

# Prairie Fire

**April 2015**

**Pub. Date: 03/27/2015**



## Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat	April 4	5:00-7:00 am—Men's Shelter Breakfast
Sat	April 4	9:00 am—WOW@Prairie
Sun	April 5	10:00 am service—Joyful, Joyful—by Rev. Sandra Ingham
Sun	April 5	11:45—Humanist Union
Sun	April 5	5:00 pm—Men's Group at Prairie
Sun	April 12	10:00 am service—This We Believe-What?—presented by The High School RE class
Sun	April 19	10:00 am service—Tick...Tock—by Rev. Sandra Ingham
Sun	April 19	11:45 am—Book Club— <i>Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity</i>
Sun	April 26	10:00 am service—The Gift of Years—presented by Millie Moffet, Mary Frantz, and Nevenah Smith
Mon	April 27	Evening—Spanish Speakers Potluck at Prairie (call Rosemary for a ride 608-238-4382)
Tues	April 28	1:30-3:00 pm—Prairie Elders—at Prairie. Dealing with our Memory Loss
Fri	May 1	<b>Prairie Retreat Weekend—May 1-3 at Bethel Horizons</b>

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April 5—"Joyful, Joyful" by Rev. Sandra Ingham— How can we possibly be joyful in a world as crazy and sad and scary as the one in which we live? How do you cultivate and maintain joy in your life in the midst of darkness and grief, pain and sorrow? What moments in your life would you classify as joyful? For me, singing and dancing and poetry help take me to a place of joy. But, how do you rediscover joy if it has been trampled upon or you have lost it because of the path your life has temporarily or permanently taken? I hope that some of you will come prepared to share your answers to these questions.

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April 5—**Humanist Union to Hear Highlights of Freethought Festival 4**—At our April 5th Humanist Union meeting we will hear from two who attended [Freethought Festival 4](#) on the UW campus, Susan Hagstrom and Peter Warshaw. These annual events have featured talks by freethinkers from around the country for the last 4 years. This year's event took place March 13 to 15. We'll start with our usual potluck lunch at 11:45, program 12:30 to 1:30 pm. All are invited.

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### April 12—**This We Believe - what?**

Finally, what you've all been waiting for. The High School Religious Education Class will present the results of their survey on our Prairie congregation's religious beliefs. Most of our society participated in the survey, and we will share what we have learned about us. The results may surprise you!

April 19—**Tick....Tock**—This could refer to time, as in tick, tock, the time for us to avoid an environmental disaster because of the way we live is rapidly running out, or so many scientists and climatologists tell us. "Tick, tock" could also refer to a pendulum or a metronome. TICK... look backwards to when humans understood that we are part of the Earth and partners with not only the Earth, but also with all of life on this planet. TOCK... look forward... Will enough of us truly grasp this before it is too late? Bill McKibben, Wendell Berry, Sister Miriam MacGillis, David Korten, among others, will help provide an answer to the question -- possibly the most important question facing humanity today.

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April 19—**Book Club**—*Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*, Chapters 1(son), 5(Autism), and any others except 6 and 9 by Andrew Solomon. Solomon's startling proposition in *Far from the Tree* is that being exceptional is at the core of the human condition—that difference is what unites us. He writes about families coping with deafness, dwarfism, Down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, or multiple severe disabilities; with children who are prodigies, who are conceived in rape, who become criminals, who are transgender. While each of these characteristics is potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal, and Solomon documents triumphs of love over prejudice in every chapter. Suggested by Mary Mullen.

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April 26—**The Gift of Years**—by Prairie folks Millie Moffet, Mary Franz, and Nevenah Smith. Depend on learning about aging issues from people who know. Millie Moffet has educational certification in aging issues and at one time provided services for elderly in their homes. Dr. Mary Franz will address some of the physical aspects of aging. Nevenah Smith, who is the live-in helper for her parents, will talk about her care-taking role. Mary Franz—*I finished medical school in 1951, with two children by the time I graduated. We practiced together in western Colorado for a few years, then moved to the midwest so we could be part of a group. I practiced at the Monroe Clinic from 1956 until my retirement in 2010. I would say I had a special interest in being a part of my patients' lives over the entire adult life span, and you might say it was satisfying to grow old together! Of course, I had many younger patients, too, even as I myself aged. Early on, I cared for children and even delivered babies, but that was long ago. Now that I am no longer in practice, I am still very interested in how we accommodate to the aging process. Living in a very active retirement community I have many opportunities to engage with my fellow-residents, aged from late 50's to over 100 years.*

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April 28—**Prairie Elders**—When does memory loss become a problem? What do we do about it? This is a touchy issue and different for everyone. Let's discuss it. Prairie Elders aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU members and friends over 65. 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 issues. Sharing is optional. People are welcome just to come and listen.

