

Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
Madison, Wis.
c/o Leland Bullen, 5313 Main St., McFarland., WI 53558

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Pat Watkins
2419 Norwood Pl
Madison WI 53705

Services are held at Woodland Montessori School, 1124 Colby Street

Calendar

- SUN. OCT. 7 10:00 a. m. --Generating Inequality--Part II. Rod Stevenson.
- MON. OCT. 8 7:30 p. m. --Board meeting, home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.
- SAT. OCT. 13 7:30 p. m. --Playreaders, home of Linda Schaldach, 4124 Keewatin Trail, Verona.
- SUN. OCT. 14 10:00 a. m. --The Control of Knowledge--Part I. In Early America. Leland Bullen.
- A discussion of the long range plans of the fellowship will follow at 11:30.
- SAT. OCT. 20 10:00 a. m. -5:00 p. m. --Fellowships and Small Societies Day, North Central Area Council UUA, to be held at First Unitarian Society. Emil Gudmanson.
- SUN. OCT. 21 10:00 a. m. --The Control of Knowledge--Part II. Today. Erwin Knoll, editor of Progressive Magazine.
- SUN. OCT. 21 7:30 p. m. --Parish meeting, 1124 Colby St. Please submit agenda items to Warren Hagstrom or Aileen Nettleton.
- FRI. -SAT. -SUN. OCT. 26-27-28--Upham Woods Retreat.

FRI. SAT. SUN. NOV. 9-10-11 Central Midwest District Conference, Wausau. Please contact Aileen Nettleton if interested in attending.

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAVE OUR SONG BOOKS GONE?

We have not been able to locate our colorful set of Prairie song books this fall. They were last seen at our program at the Bonsers' last spring. Anyone with any memory of where they may be, please speak up. Contact Mike Briggs or Aileen Nettleton.

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Leland Bullen, Editor 838-8055

Aileen Nettleton, President of the Society 238-6053

R. E. Corner

with Holly Loring, Director

- I'd like to acquaint "Haunting House" parents with the curriculum their children are involved in. Can we take about 20 minutes after the Sunday program on October 14 to gather upstairs with coffee and goodies? Hope to see you then! Other interested parties, especially prospective teachers, are also welcome.
- In spite of missing out on the Equinox festival, I had no regrets about attending the R. E. fall conference in Bloomington, Ill., on Sept 22 (the Bloomington church is, I've discovered, where Alex Gregg started his Sunday school career). I had a chance to renew friendships begun at other conferences and picked up some very helpful information on "spiritual experiencing" with children, which is part of what I do when we gather as a group in the first part of the morning downstairs. You really should try a conference sometime. Good food, and you can't beat the company (hugs only, allowed).
- I missed out on last Sunday's family walk for a very important reason: officially taking on the role of godparent, or sponsor if you prefer (what is a good word?) at the dedication of Paula Berta Shepard. I'm pleased and proud to have the opportunity to share in her growing in a special way. What brings me to tell you about this is a thought expressed by Rachel Carson in *The Sense of Wonder*.

"If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength."

This sense of wonder is something I try to hold onto as I move in the world, and again, something I hope Prairie can foster in our children.

THE DOWNSTAIRS SCENE

Part One

FOR OUR PRE-SCHOOLERS, we are trying to offer a more varied and more structured program than last year. With the help of Peg Stevenson, Alexi Lyman, and Marian and Helen Briggs, we are taking care to plan a cohesive set of learning experiences for each Sunday morning. These experiences are designed to help preschoolers begin to develop a positive sense of self; to understand themselves as unique persons, and to appreciate others as also unique. We wish to create a warm, accepting environment where the children are free to be themselves and, at the same time, where they can learn to understand and respect the other children in the group. We begin each Sunday with a short group experience, then move through a variety of songs, games, stories, art projects, and free play to meet the children's needs and interests. Look for the "Who's in Our Group" photo collection next time you're in the pre-school area. The children pictured are E. Benji Gordon, Peter Matarella-Micke, Daniel Stevenson, Erin Sarko, Erin Dopp, Greg Nettleton, and Robin Park-Doob.

