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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)

November 7, 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>*

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813  
(608) 661-0776

Editor: Dan Proud, prairieu@execpc.com;

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### 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!

### 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.

### Wednesday, November 19

6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck at Prairie.  
Info: Rosemary Dorney 238-4382. All welcome!

### Thursday, November 20

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal for Thanksgiving Service, First Unitarian Society. Interested singers are welcome.

## Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, November 16, 2003

### Sunday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. "Death by Legislation," presented by Arthur Thexton.

### Wednesday, November 26

7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service, First Unitarian Society.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, November 9

Rose and Trevor Stephenson combine their considerable talents to offer a dramatic and musical treat. Rose, in 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 has also 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, 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.

### **Sunday, November 16**

Here is the agenda for the parish meeting:

1. Minutes of last parish meeting
2. 2004 Budget - Report of Finance Committee
3. Reports and recommendations of other committees
4. Other business - Resolution endorsing the Earth Charter (Bob Park)
5. New business at the call of at least ten members

*Mike Briggs,  
Secretary*

### **Sunday, November 23**

"Death by Legislation." Arthur Thexton will share his thoughts on how UU's can respond to the three pending efforts to introduce capital punishment to Wisconsin. The death penalty was abolished 150 years ago in this state, and we have a lower crime and murder rate than most states with capital punishment. Does it matter?

Arthur Thexton, a lay minister at James Reeb UUC, is an "upraised UU," and attended Meadville Theological School (near Chicago) for two years. He is an OWL (Our Whole Lives, the sexuality and relationships curriculum) teacher and YRUU (high school youth group) advisor, and a part-time night chaplain at Meriter Hospital. He is also president of the Wisconsin Coalition Against the Death Penalty Fund, Inc. [www.wcadp.org]

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **NOVEMBER 1ST GROWTH WORKSHOP**

Members of Prairie identified activities and actions to support growth of Prairie at a workshop held Saturday, November 1 at First Unitarian Society. Dori Davenport, a growth and religious education staff person with the UUA Central Midwest District, conducted the workshop for 15 members of Prairie and representatives from 3 other UU congregations — James Reeb, Sauk City, and Wales.

In addition to identifying activities and actions to support growth (see below) **we identified many things that Prairie does very well!** These include:

- Personal growth through participation
- Music
- Diversity and variety of programs – Sunday a.m. and others
- Talking to visitors Sunday a.m.
- Stimulating discussion
- Sharing joys and concerns
- Maintaining traditions—Day of the Dead program, holidays, nature service (Picnic Pt), etc.
- Incorporating UU principles in programs
- We are a good audience—encourage people to stretch, take risks; start new programs, groups.
- Circle dinners
- Social action activities
- Fiscally responsible
- Good newsletter (*Prairie Fire*)
- Good Web site and e-lists
- Committed to RE—traditions, committed families, teachers
- Lots of fun activities—we have fun

We identified **6 action and activity areas (in 3 groups) to pursue over the next 12 months** that we think will help attract and retain new members:

### **Religious Education**

- Family canoeing weekend (on Memorial Day?)
- Promote having children invite friends to events:
  - Overnight programs at Prairie (e.g., Fall Frolic)
  - Fall Family fun weekend (Bethel Horizons)
  - Fall bonfire (at Briggs')
  - Nifty Gifty
  - Special Sunday to Bring a Friend to RE

### **Membership**

- Hold greeter training – 3 days
  - Evaluate materials available for guests; develop “elevator speech”
  - Report back on materials, practice “elevator speech”
  - Invite guests to evaluate greeter messages, provide food
- Hold “potlucks plus”
  - Have different groups organize them—e.g., committees, women’s group
  - Consider breakfast, lunch, dinner
  - Hold once a month

### **Program**

- Bring in big name speakers
- Provide entertainers for kids
  - Talent agent
  - Canvass congregation
  - Investigate finances that could be used
  - Date (?)
  - Provide Prairie literature at the events

If you see one or more activities you would like to help with, please contact Ken Skog or any committee chair to indicate your interest. Thank you!

Workshop attendees: Ken and Judy Skog, Molly Plunkett, Doleta Chapru, Anne Urbanski, Norma and Mike Briggs, Barb and Bob Park, Mary Mullen, Mary Somers, John Lewis, Robin and Dan Proud, Larry Nahlik

*Ken Skog*

## **PROGRAM**

### **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](mailto:dchapru@aol.com)).

### **Office Hours for the Prairie Office Administrator**

Mondays 7–9 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.–12 noon

## **FINANCE**

### **PLEDGE CHECKS**

Please be sure to add the specific pledge year (2003 or 2004) on your pledge check memo during the next two months so we credit your contribution correctly! Checks can be sent to the treasurer, Susan Hagstrom, at Prairie or can be put in the Sunday collection. To be credited for the 2003 tax year, be sure checks are received by December 15.

