

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)

December 19, 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, December 21

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Symbol Tree Intergenerational Service, led by Erin Bosch. Also, toy collection for Joining Forces for Families. See Social Action news inside.

### Tuesday, December 23

Breakfast at the Men's Shelter, Grace Episc. Church.

### Wednesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Vesper service, First Unitarian Society.

7:00 p.m. Las Posadas Christmas Eve Pageant, James Reeb UU Congregation. See inside.

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Family Holiday Service, FUS.

11:00 p.m. Vigil service, First Unitarian Society.

### Thursday, December 25

2:30 p.m. Potluck at James Reeb UU. All are welcome. If you have e-mail access, sign up at

<http://www.eventsgalore.net/oceanmeir@aol.com>>  
[oceanmeir@aol.com](mailto:oceanmeir@aol.com)

### Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Game Day. Board games in place of a service. See inside.

## Next Prairie Fire deadline is

**Sunday, January 4, 2004**

### Sunday, January 4

10:00 a.m. "Winter Reading," coordinated by Robin Proud. Bring a favorite book for "Show and Tell."

11:45 a.m. Membership Committee meeting.

### Tuesday, January 6

Reservations due for the Prairie Fundraiser Trip to the Chicago Art Institute's Rembrandt exhibit. See the flyer at church or call Pat Watkins (233-5795).

Cost: \$56.

### Sunday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:30 a.m. "Deepening the Journey of Healing" with Amy Owen.

### Monday, January 12

6:00 p.m. Prairie women (WOW) practice the Writers' Way model of creative writing. Led by Paula Pachciarz. At Prairie.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 21**

Our traditional Symbol Tree service begins with the RE students in a candlelight Santa Lucia procession. After a story and some singing, we have the symbol tree ceremony. You are invited to bring a symbol of some noteworthy event from your life in the past year, to say a few words about it, and then place your symbol on the tree.

Poems, other short readings, or quotes with a more universal quality are also welcome. Please bring cookies or other finger foods to share after the service (without nuts).

### **Wednesday, December 24**

James Reeb UU (2146 E. Johnson) is putting on its Las Posadas—Christmas Eve Pageant. This is a simple but magical story in song and procession depicting the Christmas characters' search for the "Room at the Inn" in the way it's done in some South and Central American countries.

The Las Posadas Procession begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by carol singing, light refreshments, Pinatas, and holiday fun and fellowship. Susan Cook of Reeb and Mary Mullen of Prairie will lead the carol singing following the Las Posadas.

### **Sunday, December 28**

Intergenerational "Game Day" will be coordinated by Brian Kuzdas and Rachel Long. Join your Prairie friends for informal, post-holiday good times. Bring board games to share. This will take place at the regular 10:00 Sunday service time.

### **Sunday, January 4**

"Winter Reading" coordinated by Robin Proud. Book lovers, bring a favorite book for "show-and-tell." Each person is welcome to briefly describe a favorite book that might be of interest to other Prairie folks. Or just come to listen. This highly-rated program has become a twice-a-year tradition.

### **Monday, January 6**

Prairie women (WOW) will gather at 6 p.m. at Prairie for a potluck and program. The program considers creative writing using the Writers' Way model. Paula will be the facilitator.

The Writer's Way Workshop is for writers with much or little experience. The group of writers responds to writing exercises that are suggested by the facilitator. The exercises may be simply objects that strike memories; may create a fictional characters; or explore poetry forms. Participants can read their work aloud and the rest of the group may offer positive feedback.

Please bring a (substantial) dish to share and attend even if you must arrive late.

### **Sunday, January 11**

The program, "Deepening the Journey of Healing," is the third and final talk on forgiveness by Amy Owen. For the past two worships, we have been focusing on how we can use forgiveness to help us heal from a painful event in our lives. We have now come to the point on our journey where we focus on the person who hurt us.

What happens when we reframe the way we view someone who has caused us pain? How can we change the way we think about this person without condoning or excusing their actions? This work, though challenging, is the key to our liberation from anger and bitterness.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **HOLIDAY NEWSLETTERS**

If you write a holiday newsletter for friends and family, we invite you to share it with Prairie members by putting a copy in the decorated folder on the back table of the meeting room.

### **EVALUATING FITCHBURG CENTER AND ALTERNATIVES FOR A NEW PRAIRIE BUILDING**

On December 10, the Prairie Board received a report from the Ad Hoc Committee for factfinding on the Fitchburg Site and decided on some steps to bring more information to the Parish about the Fitchburg site and any alternatives, to provide for discussion, and hold a parish meeting in March to seek further direction from the Parish regarding a new building..

