

Prairie Fire

October 2013

Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)



- Sat. Oct 5** 9-11 am **WOW@Prairie**
3 pm **Fall Frolic**
- Sun. Oct 6** 10 am **Service: "MOSES and the Incarceration Nation"** - Molly Plunkett
12 noon **Humanist Union**
5:30 pm **Men's Group**
- Sun. Oct 13** 10 am **Service: "UN, UUA, PVF, YOU"** - Reverend Sandra Ingham
- Mon. Oct 14** 6:15 pm **Spanish Speakers Potluck**
- Sun. Oct 20** 10 am **Service: "Lydia Maria Child"** - Robin Proud
1:30 pm **CROP Walk**
- Tues. Oct 22** 1:30 pm **Prairie Elders**
- Sun. Oct 27** 10 am **Service: UN Sunday: LGBT Rights?**
11:30 am **Prairie Book Club**
6 pm **Circle Dinner Kick-off**

WOW@Prairie: Women of Wonder meets the 1st Saturday of the month at Prairie. Bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share. Contact: Anne Urbanski 221-4053 anneu53714@gmail.com

Fall Frolic: Meet at the Eplegaarden, 2227 Fitchburg Road in Fitchburg, for hayrides, corn mazes and Harold Potterson's Haunted House. We'll return to Prairie at 5:00 for dinner, games, and a bonfire.

"MOSES and the Incarceration Nation": The Social Action Committee will give a progress report on the 11 by 15 program to reduce Wisconsin's 22,000 prison population to 1/2 by 2015. Prairie joined forces with many Madison congregations to form MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality & Solidarity) to campaign to bring real justice to Wisconsin's system of justice.

Humanist Union: Potluck at noon followed

by Stephanie Isaak of Second Harvest Foodbank speaking about FoodShare, a federal food assistance program focusing locally on assisting seniors. Contact: Bob Park 273-8775 humanistunion@gmail.com

Men's Group: The Men's Group meets the 1st Sunday of the month at Prairie. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Dan Proud derrproud@att.net

"UN, UUA, PVF, YOU": What do these initials mean? Why are they important? What do they have to do with these words: mystery, joy, quirky, zany? Join Rev. Sandy on October 13th, and you will find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions and puzzles.

Spanish Speakers Potluck will meet at the home of Kate Tucker, 4504 Camden Rd. Bring a dish to pass if you can - everyone is welcome! If you have any questions or need

to arrange a ride, please call Rosemary Dorney at (608) 238-4382.

"Lydia Maria Child": Lydia Maria Child (February 11, 1802-Oct. 20, 1880) was a novelist, editor, journalist and scholar who produced a body of work remarkable for its brilliance, originality and variety, much of it inspired by a strong sense of justice and love of freedom. Child is now remembered primarily as author of the Thanksgiving poem, "Over the River and through the Wood". She deserves an honored place in American and in Unitarian history.

CROP Walk: Join the Prairie UU team on the CROP Walk to end hunger. Bring the whole family! You can walk 1 mile or 3.5 miles. Get sponsors or be your own for the steps you take. More info about CROP: http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/PageServer?pagename=crop_main Contact: Susan Herr-Hoyman herrsm@gmail.com or Karen Deaton karendeaton@tds.net

Prairie Elders will meet in the Nakoma Room, Heritage Oaks building, Oakwood Village West. We aim to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU Members and Friends over 65 and UUs living at the facility where we meet. If convenient, bring your own beverage cup and a few snacks.

Topic for Oct: Syria: the Middle East Dilemma. Newcomers welcome.

Call Donna Murdoch at 238-3802 for directions, parking, or a ride.

Prairie Book Club will discuss **Behind the Kitchen Door** by Saru Jayaraman. This is the 2013/2014 official UU Common Read that looks at restaurant workers who live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions - discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens - affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. Suggested by Mary Mullen. Meet at Prairie, bring food to share, you are welcome

whether or not you have read the book. Contact: Mary Mullen 298-0843 or mmullen@chorus.net

Prairie News

New Season for Choir begins on Sept 29th. The choir is open to anyone who likes to sing. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 and sing about once a month. We will begin with easier pieces and work our way to more challenging ones. Have kids? Childcare is provided with you in mind. Come join us! Any questions? Call Barb Park, Director 273-8775 or barbpark@gmail.com

Afghan Slide Show: This auction item donated by the Frantz's will be held at Prairie, October 4th. You are welcome to attend for a \$20 donation if you aren't already signed up for it.



