



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)

April 22, 2005

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

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, April 23

*5:00 p.m. Spring Fling R.E. Event at Prairie
(overnight)

*7:30 p.m. Playreaders meet at Susan Hagstrom's,
916 Shorewood Blvd.

Sunday, April 24

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*10:00 a.m. "Latinos in Wisconsin," with Elena
Meyer

Tuesday, April 26

*2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders meet at Oakwood Village
West

Wednesday, April 27

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, May 1

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*10:00 a.m. "Gardening as Rejuvenation," with
Norma Briggs and Barb Park

Wednesday, May 4

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Thursday, May 5

*6:00 p.m. WOW potluck and meeting at Prairie

Sunday, May 8

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*10:00 a.m. "Ages and Stages," Transition Sunday
service with Erin Bosch

*12:00 noon. Humanist Union lunch and discussion
on the topic of skepticism, at Prairie.

Tuesday, May 10–Sunday, May 16

*Candidating Week for the Part-time Consulting
Minister candidate at Prairie

(* = *Details follow in this issue.*)

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 1

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, April 24

Elena Meyer will discuss Wisconsin's newcomer Latino population. After a brief presentation, Elena will facilitate a discussion based on our questions about past, present, and future issues involving the demographics, agricultural and service sector workforce changes, occupational health, educational accommodations, racism awareness, cultural expressions, mutual help networks, advocacy groups, and immigration policies related to our fascinating new "neighbors."

For the past three years, Elena has worked as a Bilingual Resource Specialist for the Madison Metropolitan School District, mainly with families living in the Allied Drive neighborhood. She has worked as a cross-cultural educator in various capacities for over thirty years.

Sunday, May 1

This service on "Gardening as Rejuvenation" will include music and dance, and a flower communion ceremony. Bring flowers to share that day, and also a musical instrument (in the key of D). We will not only sing the Garden Song, but will dance out to the lawn to its accompaniment. On the lawn, there will be maypole dancing.

Sunday, May 8

Erin Bosch is leading a Transitions Sunday service called "Ages and Stages." It will involve skits, poems, and songs.

OUR SOCIETY

BUSINESS MEETING ENDS WITH YES VOTE

At the April 10 parish meeting, the following officers and committee chairpersons were approved:

- > President: Mike Briggs
- > Vice-President: KK Anderson
- > Treasurer: Dirk Herr-Hoyman
- > Secretary: Kim Truog
- > Finance: Steve Vorass and Norma Briggs
- > Housing & Property: Ron Hornbeck
- > Long Range Planning: Ken Skog and TBD
- > Program: Susan Herr-Hoyman and Mary Mullen
- > Religious Education: Rachel Long and Paula Pachciarz
- > Social Action: Sarah Lord and Corinne Hornbeck
- > Membership: Rick Ruecking
- > Denominational Affairs: Larry Nahlik

The membership ended the meeting with a vote in favor of purchasing of land next to Eagle School, after a period of discussion.

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS APRIL 23

Prairie Playreaders will meet at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 23, at Susan Hagstrom's, 916 Shorewood Blvd.

Please feel free to come and enjoy a play and treats with the Prairie Playreaders! I am planning to do one of two plays: either a play on *Death and Taxes* by Tony Kushner or a play on *Newton* by Carl Djerassi (you may have seen his play *Oxygen* done by the University Theatre recently).

My choice will depend on those coming, so if people could RSVP to 608-238-4970, or SusanTanyaAml@aol.com, it would be appreciated.

Susan Hagstrom

PRAIRIE ELDERS MEET ON APRIL 26

Prairie Elders meet Tuesday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor activity room of the Oaks Building at Oakwood Village West. We will discuss the pros and cons of discounts for seniors and share information on price reductions. If it is convenient, please bring a few cookies, crackers, fruit, etc. Beverages will be furnished.

Parking spaces may be scarce because of construction. Please consider sharing rides and coming early to wait for an available space near the Oaks. If there is none, return to the entry road and follow that road up the hill until you find a parking lot. Ask a receptionist in one of the buildings for the best way to walk back to the Oaks. People unable to walk indoors the distance of several city blocks should be dropped off at the Oaks.

At the March meeting, sixteen people enjoyed delightful stories of exotic travels. We anticipate a larger group as our snowbirds return and new people join us. Contacts: Donna Murdoch 260-8551, Rosemary Dorney 238-4382, Doleta Chapru 238-4970.

HAIKU IS A WAY/TO EXPRESS OURSELVES IN WORDS/CAREFULLY CHOSEN

Mary Mullen will lead our WOW women's group 'doings' on Thursday, May 5, after a potluck supper starting at 6 p.m. at Prairie. We'll give haiku a try.

Good fellowship and food, and our creativity with words, will make for a nice way to spend a Thursday evening.

Hope to see you there.

Mary Somers

P.S. It's great to be home.

