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Located off the south frontage road (West Beltline Hwy Rd.) 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 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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August 22, 2003

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Friday, August 22

7 p.m. Denominational Affairs Committee meeting at the Somers'. (Details inside this issue.)

### Sunday, August 24

10:00 a.m. "A Day in the Life," a program on the Beatles and U-Us, presented by Susan Urban.

### Friday, August 29

6:30 p.m. R.E. Committee meeting at Prairie. Childcare will be provided.

### Sunday, August 31

NO SERVICE AT MEETING HOUSE

10:00 a.m. Canoe and kayak trip at Wingra Park

12:00 noon. Picnic at Wingra Park

### Sunday, September 7

10:00 a.m. Ingathering and Sharing the Waters, led by Barbara Chatterton and Kristi Sprague-Klepzig.

(Details inside this issue.)

### Friday–Sunday, September 12–14

NO SERVICE AT MEETING HOUSE

Prairie UU Society Fall Retreat at Bethel Horizons Center. (See the article inside this issue for details.)

### Sunday, September 21

10:00 a.m. "Emerson is 200," given by Nels Oas.

### Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, September 7, 2003

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, August 24

The eight short years that the Beatles were together (1963-1970) witnessed some of the most rapid and tumultuous social and political change in history. Susan Urban will present "A Day in the Life," a program that includes listening to a number of the Beatles' songs, reflecting on the period itself, singing, dancing, and looking at how the music reflects Unitarian Universalist values.

### Sunday, August 31

There is no service at the Prairie Meeting House. Instead we will meet at Wingra Park for a canoe and kayak outing on Lake Wingra, followed by a picnic at about noon.

To get there, take Monroe Street to Knickerbocker, go south toward the lake and the park. The park has a boat ramp and rents canoes, which can supplement the canoes our members bring. Pack a picnic lunch for yourself and your household, and a dish

to share. We will have people available to give instructions about paddle strokes and other canoe skills (such as what to do when your canoe tips over). If you can help in teaching and/or sharing a canoe or kayak, please call Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun. In case of inclement weather, stay home, but a little drizzle isn't really "inclement."

### **Sunday, September 7**

10:00 a.m. INGATHERING SERVICE. Please join us for the beginning of fall and Back to School Service. We will be having a water communion where individuals and families can bring a small vial of water from this summer's travel. Please bring water (a film canister works well) from your backyard swimming pool, Lake Mendota or the oceans or lakes of the world—wherever you ventured this summer. We will be mingling the water in an earthen vessel and saving it for next year's ceremonies or child dedication services. The children participating in RE will be introduced.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **LAST CALL TO SIGN UP FOR THE RETREAT**

The Retreat at Bethel Horizons, near Dodgeville is the weekend of September 12-14. The full cost for an adult with all meals and non-stop activities is only \$64. Questions? Call Rick at 838-8540 or email to [ruecking@hotmail.com](mailto:ruecking@hotmail.com).

Send in your registration to Rick Ruecking, 6002 Lake St, McFarland WI 53558 by Sunday, August 31, or bring it to church. Assignment of rooms will be done on a first-come, first-served basis after accommodation for age and disability.

You can copy the form from the Prairie Web site, [www.prairie.madison.uua.org](http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org).

### **QUESTIONNAIRES**

Please return your completed Program Committee questionnaires to the tray in the back of the meeting room or to Warren Hagstrom. Questionnaires were distributed in a previous newsletter. Extra copies are on the table near the tray.

## **PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS**

Anyone interested in hosting one of the monthly Playreaders session, please send the date or month you are interested in hosting to Susan Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705, or [SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com](mailto:SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com). The deadline for submissions is extended to **August 30**.

As host of Prairie Playreaders, you can choose the play to be read. It is good to estimate parts needed as between 4-15 (the upper reaches, people read multiple parts). Some munchies are usually provided by the host, with a dessert during either intermission or at the end. Playreaders is usually held on a Saturday with a start time of either 7 or 7:30, chosen by the host. This is an opportunity for anyone who has long wanted to hear their favorite play read aloud!

*Susan Hagstrom*

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Members who have helped with Prairie's music program should check their bookshelves to see if they have our copy of *Between the Lines: Sources for "Singing the Living Tradition"*. Al Nettleton could use it for his lay ministry, and Orange Schroeder, our music coordinator, might find it helpful. If you find it, contact Warren Hagstrom, 238-4970, or [warrenolaf@aol.com](mailto:warrenolaf@aol.com)

The ring that was found next to the sink has still not been claimed. Check your fingers, and call Judy Skog or the Prouds if you are ringless.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Changed addresses:

Donna Murdoch  
1 Langdon St. #205  
Madison, WI 53703

Sarah Lord  
7802 Big Sky Dr. #204

Madison, WI 53719  
(608) 827-6562

New member:

Phyllis Long  
624 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Monroe, WI 53566  
(608) 325-7397

after church on a Sunday sometime in interviewing a member and taking their picture? It's great experience, it's fun, and you can get your name in this paper in addition to the person you interview!

