



# 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 Bond of Union)

**August 20, 2004**

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

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 22

8:30 a.m. R.E. Committee meeting  
☞ 10:00 a.m. "How Far Can Reach a Smile?"  
presented by Judy Skog.  
11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. R.E. teacher orientation  
☞ 4:00 p.m. Social Action Committee-sponsored  
presentation by Johnny Wolf, founder of Crawford  
(Texas) Peace House. Followed by potluck.

### Sunday, August 29

Prairie Retreat registration forms due  
☞ 10:00 a.m. "Let's Get Playful," intergenerational  
game day led by Rick Ruecking and Erin Bosch  
☞ 11:30 a.m. Social Action Committee meeting

### Sunday, September 5

☞ 10:00 a.m. Canoe and kayak trip at Wingra Park  
☞ 12:00 noon. Picnic at Wingra Park

### Sunday, September 12

10:00 a.m. R.E. classes begin  
10:00 a.m. Ingathering and Sharing the Waters

### September 17-19 Annual Retreat, Bethel Horizons

#### Friday, September 17

7:00 p.m. Prairie Board Meeting at Bethel

#### Saturday, September 18

☞ ~9:00 a.m. Prairie Book Club discussion of  
*Nobody's Fool* by Richard Russo

☞ = Details follow in this issue.

## **NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 5**

## DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS

### Sunday, August 22

Are you feeling a little frayed regarding Prairie doings? Would you like to have a little fun without worrying about what's going to happen related to growth or to a building or a minister? We will play some games and share with each other, to build on the great community that we have at Prairie.

### Sunday, August 29

Playing silly games is one of life's simple pleasures. Games like "I Love My Neighbor," and the broom game will be played by the entire group together. Then we may divide into age groups to play other games. If you would like to suggest a game to be included, call Erin Bosch or Rick Ruecking by 8/28.

### Sunday, September 5

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, with opportunities to play with frisbees and things in the park. This will be followed by a picnic 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 bring a dish to share. Folding chairs are a good idea if you have them.

We will have people available to give instructions about paddle strokes and other 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, or send an e-mail to [warrenolaf@aol.com](mailto:warrenolaf@aol.com).

Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun. In case of inclement weather, stay home, but a little drizzle isn't really "inclement."

## OUR SOCIETY

### PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS PLAN PARTIES

Prairie Playreaders is a group of Prairie members that get together monthly to read plays. No skill is necessary, just a willingness to read and enjoy. The tentative schedule is as follows.

#### **Date (Host)**

September 25 — (Paula Pachciarz)  
October 16 — (Mona Birong)  
November 20 — (Rosemary Dorney)  
December 11 — (Ruth & George Calden)  
January 22 — (Bob & Barb Park; Donna Murdoch)  
February 19, 2 p.m. — Group outing to see *Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* at Bartell Theatre  
March 19 — (Dan & Robin Proud)  
April 23 — (Susan Hagstrom)  
May 14 — (Nancy Graham)  
June 17 — Fish Fry

Further information will follow as the dates approach. Starting time varies from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The host has the choice of plays. If anyone has any questions, or would like me to arrange transportation, please give me a call at 238-4970 (feel free to leave a message) or email me at [SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com](mailto:SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com).

*Susan Hagstrom*

### BOOK CLUB DATES

**Saturday, September 18**, at the annual retreat at Bethel Horizons: Richard Russo's *NOBODY'S FOOL*. You may have seen the movie, starring Paul Newman. This is a story about an older guy, a construction worker in upstate New York, who is dealing with his long-estranged son. The discussion may be as early as 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

**Sunday, October 24** after the Prairie service: *FLASH HOUSE* by Aimee Liu. This novel is set in New Delhi in 1949. A woman who runs a refuge for young girls in the city's red light district sets out on a

treacherous journey to Kashmir where her husband's plane has gone down. She is accompanied by her husband's best friend, a half-Sikh, half-Chinese orphan she has rescued. Barbara Chatterton recommends this love story and political thriller, having found it extremely thoughtful and engrossing.

**Sunday, November 21:** *PEACE LIKE A RIVER* by Leif Anger. This is a book about a family in Minnesota. Erin Bosch recommends it as well-written and "uplifting," giving us a nice change from some of the more depressing books we have read.

