



# 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)

**May 6, 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](http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org)*

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### 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.

### Sunday, May 8–Sunday, May 15

\*Prairie volunteers for Interfaith Hospitality Network, at Midvale Lutheran Church

### Tuesday, May 10–Sunday, May 16

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

### Wednesday, May 4

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

### Saturday, May 14

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

### Sunday, May 15

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

\*10:00 a.m. "Standing Inside the Fire," presented by the Rev. Jody Whelden

### Wednesday, May 18

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

### Sunday, May 22

\*10:00 a.m. "Tsunami Relief in Thailand," presented by Larry Nahlik

### Tuesday, May 24

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

### Wednesday, May 25

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

(\* = Details follow in this issue.)

## DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

### Sunday, May 8

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

### Sunday, May 15

The Rev. Jody Whelden presents "Standing Inside the Fire."

A potter refires a pot when s/he wants to add beauty to it. This congregation uses the symbol of the prairie fire for its newsletter. Our free faith uses a lighted chalice as its symbol. Today we reflect on how Unitarian Universalism calls us to stand in the fire of our living tradition.

Jody Whelden felt a call to ministry in the mid 1990's. However, she did not have a church. Once she found UU, she knew it was her religious home. Since then she has explored the flame of Unitarian Universalism as a motivation for living a committed life. Today she will reflect on who we are and how we can be renewed through our faith.

**NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 15**

## Sunday, May 22

In April, Larry Nahlik spent several weeks in Thailand helping with tsunami relief. He will present a report, with visuals, on his experience.

## OUR SOCIETY

### MAY IS SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TO CHURCH MONTH

Starting Sunday, May 1, we are encouraging everyone coming to the Sunday programs at Prairie May 1 - 22 to avoid arriving in a single-person vehicle. This is part of the competition with other churches described in the earlier email below. Try to walk, bike, bus or carpool.

**Bus:** If you can walk or bike to the West or South Transfer Points, you can catch the #18 9:30 a.m. bus from either point on any Sunday. From the West Transfer Point the bus arrives at S. Frontage Rd and Whenona Drive at 9:46 a.m. (near 2nd Baptist Church). From the South Transfer Point the bus arrives at the same location (going the other direction) at 9:38 a.m. All buses have bike racks, if you want to bring your bike rather than leaving it at the transfer point. (The bus that stops in front of Prairie does not run on Sundays.)

**Carpool:** If you come with one or more other family members, you are already carpooling, but if you know of someone else coming alone from the same area and you have space, offer them a ride. From the east side of Madison, Metje says she'd be happy to car-pool with other east-siders for the month of May..."with the stipulation that folks further out than I come by my home for their ride, as opposed to my going out to pick them up." However, she will probably want to come early for choir practice until the last practice on May 15. Barbara and I can offer rides from the west side to anyone who also wants to arrive by 9 am of choir practice until the same date. If anyone else is coming in from the Mazomanie area, contact Jerry Simmons at [jsimmons@tds.net](mailto:jsimmons@tds.net).

The Social Action Committee will have green wrist bands to pass out to all arriving by a "car-limited mode" of transportation on Sunday.



Dancing 'Round the Maypole on May Day Photo by Al Nettleton

### 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.

### NO BOOK CLUB MEETING IN MAY

The Prairie Book Club has decided not to meet in May. We will meet next on Sunday, June 12, to discuss two books: Louise Erdrich's *The Master Butcher's Singing Club*, and Tenaya Darlington's *Maybe Baby*. The July 17 selection is *Red-Gold* by Allen Furst.

We meet on Sundays after the Prairie service. Bring food to share. Even if you haven't read the entire book, you are welcome to come for the discussion.

*Mary Mullen*

### LOST AND FOUND: COME AND GET IT

Quite a few pieces of clothing made their home around the coat rack at Prairie over the winter. Families are urged to look over the hats, scarves, gloves, and other apparel in the next couple of weeks. Thanks!

## **GETTING TO KNOW JODY WHELDEN**

The Minister Search Committee unanimously recommends that the Prairie Membership approve Jody Whelden to serve as a Consulting Minister for Prairie at our Parish meeting on May 15.

Since not everyone will get to learn about Jody's background I will provide – very briefly – some biographical information she has shared with the Minister Search Committee and indicate the key areas where we would like a minister to aid Prairie over a year period. The committee believes Jody is well qualified to aid Prairie in these areas.