A Story for All Ages!

Interfaith Hospitality Network: October 13 - 20: One of Prairie's social action commitments is being a buddy church for Midvale Lutheran as they house homeless families as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is part of The Road Home.

Please consider volunteering to serve dinner or various other jobs to help Prairie honor its commitment to this great organization. You can sign up on the Midvale Lutheran Home Page (<http://midvalelutheran.org/>). Click on the Road Home link on the far right. Then

you will be taken to a Road Home page and a few lines down in the middle of the page there is a brown link to a sign-up grid. Volunteer job descriptions are located below sign-up. Call Erin Bosch for more information about IHN (238-6285).

Men's Shelter Volunteers Needed:

Prairie has been volunteering at the men's drop-in shelter at Grace Episcopal for 25 years. Volunteers can either shop or cook breakfast. Shoppers buy the groceries and deliver them to Grace Episcopal Church on the Square. Prairie reimburses you. It takes about 2 hours. Cooks arrive at Grace Episcopal at 5:00 am on Saturday. They prep, cook, and serve scrambled eggs. There will be one or two other volunteers from Prairie or James Reeb UUC. You'll be done about 7:00 am. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Paula Pachciarz at pjpchz@gmail.com or 206-1770.

MOSES is “an interfaith organization that unites congregations to build a better community. We join together to take action on issues of social justice, such as over-incarceration in Wisconsin (the 11 x 15 campaign).” Prairie just joined the MOSES group and its first fundraising dinner will be held on November 16th. They are accepting donations, and preparing a Yearbook in conjunction with that event. Ads in the yearbook can be purchased to advertise your business, organization, etc. The ads range in price from \$500 for a full-page ad to an eighth of a page for \$75. If you are interested in purchasing an ad, please contact the Social Action Committee – or me directly, Paula Doyle, at pdoylelaw@tds.net for more information. You'll hear more about this on October 6th when the Social Action Committee makes a presentation about MOSES to the congregation.

Committee Fair to Lay Out a Scrumptious Volunteer Spread

Join Prairie Committees after the service on

Sunday, October 13th to get not only a taste of good food, courtesy of Prairie committees, but also a taste of the many ways that Prairie members and friends contribute to the life of our community. You are invited to ask the questions you've always wanted to ask about how Prairie works.

As a member of Prairie, you are also invited to participate on a committee or volunteer a bit of your time to help create a dynamic living community. Whether you have a mind for numbers or a passion for social justice, love to plan for our future infrastructure or plan ongoing events, or like making coffee or crafts, there are a multitude of ways that you can contribute your interests and aptitudes to keep Prairie strong.

Learn more, start the conversation and maybe even add a fulfilling volunteer role to your plate on Sunday, October 13th immediately following the service.

Rev. Sandy needs furniture! She is looking for: a kitchen table & chairs; desks or a big table that could be used as a desk; a bed; end tables; comfortable chairs; a couch; tables of all sorts & sizes; rugs!

Prairie Burning: We have a fire permit from the fire department to burn our prairie sometime between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31. Our plan is to do the burn early in November, weather permitting, possibly at the same time as another workday to finish getting our buildings ready for winter. Any questions, contact Gary Gates at 255-2337 or by email at gig.gts@gmail.com

Invitation to Prairie: The Free Congregation of Sauk County has invited Prairie to attend the Mathilde Franziska Anneke Lecture on Social Justice. The Honorable Janine Geske, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice (Ret.), will be speaking on Restorative Justice. It will be held on Thursday, October 17th, at 7 pm at

the Free Congregation's Park Hall, 307 Polk St., Sauk City. Space is limited. For more information, call (608) 317-7913 or free_congregation@frontier.com.