**Sunday, December 5:** *THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH* by Beverly Naidoo. This is part of the review from *Publisher's Weekly*:

"Sade, the 12-year-old protagonist of Naidoo's sophisticated and emotional novel, must flee her native Nigeria with her younger brother after their mother is killed in a shooting. Their father, a muckraking journalist in trouble with the military government, was the target. Sade and 10-year-old Femi soon find themselves stranded in London, abandoned by the woman paid to smuggle them into the country, and at the mercy of mostly friendly, but foreign, government agencies, foster families and teachers." Sarah Lord recommends this as a fast read and thought-provoking.

**Sunday, January TBD:** *THE PIANO TUNER* by Daniel Mason is set in Burma in the late 1800's. A shy piano tuner from London sets out with an unusual commission from the British War Office to tune a piano in the middle of the jungle in what is now Thailand. Barbara Chatterton recommends this with its fascinating setting and intriguing story of political adventure and unforgettable characters.

### HELP! UU MOVING TO MADISON

Eileen Newman, a UU, is trying to relocate to Madison in September. She is looking for a top level, one-bedroom apartment in a residential area. She wants the place to have a personal washer/dryer (or to share with others who do not use scented detergents and dryer sheets) and to be quiet. She is sensitive to chemicals, so places with new carpeting, new linoleum, and new construction are out. If you have any leads, please contact her at [eileen14800@yahoo.com](mailto:eileen14800@yahoo.com) or 317-466-0906. (She is also looking for a job in nonprofit management.)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE had the first of several cleanup days on Saturday, August 14. Although some RE areas may temporarily look worse, lots of clutter has been cleared! The supply closet is getting a real makeover, and everything downstairs should be much more easily accessible and organized by the time RE starts.

I would like to give special thanks to the hard work of the first group of brave volunteers: Rachel Long, Paula Pachciarz, Judy and Toby Wacker, Robin Carre and Ezra and Mimi, Judy and Ken Skog, Dan Proud, and my son Leif. You are all amazing!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We need your help! On Sunday, August 29, we are having another cleanup day. If you are able to attend, we would love to have your assistance! By this point most or all sorting should be complete, so we will just need help sanitizing toys, washing, painting, etc. Thanks in advance to those who can help. It will get the RE year off to a much smoother start!

*Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, DRE*

### **P.S. Other important upcoming events in RE:**

RE Committee: Sunday, August 22, 8:30 a.m.

Teacher Orientation: Sunday, August 22, 11:45–2:00

Fall Frolic: November 6–7 (overnight)

## PRAIRIE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

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

## SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR

*Saturdays 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.*

*Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249–5933*

## PRAIRIE WEB SITES

*Prairie UU Society:*

<http://prairie.madison.uua.org/~prairie/>

*Prairie News Group:*

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

*Prairie Views Group:*

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

*Social Action:*

<http://socialaction.homestead.htm>

## PROGRAM

### SONG FROM THE MUSICALE

Carl Wacker has given permission for his lyrics (with contributions by Judy and Toby Wacker) to be reprinted here. The charming rendition of “She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain” by Toby, Judy, and Carl was one of the highlights of the wonderful musical program at Prairie on August 8.

#### That Good Ol' Danville Water

Got that good ol' Danville water in my blood! (yes I do!)  
Got that good ol' Danville water, tastes like mud (yes it do!)  
Got some atrazine and nitrates,  
Oh I love to pay dem high rates,  
Got that good ol' Danville water in my blood! (yes I do!)

It come straight out of the river, full o' mud! (yes it do!)  
They add chlorine and then take out all the crud (I'm a stud!)  
And then, even when it's snowing,  
Through the lead pipes it comes flowing,  
Got that good ol' Danville water in my blood! (yes I do!)

Well, it washes down our breakfast, lunch, an' dinner (yes...)  
Makes us strong and wise, it's good for saint 'n' sinner  
(yes it is!)  
And, it helps to grow our flowers,  
Gets us clean when we take showers,  
Got that good ol' Danville water in my blood! (yes I do!)



*Photos by Carl Wacker*



## LETTERS

### HOPE FOR THE HOMESTRETCH

(A letter distributed by e-mail)



Dear Friend,

These are tough political times. We want to recommend a new book that lifts the fog of political despair that envelops so many these days--"*The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear.*"

This book creates a conversation among some of the most visionary and eloquent voices of our times: Nelson Mandela, Maya Angelou, Arundhati Roy, Tony Kushner, and Václav Havel. Alice Walker, Jonathan Kozol, Diane Ackerman, Susan Griffin, and Marian Wright Edelman. Cornel West, Terry Tempest Williams, Jim Hightower, and Desmond Tutu. There's also some guy named Howard Zinn.

