

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

... As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another.—PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

2010 Whenona Drive (608) 271-8218
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Leland & Alice Bullen, Editors	838-8055
Rick Ruecking, President	238-2924
Mary Beth O'Halloran, R.E. Director	221-8583

Volume 23 Number 21 October 8, 1985

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

7-10:00 p.m.--Adult AYS meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30 p.m.--PLAYREADERS meet at Rosemary Dorney's, 4205 Odana Rd., 238-4382, to read Sidney Kingsley's "Darkness at Noon."

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

10:00 a.m.--"What Time Is It"--Judy Spring
The response depends on who is answering the question. Our ideas about time have a great deal to do with how we live our lives. This Sunday service will deal with the history of time. Everyone, R.E. classes included, will be asked to put a message in the 10-year time capsule. The recorder group will play a prelude at 9:55 a.m., as well as two program pieces.

3-5:30 p.m.--Youth Group Bowling at Burr Oaks Bowl

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

5-7 p.m. -- Program Committee meeting, potluck at Mary Mullen's, 4337 Milford Rd., 271-5192. All are welcome.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

7-10:00 p.m.--Adult AYS meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Annual all-Parish retreat at Upham Woods
NOTE: NO middle school AYS meeting 10/20

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

10:00 a.m.--"Tell Me Why.. " Upham Woods
For the service at the retreat,

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think of two things: 1) Someone you would like to thank or congratulate for the "Keylog" ceremony and 2) a question you would like to have answered. All participants, from youngest to oldest, are invited to submit questions to the "U-U Asked Council of Wise Ones "

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

7 - 10 p.m.--Adult AYS Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:00 a.m.--LIFE AFTER 40 FOR THE UNITED NATIONS by Pat Cautley
10:00 a.m.--R.E. classes, baby & child care

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

7-10:00 p.m.--Adult AYS meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

7:00 p.m. --Fall Parish Meeting, at Prairie

All Sunday programs at Prairie are being tape recorded this year, at the request of the Program Committee. Look for the "Cassette Lending Library" box at the back of the meeting room if you want to check out a cassette.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS!

The Fall Parish Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 24 at Prairie. Persons wishing to submit items for the AGENDA should send them to Rick Ruecking, no later than October 27. Pat Watkins, Secretary

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: October 20

R.E. CORNER

Nursery - On October 13 the little children will make barn board collages out of their earlier play dough creations. Of course they will do pumpkin activities for Halloween on October 27.

K-1-2 BE ON TIME OCTOBER 13 for a class trip to Head Arboretum to look for more homes in nature. Cars will leave right at 10:00 and will return a little late (about 11:30). After a break for Upham Woods on October 20, this group will investigate what lives in pumpkins just before Halloween.

3-4-5 On October 13 this group will continue to study evil as a force in the world. On October 20 they will look at the Taoist concept of evil as a disruption of the harmony of the universe. To help parents discuss this topic and the class with their 3-4-5 graders, here is a list of the concepts of evil discussed so far: original sin of early humans (Adam & Eve, Pandora), misdeeds of the individual in an earlier life (reincarnation), wrong thinking, personal sin, evil spirits roaming the world or inflicted by others, one evil force fighting a good force.

6-7-8 As you noticed on October 6 the middle school made a "visit" to Prairie's adult program. On October 13 they will visit First Unitarian Society. On October 27 and November 3 they will have guest speakers from Jehovah's Witness and Buddhist groups.

PROGRAM NOTES FOR UPHAM WOODS

Here's a brief list of activities and reminders for the retreat. Please read it so you'll know what to do to be ready for this great weekend. A full schedule of activities will be distributed at check-in.

FRIDAY NIGHT: After the potluck there will be a sing-a-long. Teach us the words to a song. Later there will be a poetry reading for adults of pieces written by Prairie members and friends. We'd like to hear a poem of yours.

SATURDAY, DAYTIME: An ongoing quilt-patch project will be set up Saturday morning. Everyone is invited to do a square.

Adults: There will be two morning discussion groups on separate topics and three in the afternoon pertaining to Prairie's growth. There will also be groups meeting for choir practice, basoc Scottish dancing, and embroidery. Bring a garment, such as jeans or a sweatshirt, to stitch on.

Youth and Adults: For the middle school age young people and interested adults there will be instruction and exercises in orienteering. Bring a compass if you have one. In the afternoon, volleyball and Capture the Flag will be in progress.

Children: Activities will have Aesop's Fables as a theme. In addition to games and a nature walk, the children will hear fables,

make masks or puppets and prepare skits for the Talent Show. Maestro Martin will rehearse the Kazoo Band for Sunday morning's service.

Saturday Night: The talents of Prairie people are widely known (at least among ourselves). The Talent Show is an opportunity to try out something new, to be daring. The theme is Aesop's Fables. How about a 1985 version of the "Fox and the Crow"? A mime of "The Fox and the Grapes"? A family production of "Belling the Cat"? (A full list of story titles and morals is available.) or, if fables aren't your fancy, any other performance will be fine: a musical solo, breakdancing, belly dancing, self defense, etc.