### **Biographical notes**

Jody was born in upstate New York and grew up in a Methodist Church. She was engaged in the Women's movement in the 1970's and in feminist thought and action. She majored in sociology as an undergraduate and went on to earn a Masters Degree in professional counseling. She worked for a number of years as a high school guidance counselor in New Hampshire before moving to Madison.

In Madison she has worked at the Dane County Women's shelter, and – for an extended time – served as a private practice psychotherapist, and later as a consultant specializing in conflict transformation. She cites as an important experience her work with a learning group in the 80's and early 90's to understand group process, personal interactions and conflict transformation. She began her religious studies in 1996 with work in the Religious Studies Graduate Program at Edgewood College and then transferred to Meadville Lombard in 1999.

Among the factors that she cites for seeking to be a minister are an aspiration to “make a difference,” and to aid particularly in furthering the fourth UU principle – a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. She feels connected to the long history of Unitarianism through many generations of her ancestors who were Unitarians in Massachusetts in the 1800's.

She has at least 3 experiences serving in a ministerial capacity during her training at Meadville Lombard – as an Intern Minister at the Olympia Brown UU Church in Racine, as a Practicum Minister with First Unitarian Society in Madison, and as an Interim Speaker with the Sauk City UU Forethought Fellowship.

She has expressed in many ways an aspiration for a

collaborative leadership style. The Committee feels confident that she will nurture a relationship and program with lay leadership based on honesty, teamwork, respect, and compassion.

### **Key areas for a Consulting Minister to Aid Prairie**

The Minister Search Committee believes that Jody is well qualified to aid Prairie in several areas over the next year. We asked questions specifically that would help us understand how she may help us in these areas:

- Aid the congregation in understanding alternatives for providing pastoral care to members.
- Aid the congregation in clarifying members' commonalities and differences in values and aspirations with a view to healing and community building.
- Provide UU perspectives via sermons (about once a month) on topics that support the range of member interests and affirm connections and mutual support.
- Aid the congregation in understanding ways to attract and retain young couples and families.
- Aid in providing ways to bring the congregation together to envision and plan a future and associated needed actions for Prairie.

I urge everyone to take the opportunity to meet with Jody Whelden the week of May 9-14, to attend our program on May 15 when Jody will speak, and to vote at the Parish meeting on May 15 on the Minister Search Committees recommendation to offer a Consulting Minister position to Jody.

*Ken Skog*

### **PRAIRIE WEB SITES**

Society Home Page: [prairie.madison.uua.org](http://prairie.madison.uua.org)

News Group: [groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/)

Views Group: [groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/)

Social Action: [socialaction.homestead.com](http://socialaction.homestead.com)

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

Long Range Planning Committee:

[www.execpc.com/~prairieu/planning](http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu/planning) (no space)

## CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE

The Ministerial Search Committee is very pleased to introduce our candidate for the position of quarter-time consulting minister to the Prairie congregation. The purpose of the candidating week is for as many members as possible to have an opportunity to get to know our ministerial candidate, Jody Whelden, and for her to get to know people in Prairie. The week will culminate with Jody conducting the Prairie Sunday morning service. A business meeting will follow to vote on whether to accept the candidate as our minister.

If you have not signed up, you are encouraged to attend either the Wednesday or Thursday evening potluck at Prairie.

### Tuesday, May 10

6:00-7:00 Potluck dinner at Bob and Barb Parks' home  
(No openings!)

### Wednesday, May 11

6:30-8:00 Prairie community potluck at Prairie (Sign up)

### Thursday, May 12

6:00-7:30 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 ministerial candidate

## 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](mailto: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.

## PRAIRIE ELDERS MEETING MAY 28

Prairie Elders meets Tuesday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor activity room of the Oaks Building at Oakwood Village West.

Discussion Topic: Attitudes toward aging in various cultures. All participants are invited to briefly share knowledge of another culture's expectations and treatment of older adults. We will discuss how such cultures differ from our own.

In keeping with Prairie Elders' goal of "good times and mutual support" we will also take time for personal sharing, casual conversation and, of course, snacks. If convenient, please bring a few cookies, crackers, fruit, cheese, etc. (Leftover Oreos always welcome.) Beverages will be furnished.

Parking near the Oaks Building is limited. For additional parking, follow the entry road to the top of the hill and turn right. Ask a receptionist in one of the buildings for the best way to walk back. People unable to walk that distance should be dropped off at the Oaks.

