

# 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

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Volume 24, Number 9 May 6, 1986

## CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, MAY 10

4-5 p.m.--Polarity: Learning to attune to the energy flow of your body by Emily Meyer. Last of Saturday classes. At Prairie.

### SUNDAY, MAY 11

10:00 a.m.--WHERE ARE THE ANSWERS? Prairie pilgrims travel long distances to add to their knowledge. A panel will describe their travels and how their world view has been altered.

### FRIDAY, MAY 16

6:00 p.m.--Play Readers annual Fish Dinner at Crandall's. See story.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17

9:00 a.m.--Old and new board meets with the Rev. Gordon Gibson, extension minister.

1:00 p.m.--Long Range Planning committee meets with Gordon Gibson.

7:30-10:00 p.m.--Prairie Syttende Mai celebration with The Ethnic Connection and Gordon Gibson.

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

10:00 a.m.--"A JU HOME COMPANION" Gordon Gibson See story.

12:00 noon--Pot luck luncheon.

1:00 p.m.--"GROWTH WORKSHOP #II" with Gordon Gibson. Childcare provided.

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### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

7:30-9:00 p.m.--Spiritual Discussion Meeting:  
Good and Evil. At Prairie.

### SUNDAY, MAY 25

NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE: CANOE & CAMPING TRIP

## R.E. CORNER

Preschool - The little ones continue talking about feelings along with crafts (did you see the butterflies?) stories and play time. On May 4 they made presents for Mother's Day.

K-1-2 - This class has completed it's study of major events in the life cycle. On May 4 they had a picnic at Vilas Park. On May 11 they will have a class play day, and on May 18 they will participate in the Ethnic Festival.

3-4-5 - As their end-of-year project, this class is preparing an ethnic festival to involve all the Prairie children on May 18. They will use the next Sunday to plan and rehearse the festival.

6-7-8 - The middle school has concluded its study of the Church Across the Street with a trip to a Buddhist Center on May 4. On May 11 they will enjoy their class picnic, and on May 18 they will join the Ethnic Festival.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 18

## PRAIRIE SYTTENDA MAI CELEBRATION

We didn't remember it was Syttenda Mai when we asked weekend extension minister Gordon Gibson to visit Prairie on May 17 and 18. However, now that he'll be here and we're planning a gala Saturday evening of music, dancing, and socializing as well as a Sunday potluck and Sunday afternoon workshop, why not call it our Syttenda Mai celebration?

All Prairie members and friends are invited to come out for a good time with the Ethnic Connection and dance leader Dodie Chapru on Saturday night, 7:30-10:00. Prairie will become a cabaret for the evening where we can visit with each other over potluck snacks, exchange views and feelings about Prairie's growth, and meet Gordon Gibson. (child care will not be provided.)

Gibson was invited by the Prairie board to be with us for three weekends to help us deal with the issues of growth and enrichment of our adult programming. He'll be here on May 17 and 18, then again for Aug. 22-24 and at Upham Woods.

Sunday morning it will be our turn to listen to Rv. Gibson. Prairie Home Companion aficionados won't dare miss this series since it was inspired by an inscription Garrison Kiellor placed in Gordon's copy of Lake Wobegon Days.

Don't forget to bring something to share at the noon potluck that will follow the service.

While the old and new boards and the Long Range Planning committee will have met with Gibson on Saturday, the parish at large is invited and, in fact, strongly urged to attend the Growth workshop on Sunday afternoon 1:00-3:30 at Prairie. Sound dull? Don't count on it. Our first growth workshop, led by Carol Ruxton more than a year and a half ago, was greatly stimulating. It got many people thinking about growth in quite different ways than before. We're at a crossroads now: kids are outgrowing the downstairs space and adults are looking for deeper satisfaction from Prairie programming. This workshop will focus on questions that must be raised and answered as we go on from now. Child care will be provided.