May 1-3—**Prairie 2015 Retreat**—Ron Frye will be leading a hike in Governor Dodge State Park. You will need a state sticker if you bring your car into the park. There will be a variety of workshops for the adults and some will include the older children. There will also be special games for the kids. Of course, you can always just veg out! Enclosed is the registration form for the retreat. Later in this issue is info on what to bring and what to wear.

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### **Message from the President—Gary Gates**

One of the questions that needs to be explored about Prairie's future is: How will we be organized?

Historically, Prairie has been a lay-led congregation. Staff were supervised by the committee responsible for the area in which the staff worked. The committee chairs were on the governing board and therefore in communication with each other and able to work out any overlapping activities and to give each other ideas on what Prairie should be doing. New chairs had a ready source of information about how things were done in the past and support as they learned their new role. All services were planned by the members.

Today, two of our three permanent staff are supervised by the minister. Committee chairs are no longer on the Board. A new chair has to figure out for her(him)self what needs to be done, and how to do it. There is no natural source of support from other chairs. Sharing of information between committees takes a special effort. Even sharing information between the Board and committees takes a special effort and I am afraid often doesn't happen. Many services are now led by our minister.

Do we want to continue moving towards the minister-led model of most churches, or do we want to continue as a lay-led congregation? What is needed if we want to continue to be lay-led? The most critical need if we want to do so is to continue having strong and capable committee chairs and to give them the support they need to do their job. How do we do this?

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the many people who are devoting their time, effort and talent to keeping Prairie working as well as it does. It has made my service as President much easier. In fact, I don't think I could have done the job at all, if it weren't for their dedication and knowledge. My concern is that the way we are functioning now will not produce the same result in the future. What should we do now to ensure that Prairie will continue to be well led?

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### **Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education**

#### **Prairie RE March Happenings**

**THANKS A BUNCH!** First off - A big thank you to the Richards family for a generous donation of gently used snow gear! I was hoping to say that this will surely come in handy next year, but it looks like Mother Nature has decided we may still be able to use it this year! We now have several pairs of snow pants in larger sizes, a few extra 'big kid' coats and a few pairs of hats and gloves. Anne Urbanski has donated a few hand crocheted hats that are also in our collection and both of my children's soon-to-be un-needed (I hope) snow pants will add to the stockpile. If your children will outgrow their gear this year and it is still in good condition, please

consider donating it to Prairie RE – we'd love to be able to accommodate kids' ability to go outside in any weather! Also – keep an eye on St. Vinnies & Goodwill and the up and coming yard sales! We could still use snow gloves in all sizes and snow pants in sizes 3T – 8/10 youth! Snow & rain boots wouldn't be turned away either!

**COMING SOON! – Principal Action Days (PADs)!** Principal Action Days is an NEW upcoming & recurring program! These will be days in which our youth will have an opportunity to live out and become more familiar with our UU Principals. The first PAD activity will be Blankets for Critters. Check out <http://blanketsforcritters.com/>. At our first PAD we will create crocheted, knitted and fleece-tied blankets to donate. Finger knitting lessons will be given! Anyone who loves RE and would like to participate is welcome! Yarn drive & dates are coming soon! Please contact Holly Tellander if you'd like to be involved in the planning.

**2016 RE Planning Summit** – Are you an RE parent or just someone who likes to watch from afar? Mark your calendars for Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-11:30. A new year brings opportunities for big changes, and this is your chance to weigh in on what works and what doesn't in regards to RE. Pastries, coffee and childcare will be provided if necessary. Some new ideas will be presented and we will hold a round table discussion about the direction of RE in the years to come. Please RVSP to [holly@tellander.net](mailto:holly@tellander.net)

### **What's Up Downstairs?**

Like always lots of learning and exploration going on downstairs! We have a new bulletin board contest that has just launched. If your student hasn't heard of it yet – they soon will! It promises to be lots of fun! All I can say is – keep your eyes and ears open...you could get caught on 'camera'!

