



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)

July 8, 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

President: Mike Briggs (608) 835-0914

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, July 10

*10:00 a.m. "UU Team Trivia" intergenerational service

11:30 a.m. Prairie Board meeting at Prairie

Sunday, July 10 to Sunday, July 17

*IHN week: Prairie hosts homeless families at Midvale Lutheran Church

Wednesday, July 13

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, July 17

*10:00 a.m. "Spirituality Without God," presented by the Rev. Sarah Oelberg

*11:45 a.m. Prairie Book Club meets at Prairie.

Wednesday, July 20

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

*6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers meet at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 S. Syene Rd.

Thursday, July 21

*6:00 p.m. Prairie WOW potluck and program.

Sunday, July 24

*10:00 a.m. "Inspired by General Assembly," led by Sarah Lord, Patty Stockdale, and Mary Mullen.

Tuesday, July 26

5:00 a.m. Serve breakfast at homeless men's shelter

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, July 10

How much do you know about people, places, and things associated with UU history? Not much?

That's okay, because you will have teammates to share their knowledge. Come for fun, fellowship, and an education. All ages are welcome at this program of learning about our denomination through play!

Sunday, July 17

UU minister Sarah Oelberg has challenged us with her sermons several times in the past couple of years. This time she will speak on "Spirituality Without God." For anyone who wants a taste of the topic, peruse *Spirituality for the Skeptic* by Robert Solomon, from which Sarah will take a reading during this service.

Sunday, July 24

A major highlight of the year for some UUs is attending the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, the continent-wide annual conference held this year in warm Ft. Worth, TX. The informative and inspiring workshops and lectures, the Plenary sessions during which delegates vote on social action issues and hear about "breakthrough congregations," the services, the exhibit hall, and the city in which GA is held make each GA a thrilling experience. Come hear some of the things you missed from Sarah Lord, Patty Stockdale, and Mary Mullen.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JULY 17

OUR SOCIETY

CAN YOU HELP? IHN NEEDS PRAIRIE VOLUNTEERS THE WEEK OF JULY 10-17

Our next shift as buddy church to Midvale Lutheran's role as host will be July 10 to July 17. There are several ways in which you may help out that week: prepare part of a meal, share a meal, play with the kids, stay overnight, provide transportation, etc. To sign up for a volunteer task next month, or for a training session, please contact Paula Pachciarz (273-4806 or pachwack (at) sbcglobal.net).

Paula Pachciarz

[Also see the IHN bulletin at the end of this issue. -Ed.]

BOOK CLUB MEETS SUNDAY, JULY 17

The Prairie Book Club meets on Sunday, July 17 to discuss *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

SPANISH SPEAKERS WILL EAT, SPEAK, AND BE MERRY ON JULY 20

If your Spanish is a little rusty or if you are just looking for an opportunity to trill some R's, come on out to the monthly Spanish Speakers potluck and meeting on Wednesday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. This month it will take place at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 South Syene Road. Her telephone number is 273-2639, or call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) for more information.

WILD OUTSTANDING WOMEN SET FOR JULY 21

Hi everyone, the women of Prairie WOW will meet Thursday, July 21, at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper. We decided to meet this summer and, those of you who teach or have winter commitments, please try to join us and bring a friend. You do not need to be a member of Prairie to come. Mark your calendars for July 21.

Mary Somers

GOOD SUMMER READING

At the recent Summer Reading program led by Rose Smith, members recommended a number of fiction and non-fiction books. Here are some of the suggestions:

Fiction

Dissolution, by C. J. Sansom
The Way the Crow Flies by Ann-Marie McDonald
The Breakdown Lane by Jacqueline Mitchard
How to be Good by Nick Hornby
The Master Butchers' Singing Club by Louise Erdrich
Feathers and Fools by Mem Fox (picture book)
The Greatest Power by Demi (picture book)
The Kite Runner by Khaleid Hosseini
The Number One Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith (and others in that series)
The Crying Day by Julius Lester (young adult)
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
Bel Canto by Ann Patchett
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

Non-Fiction

Shanghai Diary by Ursula Bacon
The Cigar Roller by Pablo Medina
The Dream of a Thousand Lives; A Sojourn in Thailand by Karen Connelly
Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk across Victorian America by Linda Lawrence Hunt
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond
Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond
Wherever You Go, There You Are by Jon Kabat-Zinn
The Road to Whatever by Elliot Currie
Where Soldiers Fear to Tread by John Burnett
Don't Think of an Elephant by George Lakoff
Uncle Tungsten by Oiver Sacks
I Am a Pencil by Sam Swope

ARCHIVIST NEEDED

Prairie is currently without an archivist, and records keep propagating! If you are interested in collecting and organizing artifacts that will make up the history of our Society, please contact Mike Briggs (835-0914) or K.K. Anderson (255-3596).

