

Prairie Fire

November 2013

Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat. Nov 2 9-11 am **WOW@Prairie**

Sun. Nov 3 10 am **Service:** "All Souls Day" - Sandra Ingham

12 noon **Humanist Union**

5:30 pm **Men's Group**

Sat. Nov 9 9 am - 1pm **Prairie Work Day**

Sun. Nov 10 10 am **Service:** "Too Much Money in Politics, and How We Can Get Our Democracy Back." - George Penn

Sun. Nov 17 10 am **Service:** "Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration" - Rev. John Mix

Sun. Nov 24 10 am **Service:** "Guest at Your Table" - Intergenerational program

12 noon **Fall Parish Meeting**

Tues. Nov 26 1:30-2:30 **Prairie Elders**

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

"All Souls Day": We will honor the dead in general and our UU spiritual ancestors in particular; as well as those from our own lives who have made our being together at Prairie possible. All these people make up that great "cloud of witnesses" without whom, we would not be who we are today.

Humanist Union: The Humanist Union will meet to hear about (and discuss) highlights from the annual convention of the Freedom From Religion Foundation in September. Potluck lunch at noon, followed by the program 12:30 -1:30 pm led by Susan Hagstrom, a member of FFRF and, as an Associate member of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, a "card carrying skeptic"; and Henry Steinberger, PhD, a licensed psychologist who trained with Albert Ellis. He provides secular, science-based help to his clients about half of whom are people with addictions. He is a life member of FFRF. 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

Prairie Work Day: We will be cleaning out the rain gutters, raking leaves [bring your kids to rake and have a good time jumping in the piles], working on bush removal [no not that Bush it's too late for impeachment], etc. Bring shovels, rakes and tree trimming equipment. If the weather cooperates we will burn the prairies out front during the work party. There will be popcorn and soda. Bring other treats for the crew as you wish. Contact: Gary Gates, 255-2337

"Too Much Money in Politics, and How We Can Get Our Democracy Back": George Penn is an Outreach Coordinator for South Central Wisconsin Move to Amend. Move to Amend

formed locally in response to the 2010 US Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, which ruled that there can be no limit on political donations of corporations. The group initiated petition drives to get resolutions on the ballot in Madison and Dane County to abolish corporate personhood. The resolutions were passed in the spring 2011. The group has continued to expand the effort to communities through the southern part of the state to pass similar resolutions.

"Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration": To follow up on the Social Action Committee's presentation on the MOSES 11 by 15 project (<http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/>), this will be the first in a series on the state of our prison population and how to reduce it. Our kick off speaker will be the Rev. John Mix, chaplain of the Dane County Jail. The Rev. Mix is an outspoken advocate for treatment alternatives to incarceration. He also blends art therapy with prison chaplaincy.

"Guest at Your Table": This will be a multigenerational service. All children and youth will be in the service to learn about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's yearly project.

Fall Parish meeting: The meeting will be after the service and Soup Sunday. Agenda items include committee reports and a vote on Prairie's 2014 budget.

Prairie Elders: The topic is funny uncles in our families. Prairie Elders aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU Members and Friends over 65 and UUs living at the facility where we meet. Our "round robin" format makes it easier to hear and gives all of us the option of speaking. Topics alternate between general issues and personal interests. If convenient, bring your own beverage cup and a few snacks. Newcomers welcome. Nakoma Room, Heritage Oaks building, Oakwood Village West. Call for directions, parking or a ride. Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) or Donna Murdoch (238-3802).

Prairie News

Prairie Retreat Update: Due to a mix-up at Bethel when senior pastor Duane Hanson retired, the dates we originally had for our 2014 retreat became unavailable. They were able to offer us a different weekend - just one week later. The new date for the Prairie Family Retreat will be Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8, 2014. The Prairie retreat is a very fun weekend of crafts, activities, eating, talking, and coffee - mark your calendars now!

Hospitality Committee News: What a lovely event Soup Sunday was in October! Lots of folks and families sat down and enjoyed it and we had some yummy food offerings. The next Soup Sunday is coming up on November 24th. If you would like to contribute soup, salad or dessert to that one, you can let me know any time and I will remind you when it comes closer to the day.