As always, we'd love to see you downstairs. Come on down and check out our interactive bulletin boards and make a contribution.

**And we can always use donations of pre-packaged string cheese and single serve applesauce containers (COSTCO, ANYONE?).**

We've got big outdoor plans come spring time – there has been talk of a labyrinth and a garden. If you are interested in participating in either, come on down and let us know!



As always, thanks for your support!



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**A Celebration of Prairie Music and Musicians**—What better way to welcome the official arrival of summer than to serenade it? The program committee has declared Sunday, June 21 service, "A Celebration of Prairie Music and Musicians". The entire program will be devoted to music. We would like to showcase the many and varied musical talents of Prairie members.

We are calling on the institutional memory of long time members to remind us of pieces that were composed for or by Prairie members. The choir will revisit some of their favorite pieces. This is the time for members to share any parodies or original pieces they would like to debut. There will be a sing-a-long of old time favorites.

Think of this as a request program. Let Mary Mullen, Dan Proud or Barb Park know what golden oldies you would like to hear again or a new piece you would like to share with us.

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**PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY SPRING FAMILY RETREAT**  
**Bethel Horizons Center, May 1-3, 2015**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations are due by Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Please complete both sides!**

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Please read carefully to see what is included in each type of lodging, and note that ***“Kids” are 11 and under.***

**Prairie Center:** *(The most “hotel-like.” 4-5/room, private disability-accessible bathrooms, 72 beds total. Bring your own bedding (sheets, pillow, blankets,) toiletries, & towels; or rent sheets and towels for \$10.)*

# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$80 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$40 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_  
# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$40 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$20 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_  
# sheet/towel rentals \_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Barn Retreat Center:** *(26 single beds, shared bathrooms. Bring your own bedding (sheets, pillow, blankets,) toiletries, & towels.)*

# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$62 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$31 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_  
# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$31 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$15.50 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_

**Farmhouse:** *(26 single beds, shared bathrooms. Bring your own bedding (sheets, pillow, blankets,) toiletries, & towels.)*

# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$50 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$25 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_  
# adults \_\_\_\_ X \$25 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_      # kids \_\_\_\_ X \$12.50 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_

**Camping** *(As rustic as it gets. Bring your own tent, bedding, toiletries, towels, etc...)*

# sites \_\_\_\_ X \$40 for 2 nights = \_\_\_\_\_      (one family per site)  
# sites \_\_\_\_ X \$19 for 1 night = \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal Accommodations: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Please note: rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis after accommodation for age & disability.***

**PROGRAMMING**

To help with purchase of supplies and use of Bethel’s Naturalist    #people \_\_\_\_ X \$3 = \_\_\_\_\_

**(continued on the next page or on the back!)**

**MEALS:** If you will be at the whole retreat and want all the meals, choose “All Meals,” or you can pick which meals you want.

**Adults:**

All Meals: # \_\_\_\_ x \$41.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

by meal:

Sat. breakfast: # \_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. lunch: # \_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. dinner: # \_\_\_\_ x \$13 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sun. breakfast: # \_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. all-day-coffee # \_\_\_\_ x \$2.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Kids:**

All Meals: # \_\_\_\_ x \$19.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

by meal:

Sat. breakfast: # \_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. lunch: # \_\_\_\_ x \$4.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. dinner: # \_\_\_\_ x \$6.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sun. Breakfast: # \_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal meals: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*Special Diet concerns: #people \_\_\_\_\_ is/are vegetarians or have other special diet concerns. Please contact Kate (or she will contact you) to discuss.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

My family needs a full / partial scholarship of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (subtract)

My family can donate towards scholarships for others: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (add)

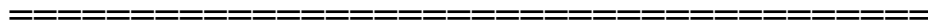
**Final Total All:**

+ \_\_\_\_ Accommodations

+ \_\_\_\_ Programming

+ \_\_\_\_ Meals

+/- \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship



**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*(Make checks payable to “Prairie UU Society”)*

**Send this form with payment to Kate Liu, 5710 Cedar Place, Madison, WI 53705 (608-238-9153) or bring to Prairie by Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

\*Accessibility concerns: some of the people in my family are in need of the most accessible lodging available: \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

\*I would like to carpool – day & time leaving Madison \_\_\_\_\_ returning \_\_\_\_\_

