



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." Bond of Union)

January 9, 2004

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

Editor: Dan Proud, prairieu@execpc.com; (608) 661-0776

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. "Deepening the Journey of Healing" with Amy Owen.

11:30 a.m. Prairie Potluck, followed by Fitchburg Center Site Informational Meeting.

1:00 p.m. Prairie Book Club, "Journey into the Whirlwind" by Eugenia Ginzburg. (See page 3.)

Monday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 18

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. UU Scientists Rachel Carson and Eugene Odum, presented by Kathy Converse.

Sunday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. Al Nettleton, continuation of his lay ministry on hymns in "The Living Tradition II."

Sunday, February 1

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. Marilyn and Rick Ruecking, midwinter title to be announced.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Saturday, February 7

7:00 p.m. Playreading at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker. (See page 2.)

Sunday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Sarah Lord leads a program on criminal justice.

February 8-15

Interfaith Hospitality Network volunteer week

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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. Join Amy Owen for this third and final program on forgiveness.

The program will be followed by a potluck (please bring a dish to share—nothing containing nuts).

An informational meeting will follow, a presentation on the Fitchburg Center site in consideration for our relocation plans.

At 1 p.m., the Book Club will be discussing JOURNEY INTO THE WHIRLWIND, which 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 late 1930s.

Monday, January 12

Prairie women (WOW) will gather at 6 p.m. at Prairie. The program considers creative writing using the model from *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron. Paula will facilitate this gathering.

The Artist's Way provides tools and exercises for creative unblocking. The author's premise is that "creativity is our true nature", and that, by following the practices in the book, we can clear "pathways in our consciousness through which the creative forces can operate." Cameron does not separate creativity from spirituality, but believes that what her book offers, "in essence, is a spiritual path, initiated and practiced through creativity." Also, the book really works!

In addition to talking about the operating philosophy of the book, I'll invite you all to engage in one or two of the many exercises that Julia Cameron suggests. I'm not sure yet what they'll be-- we may be making a collage. I hope you'll find the activities fun.

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

Sunday, January 18

Rachel Carson and Eugene Odum spent their lives teaching a generation how everything in the world fits together, how humans are part of the problem and the solution. In this Sunday service, Kathy Converse presents the mother and father of the environmental movement in America.

Eugene Odum made the relationship between human activity and natural processes an essential part of his teachings on the concept of an ecosystem. His *Fundamentals of Ecology*, published in 1953, was the first book written for the scientific study of ecology.

During the same time period, Rachel Carson questioned the use of chemical pesticides and aroused worldwide concern for preservation of the environment. Her book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, brought new energy to the growing environmental movement. Their work embodies our Prairie Unitarian Universalist Bond of Union "As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and become one with the natural world, and with one another."

Sunday, January 25

This is the second program in Al Nettleton's Lay Ministry series examining the authors, composers and words in our UU hymnal. Emphasis is upon the threads that the UU principles take throughout the book.

OUR SOCIETY

LAY MINISTRY PROPOSALS

We are not even used to writing 2004 yet, but it is time to start thinking of ideas for Lay Ministries for the 2004-05 Prairie calendar. Please submit your ideas to Barbara Chatterton, Paula Pachciarz, Susan Hagstrom or Dean and Orange Schroeder for the Committee on Committees consideration. Thanks, *Barbara Chatterton, Chair*

CALL FOR PLAYREADERS

Prairie members and friends are invited to participate in a playreading at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker on Saturday, February 7, at 7 p.m. We will read Lynda Barry's *The Good Times Are Killing Me*, a moving play about the friendship between two girls of different races during the 1960s. This is an intergenerational play and has many roles for teens and adults. It includes music from that era, which we will be playing. If you think you will be coming, please let Paula or Carl know so that we will have an idea of how many to expect. (Call 273-4706.)

Paula Pachciarz

A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE DEADLINE

It's time to return those boxes and write those checks! Please bring in your Guest at Your Table donations any Sunday this month.