Contacts: Donna Murdoch 260-8551, Rosemary Dorney 238-4382, Doleta Chapru 238-4970

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEER FOR PRAIRIE AT IHN

Prairie's next shift assisting Midvale Lutheran in hosting homeless families is coming up May 8-15. You can help by preparing food, sharing a meal with the families, spending time with the children, spending a quiet night at the church — all of these contribute to this vitally important community service. Your children can also take part by sharing a meal and playing with the guest children.

Look for the sign-up board and information in the foyer. Contact Paula Pachciarz for more information or if you have questions (273-4806, [pachwack \(at\) sbcglobal.net](mailto:pachwack(at)sbcglobal.net)).

We realize that a portion of our congregation would like to help but is unable to devote time during the week of May 8-15. IHN has compiled a list of items that would be helpful to create a good experience for our guests. If you are able to help out in this way, please bring your donations to either Prairie (labeled box in foyer) or the church office at Midvale Lutheran. Thank you for sharing with those less fortunate.

Needed items:

- Non-perishable food items: individual snack bags of chips, granola bars, fruit rollups, juice boxes, coffee, packaged cookies
- Sandwich bags, garbage bags, paper lunch bags
- Washcloths
- Inexpensive alarm clocks
- *Easy* puzzles (up to 50 pieces) for children
- Blankets
- Duct tape

### **IHN Training Sessions**

IHN offers a special training session to help volunteers who will have guest contact, allowing them to feel more comfortable in that role and have a better idea of what to expect. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to sign up for one of the upcoming training sessions:

- March 7 Monday 7-9 p.m. IHN day Center
- March 8 Tuesday 7-9 p.m. Holy Mother of Consolation 651 N. Main Oregon
- April 7 Thursday 7-9 p.m. Orchard Ridge UCC 1501 Gilbert Rd Madison
- April 18 Monday 7-9 p.m. IHN Day Center
- May 3 Tuesday 7-9 p.m. Day Center

If you are interested in attending one of these trainings, please RSVP to Shannon Hayes IHN Network Coordinator at 294-7998 ext 306 or email [shannonhayes6@hotmail.com](mailto:shannonhayes6@hotmail.com). Leave both your name and phone number.

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

Mom taught me everything I needed to know about the fair trade movement before I was seven years old: *Be fair, be kind, treat all women with respect, and don't let the bully push you or others around.* Mom's special day is May 8, and she deserves the best: Get her a gift that reflects the values she taught you.

- Global Exchange has an [Online Store](#) that implements the principles of socially and economically responsible business according to Fair Trade Criteria.
- Buy union products at [www.theunionmall.com](http://www.theunionmall.com) or [www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org)
- In Madison, visit [A Greater Gift](#) at 122 State Street or call (800)423-0071.

*From the WiscoTrader: Providing Fair Trade News And Views You Won't Find In Mainstream Media*

### **WITH THANKS TO PRAIRIE'S CHILDREN: AN ESSAY**

*Judy Wacker recently was notified that she is a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholar Competition, a notable achievement. This is the essay she wrote for the competition.*

I wish I could include a photo of every member of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, because the society – the combination of differing yet commonly compassionate world views – is what has significance for me, not the building or the religion. Instead I've sent a picture of some of the children of Prairie, since their impact has been the greatest. While the supportive society, the religious education, and the children of Prairie have all helped me develop my outlook on life, the children have given me the confidence to practice what I've learned from the people and the curriculum.

The people of Prairie have helped me decide what I believe through expression of their own morals. Though I can be uncomfortable around strangers, there was a time when I couldn't distinguish my aunts, uncles, and grandparents from the adults of Prairie. It's always been easy for me to talk to anyone at Prairie, and thus many of my most thought-provoking conversations have occurred there. I've listened to many people's interpretations of Buddhism, Christianity, and other faiths, as well as multiple positions on political and social issues. Prairie is a forum for all voices searching for truth, meaning, or just a good debate. With so many opinions to consider, I have had to carefully craft my own view of what is right. My idea of an excellent human life is an informed and vegan life, but I am always open to different thoughts.

The climate of my religious education classes also fosters discussion and open-mindedness. Religious education means just that – we read literature, listen to guest speakers, and visit the holy buildings of many different faiths. After each examination of a belief system we spend as much time as we need discussing it, in classes of about six in which everyone is heard. It's like the ideal university course, without the homework; it has the same cultural appreciation benefits as traveling around the world, without the trouble or expense. In addition to allowing me to listen to other's perspectives, RE has encouraged me to clearly define my own opinion. I must have a precise understanding of my

beliefs and thoughts before I can explain them to anyone else.