These events are for all people at Prairie, from the founders of the society to the person who's attended only once or twice. Hope to see you Saturday and Sunday.

## JULY PEACE FESTIVAL

If you would like to help create the 7th annual July Peace Festival, call Lance Green, 249-5979. In the plans are music, workshops, childrens activities, healing tent, food, a universal worship service, and candlelight walk.

## GORDON GIBSON

The minister matched with us by the Central Midwest District for the Weekend Ministry program is the Rev. Gordon Gibson.

Gordon has served as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Elkhart, Indiana, since January of 1985. Prior to that he spent 15 years in Mississippi, for most of those years holding a full-time federal job in addition to any volunteer or paid ministerial duties. Just for variety, he began his ministerial career in one of the Boston area's historic (founded 1712) Unitarian churches.

If you look on page 6 of the March 15 issue of the UU World you will find that Gordon was one of three UU historians invited to prepare essays for that issue. A few years ago he published a study on Unitarian Universalists and the Civil Rights Movement. A current interest is research on early Universalist and American feminist Judith Sargent Murray, whose papers have sat for 165 years with none of the scholarly attention that he feels that they deserve.

Mr. Gibson says, "I particularly look forward to working with Prairie Fellowship because I have heard so much over the years about your creative energies."

## PLAY READERS FISH DINNER

The Prairie Play Readers will meet for their annual fish dinner at Crandalls on Friday, May 16 at 6 p.m. Call Pat Watkins for dinner reservations: home, 233-5795 or at work, 262-7960. Dorothy Wetherby suggests parking at her place, 341 W. Wilson, walk to Crandalls and return to her place for the 1-act play reading.

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE

New standing committees are forming for the coming year. Please volunteer some of your energies. As Prairie grows more people are needed to maintain and enhance the life of our Society. This is a great way to get to know other friendly Prairie Persons.

Rick Ruecking

## NO COFFEE ON SUNDAY A.M.?? ??

The Hospitality Committee is NOT making coffee due to lack of dish washers. Everyone should share the kitchen duty chores. This takes two people one-half hour. To volunteer call Fran Rameika at 845-7292 after 11 a.m.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PARISH MEETING

AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, which took place on Sunday, April 27, the following items of business were transacted, which may be of interest to the membership. Changes were made to the Bylaws. Please make these changes to your copy of the Bylaws at the back of the 1986 Prairie Directory:

Article V, F, should now read, Minutes of all business meetings shall be taken, signed and filed by the secretary of the society, or designee.

In Article VI, A, line out "Immediate Past President," as this shall no longer be a position on the Executive Board.

In Article VI, D,4, change the last line to read, "His/her statement for the fiscal year may shall be audited ~~and certified~~ by persons designated by the Executive Board.

The following proposal was passed: That Prairie empower the Board to cooperate with First Society and the Central Midwest District in discussing the Establishment of a Third Society.

The membership voted to add \$96 to the R.E. budget for an additional R.E. aide.

Officers and committee heads elected at the meeting are as follows: President, Rick Rueking; Vice President, Mary Mullen; Secretary, Cheryl Robinson; Treasurer, Megan Christensen; Finance Chair, Faye Glessner; Program Chair, Fredericka Schilling; Social Action Chair, Leland Bullen; Membership Chair, Rita Refner; Housing and Property Chair, Rachel Siegfried; Long Range Planning Chair, Jack Jallings; Denominational Affairs Chair, Dick Bonser; Religious Education Chairs, Alison McKee and Barbara Golden.

Prairie Fire's next issue will have an update insert for the 1986 Directory, listing these officers and chairpersons.

## QUORUM? WHO'S GOT THE QUORUM?

I was reminded that we did not in fact have a quorum at our Spring Parish Meeting. My announcement last Sunday was facetious.

Rick Ruecking

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CAMPING: JULY 18,19,20

Yes folks it's the 2nd annual interstate campout at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. Mark your calendars reserving July 18,19, and 20 for good food, good company, hiking, singing, volleyball, camping with families, and singles from Prairie Society First Society and Peoples Church in Cedar Rapids, IA. For more information call Faye Glessner, 251-5427 or Bill Fetzner, 273-4843.