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee—Larry Nahlik, Norma Briggs, Molly Plunkett, and KK Anderson—met with representatives of the Fitchburg Center (FC) Bill Dalrymple (Managing Director), Peter Tan (Architect), and Bill Linton (Managing partner of FC and owner of Promega). The committee learned more about types of buildings that may be on the property, financing, the condominium association structure for maintaining common areas including the prairie, esthetic interests, and guidelines on building size and design.

In general, they found there is considerable flexibility. Key points concerning the FC development include (1) intent to build a lasting city center, not make a profit; (2) there is no hurry to develop properties—it could take up to 20 years; (3) they prefer environmentally sound building standards and esthetics; (4) the interest is to be flexible to meet client needs; and (5) a UU church would be welcome—proposals by Christian churches have been declined. In order for the FC to consider providing property, they request a draft design for the building. The full report of the Committee will be sent out on PrairieNews and will be provided at Prairie.

The Prairie Board would like Prairie members to engage in discussion about the Fitchburg site and about alternatives for a new building over the period January to March and hold a Parish meeting in March to see if we can conclude on some specific actions. Here are steps the Board is planning:

1. On Sunday, January 11, after the Prairie program, Bill Dalrymple, Managing Director of the Fitchburg Center, will make a presentation at Prairie about the site and answer questions.
2. Later in January or early February, Prairie will hold a meeting to discuss other alternatives for providing new space for Prairie.
3. In February and March, the Long-Range Planning Committee will organize discussion about the alternatives.
4. On Sunday, March 14, a Parish meeting will be held to determine whether Prairie should take more specific action to develop a draft building design for the

Fitchburg Center or possibly take other actions concerning new building space.

*Ken Skog*

<b><u>Prairie Web Sites</u></b>
Prairie UU: <a href="http://my.execpc.com/~prairie/">http://my.execpc.com/~prairie/</a>
PrairieNews Group: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/</a>
PrairieViews Group: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/</a>
Social Action: <a href="http://socialaction.homestead.com">http://socialaction.homestead.com</a>

### **TREASURER HUNT**

The Committee on Committees is looking for a new treasurer, starting term in May or June 2004. Here are the minimum of basic necessities of the job: (1) basic math; (2) telephone with voice mail; (3) time. As for time, I would divide it like this—monthly you would need (1) one night a month for the Board meeting; (2) two 30-minute time slots to write checks for bills/balance checkbook/make deposits for the bank; (3) 30 minutes to prepare report for the Board; and (4) however long it would take you to go to Anchor Bank.

There are additional miscellaneous time constraints — Parish meeting twice a year (and time to prepare reports for Parish meetings), being on hand to refinance mortgages/sales/etc., and who knows what. I have not found any activity required of me as treasurer to be too difficult to manage, timewise.

The position of Treasurer comes with its own computer/printer/shredder/calculator. I will also assist to begin with, and members of the Board will be able to assist with collections on Sunday.

Please give me a ring at 238-4970 (home) or 267-4797 (work) or [SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com](mailto:SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com) or [hagstst@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:hagstst@dhfs.state.wi.us) if you have questions or would consider taking on the job.

*Susan Hagstrom*

## **LETTERS**

## UU CARDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Hello once more from South Africa. The UU movement in South Africa is selling greeting/ Christmas cards—the profits are used to promote the development of UU in Southern Africa.

You can order the cards at the following Web site:  
<http://www.unitarian.co.za>

Thank you very much for considering support for the development of the UU in Southern Africa.

Yours sincerely,  
*Peter Mansfield*  
*UU, Durban, South Africa*

## HAVANA PEACE CONFERENCE IN 2004

Dear Friend of Peace,

Warm greetings and heartfelt solidarity during the holiday season. An important meeting will be held in Havana August 4–7, 2004: Peace, Disarmament and Development—The Role of People of Good Faith in Creating a Better World. Details are available at <http://www.cubapeace.com>.

At this convocation we will discuss how we, as people of good faith, can be more effective in our communities, countries and beyond in collectively advancing and influencing a global agenda for peace.

The Cuban Movement for Peace and People's Sovereignty extends an invitation for you to join us at this historic international meeting.