THE HAUNTING HOUSE is the name of the UUA curriculum which provides the focus for our Kindergarteners and first and second graders this fall. It emphasizes each child's need to find and recognize the places he/she feels most at home. There is a deeply felt need in each of us for places he/she feels most at home. Our feelings about such places run very deep, and we need these places if we are to grow, to become, and to take hold in the world. . . . Many of our experiences of feeling at home occur in houses or particular places in houses. . . . "The Haunting House" provides opportunities for children to practice building and living in many kinds of houses where they can grow, reflect upon, and shape themselves, and take root; to develop the inner strengths of hope, will, purpose, and competence so necessary if they are to take hold in the world." --Hugo Holleroth, UUA Curriculum Development. Field

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trips and creative projects complement the theoretical basis. Activities this year have included building houses for the children's small treasures brought from home, and learning about some of the homes nature provides for living things. Teachers Linda Nelson, Bob Dopp, and Joan Hall join with Anna Nettleton, David Stevenson, Andy Nelson, Cara Nelson, Dana Dopp, and Matt Gregg to share in this well-balanced and well-liked course.

SPECIAL BULLETIN

UPHAM WOODS FALL RETREAT--Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 26, 27, 28.

TO GET TO UPHAM WOODS: From Madison, go out East Washington Ave. to I 90-94; take the "I" north to Wisconsin Dells. Get off on Exit 87 (Hwy 13). Turn left on Hwy 12 (at the traffic light) and go to the top of the hill; turn right onto County Hwy A. Go about two miles on A, under the narrow railroad underpass. Camp Upham Woods is at the bottom of the hill on the right.

SUGGESTIONS: Try to get an early start--it takes about one and a quarter hour from Madison after you hit the "I." Also, it's easier both to find Upham Woods in the daylight and to get your gear set up in your sleeping place before dark.

If you can't arrive about 6:30, in time for the potluck supper (allowing time to register), do figure on the possibility that the cupboard will be bare after 7:00. If in doubt, get something to eat before arriving.

ABOUT THE POTLUCK: Please be generous with your contribution--our appetites always seem to grow with the ride north! For the sake of efficiency, we suggest A-H names bring desserts; I-N names, entrees; O-Z, salads. Various beverages will be provided.

WHAT TO BRING: Sleeping bags, towels, soap (unless you have dorm reservations); toiletries, warm jackets, caps, long johns, wool socks, gloves, hiking boots, tennis shoes, (a change is important if it rains), rain gear. Flashlights (super-important!), an alarm clock (if you are a person who likes to be awake while eating breakfast); an ample dish to pass at the Friday evening potluck, games and toys--frisbees, rubber balls, puzzles, checkers, chess, scrabble, Monopoly, playing cards, etc., etc. and any other rainy day fun. Musical instruments--not listed on the "formal" activity schedule is an opportunity for recorder lovers to get together on Saturday--other instruments also welcome at Upham Woods... and other tools of conviviality. Non-electric corn poppers, popcorn, chestnuts, other goodies to share around the fire (but any food kept in cabins must be in tight metal container).

NOTE: Please LABEL your belongings when possible, including canoes and paddles. You'll be much less liable to lose things at all, but if you do, a label will save the finder time and frustration.

Ground Rules: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF UPHAM WOODS

No Firearms	No Pets	No Snowblowers, Golf Carts,
No Fireworks	No Trailers	Electric Bun Warmers or other
No Firewater	No Power Boats	necessities of civilization
No Dope	No Snowmobiles	No Mess when we leave

or

Let's have fun together

Let's get to know one another better

Let's be kind to one another, and for God's sake... back next year!

Let's get along with the Upham Woods

Management, so we'll be welcome

Phones at Upham Woods: (608) 254-8845 and 254-2649. Maps of the camp will be provided at registration. See you there!

A REGISTRATION FORM APPEARS ON THE LAST PAGE

FALL PARISH MEETING

All members are urged to attend the fall parish meeting to be held at Colby Street Sunday, October 21, at 7:30 p. m. The agenda will consist of: treasurer's report, adoption of annual budget, building fund pledge drive report, by-law amendment.

If you wish to become a member of the fellowship and share in the religious community of Prairie, you are invited to sign our membership book.

Shirley Lake is proposing changes in the by-laws regarding the Committee on Committees. The proposal, first suggested at the annual meeting in April, has been modified in response to the discussion at that time. The intent is to foster continuity and balance of committee members, and strengthen communication by the committee with the board and active Prairie members in the search for nominees. The changes also raise the number of committee members from three to five in the event we have a minister, since the important job of nominating all the officers for Prairie remains the same under this option.