Circle Dinner Kick-off: Sign-up begins this month. A Kick-off dinner will end the month. More info coming soon.

RE Circle of Friends

We're officially into the Fall season, my favorite time of year. The weather is sunny and cool and like most parents I'm beginning to settle in to a nice routine that now involves school.

Children's religious education is in full swing here at Prairie UU Society and I've been loving every minute of it. Our theme, Drawing on our Religious Sources: World Religions, has all the grades focusing on Christianity for the Fall semester. Our preschool class is focusing on the UU curriculum, Celebrating Me and My World. Grades 4 through high school went on their first field trip to St. Joseph's Catholic Parish just five minutes from Prairie, on the West Beltline Highway.

I was raised Catholic so everything said and done before and during the service was all quite normal to me, but I found observing the reactions of our youth to be very interesting. We were given a tour of the sanctuary by their Director of Religious Education, Shawn Willox. He taught us about the symbols hidden in their stained glass windows and explained the sacrament of communion. At the start of the service, Pastor Monsignor Thomas Baxter introduced us to the congregation and we were given a welcome applause. Many thanks to the people at St. Joseph's for their warm hospitality.

Coming up is our annual Fall Frolic event! Saturday, October 5th starting at 3 pm we'll meet at the Eplegaarden in Fitchburg for hayrides, corn mazes and Harold Potterson's

Haunted House. The haunted house is more for children 7 and under, while the corn maze is for those ages 8 and up. Hayrides, apple and pumpkin picking are for all ages. At 5:00 we'll head over to Prairie for dinner and from 6-8:00ish we'll have a bonfire in the backyard of our new building. All are welcome to attend.

Families, if you missed the Parent/Teacher Luncheon on September 15th, please see me to go over the year's expectations for both you and your child. If you want to get involved in Children's Religious Education you can always join the committee for our monthly meetings. Next meeting is Saturday, October 12th at 10 am.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns please feel free to contact me during the week at Prairie by phone or email.

- Rebecca Malke, DRE

The President's Corner

When we were working on the new By-Laws, one of the things discussed was developing a mechanism for communication among the committees and between the Committees and the Board. A solution never made it into the By-Laws. We are trying something new this year to address this gap. Lynn Pawelski, in her role as Vice President, will chair meetings of the committees and be a bridge back to the Board. The meetings will start out quarterly and the frequency will be adjusted as seems appropriate. At the first meeting in August, the committee chairs started to organize the Committee Fair, and came up with the idea of explaining committee roles on Sunday morning. Discussion also revealed several things that could pertain to more than one committee. It was obvious from the discussion that this will be a very useful forum.

- Barb Park, President

...and Now a Word from the Rev.

I was semi-settling into my new apartment, eager to get past living out of boxes, when the refrigerator in the apartment died. Of course, Murphy's Law (or whoever's law applies here) was operating: this happened on a Friday evening, right after I had returned from the grocery store with a lot that had to be refrigerated. Nothing could be done about replacing the refrigerator until Sunday, so I packed the groceries back up, loaded them into the car and put them in the refrigerator of a friend's house. On Sunday, the men moving the new refrigerator appeared almost at the end of the six-hour window (there's that law again), hauled the old fridge out, the new one up the two flights of stairs... and... the new one did not fit into the allotted space!

I do realize that this annoying event is completely insignificant in the overall scheme of things. Many people in places all over the world don't have refrigeration, period. And, I did find this misadventure amusing, overall, but I kept wondering, why didn't anyone measure the space? Why was everyone assuming the new fridge would fit?

Assumptions -- they are dangerous! Obviously, it isn't only individuals who make assumptions. Institutions and organizations do, as well. Nonprofit organizations that depend on volunteers are the worst. Volunteer organizations assume that "someone" will volunteer to do the necessary work. We all are guilty of assuming "someone else" will do "it"; it being anything from the dishes to participating in committee work, to being on the board.