After the talent show there will be dancing or Trivial Pursuits for adults and youth.

Later, as is the custom, the adults will remove to a nearby pub for mostly in-tune singing, accompanied by those musicians who remember the tunes and/or their instruments.

Sunday: After breakfast there will be the morning service outdoors, weather permitting. Later, camp clean-up will be the main job although there will be activities for the children.

Things to know:

1. Bring hats, mittens, towels, warm bedding flashlights and rainy-day things to do. Puzzles are favorites. Be sure all items have a name on them.

2. Although activities are scheduled, people do spend time alone or talking, walking or canoeing with others.

3. The activities are fun, especially if you help out. The children's groups always need extra help.

4. The night-time supervision of youth and children is cooperative. If you are responsible for young people, plan to spend some time overseeing their rest and safety at night while other activities are underway.

The retreat is a wonderful time to get to know our group better. We hope that you'll get to know at least one new person a little better and that you'll share something of yourself at the poetry reading, sing-along, talent show, or service.

Judy Spring.

Concerning the Friday evening potluck:

This meal will begin between 6:00 and 6:30, depending on how many people (and how much food) have arrived. If you plan to arrive significantly later, you might feed your kids first. There's no guarantee as to what might be left for supper after 7:30. At this time of year the "town" area around Upham Woods is pretty bare of places to find a meal or pick up snacks.

PRAIRIE BYLAWS

Lest you think that your Bylaws have been resting peacefully after the changes voted on at the last Parish Meeting, I want you to know that the Bylaws Committee (D. Chapru, Al Nettleton, Barb Park, Pat Watkins) is still hard at work. Fifteen items concerning the Bylaws were cited in the committee's August report to the Board as needing further study and consideration. Four of these items were given top priority, meaning that any proposals concerning them be ready for Parish action in April. The four priority concerns are:

- 1) Provision for a periodic audit of Prairie's books;
- 2) Provision for the succession of the Vice president to the Presidency;
- 3) A review of the section currently making it possible for the Social Action Committee to take actions solely on the vote of non-Prairie members; and
- 4) A review of the make-up of the Committee on Committees.

Whenever an item under consideration deals with a specific committee, office or program, I will call upon affected members to participate in the committee's work. Meanwhile, suggestions on the four priority items, or on any problem you feel needs to be addressed, are being sought and are welcomed. Contact a member of the committee or call Pat Watkins at 233-5795, or 262-7960 (days).

FATHERS WORKSHOPS

Fatherhood is too special to keep to yourself. If you believe that, and if you would like to get together occasionally with other fathers to share, explore, and to grow, give us a call. Family Enhancement, a Madison organization, will provide an experienced facilitator to help fathers shape their special experiences. The goals are up to the group. If you care to give it a try, contact Bill Fetzner (273-4843) and register your interest.

PRAIRIE'S CLEANUP DAY, SUCCESSFUL

Thanks to all the people (about 30) who worked on Sunday for our Prairie work day.

Rachel Siegfried

Special thanks to the young people who helped on Prairie's workday: Middle-schoolers, Anna, Katrina, David, Ryan, Asim, and Jennifer; 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, Christopher, Greg, and Daniel. Peg Stevenson

Adult Sexuality Class: If you might be interested, contact Dan Laux or Mary Beth O'Halloran. Possible topics include: anatomy/physiology, reproduction, birth control, abortion, lovemaking, femininity/masculinity, opposite sex friendships, and sexual minorities.

SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

VIOLENCE & NON-VIOLENCE CONFERENCE PLANNED

A conference entitled "Violence and Non-Violence" is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Wisconsin Center in Madison.

The workshop-packed conference kicks off and ends with presentations by the Fools Rush In Mime Troupe, and features keynote addresses by the Director of the Berkeley Peace Studies Project and the co-founders of Global Education Associates. The program also includes a panel discussion moderated by Madison Quaker, Joe Elder. The morning program and 9 workshops are devoted to the topic of violence. The afternoon concentrates on non-violence.

Among the nine intriguing workshops on the subject of non-violence are these: "Alternatives to the War System", "Empowering Children with a Vision of Peace", "Touch the Earth, Love the Earth," and "Star Wars or Space Cooperation."

Registration is \$10. Enrollment is limited to 250 people with "walk-ins" allowed if space permits. For further information, check the Prairie Social Action Bulletin Board or call 262-2090 (days) or (608) 767-2518 (evenings).

The conference is sponsored by 2 UW Departments - Scandinavian Studies, South Asian Studies - The Physicians for Social Responsibility (Madison), Wisconsin Educators for Social Responsibility, The Ecumenical Partnership for Peace and Justice of the Wisconsin Conference of Churches, and the Alliance for Animals.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ARE URGED TO GIVE TO UUSC IN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

If you are a federal employee, there's a special way to contribute to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee-- through the Combined Federal Campaign.

The Service Committee, through its membership in the International Service Agencies, is one of the organizations you can designate to receive the weekly gift that you make through payroll deduction.