With this book, editor Paul Rogat Loeb, whom Susan Sontag has called "a national treasure" for his work on courage and conscience, builds on his activist classic, "*Soul of a Citizen.*" He explores what it's like to go up against Goliath, whether South African apartheid, the iron fist of Eastern European dictatorship, or Mississippi segregation. These stories don't sugarcoat the obstacles. But they inspire hope by showing what keeps us keeping on—even when the odds seem overwhelming. They replenish the wellsprings of our commitment.

If you care about change in a world where most people are told their voices don't count, think of this book as a gift to yourself—hope for the homestretch in an immensely critical election, bread for the journey to keep on working for justice no matter what happens in November, sustenance to return to again and again at those points when your spirit begins to flag.

Find out more by visiting [www.theimpossible.org](http://www.theimpossible.org) You'll find excerpts from the book, wonderful reviews, suggestions for reading groups and classroom questions, and lots more. Barbara Ehrenreich says, "For anyone worn down by four years of Bushism, *The Impossible Will Take a Little While* is a bracing double cappuccino!" MoveOn cofounder Joan Blades says, "As I read these stories, I'm reminded yet again of the incredible power individuals have when we come together." And Arianna Huffington writes, "Put away your Prozac

and pick up *The Impossible Will Take a Little While.*"

Thanks for reading this.... Please forward it to anyone who could use a song of hope in these difficult times. And do your soul a favor by reading the book.

Yours,

*Bonnie Raitt & Howard Zinn*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### JOB OPENING FOR YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

First Unitarian Society is calling for applicants for a 1/3-time Program Coordinator for Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Job details are posted at: [www.fusmadison.org/adult/YACoordinator.shtml](http://www.fusmadison.org/adult/YACoordinator.shtml)

Feel free to contact Rev. Scott Prinster at [scottp@fusmadison.org](mailto:scottp@fusmadison.org) or at 233-9774 x24 for more information.

## SOCIAL ACTION

### ALLIED DRIVE NEEDS BACK PACKS

The Social Action Committee is appealing for donations of new backpacks for the Allied Drive Boys and Girls Club. Backpacks can be of any size appropriate for grades kindergarden through high school. This drive is being sponsored by Allied Partners, of which Prairie is a member. Please bring the backpacks to Prairie by next Sunday (August 22) because the distribution is scheduled for August 26. Thank you.

*Bob Park*

### DISCUSS UUA STUDY/ ACTION AND ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

The Social Action Committee will meet on Sunday, August 29 after the program at Prairie, starting about 11:30 a.m. We will talk about ways to engage, as a committee and as a congregation, with the Actions of Immediate Witness and Study/Action Issues approved by this year's UUA General Assembly (as described at [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw)). Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **SOCIAL ACTION FORUM & POTLUCK SUNDAY, AUGUST 22**

The Social Action Committee has arranged for Johnny Wolf, founder of the Crawford Peace House in Crawford, Texas (near the Bush ranch), to speak at Prairie at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 22. His presentation and discussion will be followed by a potluck supper at 5 p.m. Mr. Wolf is a Quaker peace activist from Dallas. He will be coming to us from a morning program at the Free Congregation of Sauk County, on his way to catching a 7 p.m. flight at the Dane County Airport. For details, see the Social Action Calendar of Events at <http://loonfoot.com/prsac/FILES/events.htm>.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

[*You can find more about these announcements on the information table in the fellowship hall.*]

Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. Special showing of "The Corporation" at Hilldale Theater, \$5 admission. Discussion afterwards at the Peking Palace. Sponsored by The Madison Institute, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Wisconsin Health Coalition, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Saturday, August 21. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Returning Prisoner Simulations, MUM, 2300 South Park St., middle of Villager Mall. Donations asked: \$15 adults/\$8 teens.

Please give generously to the MUM-Copps Families Emergency Fund.

### **PREMIERE THEATER PRODUCTION ON LESBIAN CULTURE COMES TO MADISON**

*Another Round*, a play depicting changes in lesbian culture over the past 40 years, will have its premiere production in Madison, September 1-4 at the Bartell Theater.

Set in a lesbian bar, the story by local playwright Kevyn Radcliffe shows the evolution of both mainstream and lesbian cultures, from the secretive world inhabited by lesbians in the early 1960s to greater acceptance and the more open lives that lesbians in many places can lead in 2004.