Please talk to Dan Proud or e-mail your name to prairieu@execpc.com —don't wait, you might be late!  
*The Editor*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This coming year our Religious Education program will continue using a modified version of the YoUUth Circle, and also continue to break into age groups with Friendship Circles. This year we will be focusing on topics having to do with social justice, drawing from materials found in several curricula.

A number of enthusiastic adults have signed up to work with our great kids, but there are still openings for help in pre-school, K-2, and grades 3-5. Please contact Anne Urbanski (221-4053) or Kristi Sprague-Klepzig (bananamoon@charter.net) for more information on teaching or assisting.

*Anne Urbanski*

### WANTED: ARTISTS, POETS

The *Prairie Fire* needs some artwork, some poetry, and other works of creativity that might be bubbling forth from the minds of our youth.

If anyone in the ages 2–12 (well, we might stretch it to 22, or even 102, but we haven't had a lot of luck with those groups lately!) would please send in submissions, we would love to print them in future editions of the *Prairie Fire*. Then you can tell your friends that you're *published!*

### WANTED: REPORTERS

There are a great many new people in our fellowship that we would like to get to know better. The staff at this paper, however, needs help. Specifically, are there any school-age volunteers who would be interested

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Denominational Affairs committee met July 30th and discussed the two GA study issues: Civil Liberties, which is in the 2nd year of study, and Criminal Justice and Prison Reform, our new GA issue for this year.

The committee is looking to have a couple of speakers on Criminal Justice for programs this year. The study has two co-chairs: Nancy Schraufnagel, representing denominational affairs, and Andy Somers from Social Action. The Prairie Book Club has selected *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean for their September meeting to be held at the retreat at Bethel Horizons. The movie "Dead Man Walking" is also available at the library starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. All are invited to discuss the book, movie, and capital punishment at the retreat.

Plans are being made to have a speaker some time later on capital punishment come to Prairie. Anyone interested in helping with the two GA studies may contact any committee member: Mary Mullen, Nancy Graham, Pat Watkins, Nancy Schraufnagel, Mary Somers and Andy Somers from Social Action, who will be attending the denominational affairs meetings.

Our next meeting is Friday August 22nd, at 7 pm at the Somers home. Anyone interested in these studies may attend.

### Office Hours for the Office Administrator

Mondays 7–9 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.–12 noon

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.**

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

**CelestialR@charter.net**

He brings a lifelong commitment to human rights and social justice, a deep knowledge of UUSC's mission and ethos, an abiding respect for and commitment to our UU values and principles, and international hands-on experience in building and leading organizations that help constituents here and in developing countries.

As you may know, Charlie is a public health and human rights advocate. He was director of human rights education at UUSC from 1986–88. While at the Service Committee he spoke in more than 40 congregations, led several of our human rights delegations to Central America, and provided congressional testimony on several occasions. For the past seven years he has been the CEO and president of Border WaterWorks, which assists southwestern communities without running water and sewer to construct such desperately needed infrastructure.

Charlie has served on the boards of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). As board president of PHR Charlie represented the organization at both the treaty signing and the Nobel prize ceremonies for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which PHR helped found and lead.

His work at UUSC and in the social justice arena is well known and respected by leaders in the UU community. Throughout his multifaceted and distinguished career, he has shown that he shares our commitment to UU principles and UUSC's mission to affirm the worth and dignity of all people and to advance justice worldwide. He speaks with passion and compassion about issues of social justice. It is what he believes in and what he lives daily.

His biography is posted on the UUSC Web site at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), as is a presentation that Charlie gave to the board, which will give you a sense of his passion, dedication and perspectives.

Please join me in welcoming Charlie aboard. His strong, focused, and inclusive leadership will invigorate programs, staff, members, and volunteers.  
*Rick Van Dyke, Chair, UUSC Board of Trustees*

**LETTERS**

On behalf of my mother-in-law, Alice Bullen, I would like to thank you for continuing to send *Prairie Fire* to her. Even though she and Lee moved here to Pennsylvania seven years ago, she still enjoys receiving your newsletter and reading about the happenings at her former UU home. *Prairie* was a very large part of both her and Lee's life when they lived in McFarland and Lee edited the *Prairie Fire* for many years. It definitely brings her fond memories and a strong feeling of connectedness. Thank you very much.

*Cyndy Bullaughey*

**UUSC NEWS**

A special message to UUSC members, supporters and friends from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) E-mail Bulletin:

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**UUSC Trustees Name Charlie Clements New President**

I am pleased to announce that the UUSC Board of Trustees has appointed a new president and chief executive officer of our Service Committee. He is Dr. Charles (Charlie) Clements, a man known to many of you for his groundbreaking human rights work in Central America and more recently for his efforts to raise international awareness of the danger of landmines.

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[For Prairie and Madison Social Action news, visit  
<http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/home.htm>

## **OTHER NEWS**

Travel to China! The Racine Public Library is sponsoring an 8-day tour of Beijing, China, led by Chinese expert Arthur Shattuck, member of Olympia Brown church in Racine, October 29–November 5 2003 during teacher convention. Info: Contact Arthur at 619–1590 or [herbstudys@aol.com](mailto:herbstudys@aol.com).