LETTERS

A FOND FAREWELL

Hello Everyone,

As some of you already know, I have decided to resign from my position at the end of August. Our apartment building was sold in March, and the new owner is turning the building into condos. When thinking about moving, we realized that we really wanted our son to know our parents better. It has been a difficult decision-making process, but our family has decided to move near Chapel Hill, NC at the end of August to be near my parents, brother, and grandma. We are also hoping to have another child in the next year and could really use their help!

I care very much about the Prairie community, especially the kids, and hope deeply that it will continue to be vibrant and growing. I will really miss this job, and having to leave this position was part of what made the decision to move difficult.

I have really admired the tremendous commitment of the community at Prairie to the RE program and have been so inspired by the kids and teens in RE! I have learned so much this year and I am sad that I won't be a part of this community anymore.

I will continue in my position until the end of August, unless a new DRE is found before then.

Thanks for the wonderful year together! I will miss you!

In Peace,

Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky

P.S. Please let the RE Committee know if you know of a potential candidate for the position. It is a great part-time job!

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.madisonwi.us

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

Long Range Planning Committee:

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

UUSC HOTWIRE

Dear Friends,

As you may know, UUSC has recently initiated a weblog called, "UUSC Hotwire: A Human Rights Weblog". We believe that the Hotwire will provide you with a direct, real-time vantage point on our human rights work around the world. Through the weblog, we will also link you to the information you need to be an informed citizen/activist in our rapidly changing world.

This week, we will take the Hotwire to the UUA General Assembly in Fort Worth, TX. We'll provide you with reports, reflections and images highlighting key events in Fort Worth and uncovering the relevance of GA to the broader world that UUs seek to transform.

<http://www.uusc.org/blog/hotwire.html>

Follow the link below to our weblog, check it out and take the time to let us know if it works for you.

Thank you,

Kevin Murray

Director of Advocacy and Communications

UUSC, kmurray@uusc.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello, Everyone!

Summer Spree, our middle school and high school weekend camping trip, is coming up! It will be July 22-24 at Rick Ruecking's farm in Prairie du Chien, WI, just under two hours from Madison. We will carpool there from Madison. Any Prairie middle school and high school youth can attend, and they can each bring a friend!

Please let me know if you would like to attend this weekend of outdoor fun! (Telephone 236-0196 or e-mail [m_a_gl](mailto:m_a_gl@att.net) (at) att.net.)

In peace,

Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, RE Director

PRAIRIE UU IS SEEKING A RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society seeks an RE Director for \$12.50/hr for 10hrs/wk during the school year, including Sunday a.m. The ideal candidate is familiar with UU principles, and has experience and enjoys working with children and teens. E-mail for resumes, references and questions: [andersonkk \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:andersonkk@yahoo.com).

MEMBERSHIP

Please note the following member updates:

Steve Vorass: [svorass \(at\) sbcglobal.com](mailto:svorass@sbcglobal.com)

Pam Vorass: [pvorass \(at\) sbcglobal.com](mailto:pvorass@sbcglobal.com)

[*Note: to protect individuals from Web hooligans, for our e-mail addresses we substitute (at) for @ and insert spaces. —Ed.*]

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUMMER WOMANSPRIT RETREAT

The Central Midwest District's 12th annual Summer WomanSpirit retreat at Camp Ronora in southwest Michigan runs August 5-7, 2005.

Registration and brochures are available online at www.womenandreligion.org. We offer a special maiden program for girls 7-16 and childcare for younger children.

For more information, call (269) 369-1114.

UU BED AND BREAKFAST DIRECTORY

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.

OTHER NEWS

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK BULLETIN

Did you know that many IHN families need jobs? IHN works with many adults and teens that need a chance to build employment experience, and others who have experience but need to find permanent, full-time work.

“Susan” has a high school diploma and some college credits. She can do basic office work and has retail experience. She has a good reference from her current, part-time employer, but cannot find a full-time job.

“Cindy” has a lot of factory experience from another state and also has a high school diploma. She is willing to do any type of work, but despite many applications, nothing is coming through for her.

“Allie” has done data entry and filing and has excellent computer skills. She is very quick and detail-oriented. She needs a flexible, part-time schedule, preferably weekends or evenings, and needs to work near a bus line.

IHN is seeking employers who might be willing to give someone this chance to be self-supporting and to house their family. IHN will support these workers with case management and will work with cooperating employers if there are concerns.