Yours in friendship,  
*Marcel Hatch, Canadian Coordinator*  
*People of Good Faith Cuba Meeting, Aug 4-7, 2004*  
*2278 East 24th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5N 2V2*

[*Mr. Hatch writes on behalf of MOVPAZ, a United Nations- and Cuban-recognized NGO which works with religious and humanitarian organizations in many countries to promote global peace, disarmament and sustainable development with dignity. For more information on MOVPAZ see: <http://www.cubapeace.com/movpaz.html>.*]

## MEMBERSHIP

## OUR NEW PRAIRIE DIRECTORY

Don't you hate it when we get your phone number or e-mail address wrong for two whole years? This can happen! Please report any changes or corrections to your entry in the new edition of the *Prairie Directory of Members and Friends* to [prairieu@execpc.com](mailto:prairieu@execpc.com), or tell Dan Proud, Al Nettleton, Judy Skog, or Phoenix Wardell. **Check that your address on the mailing label on this issue is correct.** Thanks!

### Additions:

Jeanie Trigg  
2130 Rusk St., Madison, WI 53704  
Tel. 301-0289; cell phone 920-915-0966

Maggie Siegfried  
5209 Tolman Terr., Madison, WI 53711  
Tel. 345-6190

### Change:

Andy and Mary Somers  
Seaspray, 1530 Miracle Strip Parkway, S.E.  
Unit 116A  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
Tel. 850-243-4378

### Correction:

Barb Bailly  
15 N. Hancock St. #209, Madison, WI 53703  
Tel. 257-0238; Bibi228@aol.com

## SOCIAL ACTION

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ALLIED DR. KIDS

As announced at Prairie last Sunday, Joining Forces for Families (JFF) has had many last-minute requests for Christmas gifts from families that have recently moved into the Allied Drive Neighborhood and therefore were not included in the original requests that went out to groups. Currently, the Allied Neighborhood has the highest concentration of grade school children in the city, so the need is great. You can help!

When you are out doing Christmas shopping this week, pick up a gift for a child. The need is for gifts from children from preschool to teens. It would be most helpful if gifts are "unisex". This would give

the staff the maximum flexibility. For example, a game or a Walkman would be appreciated by both boys and girls.

Please bring whatever you buy, unwrapped, to Prairie on Sunday, December 21. We will see to it that they get to the JFF office on Monday. The gifts will be distributed on Tuesday.

Thank you all for your help.

*Barbara Park and the Prairie Social Action Committee*

### **COOKIES FOR THE HOMELESS**

Prairie volunteers are providing breakfast at the Men's Drop-in Shelter at Grace Episcopal Church next Tuesday. We would like to include cookies for the men to bring a little Christmas cheer. If you would like to contribute, please bring cookies to Paula Pachciarz on Sunday for us to distribute. We need 22 dozen!

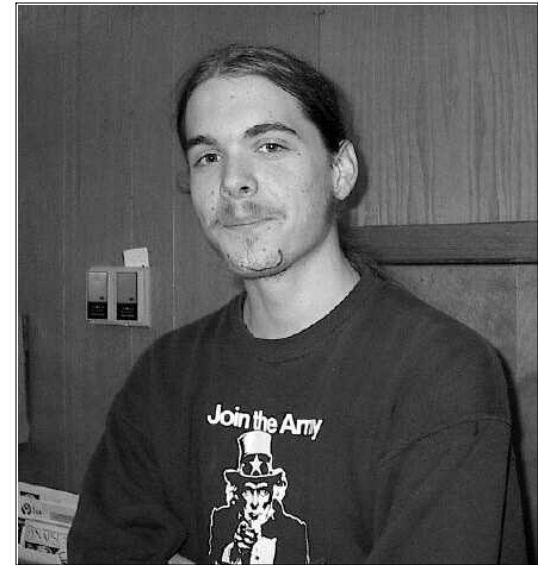
### **LUNCHEON PANEL ON THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS**

On December 7 the Social Action Committee sponsored a luncheon which featured a panel of five students from the Madison Unitarian Universalist Young Adult & Campus Ministry, the UU group on the UW campus. The panelists shared their reactions to the annual protest at Fort Benning,

Georgia, organized by the School of the Americas Watch (<http://www.soaw.org/>) that they had all participated in two weeks earlier with 10,000 other demonstrators from around the country.

The U.S. Army facility, officially renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" in 2001, has been called a school of assassins because of its role in training South and Central American soldiers who were later involved in death squad activities such as the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero.

The panel was joined by Amy Owen, presenter of the morning service, who shared her perspective



from participating in these annual protests in years past.