HUMANIST UNION DISCUSSION MAY 8

On Sunday, May 8, the Humanist Union will continue its monthly luncheon meetings with a discussion of skepticism led by Susan Hagstrom. We will look at what sort of issues have been hot topics in two magazines, *Skeptic*, published on the west coast (<http://www.skeptic.com/>), and *Skeptical Inquirer* (<http://www.csicop.org/si/>) published on the east coast, and Susan will tell us about her involvement in the skeptical movement. Once again we will start with a light lunch at noon to which participants are asked to bring a container of finger food that we can pass around the cluster of tables. We aim to start the talk about 12:20 and finish the discussion about 1:30 p.m.

CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE

The Minister Search Committee unanimously selected Madison resident Jody Whelden as a candidate for Prairie's part-time consulting minister. She will meet with the Prairie congregation during a candidating week May 10-15. The Prairie congregation is invited to attend her ordination Saturday, April 30, at 4:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The Committee's decision to select Jody Whelden was based on an interview with Jody, her written application, references, and her conduct of a service. Criteria for selection centered on the Prairie congregation's survey responses and approved areas of ministerial involvement.

Jody received ministerial training at Meadville Lombard in Chicago. She has served as Intern Minister, at Olympia Brown UU Church, Racine; Interim Speaker at the Free Congregation of Sauk County; Practicum Minister at First Unitarian Society, Madison; and Night Chaplain at Madison's Meriter Hospital. Before entering the ministry she served youth and adults for many years as a professional counselor.

The Prairie congregation will have an opportunity to visit with Jody during the candidating week. The activities will include a congregational potluck, a number of small-group events, and a meeting with RE parents. Jody will present a sermon on Sunday, May 15. Jody's husband, Scott Shimanski, is invited to join her at candidating week events.

There are two main purposes behind the activities chosen for this week. The obvious one is for us to

meet and get to know the candidate. Equally important is the opportunity for the candidate to meet us, listen to our areas of concern and interest, learn about our practices and our operating structure, and determine whether our congregation is the right fit for her.

At a special congregational meeting Sunday, May 15, the congregation will formally speak with Jody and ask her questions. When the discussion time is done, Jody will leave and the congregation will vote on her hire.

Search Committee members Ken Skog, Aileen Nettleton, Patty Stockdale and Doleta Chapru thank the Prairie congregation for their helpful comments and patience during this long and demanding process.

Prairie members are encouraged to participate in one event. Signup will take place at Prairie, or you may contact the host of the event.

Tuesday, May 10

6:00-7:00 Potluck Dinner at Bob and Barb Parks' Home (Sign up)

Wednesday, May 11

6:00-7:00 Prairie Community Potluck (Weekly drop-in group) at Prairie (Sign up)

Thursday, May 12

5:30-6:30 RE Family and Young Adult Potluck at Prairie with entertainment for kids while adults visit (Sign up)

Saturday, May 14

12:30-1:30 Potluck lunch with the "New" Board at Susan and Dirk Herr-Hoyman's home

Sunday, May 15

10:00-11:15 Jody Whelden will conduct service at Prairie

12:00 Business Meeting—Vote on the candidate

PRAIRIE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

Mondays 8–10 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.–noon

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR

Saturdays 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933

PROGRAM COMMITTEE TALENT SEARCH

Prairie youth and adults interested in participating in summer and church year services, please inform the Program Committee if you wish to do any of the following: Read a children's story, present other readings, accompany hymns, perform special music (describe), accompany performers, sing in the choir, present a program (give the topic, as related to UU principles), help set up the room, or contribute in other ways.

Give this information plus your name, phone number and/or e-mail to outgoing Program Co-chairs Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705, or via e-mail to dchapru@aol.com by May 8. Volunteers may also contact incoming co-chairs Susan Herr-Hoyman and Mary Mullen any time during the summer or upcoming church year.

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Three Prairie members attended the 2005 Central Midwest District (CMWD) assembly over the April 15-17 weekend in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Dan and Robin Proud attended as delegates, and Nancy Schraufnagel came for her own edification. We all agreed it was valuable and enjoyable time spent.

Impressions from a First-Timer

This was my first time attending a CMWD assembly, and, as I discovered, I was not alone. Many of the people I talked to from other churches also were there for the first time. The Central Midwest District is centered around Illinois, extending in large swaths up through Wisconsin, around Lake Michigan through northern Indiana and into southwestern Michigan, and over into eastern Missouri, including the St. Louis area. Several large churches in the Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Louis areas were represented (and First Unitarian Society of Madison), and I talked with UUs from a lot of small congregations, such as Mequon (Wis.), Alton and DeKalb (Ill.), Hobart (Ind.) [pronounced HOE-ber], and Kirkwood (Mo.).

It is fun and insightful to meet fellow UUs and trade stories, and the weekend is also full of valuable workshops and inspiring services.

Robin and I attended 6 workshops, the opening ceremony, a youth service, the regular Sunday service, and the annual business meeting. We

learned that the district assembly will be held in Madison next year, at the Concourse Hotel downtown, and that the General Assembly in 2006 will be in St. Louis. FUS is planning to have three buses go from Madison, so that will be a golden opportunity for Prairie members to attend a GA!