Thanks to so many of you who have completed your pledges since the recent reminders were mailed to you. If you have any questions, call Aileen Nettleton.

*The Finance Committee*

### **PRAIRIE OR PRAIRIE FIRE CONTRIBUTION**

We are currently conducting our annual pledge drive among members and friends. If you wish to make a contribution to Prairie for the Operating Budget or your contribution toward the *Prairie Fire*, please complete the form below and mail it with your check to:

Susan Hagstrom, Treasurer

Prairie UU Society

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

If you wish to continue to receive the *Prairie Fire* through the mail, a contribution of \$30 to cover costs would be appreciated. The *Prairie Fire* is also available on the Prairie Web site.

( clip and mail )

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_ Please continue to mail the *Prairie Fire* to me.

\_\_\_ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Comments or Notes:

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING

During the past three months, Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) meetings have focused on a couple of areas: structuring productive communication at congregation meetings; evaluating fundraising activities proposed at an earlier congregation meeting; compiling a history of activities and decisions related to growth; reviewing demographic data about Dane County related to religious preferences; creating a “map” of Prairie members; attending a growth workshop sponsored by the Regional UUA office; and following through on potential sites for a new building.

Specific Items:

A **timeline** describing several years of growth related events and decisions is posted in the meeting room under the windows toward the back and is also available as a narrative typed document.

A **map** showing where current Prairie members live has been posted in the lobby. Thank you Barb Park and Mary Mullen for both these detailed projects.

The **growth workshop** held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and led by Dori Davenport of the Regional UUA Office was very stimulating and helpful to the many LRP committee members who attended.

In late August two members of LRP met with the Board of Directors for **Grace Lutheran Church** off Rosa Road to explore the interest of that congregation in entertaining an offer to purchase. After a long deliberative process which included a written survey and parish meeting and vote, Grace Lutheran voted not to move.

An ad hoc group (Larry Nahlik, Ch., Norma Briggs, Barb Chatterton, and Molly Plunkett) has been approved by the Prairie Board to gather more information about the **Fitchburg Center** lot and to report back to the Board. That ad hoc group has had one meeting with Fitchburg Center representatives to date.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### ASMITA AND RITIKA, OUR BABYSITTERS



### R.E. SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR

Prairie UU Society is seeking a new Director of Religious Education to succeed Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, who has resigned effective November 9.

The position pays \$12.50/hr for 10 hrs/week (with possibility of expanding to 20 hrs./week) during the school year, including Sunday morning. The ideal candidate is familiar with UU principles and has experience and enjoys working with children and teens. E-mail for resumes, references and questions: [uuprinciples@hotmail.com](mailto:uuprinciples@hotmail.com).

### 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*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### NEW WEB SITE FOR LAY LEADERS

The new UUA Office of Lay Leadership Development recently launched INTERCONNECTIONS RESOURCES, a custom-designed Web site for lay leaders at [www.uua.org/program/layleader](http://www.uua.org/program/layleader). This site brings together training opportunities and resources from congregational workshops, district meetings, retreat center programs, and major continental conferences. Please explore the site by searching the events calendar, reading through the FAQs in key leadership areas like finance and social justice. The site is very user-friendly and is quickly becoming the principal resource for UU volunteers interested in learning how to serve their faith community while developing their own unique gifts.

### STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

In the recent draft statement of conscience on civil liberties, action items include:

1. Demanding the resignation of Attorney General John Ashcroft for his calloused advocacy of policies eroding civil liberties.
2. Urging congressional oversight committees to openly monitor federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
3. Demanding repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act and opposition to the proposed Domestic Security Enhancement Act, PATRIOT II.
4. Opposing implementation of the "total information awareness" data-mining program of the Department of Defense.
5. Holding candidates for public office accountable if they support policies and legislation limiting individual civil liberties.
6. Opposing judicial nominees, if their records demonstrate hostility to the protection of civil liberties.
7. Voicing to public officials our support for the constitutional protections of the Bill of Rights.

Organizing adult education classes on the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, and urging public and private schools to include such classes.