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all the Prairie members who bought a bowl of soup or chili at the luncheon, and extend a special thanks to the five panel members, Lynn Ann Czarnecki, Derrick Wagner, Megan Kratz, BethAnne Freund, and Kevin Schutz.

When offered an honorarium by the Program Committee for their appearance, they said they did not want any money, and offered to donate the honorarium to the Social Action Committee's luncheon fund-raising effort (their idea, not ours). With funds from both sources, the Committee was able to raise \$174 from the luncheon for our local projects.

Thanks also to Marlon Wacker. In an informal addition to the panel presentation, he shared his recent experiences with police violence against demonstrators at the Free Trade Area of the Americas meeting in Miami last month.

*Bob Park*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### CMWD ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

The Central Midwest District is soliciting proposals for workshops at the District Assembly April 23–25, 2004. Workshop proposals must be received in the District Office **no later than Friday, January 23, 2004**, to be considered. Forms are available on the back table of the meeting room.

Please send your proposals to:

Central Midwest District, UUA  
4415 W. Harrison St., Suite 310  
Hillside, IL 60162

You can also e-mail it to: [cmwd@cmwd-uua.org](mailto:cmwd@cmwd-uua.org) or fax it to 708-236-0829. If you have any questions, please contact the Central Midwest District Office.

### SPREAD YOUR UU VALUES AND BELIEFS— BECOME A CHALICE LIGHTER

A Chalice Lighter is anyone who agrees to support, three times a year, congregations that apply for grants from the Central Midwest District's Growth and Support Committee. You donate a minimum of \$10 each time.

If you would like to become a Chalice Lighter and support congregations in need in our Central Midwest District, complete the form in the last *Prairie Fire* and mail it to the District office at 4415 W. Harrison St., Suite 310, Hillside, IL 60162. For more information, talk to Nancy Schraufnagel.



Photos by Bob Park



### 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

### BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross is always short on blood supply around this time of year. All area UUs are invited to donate on Sunday, December 28, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Society at the Lower Meeting House. If you can donate, please call Ann Mosser at 845-7458 to schedule a time. A donor card, driver's license, or two other forms of ID are required at check-in.



## UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS CONTEST 2004

Next year, one of the popular Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) holiday cards that help make our work possible could be designed by you! This year's UUSC holiday cards by contest winner Carolyn Planakis of the UU Congregation of Marin in San Rafael, California, have been a great success in congregations nationwide.

We urge creative UUs of all ages who are passionate about human rights and social justice to submit a design for a new UUSC card for the 2004 holiday season. The winning card designers' names and congregations will be printed on their cards, which will be purchased and shared by UUs nationwide.

Submissions must be received by UUSC on or **before April 15, 2004**. UUSC will soon mail submission guidelines and a colorful flyer to all congregations and volunteers, and post both pieces on our Web site, [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Mail submissions to: UUSC Holiday Card Contest, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845  
E-mail submissions to: [volunteerservices@uusc.org](mailto:volunteerservices@uusc.org)  
*Rachel M. Binderman*  
*Associate for Member Development, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*

### Office Hours for the Prairie Office Administrator

Mondays 7–9 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.–12 noon

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

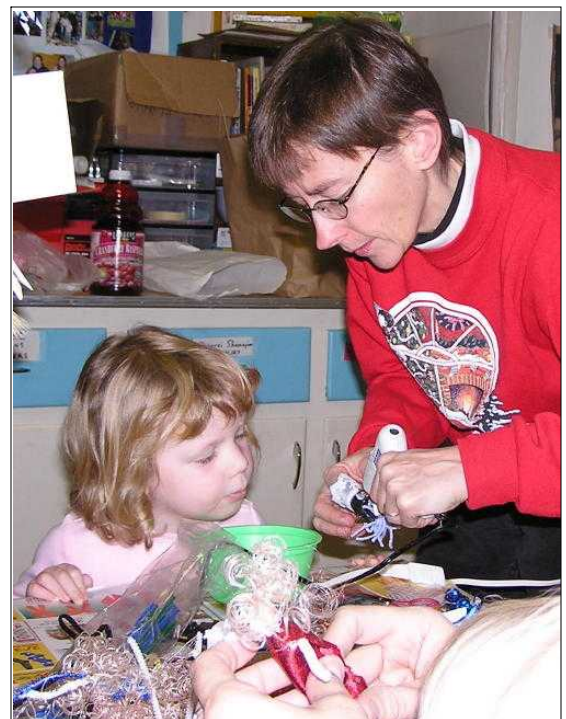
### JEANIE TRIGG IS NEW R.E. DIRECTOR

As reported in the last Prairie Fire, Jeanie Trigg has begun as the new Director of Religious Education. She is doing a great job! To call Jeanie, her number is 301–0289; cell phone is 920–915–0966.