## LOOKING FOR FUN, FOOD, & FASCINATING PEOPLE?

You can have it all monthly as a member of the Program Committee of Prairie Society. We invite old members, new members or people who are just curious to see what this committee does. The committee will meet Thursday, May 22 from 5-7 p.m. There will be a new chairperson, Fredericka Schilling, but the location and potluck supper remain the same. Please join us at 4337 Milford Rd. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  block from Prairie) for all or part of the meeting. We welcome everyone, with or without food! Come help us plan a super summer for Prairie Society. Call Fredericka at 271-5192 if you have questions or ideas.

## INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER UU CAMPS IN BRIEF

Marwood Unitarian Universalist Dunes junior high camp, July 27 - August 2, 1986 at the First Congregational Church campgrounds in Bridgman, Michigan. More information available on bulletin board at Prairie.

Lake Geneva Singles Week for UU singles at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, June 22-28. This camp is sponsored by Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles Enrichment program. More information available on the bulletin board at Prairie.

Camp UniStar at Cass Lake, Minnesota has 11 camps scheduled for UUs during the summer and there is brief information about each of the different camps in a brochure on the bulletin board at Prairie.

## THANKS FROM WARREN HAGSTROM FAMILY

Eric, Susan, and I would like to express our thanks to Prairie members for their help to us when Lois died and for making her memorial service such a positive experience. We would especially like to thank those who gave Lois so much support and comfort in the last year and a half. Prairie is a wonderful community.

The Friedrich Nietzsche aphorism that Lois liked and that I quoted at the memorial service is this: "It is true that we love life. Not because we are wont to live, but because we are wont to love."

Warren Hagstrom

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Please remember that the weekend at Upham Woods is scheduled for October 10-12. Rick has volunteered to handle the registration (and would not turn down an offer of help); and we are in need of someone to take charge of programming. Please call Rick at 238-2924 if you are able to help.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome Vicki Lord as a new member of Prairie. Vicki has been coming to Prairie for some time along with her two children Travis and Tori. She did not get into the '86 Directory so be sure to add her information to your Directory (use the blank pages following the end of the names page 20) Vicki Lord, 138 Division #4, Madison 53704. Home telephone: 241-7814.

Randy Hill also signed the Membership Book in May and we are happy to welcome him. His address is 217 Merry St., Madison 53704. Home telephone: 246-9657. Please also add his name to your '86 Directory.

THANKS FROM MARY BETH O'HALLARAN

I wish to thank Prairie people for all their support at the time of my father's death. The flowers helped make the services more beautiful, and they later cheered the elderly people at the Kahl Home, where an aunt and several family friends reside.

CLIPBOARDS

Kitchen Cleanup  
NO SIGNUPS!

SNACKS FOR R.E.

- 5-11 none
- 5-18 not needed
- 5-25 " "
- 6- 1 Chris Smith

PRAIRIE'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND CANOE TRIP

On the long weekend of May 23 through May 26, Prairie invites you and your friends to join our canoe and camping trip. Instead of a Sunday morning service, we offer a fun-filled outdoor weekend. This year's canoeing will be on the Sugar River, and we have reserved campsites for our group on the river near Broadhead, WI. We have arranged group rates for the campsites and for canoe rental. We have planned canoe trips for Saturday and Sunday; other possibilities include a Monday canoe trip, biking on the nearby Sugar River State Trail, horseback riding at the campground, or joining Barb Barley and Lance Green on their trip from the campground on Sunday to Paxton, IL for Hands Across America.

Details for the weekend are listed below. It will help our planning if you complete the registration form, but do feel free to join

AN SOS FROM FRANKFURT, GERMANY:

Rosemarie K. Lester asked us to put an SOS in the Prairie Fire for her as she has a need for a room where she can stay while she is in Madison from May 27 or 28 to June 27.

