

Prairie Fire

July 2016

Editor: Phyllis Long plong373@gmail.com

Pub. Date: 06/27/2016



Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat July 2 5:00 a.m.—*Men's Shelter Breakfast*

Sat July 2 9:00 a.m.—*Prairie WOW*—meets in the Annex

Sun July 3 10:00 a.m.—*What is Conscience?*—by Ken Haydock. The Program Committee chose the 4th of July weekend to do the 5th Principle in our series on the seven principles. Ken Haydock was asked to do the presentation. His response says it all: "If, as may well be the case, folks are looking for something along the lines of a Fourth of July oration on how great the Fifth Principle is, I'm not your guy...If, however, a short, subjective examination of "What is conscience? Coupled with a critical look at how 'How democratic really *are* the U.S. and UU'ism? is acceptable, I have some thoughts along those lines I'd be happy to share."

Sun July 10 10:00 a.m. In an effort to better understand the Muslim world, Prof. Jennifer Pruitt from the UW Art History Department will do a presentation on *Islamic Art*.

Sun July 10 12:00 noon—*Humanist Union*—meets The meeting will start at noon with a potluck lunch, followed by photos by Ingrid Laas of the Reason Rally in Washington, D.C., and a discussion on expanding Humanist Union programming.

Mon July 11 6:00 p.m.—*Finance Committee*—meets

Mon July 11 7:00 p.m.—*Program Committee*—meets

Sun July 17 10:00 a.m.—*Good for Nothing*—This title is borrowed from a quote Universalist Unitarian minister Richard Gilbert uses in his workbook, "Building Your Own Theology -- Ethics". Gilbert, in turn, borrowed it from the cartoon character Ziggy. Gilbert uses the phrase to refer to whether or not people can be good persons if they don't believe in a higher power. This is a question frequently asked of atheists, agnostics, humanists and UU ministers. If we believe that we aren't accountable to a higher authority, then why bother to be good? This inquiry never fails to astound me. Today, we'll consider --- through our UU lenses -- ethics, morals, the importance of being good for nothing. Rev. Sandy

Sun July 17 11:45 a.m.—*Soup Sunday*

Sun July 17 12:00 noon The book club selection for July is—*The Worst Hard Time: The untold story of those who survived the Great American Dust Bowl*—by Timothy Eagan. This is an epic story of blind hope and endurance almost beyond belief; it is also, as Tim Eagan has told it, a riveting tale of bumptious charlatans, conmen, and tricksters, environmental arrogance and hubris, political chicanery, and a ruinous ignorance of nature's ways.—Marq de Villiers, author of *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource*. 312 pages. Suggested by Judy Lazarus

Sun July 24 10:00 a.m.—*IMBY-In My Back Yard*—The fourth Sunday in July is our annual joint service with the Free Congregation of Sauk County (FCSC). Rev. Sandy will be in Romania that day, but another one of FCSC's Associate Speakers, Rev. Larry Collins, will be the presenter. Larry will focus on FCSC's beautiful grounds, especially the trees. Prairie people have three roles to

play: (1) ATTEND the service; (2) (optional) BRING A POEM OR SHORT READING ABOUT A TREE OR NATURE (NOTE: PLEASE LET SANDY OR DAN KNOW BY JULY 15 if you are doing this so that Larry can plan the time accordingly); (3) BRING A DISH TO SHARE for the pot luck that happens right after the service. (For those who really can't get to Sauk City and also for possible visitors and newcomers Prairie will be open that morning for a video and a discussion.)

Tues July 26 1:30 p.m.—**Prairie Elders**—The Prairie Elders will meet at 1:30, Tuesday, July 26, in the Prairie Annex, 2006 Whenona Drive. The July topic will be *Are prisons 'criminal' Justice?* Elders meets in the Annex the 4th Tuesday of each month to chat and enjoy shared snacks, with coffee and tea provided. For more information, contact Al Nettleton (238-6053) or Penny Eiler (852-8750).

Sun July 31 10:00 a.m.—Prairie has a wealth of talented musicians who have used their talents to enrich our services. Paula Pachciarz is putting together a program of pieces created by these Prairie musicians.

Sat Aug 6 5:00 a.m.—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

Sat Aug 6 9:00 a.m.—**Prairie WOW**—meets in the Annex

Sun Aug 7 10:00 a.m.—**Service**

Sun Aug 7 11:45 a.m.—**Humanist Union** meets

Sun Aug 14 10:00 a.m.—**Service**

Sun Aug 14 11:45 a.m.—**Prairie Board**—meets in the Annex

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER—Sandra Ingham

The first time I went to a Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA), I did not know that I was at GA. All I knew was that the choir from First Unitarian Society in Madison, of which I was a part, had been invited to sing at an event in... Columbus, Ohio! But the choir was so wrapped up in itself (and its reputation for having fantastic parties, which it did) that all we knew was that we had an opportunity to party for several days. (We went by bus.) This was in the late 70's.