The young children of Prairie have little interest in my idea of truth, however: I have learned from them the more valuable skills of leadership and responsibility. Through chance and Prairie's small membership, the last teenager older than me graduated from high school when I was in eighth grade.

Though later more teens my age joined, at the time I was left as a sort of mother hen for the younger kids. They expected me to organize group games, settle disputes over stuffed animals and crayons, and make sure everyone was welcomed and included. The adults expected the same of me, also warning me to make sure all were safe and in a known location. To my surprise, I found that I enjoyed and had a talent for organizing my younger friends. The knowledge that I can lead and handle responsibility has allowed me to access these skills outside of Prairie, helping in my quest to become comfortable and friendly around all people.

Leadership, responsibility, confidence, and friendliness: these are the most valuable people skills. Without the children of Prairie, mine would be severely impaired. The children's and their parents' trust in my proven leadership and responsibility gave me confidence in myself, alleviating my nervousness around strangers. Once comfortable and confident I could easily be friendly.

Though I'll remember all my life the contributions the adults of Prairie and Prairie's religious education program have made to it, Prairie's most profound impact on my worldview and thought patterns came from its children. The first two helped develop my ethics and speaking skills, but that would never have been possible without the boost to my personality and confidence the last provided. Then again, I would have never have had the opportunity to prove my skills with the children to myself if not for their parents and the rest of Prairie; ultimately, it took the whole Prairie community to raise me.

*Judy Wacker*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello Everyone! 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 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 RE. 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) [(at) = @]

Very special thanks to KK Anderson and Paula Pachciarz for being advisors for Judy, Rachel, and Mei-Lien at Spring Con!

*In Peace, Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky*

## LETTERS



Dear Fellow Unitarian,

I am writing to inform you of the recent establishment of the Spirit of Life Unitarian Fellowship. Based in Kirribilli on the North Shore of Sydney, Australia, the Fellowship welcomes visitors from other cities, states and countries.

Should you, family members or friends be visiting Sydney for any reason and like to join us for our Sunday service, please know that you will be most welcome. We are conveniently located close to the center of the city.

Our address: Spirit of Life Unitarian Fellowship, Kirribilli Neighbour Centre, 16-18 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli, Sydney.

Our service always starts at 10.30 a.m. on Sundays and afterwards we get together for coffee and biscuits (cookies). We look forward to meeting you all.

*Candace Parks, President*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### UU-UNO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUGHT

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) seeks a dynamic individual to serve as Executive Director of its New York City Office. The Executive Director should be well versed in UN policies, issues and contacts, as well as NGO initiatives. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated management skills and fundraising experience, work comfortably with people of all cultures, and be a Unitarian Universalist who clearly understands the denomination's Seven Principles. For further information regarding the UU-UNO, the Executive Director's position, and the application process, please go to: [www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org). The application deadline is May 16th.

### RALLY HERE TO STOP THOUSANDS DYING THERE: END THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Join us in Central Park, New York City, on Sunday, May 8th, at 4:30 p.m. to demonstrate to the world that we will not remain silent and inactive while fellow humans are suffering in Darfur, Sudan. Visit our website, <http://www.uu-uno.org/>, for event details and a printable flyer.

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Note: We have just launched a new section of our Web site devoted to providing resources for Darfur activists. It can be accessed directly off our home page. The new section includes recent news, background information, action activities, and helpful links. Take a look and let us know how we can make the site more helpful to you.

*Organized by Not Now, Not Ever! and sponsored by the UUA*

### 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](http://www.UUreHome.com), which includes about half of the listings. Entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

### URGENT FOLLOWUP TO DARFUR SUNDAY

Thank you again for supporting the passage of the Darfur Accountability Act in the Senate. Now, further support is needed to ensure that it remains intact and potent by the time the FY05 Emergency Supplemental Bill reaches the President's desk for signing. See below.

Currently, members of the House and Senate who are on the Conference Committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY05 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill (that passed the Senate last week) will be meeting. As you remember, with your great help, two Darfur amendments — (1) the Brownback/Corzine/DeWine/Durbin amendment calling for \$50 million to support the African Union mission in Darfur and \$40.5 million in international disaster assistance to provide critical humanitarian and (2) an amendment encapsulating the Darfur Accountability Act (S. 495), which calls for increased protection for civilians, sanctions, a no-fly zone, and requires focused reporting on Darfur by the Administration to Congress — were adopted into the bill that passed the Senate. There is word now that the Darfur Accountability provision is in *potential danger of being stripped out* of the Conference Report.