Dan Proud

BOOK CLUB WHIRLS INTO ACTION

This is just to let you know that the PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB will meet as planned on Sunday, January 11, but around 1 p.m. rather than right after the Prairie service because of a potluck and an information session on the Fitchburg site after that.

The Book Club will be discussing JOURNEY INTO THE WHIRLWIND, which 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 late 1930s. I don't believe this book is available in paperback, but Rose Smith did get a copy from the library which Al Nettleton now has. It is slightly overdue (January 2) and with a hold on it when it is returned: 365.64G43j, Nonfiction area, 1st floor.

Another book by Ginzburg has the title WITHIN THE WHIRLWIND. I'm assuming it is the same book. It is at the main downtown library with a call number of 365.60924G435g, Nonfiction area, 1st floor.

If you have a library card, you can search for and reserve books over the Internet at <http://www.linkcat.info/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=dial>

Our Next Selection: THE TIPPING POINT on Sunday, February 8. This is an easy-to-read non-fiction book that compares commercial successes with the model of epidemics. It is available in paperback. I've finished my copy so could lend it out. It should be available at Borders. Tell them this is a Prairie Book Club selection to get 20% off.

To discuss soon...Since we have often been bumped because of other events, we may want to discuss moving the book club meeting time away from the usual after Prairie service time. We also need to choose our spring books.

Mary Mullen

DYING TO SEE A MOVIE?

Here is an upcoming social opportunity for Prairie movie-goers. The date we are thinking of is January 18 at 1:15. The movie is *21 Grams*, at Hilldale.

This is not a "light" movie; it should be eminently discussable. We're assuming that it will still be there on January 18, but check the listings to make sure.

We are alerting you now, so that you won't go see it between now and then, and can "save" it for the Prairie outing. But if you *must* see it before then, perhaps you would still like to join us afterward for a discussion. The place for the discussion is yet to be determined, so we will publicize that later.

Erin Bosch

TREASURER HUNT

The Committee on Committees is looking for a new treasurer, starting term in May or June 2004. Please give me a ring at 238-4970 (home) or 267-4797 (work) or SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com or hagstst@dhfs.state.wi.us if you have questions or would consider taking on the job.

Susan Hagstrom

MEMBERSHIP

OUR NEW PRAIRIE DIRECTORY

The new directory is coming out shortly.  Please report any changes or corrections to your entry to 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!

Changes:

Mike and Norma Briggs
E-mail: brigglaw@earthlink.net

Jeanie Trigg
E-mail: jeanie.trigg@sbcglobal.net

Anne Urbanski
E-mail: anneu53714@yahoo.com

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

Prairie Office Administrator Office Hours

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

LONG RANGE PLANNING

AD HOC COMMITTEE FORMED

The Executive Board recently created an Ad Hoc Committee on long-range planning and defined the following guidelines:

1. The Ad Hoc Committee should be constituted as a subcommittee of the Long Range Planning Committee, and its mandate should be extended so it can proceed with additional negotiations concerning the Fitchburg site, regularly reporting progress to the committee, the board and the membership and soliciting input from the board and the membership.
2. Each standing committee should define its needs for space in a new building (in two categories: essential needs and long-term wishes) and summarize them for the Ad Hoc Committee on or before January 15, 2004.
3. On or before January 11, 2004, Fitchburg Center should be invited to make a presentation and to answer questions and hear comments from Prairie members.
4. The eight weeks following the Fitchburg Center presentation should be a time for discussion of the Fitchburg Center opportunity and alternatives to it. The discussion could take place by way of editorials in Prairie Fire, comments sent to PrairieViews, a meeting, or a combination of approaches.
5. Before any meeting takes place, the Ad Hoc Committee should formulate groundrules for discussion, bearing UU principles in mind. Any meeting should be strictly and impartially moderated.
6. A special business meeting should be called for March 14, 2004, for the purpose of voting whether Prairie should commit to a new building design with the Fitchburg Center site in mind.
7. Reimbursement for architectural or other expert help during this process should be authorized only by the Board.