"Things have changed so drastically in the last 40 years," Radcliffe said. "I wanted to reflect those changes, to help audiences see in one evening how far we've come and to shine the spotlight on lesbian culture. We sometimes get lost in the coalition politics of LGBT (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender) issues, but lesbians have a distinct culture that we draw identity and strength from."

*Another Round* is being directed by Megan Cavanagh, a character actor who played Marla Hooch in *A League of Their Own* and now can be heard every Saturday morning as the voice of cartoon character Judy Neutron, mother of Jimmy. Cavanagh has also appeared on *Friends* and *Will & Grace*. *Another Round* marks her directorial debut.

"I'm thrilled to have the chance to help bring Kevyn's play to the public and to contribute to Madison's rich tradition of community theater," Cavanagh said. "This play is both uproariously funny and illuminating to both lesbians and non-lesbians, and I'm excited to help bring it to life."

*Another Round* is produced by Kissing Girls Productions and will run September 1-4 at the wheelchair-accessible Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St.

Tickets are \$12 each and go on sale August 12. They are available at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson Street; Green Earth East, 2094 Atwood Ave.; and Green Earth West, 6771 University Ave., Middleton.

For more information or to charge tickets by phone, call Jade River, 608-226-9998, or Daña Alder, 608-241-4001.

### **PRIMARIES: VOTE IN SEPTEMBER!**

Tuesday marked five weeks and counting until the September 14th primary in Wisconsin. Do you know who's running to represent you in the Wisconsin Legislature?

Action Wisconsin has updated their Fall 2004 State Legislative Elections Web resource with a new easy-to-read format and the latest information on which candidates are running for office:

[www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html](http://www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html)

Visit it today to learn who currently represents you, how they've voted on LGBT civil rights, and who's running to represent you in the next legislature.

On the site, you can also find out where you go to vote and how to register:

[www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html](http://www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html)

Later in August, Action Wisconsin will release their 2004 candidate survey for state and federal legislative races. This survey will include details on the positions of all candidates who take the time to respond and more information on how you can get in touch with various campaigns to learn more.

### **PRAIRIE FLORA: LATE-SEASON BLOOMS**

[A continuing newsletter tour of Prairie flora by Galen Smith, the sixth in the series.]

The prairie planting at our church continues to be glorious, although the flowers are increasingly hidden by the late-season grasses that have now produced their tall inflorescences. The following plants with showy flowers that were in flower on 21 July are still in full flower on 15 August:

- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), with large heads with pale purple rays and reddish centers. NOTE: Although purple coneflower is not native to Wisconsin, it is native farther south and is widely planted in prairie gardens and "restorations." Another species, pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), distinguished by its narrower leaves, is native to southern Wisconsin but now rather rare there.
- Yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), with large heads with drooping yellow rays and brown, high centers, is abundant in our prairie garden. It is very similar to the next species but has much higher brown centers and leaves usually with more than three lobes. This beautiful and popular plant is easily grown and is now making a beautiful show in Norma and Mike Brigg's prairie planting.
- Sweet Coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*) with large heads with yellow rays and brown centers and 3-lobed leaves (only one large showy clump in garden).

- Compass-plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), with groups of large yellow heads with horizontal rays and huge, tough, rough, deeply lobed leaves stand spectacularly to 9 feet tall far above the other plants.
- Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*), with small heads with many white rays and yellow centers. Rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) with its tough yucca-like leaves and bristly, ball-shaped, whitish heads of tiny flowers.
- Nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*), with its nodding heads of pinkish flowers is in a late stage of its very long flowering period.
- Purple prairie-clover (*Dalea purpurea* = *Petalostemum purpurea*), short plants with cylindrical spikes of small bright purple flowers (one plant on edge of garden behind our Prairie UU sign).
- Rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) with its tough yucca-like leaves and bristly, ball-shaped, whitish heads of tiny flowers.

The following native prairie grasses are now flowering or with young fruit:

- Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), with very tall and very open inflorescences, is even more obviously dominating the prairie garden than in July.
- Big bluestem or turkeyfoot (*Andropogon gerardi*), also very tall and obvious, has an inflorescence often resembling the foot of a turkey.
- Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* = *Andropogon scoparius*) is much shorter than either big bluestem or switch grass.
- Side-oats gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), with purple spikelets lined up on one side of the stems (a few plants on edge of garden nearest the church).

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Friday, August 20, is Asma (Names), the first day of the ninth month of the Baha'i year.  
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