundred fill a hall.  
A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;  
ten thousand, power and your own paper;  
a hundred thousand, your own media;  
ten million, your own country.

It goes on one at a time,  
it starts when you care  
to act, it starts when you do  
it again after they said no,  
it starts when you say *We*  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious**

**Services will be on July 14, 21 & 28.**

**Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933**

**Prairie UU Society Fall Retreat**  
**Bethel Horizons Center, September 12 – 14th**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: Requires bedding and towels, and soap. All have heat, electricity and showers, except cabins & campground.

<b>Adult</b>	<b>Children (under 12)</b>
<b>Prairie Center:</b> (4-5/room, private disability-accessible bathrooms, 72 beds total)	
2 nights: # _____ x \$40 = \$____. ____	2 nights: # _____ x \$20 = \$____. ____
1 night: # _____ x \$25 = \$____. ____	1 night: # _____ x \$12 = \$____. ____

**Barn Retreat Center:** (26 single beds, shared bathroom)

2 nights: # _____ x \$30 = \$____. ____	2 nights: # _____ x \$15 = \$____. ____
1 night: # _____ x \$20 = \$____. ____	1 night: # _____ x \$10 = \$____. ____

**Farmhouse/Bunkhouse Center:** (17 single beds, shared bathrooms)

2 nights: # _____ x \$26 = \$____. ____	2 nights: # _____ x \$13 = \$____. ____
1 night: # _____ x \$13 = \$____. ____	1 night: # _____ x \$26 = \$____. ____

**Camping** (\$5/person or \$12/family per night): \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_      **Sub-Total of Accomodations** \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_

<b>Meals:</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Children</b>
Saturday breakfast:	# _____ x \$4.50 = \$____. ____	# _____ x \$2.25 = \$____. ____
Saturday lunch:	# _____ x \$5.50 = \$____. ____	# _____ x \$2.75 = \$____. ____
Saturday dinner:	# _____ x \$6.75 = \$____. ____	# _____ x \$3.25 = \$____. ____
Sunday brunch:	# _____ x \$7.25 = \$____. ____	# _____ x \$3.75 = \$____. ____

**Or All Meals** # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$24.00= \$\_\_\_\_ and # kids \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$\_\_\_\_

**Sub-Total meals:** \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Options on Meals # \_\_\_\_\_      **Donations for scholarship:** \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to Prairie UU Society)      **Total due:** \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_

The Prairie Center will be fully booked and possibly less private than the Barn Retreat Center. Please propose people with whom you would be comfortable sharing a room.

My family needs a partial scholarship of \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_

**Deadline:**

**Registrations must be sent to Rick Ruecking, 6002 Lake St, McFarland WI 53558 (608) 838-8540 or brought to Prairie by Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Assignment of rooms will be done on a first-come, first-served basis after accommodation for age and disability.**