We came away with a lot of information and impressions that we will try to share in more space than what this newsletter allows now.

Dan Proud

Notes on the "Anti-Oppression Models and Methods" Workshop

The National Coalition Building Institute offers prejudice reduction training containing experiential activities valuing a full range of diversity issues. The Institute's theory, programs and examples of exercises are tailored for each audience.

Using individual stories and forming caucuses around specific issues, individuals are empowered and teams trained to develop strategies for institutional change.

The UUA Fulfilling the Promise process began with covenant and mission statements. Journey through Wholeness work is a critical component and developing behavioral covenants is also necessary to complete this process. We are a Welcoming Congregation and most of the training centered on sexual orientation issues. Journey through Wholeness focuses on racism and other issues of oppression. This Institute and the Institute for the Healing of Racism offer classes.

Nancy Schraufnagel

PRAIRIE'S FAMILY SHINES

It is a big week for the Pachciarz-Wacker household. First, Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker perform at the Noon Musicale on Friday, April 22, at First Unitarian Society as vocalist and instrumentalist, respectively, as part of a "20s to 40s" program.

Thursday, at the top of page B-1 of *The Capital Times*, daughter Judy is listed as one of seven area high school students to be named as a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholars program. Congratulations!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hi Everyone! It's hard to believe this RE year is almost over. We have a lot of fun events planned in the next few weeks, though! On April 23-24 we will be having the Spring Fling overnight at Prairie with an option to sleep outside in a tent.

Then on May 1, we will join the adults upstairs near the end of RE classes to dance around the Maypole in celebration of May Day. Meanwhile, the middle school class will probably be back home in bed after attending the pagan May Day ritual at Picnic Point at dawn as part of their Neighboring Faiths class.

May 8 we will celebrate several of our youth who are transitioning from 8th to 9th grade or out of high school, and also our wonderful teachers!

May 14-15 is the high school overnight with James Reeb and First Unitarian Society YRUUers. Then on May 22, we will have our end of the year RE party. I hope to see you all there!

We are looking for teachers for next year's RE program. The curricula next year will focus on Social Justice and we will also be using the OWL sexuality curricula for some classes. All of the UU curricula give easy-to-follow lesson plans and instructions for teachers, and there is definitely room for creativity if you are so inclined.

If you like kids and/or teens and are able to commit to being at Prairie for some Sundays, please consider teaching R.E. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth and give them some positive tools to create social change. The number of Sundays that you teach is flexible and could be two-a-month for part or all of the year, or a block of consecutive Sundays sometime during the year. Please contact me if you are interested at 236-0196 or at [m_a_gl \(at\) att.net](mailto:m_a_gl@att.net) (no space around the at sign, @).

In Peace, Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky

LETTERS



Hi,

Andy and I have been working at the Allied Food Pantry and the shelves are really getting empty. If everyone would just leave a couple cans of food in their car this week after grocery shopping and then bring them on Sunday, it would be wonderful. Or look in your pantries at home and bring some food that you can spare. We will bring the food to Allied on Wednesday when we work again. Or if you are not going to church Sunday and would like us to pick the food up, just email or call 276-8397.

Fondly,

Mary Somers

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

FUS LIBRARY AVAILABLE TO AREA UU'S

The First Unitarian Society Library is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during weekend church services (4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday).

NEW MINISTER TO BE ORDAINED IN FUS CEREMONY APRIL 30

The First Unitarian Society of Madison requests the honor of your presence at the ordination of Joanne "Jody" Dodge Whelden on Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 4 p.m. Childcare will be provided during the ceremony. A reception will follow in the Lower Meeting House.

Jody Whelden is a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and an FUS member for many years. FUS would be honored to have Unitarian Universalists from all of the local UU congregations in attendance.

A sermon will be given by the Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen of Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church of Racine; the Story for all Ages will be given by the Rev. Kelly Crocker of FUS. Other participants include the Reverends Michael Schuler and Scott Prinster of FUS and the Rev. Darrell Richey of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

FUS PLAYGROUP SCHEDULES

First Unitarian Society, 9000 University Bay Drive, offers these preschool playgroups to area UU families:

Weekday UU Playgroup: Meets 1-2x/month for families with children 5 and under. Contact Teresa Nicholas, nicholasteresa@hotmail.com -- 833-4652

Weekend UU Playgroup: Meets 1-2x/month. Contact Erin Chudacoff, erinhchud@hotmail.com -- 848-2405

PRAIRIE WEB SITES

Society Home Page: prairie.madison.uua.org

News Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/

Views Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/

Social Action: socialaction.homestead.com

Humanist Union: <http://humanist.madisonwi.us>

Long Range Planning Committee:

www.execpc.com/~prairieu/planning (no space)

UU B&B DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can help you fulfill your dream. For 25 years, we've provided a network of hosts in North America (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. The directory is published every year in April.

For a copy of the 2005 directory, please send a check for \$18 to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806. *UU're Home* has just launched a new web site at www.UUreHome.com, which includes about half of the listings. Entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