The text of the proposal:

Article VII, C., 2., a.: substitute the following: "This committee shall consist of five members, who shall serve a term of one year. One member shall be from the outgoing Committee on Committees, to be elected by them just prior to and presented at the Annual Meeting; one member shall be from the incoming Board, to be elected by them just prior to and presented at the subsequent Fall Parish Meeting; the other three shall be elected from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Should the committee be activated before the Board member is elected, until such election that position shall be served by the Board President, or, if the President is unable to serve, by the Vice-President. The committee shall choose one of its members to be chair. Only the Committee on Committees member elected by that committee may serve a consecutive term, and that member may not serve a third consecutive year."

Under 2., b., (a), substitute: "Before the committee makes its nominations, it shall consult with the Board and other active Prairie members, soliciting their suggestions for nominees." Change (a) to (b) and (b) to (c).

Under 2., c., substitute: "Except for the one member it elects, this committee as a whole, may not nominate its own successors."

DISCUSSIONS ON PURCHASE OF BUILDING

Concurrent with the Building Fund pledge drive, members of Prairie will have an opportunity to further discuss the short and long range implications of owning a building.

Jack Jallings, Long Range Planning Committee chair, is suggesting that each circle dinner group take some time to discuss both financial and program implications for the future growth of Prairie. You should be receiving a call soon arranging for the first circle dinner. If you did not sign up for circle dinners on your directory form, and would still like to, or have questions, please call Linda Schaldach, 831-5547.

A discussion will also be scheduled for after the service (11:30) Sunday, October 14. All members and friends are invited to join in one of these discussions.

COUNSELING COMMITTEE

Prairie's Counseling Committee came into being a number of years ago because of the need for someone to provide some of the "ministering" which is the responsibility of a minister in a more traditional church. Its members are available primarily as "listeners" and support persons for Prairie members and friends, not as professional counselors, but they are ready to do whatever they can to help another through a crisis or a difficulty. Anything disclosed to a member of the committee is held in complete confidence unless the individual gives explicit permission to have it discussed with someone else. Prairie itself is, of course, a very supportive group but the committee exists to supplement this if needed.

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The committee has tried to become aware of good professional resources for counseling and help in Madison but would like to have input from others who have had good experiences with any of the helping professions--lawyers, family counselors, etc. Members of the committee include Julie Bonser, Pat Cautley (chair), George Calden, Carol Griffin Jung, Terri Laurence, Alexi Lyman, Sydney Mannering, and Bob Park.

UPHAM WOODS REGISTRATION

Deadline: To be received no later than October 21. Mail to Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St. 53705 or bring to Sunday service.

Your Name..... Total fee enclosed.....

Address..... Zip..... Phone.....

Will you be staying overnight Friday?..... Saturday?.....

No formal activities are planned for Friday night, just socializing and our usual potluck meal.

Type of lodging: Cabin (only cots provided)

Names (first) along with ages of kids

..... Adults @ \$3.00/night \$.....

..... Youths (under 18 @ \$2.00/night \$.....

Dormitory (linens furnished)

1st night:..... adults @ \$6.50 \$.....

..... youths @ \$3.25 \$.....

2nd night adults @ \$6.50 \$.....

..... youths @ \$2.10 \$.....

Meal rates:

..... Youths @ \$1.60/meal \$.....

..... Adults, breakfast @ \$2.00/meal \$.....

Adults, lunch @ \$3.00/meal \$.....

Adults, dinner @ \$4.00/meal \$.....

Meals desired:

Saturday breakfast () Lunch () Supper ()

Sunday breakfast () Lunch ()

For anyone who has not handed in a pledge form a copy of it is provided below:

1979-80 OPERATING BUDGET

I, -----pledge

\$-----for Prairie's 1979-80 expenses. (Prairie's fiscal year is October 1, 1979-September 30, 1980).

I prefer to make payments /monthly/
/quarterly/in one lump sum/(circle one)

BUILDING FUND PLEDGE

I, -----pledge

\$-----toward the Prairie building fund. I understand I am to provide the cash within four weeks of membership approval of the purchase of a selected building at a parish meeting.

Please return pledge slips to the Prairie Finance Committee, 2259 West Lawn Avenue, Madison, Wis. 53711.