



# Prairie Fire

Newsletter of  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
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## CALENDAR

Sunday, December 20

10:00 a.m.--Family Service "Festival of Light" Written announcements only, none during service.

11:30 a.m.--Festival Potluck--Share your favorite holiday foods.

Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m.--"Peace on Earth--What We Must Do" Les Lyons.

10:00 a.m.--Religious Education classes

7:30 p.m.--Helen Caldecott slide-tape "I Have Three Children of My Own" and discussion. At Dorothy Lee's, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

Sunday, January 3

10:00 a.m.--"Press Freedom: Without Exception?" John Ohliger, Alice and Lee Bullen

Sunday, January 10

10:00 a.m.--"The Right to Bear Arms" Gunsmith Larry Gleasman, Police Chief David Couper

## PRAIRIE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Gather at Pat Cautley's home, 4805 Regent St., to help welcome The New Year--9:00 P.M. and on! Bring food and/or drink to share. All are welcome.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 27

## R.E. CORNER

As we talk about Christmas, and plan the Christmas program, I am impressed with how important it is for the children to experience the joy of giving, of surprising someone with a gift. In the Sharing Circle, last Sunday, I raised the question of what wish one would make if magically one wish could come true! Although most of the wishes were for special gifts, one boy said, "to have more wishes." I mentioned the adults' wishes for peace in the world!

During the interim period between the two semesters, which covers the five Sundays, December 27 through January 24, the children will be making something to take to Oakwood Lutheran Nursing Home to share with the residents on January 24. We hope it will be a memorable experience for all!

## YOUNG CHILDREN AT THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Because we think the entire program next Sunday will be too tedious for preschoolers, we suggest that these young children start out as usual downstairs with Suzy and Kelti, and that as the symbol tree is introduced, parents go down to bring their children up for the rest of the program.

## THE SYMBOL TREE

A Christmas tradition for Prairie: Bring a symbol of something important to you to decorate our tree--adults and children both.

## MORE UNICEF MONEY

Thanks to Suzy Grindrod, who turned over her penny collection (of quite a few years) to UNICEF and added \$5.41 to the Prairie contribution.

## SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

Special awards and medals to recent heroes: Dodie Chapru and Carolyn Briggs for thinking up and running that productive letter-writing campaign (over 40 letters!) at the Arts & Crafts Sale in November, and Carolyn for donating the cost of postage; John Lewis for his perseverance in getting us to articulate publicly our concern about university military research, all the people who created the December 8 letter to the Capital Times, and Dave Zakem for getting it published so expeditiously.

Many thanks also to Shirley Grindrod for the Appalachian luncheon on Nov. 29. About \$100 was collected for one of the area food pantries.

We have reprints of George F. Kennan's Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation address: "U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.: Like Lemmings Heading for the Sea." Look on the table at the back of the meeting room. Also on the table is the foundation's Mandate for Peace, which says, "To President Reagan: I fully support your statement that we should energetically seek the elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the arsenals of the nations. I look to you to move in this direction with the confidence and strength of the American people behind you." If you agree, please add your name. Every signature helps.

I will be discussing the frightening menace of the nuclear arms race in our service on Sunday, Dec. 27, and suggesting what we can do, or must do, individually and collectively, if we want a world our children can live in.

Urgent as the disarmament problem is, many other problems continue to demand our attention. One is unwanted pregnancies, and the Women's Medical Fund needs money to deal with it. From a recent appeal by Anne Gaylor: Desperate women call us every day; social workers and physicians refer in their most serious cases. We try to sor out those that can't be assisted in any other way, but we are in urgent need of money. Won't you help? Send contributions to the Fund at P.O. Box 9711, Madison, WI 53715.

--Les Lyons

For those who may not have seen it, we are reproducing at the right the letter printed Dec. 8 in the Capital Times. Following it is a dissenting letter written to the signers of the published letter.

## Keep military research off campuses, they ask

**MADISON** — As citizens, we are gravely concerned about the escalating level of military spending for research in all American universities. As Wisconsin taxpayers, we are particularly concerned that our university system not be subject to Defense Department priorities and regulations.

As Unitarian-Universalists, we want the Madison community to know that our position is consistent with that of the general assembly of our denomination. In 1981 it called for a mutual nuclear-weapons moratorium between the United States and the Soviet Union and an immediate halt to the testing, production and deployment of all nuclear warheads, missiles and delivery systems.