### NIFTY GIFTY IS A BIG HIT!

Let's let the pictures (next page) do all the talking. These photos were taken by Carl Wacker at the gift-making session downstairs last Sunday, December 14. Great shots, Carl!

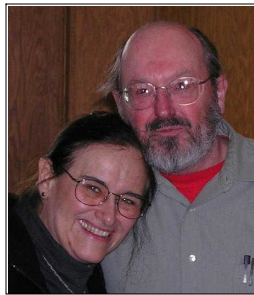




## PROGRAM

### MOZART PROGRAM DELIGHTS ALL

Every member should bring along a friend and a grandma when we schedule a musical Sunday program. Sunday, December 14 was delightful. Thanks to Carl Wacker for the following photos.



*Ed.*



## OTHER NEWS

### FUS FILM: NEW FACES ON MAIN STREET

On Friday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Living Room of First Unitarian Society, this hour-long video will be shown with a discussion following the presentation. Through interviews and testimonies, Latino and Hmong refugees and immigrants share their reasons for coming to the U.S. and what life is like for them. Please join us to understand better the beliefs and culture of these people who live in Madison. Refreshments will be served. Information, call Suzie deBeers, 833-0506.

*This is part of a film series that usually meets the third Friday of the month through May.*

### PRAIRIE ARTISTS IN EXHIBITS

Metje Butler is showing photos in two exhibits: in a Madison Art Guild showing at the Crossroads Gallery (top floor) in the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street, through the end of December; and photography and sculpture in the Sky Lounge at the University Hospital, December 10-January 8.

Prairie member Marty Drapkin is having a photographic exhibit, "Mothers and Daughters," at the Crossroads Gallery, January 2-30.

### ORGANIZING VOTER REGISTRATION

The League of Women Voters has offered to convene a non-partisan, organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2004 at 12:15 p.m., tentatively at First Unitarian Society.



Groups who have expressed interest in attending include the League of Women Voters of Dane County, several UU societies, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, and the about-to-be-formed League of Women Voters unit on the UW campus.

The purpose of this initial meeting is to determine overall community interest in launching a coordinated effort to get out the vote. The value of a coordinated effort involving the above groups is to (1) avoid duplication of efforts, (2) share resources, (3) lend support to each other's planned activities, (4) give individuals an opportunity to participate, and (5) determine the gaps in conducting a successful campaign and how they are to be filled.

If you plan to attend the initial meeting on January 7, please contact Dan Proud ( [prouds@tds.net](mailto:prouds@tds.net) or call 661-0776) so that we have a head count in advance.  
*Carol Kiemel, League of Women Voters of Dane County*

## 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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### **Defending Democracy 2004 mobilizes youth vote to combat cynicism, indifference**

No event will affect our nation more in the upcoming years than the 2004 presidential election. In response, UUSC is helping congregations, community groups, youth and young adults to raise the issues that are most important to us and to get out the vote. We are planning Defending Democracy 2004 drive, a cross-country campaign that will stress the urgency to defend democracy against indifference and cynicism.

We urge you to tell youth and young adults you may know about the Defending Democracy 2004 drive. For more about Defending Democracy, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article120103a.html>

For other ways to get involved in the 2004 elections, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article120103.html>

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### **Guatemala election: Ex-dictator loses in bid to return to power**

In an election closely watched by human rights observers, including a delegation led by UUSC, Guatemala voters rejected the candidacy of former military dictator Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt in his effort to return to power as president. He finished third in the balloting. A runoff election will take place on December 28 between the top two candidates since no other candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote. For more

about the Guatemala elections, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article111003.html>. For a pictorial overview of the elections, visit <http://www.uusc.org/elections2003/del.html>.

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### **Action alert: Protest move by GOP leadership to block approval of Cuba travel amendment**

Less than three weeks after bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress approved an end to the ban on travel to Cuba, the Republican leadership deleted the amendment from the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill. We urge advocates to rise up in protest and keep the pressure on elected policy-makers. For more information on how you can become involved, visit

<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert111403.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*