SOCIAL ACTION

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK TRAINING IN 2004

Prairie's next commitment to help with the Interfaith Hospitality Network will be February 8-15. We have had excellent participation over the years that we've been doing this community service, but we are always looking for more to become involved. The Madison IHN offers periodic training sessions for those who are interested in volunteering or who have been volunteering.

Each session is two hours long and provides information about the role of a volunteer and insight into the families we are helping. All past and potential volunteers who have not yet had the training are strongly encouraged to take advantage of one of these free sessions. Please leave a message at the Day Center number (294-7998 ext. 306) for Shannon Hayes with your name and phone number if you plan to attend a session. The Day Center address is 1121 University Avenue.

- January 4 Sunday 12:30-4:30 p.m. Dale Heights Presbyterian, 5501 University Ave.
- January 12 Monday 7-9 p.m. Day Center
- January 18 Sunday 2:30-4:30 p.m. Christ Presbyterian, 944 E. Gorham St.
- January 20 Tuesday 7-9 p.m. First Unitarian Society, 900 University Ave.
- February 15 Sunday 12:00-2:00 McFarland UCC, 5710 Anthony St., McFarland
- February 17 Tuesday 7-9 p.m. Day Center
- March 17 Wednesday 7-9 p.m. Day Center
- April 1 Thursday 7-9 p.m. Day Center
- May 3 Monday 7-9 p.m. Day Center

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>

THE JOY OF (SERVING) COOKIES

The kitchen at the men's drop-in shelter the Tuesday morning before Christmas was filled with the smell of scrambled eggs and cookies, the sound of laughter, and the comraderie of a group of cooks from Prairie. Irene Cline, Paula Pachciarz, Jeanie and Kate Trigg, Jeni Savage, and Judy Wacker cooked up a fine breakfast and had a great time doing it. We helped feed over a hundred and thirty men AND had enough cookies to give each man at least two.

We want to express our appreciation for the way that Glen, the night manager, and Leroy, his assistant, organized us and made us feel welcome.

And where did all those cookies come from? Besides those brought by the six above, cookies were donated by the Arnold-Long family, the Converse family, Barb Park, Molly Plunkett, and Anne Pryor. Barb Park also bought the prodigious amount of groceries needed and delivered them to the shelter the day before. Thank you all very much.

Those interested in helping out January 27 can contact Paula Pachciarz.

Paula Pachciarz

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.

There is a correction to the address for submitting proposals:

Lena Neal
331 Camarie Court, Naperville, IL 60540
lneal@packereng.com

or to

Central Midwest District, UUA
4415 W. Harrison St., Suite 310, Hillside, IL 60162
708-236-0829 (fax)
cmwd@cmwd-uua.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WILD WINTERING SET FOR FEBRUARY 7

Wild Wintering, an annual program for our kids, will be held at Prairie starting Saturday, February 7, at 3:00 p.m. Everyone will go roller skating, have supper at the church and sleep over. Yummy breakfast at Prairie ends this kidfest.

NIFTY GIFTY WAS NIFTY BUT NOT SWIFTY

The wonderfully successful gift-making program was great, but a few projects were left to dry and still need to be picked up from the counter downstairs.

SUNDAY R.E. PROGRAMS AT PRAIRIE

Last Sunday the junior high and senior high kids watched and discussed the Dr. Martin Luther King "I Had a Dream" video.

This month we continue the curriculum on Peace and Social Justice at the four levels: junior-senior high, middle school, elementary, and pre-school/kindergarten. The last group will be making sun god medallions on Sunday. Teachers are needed: share your peace and justice expertise and learn a little, too!