Prairie is about to challenge that assumption. On Sunday, October 13th, we will have a Volunteer Fair, to celebrate what makes Prairie tick. Everyone is invited to share in the work of keeping Prairie alive and

well. Prairie is a pretty healthy congregation, I think. Keeping it that way and making it even more so is challenging work that requires everyone's participation, both financially and as part of the working team that holds us together. I hope that there will be so many people in the building every Sunday in October that we will have to fight over chairs -- just kidding, but you get the idea!

- Rev. Sandy

Out and About with the Prairie Community

Bob and Barb Park's Summer Travel

On our trip we visited relatives and friends in 3 states and 4 provinces. My sister has been a member for many years of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, New Brunswick, and has served on its board. She also got to know former Prairie members Orié and Elinor Loucks there. We spent time with her both in Fredericton and at her cottage on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.



Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

Getting to Know Our Committees

Caring Committee Serves Members

The purpose of the Caring Committee is to provide support to members at times of illness or other crisis as feasible, in coordination with the minister. Each committee member has designated members of the congregation to keep in touch with. We appreciate members contacting us when

you have upcoming needs and when you hear of other members with needs.

The types of care we are able to provide include: planning with individuals for health care needs and health directives; helping plan for end of life issues; visiting members in the hospital, rehabilitation centers, and at home when ill; helping bring meals after surgery or other need; helping with errands in time of need; assisting family members at the time of death of a Prairie member.

Each member of the congregation is assigned to a member of the Caring Committee, who can help coordinate support if you contact us to plan for when you have needs. Members of the Caring Committee this year are: Erin Bosch, Randy Converse, Karen Deaton, Katherine Peterson, Linda Sheehy, Aileen Nettleton (Chair), with Rev. Sandy Ingham providing support as well. A list of Caring Groups is posted on the bulletin board at Prairie for your reference.

Social Action Committee



This is the committee of Prairie that takes stands on issues without having to get consent of the society and maintains a presence on the internet. We inform Prairie membership about local and nation social action issues and events. We provide opportunities for the society to give money, or services or goods to worthy causes. We fill a position on Allied Partners Board. We participate in local events and projects on behalf of Prairie such as cooking and

serving meals at shelters, collecting food for neighborhood food pantry and working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Several committee members have been quite involved in Moses interfaith efforts to reduce prisoner populations in the past year. We meet irregularly and communicate mainly by email. We are a fun, lively bunch. Check us out. Contact Molly Plunkett if you have interest. 233-6167.

The Board

Summary of Prairie Board Meeting:

The Prairie Board met September 9th. The Board unanimously passed a vote to set up a Brokerage Fund with Benjamin Edwards.

This will allow friends and members to donate stock or for Prairie to invest in stock.

Treasurer Report: Al presented the new Quickbook Chart of Accounts. He will be revising the reimbursement form to include an appropriate chart of account numbers. We may consider using Quickbooks online in the future.

Christina will be drafting a retention policy for key society documents to be retained, secure and retrievable.

Finance Report: The result of the letters being sent out to every pledging member has been phenomenal with capital campaign and pledge monies on target to plan. GREAT JOB to the finance committee and to everyone who invested in Prairie's future!!!

Kathy has initiated budget requests from committee chairs for the new budgeting year. Pledge letters will be sent out by the first week of Oct. Friends and members will be encouraged to bring their pledges to Soup Sunday on Oct 20.

Committee Chairs Meetings: As VP, Lynn Pawelski will be leading the regular meeting of Committee Chairs. The immediate focus is on the Committee Fair on Sunday Oct 13.

Lynn will lead a planning session and Barb will write an article for the Prairie Fire.

Facilities Update: The next step for the house next door is to get a group of people to work with the architect on key structural floor and site plans. That group will also be accountable for putting together a plan for engaging the congregation on how the space will be used, and a clear priority of next steps as an outcome of the process. Dirk will be the ad hoc committee chair.

- Notes from the minutes provided by Christina Klock, Secretary of the Board.

Visit Prairie's website (see below) for further information

The Lighter Side...

You might be a UU if . . .

...you think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle"

...to explain your personal theology, you have to use interpretive dance.

...the name of your church is longer than your arm



2010 Whenona Drive

Madison WI 53711

(608) 271-8218

<http://www.uuprairie.org>

Published 10/1/2013