8. Supporting the work of such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International USA, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Center for Public Integrity, the Interfaith Alliance, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and People for the American Way.

These are the action items to be voted on by the general assembly in 2004. We are in the second year of studying "Civil Liberties" as suggested to congregations, for study, action and reflection. Please give any comments you may have on the action items to members of the denominational affairs committee members, Mary Somers, Nancy Schraufnagel, Pat Watkins, Mary Mullen, Nancy Graham, Sarah Lord, and Andy Somers assisting us from Social Action.

## LETTERS

### **UUA FIRE RELIEF FUND CREATED**

We are announcing the creation of the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) Fire Relief Fund to help our congregations, their members, and their communities. At this time our congregations in Poway and La Mesa have been most affected by the fires with at least 3 people having lost their homes and three dozen families having been evacuated from their homes. The ten wild fires blazing across southern California have impacted at least a dozen of our congregations. Checks to support the fund should be sent to the PSWD at 12355 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA 91604. For more information contact the Rev. Ken Brown at [kbrown@uua.org](mailto:kbrown@uua.org) or 818-769-5917.

*Carol Hosmer, District Office Manager*

*[The Social Action Committee is collecting money at church for this fund. –Ed.]*

### **CALLING ALL SINGERS**

Interested singers are welcome to join us in singing for the Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November

26, at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Society. We will warm up at 6:30 pm. We will be singing "This We Know" set to words by Chief Seattle. We will also be singing "Let Us Break Bread Together" (#406) and Give Thanks (#69).

Singers who would like more rehearsal are welcome to join us on Thursday night, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m.

Thanks.

*Dan Broner, Music Director  
First Unitarian Society of Madison  
(608) 233-9774 ext 21*

### **FORUM: TOWARD DEMOCRATIC MEDIA**

I would like to extend an invitation to your congregation to attend the free forum, "Toward a Democratic Media" on November 9, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison (tel. 233-9774). Speakers will include:

- **John Nichols**, Associate editor of *The Capital Times*; Political editor, *The Nation*
- **Robert McChesney**, Professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana
- **Chellie Pingree**, President of Common Cause
- **Rev. Paul Sawyer**, UU minister; co-chair of the Democratic Media Legal Project.

For further information or directions to the church call Wendy Cooper at (608) 233-9774 ext. 25 or email her at [wendyc@fusmadison.org](mailto:wendyc@fusmadison.org).

*Wendy Cooper*

## MEMBERSHIP

Updates:

Bob Durkin  
1624 Fordham Ave. #212  
Madison, WI 53704

Fran Zell  
5309 S.Ellis Apt. 2W  
Chicago, IL 60615  
(773) 643-7191

## Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Tues. 3:45–6:15 p.m. & Sat. 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.  
Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249–5933  
CelestialR@charter.net

### OTHER NEWS

#### UUSC E-MAIL BULLETIN

*The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world.*

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#### **UUSC to monitor Guatemala election**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has organized a delegation to monitor and observe the upcoming presidential election in Guatemala. The group will include UUSC staff, led by President Charlie Clements, members, a photographer and a congressional aide. Visit our Web site for reports on the Nov. 9 election.

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#### **Action alert: Another victory on Cuba but continued advocacy is needed**

On Oct. 23, 2003, the Senate passed an amendment that would end funding for enforcement of the travel ban to Cuba. This is an important victory for advocates who have worked hard to reform U.S. policy toward Cuba. For a detailed action alert on how you can help preserve this victory, visit <http://www.uusc.org/news/alert103103.html>.

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#### **UUSC reaffirms call for same-sex marriage**

Across the United States, same-sex couples are denied thousands of federal benefits because of the narrow federal definition of marriage. Such couples are denied benefits, responsibilities and the dignity of open, affirmed lives. Advocates once again challenge state and federal legislators and judicial leaders cross the country to extend the universal right of marriage to same-sex couples and to finally end this form of institutional prejudice. For more information, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article101703.html>

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#### **Workcamp volunteers cross border to Mexico**

Volunteers from across the country joined with UUSC in mid-October for the On the Border Workcamp. This marked the first time in recent UUSC history that a workcamp has taken place outside of the United States. Learn more about their experiences by visiting <http://www.uusc.org/info/article103103a.html>.

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*Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*  
130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139  
ph: 617 868-6600 fax: 617 868-7102 [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## **PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB FALL AND WINTER SELECTIONS**

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.

### **Prairie Web Sites**

Prairie UU: <http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org>

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

PrairieViews Group:

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

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