**ACTION:** Please contact **Congressman Hyde (202-225-4561)** and **Congressman Kolbe (202-225-2542)** and urge them to keep the Darfur Accountability Act provisions and funding to support the AU and disaster assistance for Sudan *intact* in the final conference version of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. If you have *direct* contacts with these Members or any other conferees, that would also be very helpful.

To send a message by e-mail, use the Save Darfur Coalition Automated Action System at [http://hq.demaction.org/dia/organizations/darfur/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=407](http://hq.demaction.org/dia/organizations/darfur/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=407). Of course, we also recommend sending faxes if you can.

Included in the list of Conferees for the FY05 Emergency Supplemental bill:

- House Conferees: Rep. David Obey (D-WI)
- Senate Conferees: Kohl

*UU-UNO Office*

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) NEWS BULLETIN

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

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## **Action alert: Support Senate, House bills to ban 'outsourcing' of torture**

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., has introduced a new bill to ban "torture by proxy," or extraordinary renditions. Under this practice, a person detained abroad or in the United States under suspicion of terrorist links may be sent to a third country for interrogation even though that country is well known for its use of torture. This is similar to the bill introduced in March by U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

Please call or write your senators and representatives now to express your vigorous support for Sen. Leahy's Convention Against Torture Implementation Act, and Rep. Markey's "The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act." For more information or to send an immediate message to your members of Congress, visit:

<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert042705.html>.

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## **Action alert: Join 'First Monday' call-in campaign: Say NO to U.S.-sponsored torture**

Join the UUSC STOP (Stop Torture Permanently) Campaign national call-in campaign, with sessions held the first Monday of every month. The next session will be Monday, May 2. We are asking all of our members and supporters to join in this effort by calling your congressional representatives on this date and communicating your strong opposition to U.S.-sponsored torture. For details and talking points to use in your phone calls, visit

<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert042505.html>.

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## **After the tsunami: A photo essay**

In March, UUSC staff members Sofia Romero and Martha Thompson visited areas in Indonesia and Sri Lanka affected by the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of Dec. 26, 2004. For a photo essay about current efforts to provide relief for survivors and long-term support for rehabilitation, visit:

[http://www.uusc.org/tsunami/tsu\\_photoessay.html](http://www.uusc.org/tsunami/tsu_photoessay.html).

For other updates on how donations to the UUSC-UUA Tsunami Relief Fund are being used and to read other stories from the region, visit: <http://www.uusc.org/tsunami>.

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## **Join UUSC for General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, June 23-27**

At the 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, held this year in Fort Worth, Texas, June 23-27, learn how UUSC is putting UU values into action to end U.S.-sanctioned torture, defend the human right to water and promote economic justice.

This year, UUSC events feature a number of exciting speakers who will touch on human rights issues in the United States and around the world. Oscar Olivera joins us from Cochabamba, Bolivia, to share his community's experiences successfully battling attempts by corporate giant Bechtel to privatize their water. Rev. Jim Lawson will join Amnesty International's Bill Schulz for a powerful and morally compelling discussion about spirituality and human rights.

To learn more about these and other events and workshops at General Assembly, visit [www.uusc.org/ga](http://www.uusc.org/ga).

At GA, UUSC will sponsor an Action of Immediate Witness, taking a stand against U.S.-sanctioned torture. UUSC will also call for support of a citizens' indictment of U.S. leaders, charging them with aiding, abetting, ordering and conspiring to commit illegal physical and psychological torture of detainees in U.S. Custody.

For more about the Action of Immediate Witness, visit <http://www.uusc.org/ga/aiw.html>.

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## **New Native American workcamp set with Lakota in South Dakota**

UUSC is pleased to announce an exciting Just Works opportunity for volunteers to learn about and work with the Lakota community on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. This experiential learning opportunity is sponsored by UUSC in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, Pa., and members of the Lakota community of Norris, S.D.

The workcamp will be held in two week-long sessions, July 30-August 6, and August 6-13. For more information, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article041305.html>.

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## **For the love of Pete!: A UUSC special event in New York City**

Join UUSC for a very special event celebrating the Pete Seeger's music and social activism. This celebration will take place May 21, 2005, 8 p.m., at Community Church, 40 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. The evening will feature musical performances by Work o' the Weavers, Jim Scott and the Community Church Choir with the Rev. Hope Johnson and Stan Strickland. Geoff Kaufman will emcee and Pete Seeger himself will narrate and share the stories and music of his long career.