It would be a decade, not until the late 80s, before I would intentionally, knowingly attend GA. That one was in Milwaukee. I drove. I took my bicycle. I stayed in a Marquette dorm. And, I had one of the best experiences of my life. I was so enthralled with everything, especially with being surrounded by so many Unitarian Universalists. But it was mostly being with members of the Association of UU Administrators (AUUA) that made the Milwaukee GA so special for me. By this time, I was First Unitarian Society's (FUS) office manager and had joined, at the suggestion of one of FUS's ministers, the AUUA, an organization that "saved my life".

The year after Milwaukee, GA was in Hollywood, Florida, close enough to the ocean that some of us administrators would wear our swimsuits under our clothes so that after a meeting, we could go directly to the beach. Wonderful! There was Calgary in Canada where one of my friends from First Society, a fellow "chocoholic", and I walked five miles, one way, for the best chocolate in Calgary. It was worth it.

My job every year is to find the best restaurants within walking distance of the convention center. Portland, Oregon, and Boston top the list of best places to walk around in a city. I have fond memories of the two GAs that I have been to in Salt Lake City because I received preliminary fellowship at the first one and final fellowship at the second one.

I have lost track of not only how many General Assemblies I have attended, but also how many protests I have participated in over the years at GAs. The UUA sponsors these and always manages to get great publicity for us. GA is an excellent public relations event. In 2012, GA was in Phoenix and we protested Sheriff Joe's tactics right there outside of the jail. We had to have special permits. I remember walking past people holding guns -- I don't mean prison guards, either. But we did it and there was no violence.

Lest you think all is fun and games and protests and exploring new cities, no -- those are only a part of any GA. By the end of the five days of meetings, lectures, discussion groups, worship services, business meetings (the famous plenaries), challenging speakers, lively conversations about a wide range of subjects, your head is about to burst. But, it's all good... so good... Next year our General Assembly will be in New Orleans. Start planning now!!

Three weeks after I return from GA, I leave for Transylvania with a group from FUS. I will be gone on that trip for two weeks (July 20-August 3).

I hope you all have enriching summers with time for reflecting and relaxing... Rev. Sandy



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:

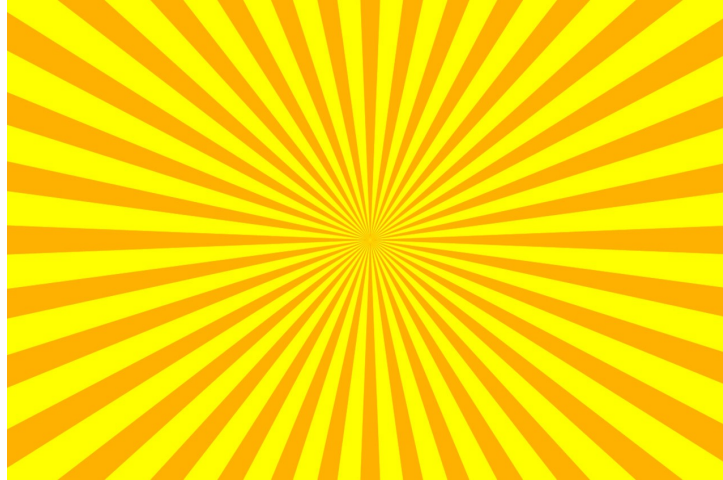
<http://uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com>

Or contact Karen Deaton for more information at:

wisconsinkaren@gmail.com

Summer Fun @ Prairie!

**Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Dr., Madison, WI 53711**



II Programming 10:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.

- May 29th—Field Day!**
- June 5th —Ojos de Dios**
- June 12th—Neighborhood Chalk Walk**
- June 19th—Giant Bubbles**
- June 26th—Mala Beads**
- July 3rd—Super Soaker Day #1**
- July 10th—Tie-Dye T-shirts**
- July 17th—Homemade Ice Cream**
- July 24th—Balloonapalooza**
- June 31—Super Soaker Day #2**
- August 7th—Painted Rocks**
- August 14th—DIY Kazoos**
- August 21st—Nature Art**
- August 28th—Slipper Socks for Seniors**
- Sept 4th—Trash Pick Up Service Day**

Come Join Us When You Can!

Questions? Would you like to Volunteer?

Contact Holly Tellander, DRE—prairie_uu_dre@outlook.com

