

Prairie UU Society, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison WI 53711-4843

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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)

October 24, 2003

Prairie Fire is the semi-monthly newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. The two most recent issues may be seen at <http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org>

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, October 26

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. "All Souls' Observance," led by Orange Schroeder. Bring a photo or other remembrance of a person no longer living who is important in your life.

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Pledge Drive Kickoff Brunch. Details inside.

Saturday, November 1

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Workshop on Prairie Growth at FUS. All committee members are urged to attend. Details inside.

Sunday, November 2

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. "Our Homeless Children," presented by Jani Koester.

11:30 a.m. Membership Committee at Prairie.

Sunday, November 9

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Rose and Trevor Stephenson will present a program about Susan B. Anthony, with words from Rose and music from Trevor.

11:30 a.m. Book Club discusses *The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman. At Prairie. All are welcome!

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, November 2, 2003

Sunday, November 16

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. Jane Esbensen Moore, UU minister in Hudson, Wisconsin, will present a program with topic to be announced.

11:45 a.m. Potluck lunch, followed by our Fall Parish meeting.

Sunday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. "Death by Legislation," presented by Arthur Thexton

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 26

In keeping with the tradition established by Ruth Calden with her programs about the Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations, Orange Schroeder will lead an All Souls'

Day program. Everyone is invited to remember someone who has passed away recently or long ago. Please bring a photograph or other remembrance for everyone to see. You will be invited to share it silently, or to say a few words. We will celebrate life and enduring love through candle lighting, song and words in this special annual Prairie program.

information about Madison homeless families and the TEP program.

Sunday after church, October 26

Put this date on your calendar and plan to stay for coffee, tea, juice, and assorted breakfast breads to kick off the seventh annual Pledge Drive. As you munch and drink, we will present our proposed 2004 budget and the needed pledges to help meet this budget.

This is a chance for you to learn the current and long-range goals and financial needs of Prairie UU. Most importantly, bring your checkbook and a pen and make your financial contribution, which is vital to meet these goals. Your giving keeps Prairie UU alive and is needed to help us grow and change within the Madison community. **Child care will be available.**

Saturday, November 1

Dori Davenport of the Central Midwest District of the UUA will hold a workshop to help Prairie committees select action items that will increase the membership at Prairie. The workshop, at First Unitarian Universalist Society, is 9:00 to 3:30 p.m. All members of Prairie committees are urged to attend.

If you would like to attend but are not on a committee, please talk to a committee chair and arrange to join.

We are inviting people from the Sauk City UU group and James Reeb to attend the growth workshop.

Sunday, November 2

Who are the homeless children in Madison and what are our schools doing to help them? The Transition Education Program (TEP) is a program that serves homeless families through advocacy, support and educational services in the Madison school district. Jani Koester has been one of the staff members in this program since 1989. She will join us upstairs to share

Sunday, November 9

Rose and Trevor Stephenson combine their considerable talents to offer Prairie a dramatic and musical treat. Rose, in authentic period costume, brings Susan B. Anthony to life through her speeches, journal entries and letters. Anthony (1820–1906) was a dynamic and eloquent leader of the women's rights movement. Though she did not live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, it was largely through her unflagging efforts that women gained the right to vote.

Rose Stephenson is a member of the First Unitarian Society. She has performed widely in theatre for adults and children and in addition to Susan B. Anthony, has done portrayals of Olympia Brown, Clara Barton, and Louisa May Alcott—all of whom we recognize from the UU line of dignitaries. As a member of the Wisconsin Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, Rose has helped spread Susan B. Anthony's important story to audiences throughout the state.

Trevor Stephenson performs music by Frescobaldi and Scarlatti on his 17th-century replica Italian harpsichord, made by Norman Sheppard. Trevor has degrees in piano performance from the University of Missouri and University of Illinois, and received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Historical Performance of Eighteenth-Century Music from Cornell University.

In 1990 he moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where, with Norman Sheppard, he has rebuilt and customized a series of historical keyboard instruments ranging from Italian Renaissance harpsichords to Victorian pianos. He has taught piano at Edgewood College since 1999. In 1994 he founded the Light & Shadow concert and recording company and has released nine recordings on that label. He gives concerts and lectures throughout the United States.

OUR SOCIETY

CALLING ALL PRAIRIE MUSICIANS!

Our program on December 14 will be devoted to the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Musicians of all ages should consider Mozart compositions they might wish to perform. If you need an accompanist, or accompanists, or if you want suggestions of things to perform, contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru (238–4970 or warrenolaf@aol.com or dchapru@aol.com).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Exclusive: From the Desk of Our Roving Reporters



Drawing by Toby Wacker

ASMITA AND RITIKA, OUR BABYSITTERS

Asmita and Ritika Batajoo are two girls that come to the preschoolers during the service. Asmita is 15 and in 11th grade; Ritika is 14 and in 10th. Their family is Hindu. They have one brother. They enjoy reading, studying, drawing, shopping, and going to movies. Asmita's favorite subjects are Intermediate Chef, Lunch, and Accelerated Math. Ritika's favorites are sculpture and Accelerated Math. Volleyball and Basketball are two sports that they have played. Asmita also likes to run.