PROGRAM

Books mentioned in the January 4 program as guaranteed good reads:

The X-President, by Philip Baruth (fiction)

The Autobiography of an American Communist, by Peggy Dennis

UnGodly: The Passions, a Torments, and Murder of Atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, by Ted Dracos

Journey into the Whirlwind, by Eugenia Semyonovna Ginzburg

Bushwacked, by Molly Ivins and Lou DuBose

Collected Stories, by Richard Kennedy

Stupid White Men, by Michael Moore

Shadow of the Hunter, by Richard K. Nelson

Krakatoa, by Simon Winchester

OTHER NEWS

PUBLIC FORUM AND PROTESTS ON FREE TRADE AND ROLE OF THE U.S. MILITARY

A public forum on "Free Trade and Military Interventionism" will be held from 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 11 in the main auditorium of First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr.

The forum, which has been organized by the church's Social Justice Council in response to Oliver North's visit to Madison on January 13-14, will be introduced by the Rev. Michael Schuler. It will feature Atty. Ed Garvey, Sister Marge Eilerman of the Colombia Support Network, Urban League Executive Director Steve Braunginn, and Donna Vukelich, who lived in Nicaragua during the 1980s and 90s.

North, a Lt. Colonel in the Marines who was convicted of three felonies committed during the Iran-Contra scandal, will be honored as the keynote speaker and "a leading proponent of free market policies" at the "Business Day in Madison" event sponsored by the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC).

At the forum, Garvey will address U.S. free trade policies and the WMC's lobbying record. Sister Marge Eilerman will cover the connection between U.S. free trade policies and military interventions in Central America. Braunginn will speak about the impact on the African-American community of North's drugs-for-guns trading and the resulting distribution and sale of illegal drugs in large inner cities. Vukelich, who lived in Nicaragua for 15 years while North was financing and arming the illegal Contra War, in defiance of a Congressional prohibition, will address how free trade policies and illicit funding of the Contras has affected the people of Nicaragua over the past two decades.

The WMC is publicly promoting North as "a leading proponent of free market policies" and is paying him \$30,000 to deliver the keynote luncheon address at Monona Terrace Convention Center. For more information about the forum, contact Craig McComb at cmccomb@tds.net or 233-5566.

In related actions, there will be a peaceful demonstration to protest North's presence at 7 p.m. Tuesday night, January 13, outside the Madison

Club, at the corner of E. Wilson St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. downtown, where the WMC is holding a fundraising dinner in honor of North. Another peaceful demonstration and street theater will occur at the same site at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, before North gives his noon keynote luncheon address at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. The WMC will lobby state legislators at the Capitol from 1:45 to 3:30 p.m. as part of their "Business Day in Madison" event.

UUSC E-MAIL BULLETIN

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

New year brings challenges, opportunities for human rights activists: A message from our president

"As we welcome the new year, we are energized by both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead. Our nation is still dealing with the fallout from the war with Iraq. We know that the enormous costs of this war – both human and financial - have diverted precious resources away from pressing social needs at home and around the world. . . . The past year strengthened our resolve to work for justice at home and around the world. With the continued support of our members and other activists, we are committed to helping to make a difference in the lives of the powerless and oppressed. . . We invite you to join us in this exciting journey."

For the full New Year's message from UUSC President Charlie Clements, visit

www.uusc.org/info/article122203.html

Shareholders focus on getting "Big Pharma's" drugs to world's poor

UUSC has joined with a group of other investors affiliated with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility to press America's pharmaceutical companies to increase access to anti-retroviral AIDS drugs in the developing world. As a human rights organization, UUSC has watched inaction by "Big Pharma" rob people of their health and dignity and decimate communities. As a participant in shareholder advocacy, UUSC is also making business aware that the costs of inaction are enormous in terms of a company's brand strength, public relations and future profits.

Visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article122303r3.html>

Service Committee News now available online

The Fall 2003 issue of the Service Committee News is now available online at www.uusc.org/pdf/83874A.pdf

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; ph: 617 868-6600; fax: 617 868-7102; www.uusc.org