Under this proposal, Congress would be required to transfer all funds that would have been used for nuclear weapons into programs that would contribute to the betterment of American society. — **Les Lyons**, co-chair, **Dorothy Lee**, **Doleta Chapru**, **David Zakem**, **Leland Bullen**, **Jack Jallings**, **Robert Dopp**, **Fran Remeika** and **John Lewis**, members of the social action committee, **Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship**

Dear Friends:

I share your deep concern for the overriding problem of nuclear weapons and their control. However I think your priorities are misplaced. Consider the following:

1. There is no research on nuclear weapons, or any other weapons, going on at UW-Madison.
2. There is no secret or classified research done at the University. Both are prohibited by University rules.
3. Most of the research at UW sponsored by the Defense Department is pure science, concerned with discovering new knowledge. And eventual applications are as likely to benefit civilian (medical, industrial, agricultural) technology as military.
4. If DOD sponsored research at the University were ended, the possibility for a nuclear holocaust would be just as great as it is now.

I feel that the defense-sponsored research at the University is a trivial problem, and that the effort to stop it represents a diversion from the real problems: military spending and nuclear armaments. I hope you will join me in working on these.

Bob West

## UUA ISSUES "R.E. FUTURES STATEMENT"

Some of us have heard how Religious Education in the U.U.A. is at a "water-shed", with a lot of thought again going into what the philosophy and content should be. A Futures Committee was appointed nearly two years ago and has recently issued a very thoughtful statement about the principles on which the Committee believes R.E. Curriculum should be based:

"As Unitarian Universalists we

1. Affirm and support an on-going, free and disciplined search for truth, ever open to new insights and wisdom;
2. Affirm, defend, and promote the equality, dignity, and worth of every human being;
3. Affirm the use of democratic process and mutual respect in all human relationships;
4. Affirm a commitment to implement the vision of a world community founded on love, justice and peace.
5. Affirm a reality beyond our individual creation and control which has been called variously, God, Ultimate Reality, the Holy, Life Force, or the Transcendent
6. Affirm our interdependence with the universe and our responsibility to cherish and be caring stewards of the earth;
7. Affirm the importance of a religious community and our responsibility for its nurturance."

Our R.E. Committee welcomes comments from any of you.

## THANKS FOR SUCCESSFUL ART & CRAFT SALE

Many thanks go to Dick Bonser and all his coworkers whose efforts resulted in a very successful Art and Craft Sale in November. We owe special thanks to Marty Drapkin for the good publicity, Joella Bonser and other middle-schoolers for the book sale, and to Megan Kroeger, Dave Zakem, Gail Ostler, Kate Seiler and Linda Nelson for child care, bake-sale organization and other unspecified chores, and to all others who baked, staffed, and otherwise contributed to a sociable and profitable fair.

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Prairie member Jay Smith is a collector of wine labels and is seeking labels to add to his collection. He will remove the labels from the bottles himself. Should you have any empty wine bottles, call Jay at 258-9696 to arrange pickup or transfer at Prairie. Coincidentally, wine makers seeking bottles can obtain free bottles from Jay.

## PRO-SEEDS TO PRAIRIE

Newer members and friends of Prairie may not know about, or may be puzzled about, the project we call Pro-Seeds to Prairie. Following is a reprinting of an article by Metje Butler, who proposed the plan, explaining its purpose and its working:

The name of this on-going project, Pro-Seeds to Prairie, which can earn right through the year for the building we are buying, signifies that some of our expertise is of professional level, some just "seedling" professional, all useful in seeding Prairie's growth. Through it we can trade a job to be done for donation of wages to Prairie, or some effort and time for our donation of wages to Prairie.

Everyone is good at something, whether professional or self-taught; some of us have abilities we take for granted that others don't have, or time to use when others are short on time.

Everyone also has needs to fulfill, sometimes needing knowledge beyond their scope, sometimes requiring time not available to them.

Think about your own knowhow and time schedule, and if you like the concept of Pro-Seeds to Prairie, sign on to buy or do, for the building fund. Cost for materials should be included in the price agreed upon so that the doer donates time, the receiver a job to be done, and the Prairie building fund receives nourishment.

Examples of three categories follow:

Home: home insulation, electrical wiring, plumbing, masonry, carpentry, wood cutting, baby sitting, painting, household upkeep, and others.

Cookie, pie, bread baking, interior design, plant health care, photography, lapidary, etc., macrame for specific need, upholstery, slipcover, drapes, sewing repairs, lessons in anything.

A list will be available each Sunday for reading and signing. Please be sure to supply phone number so negotiations can be completed.

Business, income tax, compose a letter, type a paper, design a logo, finished art for printing, and any other professional thing.

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A note from Anne Gaylor tells us that after her film presentation at our meeting last Sunday she received a little over \$200 in contributions toward the Women's Medical Fund which she (and Bob West) administer. Fund which she and Bob West administer.