PLEASE sign up on the clipboards for Sunday mornings making coffee, bringing flowers (you can dedicate the flowers to a person or event - like a birthday or an anniversary) and for Soup Sunday contributions.

Here is a fall salad recipe I wanted to share. Great for potlucks! Please feel free to submit your own recipes. You can always send it to me at bchatter10@gmail.com or to Dan Klock at mgr@uuprairie.org

6 Tbsp plain yogurt	1/2 c raisins
1 Tbsp lemon juice	1 tsp Dijon mustard
2 celery stalks chopped	3/4 c coarsely chopped hazelnuts or pecans
salt and pepper to taste	2 TBS chopped parsley
2 red chopped apples	1c shredded cabbage

Mix yogurt, lemon juice, mustard and seasoning. Add apples and mix to coat. Finely shred cabbage and add to apples along with the rest of the ingredients. Toss thoroughly.

Please bring in recipes to share. There will be a place for them outside the meeting room doors. Thanks!

~ Barbara Chatterton, Hospitality Committee Chair

Frolicking at Prairie!

Spaghetti Western Dinner



Name that Cowhand!



Two jolly good outlaws!

Fall Frolic



Oh, my aching back!



Prairie youth contortionists

...and Now a Word from the Rev.

by Sandra Ingham

One of the first services I attended at First Unitarian Society, my home UU church, was a celebration of All Souls Day. Looking back at that Sunday in the mid-70s, I realize that it was a turning point in my life. I was brand new to Unitarian Universalism. I had never heard someone articulate our connection to all the souls who ever lived the way Rev. Max Gaebler did that morning. I had felt this connection deep in my bones for as long as I could remember, but was unable to put it into words.

On November 2, 2012 -- All Souls Day -- I was at Mesa Verde National Park. I had the Park almost completely to myself. I discovered some ruins that I hadn't known about previously. As I walked around and through the ones where you are allowed to do that, I remembered that All Souls Day from the mid-70s. Once again, I was at a loss for words. It was all about feeling: feeling the presence of the ancient ones all around me, knowing intuitively that I am connected to those ancient Pueblo people, a mystical experience that the humanist part of me is very grateful to have had.

Much as I dread winter, I like November. It is, for me, a time for grounding ourselves, stocking up on late fall produce, honoring the dead, taking time to contemplate the interdependent web that connects us not only to the living, but also to all those who have come before us.

November is also a month in which we set aside a day to intentionally give thanks. I am so thankful that I belong to a faith tradition that attempts to encompass and embrace all sacred beliefs, as difficult as that sometimes is. Within this tradition of ours, I can honor both my mystic self and my humanist self and, from time to time, my Buddhist and pagan selves, as well. I give thanks that at Prairie, we try to honor the whole spectrum of beliefs, abhorring exclusivity, honoring and always struggling for inclusivity.

RE Circle of Friends

~ Rebecca Malke, Director of Religious Education

Ministry with Youth

The Unitarian Universalist Association along with the MidAmerica Region, have a number of opportunities for directors of religious education to grow in their profession. One of those ways I have been happy to take part in. For the fifth time I attended a Renaissance Module, which is a 15-hour workshop that can lead to being credentialed.

This module was Ministry with Youth in Naperville, IL. I am so happy to be part of a congregation who supports me in my work and pays for me to attend these modules with the purpose of taking the information back home to help our youth.

This multi-day module stressed that everyone, regardless of age, is a part of the congregation. From the flier:

"The philosophy of this module is that youth will be ministered to by Unitarian Universalist congregations when they are respected as community members. As youth are empowered to be full members of Unitarian Universalist communities, both they and the community will be strengthened. This module is congregational focused rather than exploring cluster or district level youth ministry and is concerned with youth programming as part of the total life of the congregation."

I've already had a chance to share what I've learned with the Religious Education Committee and look forward to implementing what I've learned into the Children's RE program.

Second Baptist Church

As part of our year-long curriculum, Neighboring Faiths or for you long-time UU's, Church Across the Street, we are learning about Christianity. We have had a field trip to two churches: St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Second Baptist Church, which is just two blocks down the street from Prairie UU Society.