They say that one of the reasons they baby-sit is that it is interesting to learn the general necessities in a baby's life. They usually baby-sit 2–5 kids at one time. We would like to thank Asmita and Ritika for all their hard work!

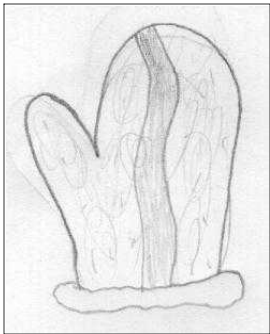
Reuben and Madeline Arnold

[Ed. Note: Because of technical difficulties, our photo of Asmita and Ritika won't be ready until next issue.]

CALLING ALL LONELY GLOVES!

We have a project pending in R.E. which can use all your old single knit gloves. It's fine if they're threadbare in spots—we'll put them to good use. There will be a box upstairs for them, or find one of the RE folks to "hand" off to. Thanks!

Rachel Long for RE



Drawing by Toby Wacker

LETTERS

A WORD OF THANKS

I'd like to thank all the Prairie musicians who livened up the Earth Charter Community Summit at MATC on Oct. 11. Besides Maggie Siegfried and "The Ethnic Connection" (Doleta Chapru, George and Ruth Calden, and Lee Burkholder) mentioned in the last *Prairie Fire*, the "Peacemongers" performed at the mid-afternoon speaker break. Though this trio consisted of Dan Proud, Mary Mullen, and Roz Woodward of 1st Unitarian Society in past performances, on the 11th Paula Pachciarz pitched in (pardon the pun) for Roz, who was out of the country.

To learn more about the Earth Charter, see <http://www.earthcharterusa.org>. We will have the opportunity to join the General Assembly of the UUA in

endorsing the Earth Charter as a congregation at our fall parish meeting next month.

Bob Park, Chair

Prairie Social Action Committee

OTHER NEWS

From the Protestant Justice Action, as reported in the Equal Partners in Faith e-newsletter. Equal Partners in Faith is a multi-racial national network of religious leaders and people of faith committed to equality and diversity.

HEAD OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION CHALLENGES BUSH POLICIES

Opposition to Bush's Invasion of Iraq High at National Gathering of Christians

(Charlotte, NC) — At a national gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the denomination's general minister and president strongly criticized the Bush Administration for its unilateral foreign policy and its invasion of Iraq. Speaking to a crowd of nearly 1000 people at a park near the Charlotte Convention Center, the Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm chastised President Bush for "leading us into war," and for "slamming the door on the leaders of mainline denominations" who "disagree with many of his policies."

According to Dr. Hamm, "There is a small group of ideologues running our nation's foreign and domestic policy. They want a nation that unilaterally decides how things should be and then shapes the world in its own image through the use of military might.

"The world today is a place for adults, not schoolyard bullies," said Dr. Hamm. "National arrogance only breeds enemies--enemies so resentful that they are willing to fly airliners into our buildings."

Warning that national arrogance "is a spiritual issue," Dr. Hamm called upon members of his denomination and other communities of faith to pray with one another and to work together for political change: "Jerry Falwell figured all this out over twenty years ago, but we seem

to be slow learners," said Dr. Hamm. "We must encourage our people to engage in the political processes of our nation. We must hold our political leaders accountable."

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According to Dr. Hamm, many Democrats helped the Bush Administration create the present situation in Iraq: "The Bush Administration led us into Iraq, but it is no less the responsibility of Democrats who failed to effectively raise red flags!"

"This is an urgent moment in our nation's history," Dr. Hamm told his audience. "Christians and people of faith from all political parties must work together to promote a foreign policy based on active, constructive and humble engagement in the world."

Dr. Hamm was joined at this outdoor rally and vigil for peace by other leaders from his denomination, by local clergy and by local representatives from diverse faiths. After hearing Dr. Hamm's remarks, nearly 1000 participants sang together and prayed together for a more peaceful world. The event was organized by Disciples Justice Action Network, a network of peace and justice activists within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and a member of Protestant Justice Action, a network of peace and justice activists working within seven mainline Protestant denominations.

Office Hours for the Office Administrator

Mondays 7-9 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon

Prairie Web Sites

Prairie UU: <http://my.execpc.com/~prairie/>

PrairieNews Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/>

PrairieViews Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/>

Social Action: <http://socialaction.homestead.com>

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB FALL AND WINTER SELECTIONS

Sun., Oct. 12 —After Prairie service—*Welcome to the World Baby Girl* is a new novel by Fannie Flagg, author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* and the prize-winning co-writer of the movie by that name. Suggested by Sarah Lord.

Sun., Nov. 9 —After Prairie service—*The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman.

Sun., Dec. 7 —After Prairie service—*Journey into the Whirlwind* is a personal account of the first three years of author and professor Eugenia Ginzburg's 18-year ordeal during the Stalin purges of the 1930s.

Sun., Jan. 11 —After Prairie service—*The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell is a non-fiction book that compares commercial successes with the model of epidemics.

This is an open book club. Anyone who has read the book or wants to hear the book discussed may come to any meeting. When we meet at Prairie, participants bring food to share. Books are available at Border's West on University Avenue at a 20% discount if you mention this is a Prairie Book Club selection.