\*I will be rooming with \_\_\_\_\_

\*I need a roommate (list any preferences) \_\_\_\_\_

## **From Pamela Gates**

WISDOM Action Day April 29

Feeling dismayed about the U.S.' growing reputation as the incarceration nation? Join MOSES and other WISDOM groups from around the state in a day of action to address the egregious waste of resources that is the current "justice" system. Hannah Rosenthal and UW-Madison Director of Community Relations Everett Mitchell will be the keynote speakers. MOSES, of which Prairie is a member, has its own goal of 350 people at this event. Come for all or part of the day. Make sure your voice is part of the effort to bring about much-needed change in this crucial area!

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Ave.

When: Wednesday, April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Agenda: 8:00: check-in and refreshments

9:00: morning plenary and issue briefing

12:00: lunch

1:00: visits to legislators in Capitol

Cost: \$25 (register by April 15)

To register, send check made out to MOSES to:

MOSES, P.O. Box 7031, Madison 53707

For more information:

[info@mosesmadison.org](mailto:info@mosesmadison.org) or [608-622-2360](tel:608-622-2360)

Gary & Pam Gates will be there, and we'd love to have a good-sized group of Prairie members attend with us. Let us know if you're coming!

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### ***Prairie Retreat at Bethel Horizons—May 1-3, 2015***

#### **What Should I Bring?**

If you are coming on Friday, please bring finger food to share for an informal potluck.

All other meals are included in the registration costs.

Bring your short (2-4 minutes, please) talent show act and anything needed for your act.

You may wish to bring a favorite board game to share.

#### **Do check your registration form**

You will need to bring your own bedding. That includes sheets, pillowcases, blankets.

You will need to bring all of your own toiletries.

You will also need to bring your own towels, washcloths, soap.

#### **What Should I Wear?**

Check the weather and plan accordingly.

Plan to dress for comfort, both inside and outside.

Be sure to bring a flashlight!

***If you are planning on singing with the Prairie Grannies, please bring a hat! Grandpas are also welcome.***

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Liu or Phyllis Long

### **From Ruth Calden—Historical Tidbits**

Who started Prairie's symbol tree tradition? From Elinor Loucks, who was an early executive secretary and saved Prairie newsletters from September 1969 to July 1971 comes this bit of info. A December 2, 1970 newsletter in her file reveals that our annual December symbol tree tradition was started by our then part-time minister Dave Meyers. He and his wife Pat were impressed by the ritual when they attended a UU Fellowship in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The Iowa tradition stressed hanging religious symbols on the tree whereas the emphasis at Prairie has been to hang symbols of a significant accomplishment, event or person in our life during the past year.

Did you know that Prairie will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017? A Prairie History Committee is hard at work assembling and digging through old Prairie Fires, Sunday bulletins, and other documents with an aim of putting out a book on Prairie History in 2017. If you have kept Prairie items and/or have a file of Prairie documents please let a committee member know.

Mary Mullen, Chair Barb Park, Ruth Calden, Rosemary Dorney

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### **From Dan Klock—Service Auction Update**

Prairie's service auction was held on March 22. So far we've raised \$4,711! Thank you for your donations and bids!

Watch your mail! We'll be sending out letters to bidders listing what you won at the auction, and to donors listing who won your items.

There are still items and seats at events available. Take a look at the list below. If you'd like to purchase an item from the auction, let the person listed below know. Make checks payable to Prairie UU Society, and please write in the memo line of the check that your payment is for the service auction.

- #5 Renaissance Themed Dinner – from a group of Prairie's RE kids  
1 seat at \$20  
Eat with your hands. Come dressed up for a proper Renaissance dinner served by 6 of our youths. Entertainment of unknown quality included. Fall 2015.
- #14 Evening of Babysitting by Anne Urbanski  
2 evenings at \$15  
TWO (2) evenings of babysitting for up to 3 children, within 20 miles of my house (521 Shady Wood Way, 53714). Anne prefers a Friday or Saturday evening, with a maximum of 4 hours. Bids are per evening.
- #16 Peter's Famous Shrimp Salad from Peter Anderson  
1 available at \$10  
Peter will come to your house and make you his famous salad! Serves up to 6.
- #18 Cinco de Mayo (observed) dinner from Paula Pachciarz  
1 seat left at \$27. Held on June 5 (Cinco de junio)  
Tamale pie, stewed cardoons (similar to artichokes), nopalitos salad, black bean and citrus salad, strawberry chocolate quesadillas, wine or margaritas or both



#19 Mosaic Madness from Mary Mullen

2 seats left at \$15 each. Held on Saturday, October 17, 10am-2pm.