I first talked to Pastor Anthony Wade in September about having members from his congregation come to Prairie to speak to our youth. His wife and the deacon of the church spent a Sunday morning talking to us about their beliefs and a typical Sunday service. We spent the following Sunday, grades 4 and up, at the church. What a welcoming congregation! They greeted us with hugs and handshakes and even breakfast! Their order of service mentioned us on the front cover and afterwards we were treated to lunch. Everyone there was so warm and so happy to see us finally meeting. It was a lovely service. Pastor Wade and I have agreed that this will not be the last time we see each other.

Leaf raking

Our first joint project with the youth at Second Baptist Church will be on Sunday, November 10th. Pastor Wade has already announced to his congregation that their youth will be joining us to rake leaves in the neighborhood. I'm so excited to finally be working with our neighbors down the street!

If you're interested in getting to know more about our new friends at Second Baptist then consider volunteering that morning. There are two ways you could do this. One, you can sign up to rake leaves with the youth or two, you can donate your leaf rakes and tarps (marked with your names) for the morning. Please let me know ASAP if you can help.

Guest at Your Table

November 24th will be a multigenerational service. All children and youth will be in the service to learn about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's yearly project, Guest at Your Table. This is something that people of all ages can take part in. If you're unable to attend but would like to know more about how you and your family can help others in need please see me or visit <http://www.uusc.org/guest> for more information.

Out and About with the Prairie Community

CROP Walk Prairie Team: There were only five sturdy walkers on the Prairie team, but that didn't deter the team from making \$205! Many thanks to the team and the folks that helped sponsor the walkers! Imagine what a bigger team could do next year!

The Men's Shelter with Paula Pachciarz: My family and I first started coming to Prairie in 1990, and Frank Iltis was organizing volunteers for the men's shelter even then. At that time Prairie was helping out with intake on Friday evening. Under Bob Steinhoffer's tenure as chair

of the Social Action Committee we changed to providing a hot breakfast on Saturday morning with a fixed menu. At that time the shelter did not have a stove and the men usually had a cold breakfast, so the meal was very appreciated. We have kept up the breakfast commitment ever since sending volunteers once a month to the shelter at Grace Episcopal on the square.

"Why this shelter?" you may ask. Why not the women's shelter, or other Porchlight services, or the safe house for abused women? Prairie members have and continue to donate to these other vital services, but the reasons for the Prairie Society's support of this particular shelter are:

- 1) Tradition. Prairie began this commitment almost 30 years ago. Pretty impressive that we've been sending volunteers every month for all those years.
- 2) UU Fellowship. James Reeb joined us in this ministry in 2009. Working at the shelter gives Prairie members the opportunity to get to know other UUs in Madison.
- 3) Need: Many of the men who use the shelter are the ones having the most difficulty finding employment or navigating today's society so as to provide for themselves.

As winter approaches, the number of men using Madison's homeless shelters increases, as does the appetite of every one using those shelters. But it is also more of a challenge providing volunteers during the cold, dark months.

I've been the coordinator in the past and started again about three years ago. I continue to be impressed by Prairie's level of commitment. Please consider signing up to either shop for and deliver food supplies on a Friday, or to cook and serve breakfast at the shelter on a Saturday morning from 5-7. Contact Paula Pachciarz 608.206.1770 pjpchz@gmail.com

...And a Hear Hear! For all the volunteers over the past months!

Jim Carpenter	Barb Park	Dan Proud	Doug Renk
Kathy Converse	Steve Blank	Elizabeth Macasaet	Gary Gates
Randy Converse	Glen Pawelski	Lynn Pawelski	Phoenix Wardell
Rick Ruecking	Martin Whitehead	Bill Parmenter (volunteer extraordinaire!)	

Winged Words

Untitled

by Rachel Siegfried

I want to sing
But I can't remember the words
which remind me of love between
people--torn asunder by war.
Where has that love gone?
The crows have gathered
to pick apart a small
bird fallen in my driveway.
Suddenly--a tiny bird

hidden by shrubs
nearby comes flying
out--dive-bombing them
away.

Nuthatch

by Paula Pachciarz

Flicker of gray and white,
the nuthatch weaves almost faster than eyesight
through leaf-bare trunks and branches,
selects and lights on a tree in the same second,
and, feet on bark, sprints earthward on the near side,
allowing me a short look
at the black cap, bright eyes, intricate tail
of this busy, busy bird.

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



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