And in Wisconsin and 16 other states, UUSC and International Service Agencies take part in state employee contribution campaigns.

Your contribution will support UUSC's overseas program efforts, which provide emergency assistance for drought victims and refugees from war, and also help UUSC's local partners find long-range ways to full, free lives for people in India, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America.

Help UUSC's overseas work become stronger. Designate the Service Committee as your special recipient in the Combined Federal Campaign or your state campaign!

SOVIET FALL FORUM

Sponsored by: Madison-Soviet Sister Cities
Project

Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Ct. (off
Spooner Rd., behind Randall Bank)

October 24 (Thursday) 7-9 p.m.: "Improved Re-
lations with U.S.S.R. through Trade" with Dr.
Robert Walton, President of American Breeders
Service.

Experienced in trade negotiations with the
Soviet Union, Dr. Walton will share insights
into conducting trade with the Soviets and the
influence of such on US-USSR relations.

Russian refreshments will follow. For more
information, call Ruth Pauly, 251-4684.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gentle Reader:

I perused with great interest (and, no
little amusement) the 9/24 comments on the im-
possible task of persuading Sunday folk to
arrive at Prairie by 9:59 a.m.

Consider, please, the following obstacles:

1) Sunday morning is, for many, about the only
day on which we need not reach out to silence
the pre-sunrise alarm. Indeed, the urge to
sleep until 8:00 on our "day of rest," can be-
come often irresistible, sometimes even over-
whelming; 2) some have been known to bring off-
spring (or, grand-offspring) to Prairie. These
have been shown to considerably impede the ra-
pid movement of their elders; 3) a few Prairie-
ites, I am told, utilize public transportation.
While otherwise commendable, such wanton public
spirited action insures their arrival at either
9:30 or 10:30, both of which are completely
unsuitable; 4) some folk are known to engage in
such late Saturday night activities as theater,
concerts, dancing, and circle dinners! Such
carryings-on frequently result in sinful over-
sleeping.

The writer would continue this list, but
having no wish to be tedious, will come to the
point. The battle (for timely arrival) has
been waged for several years. It should be
clear by now that the mountain is not coming
to Mohammed. Therefore, might we not attempt
a short term experiment to study the result of
Mohammed going to the mountain. In short, gen-
tle reader, why not begin the Sunday service
at 10:30? What is your pleasure? . . .

from A. N. Onymous

Arline Ferguson, 249-7075, urgently needs a
baby sitter 3 or 4 nights a week. From 5:30 -
11:30 in her home on the east side. She also
needs someone with chain saw to cut down a
dead elm tree before 10/15.

Sign up for circle dinners or call Ruth
Caldon or Dorothy Wetherby if you are inter-
ested. They want to organize the names into
groups so we can start soon after Upham Woods.

FROM THE CLIP BOARDS

Snacks

10/13 Alice Bullen
10/27 Linda Nelson

Kitchen

10/13 Betty & Jack Jallings
10/20 Upham Woods

NEW MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Interested in pedaling about 8½ miles (one
way) of this new state trail with other U.U.'s?
About 20 members from First Society have
signed up to bike from Riley (on Co. J north
from U.S. 18-151 west of Verona) to Club 18,
west of Mt. Horeb, on Saturday, October 19.
Leave Riley about 10 a.m. and return by 3 p.m.
Club 18 serves soup and sandwiches for about
\$3 + bev. & tax. If interested, please phone
Vera and Gordon Cunningham at 271-1246. The
trail is on an almost level railroad bed which
winds through lovely rolling country.

Adult Programs Comm, First Society

DEAR PRAIRIE PEOPLE:

I have been a member of Prairie for some
time now, but have not been able to make many
of the meetings. I regularly read the Prairie
Fire, and hate to miss all those good topics
and miss the people. However, it is too far
for me to walk and I no longer have a bike so
I need to arrange to get rides.

I do a little sewing on the side to make
ends meet. Is there anyone interested in swap-
ping sewing/needlework/mending/skating lessons
(I've had 8 years teaching experience as a
figure skater) for regular rides to Prairie on
Sundays? If so please contact me, and we'll
work something out. Call 262-2921, 8-noon or
1-4 p.m. and leave a message, or call
251-6491 evenings before 10 p.m.

Prairie person in spirit
Diane Marie Knott
202 N. Pinckney

Barb Bailly is looking for a babysitter for
her 3-year old and 1-year old boys. Date not
yet set but would like to visit when the
leaves have turned color and Prairie is not on
retreat. Please send inquiries to: Barb Bailly,
505 E. Manchester, Wheeling, IL 60090, or call
312-541-1791.

UPHAM WOODS EMBROIDERY

Bring a piece of clothing - like jeans or
a shirt to embroider. All other materials will
be provided.

We'll also be starting anew Prairie quilt.
Materials will be provided. Embroidery is one
choice, of course.

IF YOU USE THE BUILDING...

Make SURE the doors are locked and the
kitchen absolutely clean. Fran Remeika