A lot of small high-fired tile mosaic chips came into our possession from the neighborhood mosaic mural project. We are offering an opportunity for you to use these chips to make either a number plate or a name plate for your home. We'll provide the mosaic pieces, the concrete board backing, the mortar, and the grout. You make your own design during the workshop and mortar it to the board. You can come back to grout your mosaic or have us do it. You can make more than one if you have time. (Kids welcome with supervision, but keep in mind the mosaic chips are very small.)

#23 Evening or overnight child care provided by Aileen Nettleton

1 evening left at \$15

Overnight childcare -- can be at Aileen's house or yours!

#26 Bad monster movie night by Jane Richards

Many more seats available at \$10

Hang out with your Prairie friends and watch a bad monster movie!

#27 Yard raking in the fall by a group of Prairie's kids and parents from Jane Richards

1 offer left at \$25

Do you need a bit of help with yard work in the fall, or know someone in the Madison area who might? Bid on this item to get that help!

#32 Non-English high tea with Millie Moffet!

1 seat at \$20

Join Millie at 3:00pm on a Saturday (date to be decided) for a non-English High Tea!

#37 Karaoke Party at Orange and Dean Schroeder's house

More seats available at \$25.

Refreshments provided!

#38 Ballroom dance lessons from Rosemarie Carbino

space for 1 more couple at \$20

Dance etiquette & One dance style: choose from Waltz. Foxtrot. Swing. Rumba.

American Tango. [easy Meringue added as free bonus at lesson end.] Review what you know &/or beginner introduction. Ideas for where to dance/practice in Madison area.

#41 Women's only bike and hike adventure with Mary Mullen and Patty Stockdale

space for 6 more at \$10 each

The Prairie (Dunn's Marsh) neighborhood is a mecca for bicyclists and hikers with many bike trails meeting up here. Several new facilities have been completed in the past year. Join us with your bike for a relatively short ride (probably less than 7 miles total) with many stops to explore connections to the Southwest Commuter Trail, the Badger State Trail, the Cannonball Path, the Capital City Trail, and the Fitchburg Bike Hub (building). We will also spend some time on foot exploring the new mountain bike park just south of Dunn's Marsh. We'll provide a homemade lunch plus the \$1 treat at Culver's. (They always have one.)

#42 All things kale from Patty Stockdale

3 seats left at \$25 each

This past year Patty became a kale aficionado, and this year Mary plans to grow about 10 varieties of kale. Join us for a meal featuring some or all of these kales fixed in a variety of ways. (Be assured that the meal will be more than kale.) We will probably take you out to the garden so you can pick some of our kale and other extra veggies to take home too.

44 Eighty-Plus Something Eat Free! By Patty Stockdale  
Up to **51 more seats** at \$17 each

Join families and friends in celebrating with Prairie's Octogenarians on Saturday November 21, 2015 at 2 pm. Prairie has HOW MANY members over 80? We are so privileged and honored to have ten (?) 80-somethings with us most Sunday mornings at services. The menu will be traditional Thanksgiving with all the trimmings. These include turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, green beans, and pie. Also healthy alternatives with tofu, green salads, and lentil casseroles. There will be a program of special acknowledgements. BYO wine/beer. Bids start at \$15 per person. This event will grow in attendees as the date approaches, so don't miss it!

#36 Warm mist humidifier – Contact Dan Klock  
1 available for \$15

#72 Aztec figure pendant – Contact Dan Klock  
1 available for \$3

#76 Sudoku game (a bit like Scrabble) – Contact Dan Klock  
1 available for \$2

#82 Green Kokopelli figure pendant – Contact Dan Klock  
1 available for \$3

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**Please consider volunteering for and participating in one or more of Prairie's committees or groups—A full list is located on Prairie's website: <http://uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com>, or call Patty Stockdale for contact information: (608) 293-0843. Visit Prairie's website (see below) for further information.**

**Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
2010 Whenona Drive  
Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 271-8218  
<http://www.uuprairie.org>**