Arline Fergurson has already answered Rosemarie's SOS with the assurance that she can have her whole apartment for most of that time by herself as Arline and her children will be on vacation out of the city during most of that time. Arline lives near a bus line but does not have a car for Rosemarie to use which was a second request if someone would allow her to rent their car during that period she would appreciate it.

Her address is: Rosemarie K. Lester  
Bottgerstr. 5  
6000 Frankfurt 60  
FRG

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"Spoon River Anthology" will be presented May 17 at First Society by Stage West which is the theater group of the Brookfield Unitarian Church. "Spoon River Anthology" is based on people and experiences from the author's boyhood in the Spoon R. area near Lewistown and Petersburg, IL. The author is Edgar Lee Masters. This is an American folk poem with music.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. There will be a half-hour pre-play gathering before with light refreshments. Admission is \$4.00 adults with \$3.00 for students and senior citizens.

us at any point during the weekend at the last minute. Similarly, it will help the finances if you can pay in advance. For further information contact Peg Stevenson or Barb Barley.

Canoeing: The Sugar River is rated as "quiet" so this should offer ideal family canoeing. Much of the trip is through wildlife refuges and should be especially scenic. Each day's trip will be about 5-6 hours on the water. Maps of the river are available at Prairie, or call if you would like us to send you one.

Saturday's canoe trip will begin from the County EE bridge over the Sugar R. between the towns of Attica & Albany. If you are not spending Friday night with us, meet us there at 10:00 sharp. If you are staying with us at the campground Friday night, there will be room for up to 3 personal canoes on the rack of rental canoes. We will canoe back

(Continued on page 5)

CANOE TRIP, continued

to the campground with plenty of stops for snacks, scenery, and lunch.

Sunday's canoe trip will begin at the campground at 10:00 and canoe south through the Broadhead Wildlife Area to an end point to be selected Saturday. The folks from the campground can meet us there and bring us back to the campground.

Camping: We have reserved ten adjacent campsites at Camp Crazy Horse and LVS Ranch. Because these campsites are not separated by trees or bushes, it will be easy for us to spread out and share the sites with whatever number of Prairie people come. These campsites are at the base of a 20' embankment separating the lower and upper parts of the campground. In the upper section, there are showers, water, a small playground and an office/store. We can keep our canoes along the river about 40 yards away.

Our campsites are number 72-81. Because we have registered in advance for the group, you may go directly to the sites. We can start arriving after 4 p.m. on Friday, and

we need to be packing up by about 2:00 on Monday.

There is a large open space next to the semi-circle of campsites which would be good for softball, frisbee, etc. There is a spot for a campfire, but we must bring along our own wood, so stick in a few pieces of firewood if you can.

Meals: We would like to have potluck dinners on Saturday & Sunday when we get off the river. For other meals we encourage sharing food around, but it will be simpler to plan separately. There are no grills at the campground, but there should be plenty of picnic tables.

Directions: Rt.12-18 to Rt. 14 E (South part of the Park St. exit) to Rt. 92 West to Brooklyn). Left on County T south. Follow this until it merges with Rt. 59 south. Rt 59 breaks off very shortly and the road south becomes 104. Follow 104 into Broadhead. Turn rt. on RT. 11 and rt. on F. Follow F approx. 1 mile to the Camp Crazy Horse sign on the left. This trip takes 45 minutes to one hour from Madison. (Map on reverse side)

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- (1) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) # Adults @ \$3.00 per night for camping: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) # Children @ \$2.00 per night for camping: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Nights you will be there: FRI\_\_\_ SAT\_\_\_ SUN\_\_\_
- (5) Days that you would like to rent a canoe @ \$11 per day for the canoe and its transport:  
SAT\_\_\_ SUN\_\_\_ MON\_\_\_
- (6) Days that you would like a guided horseback trail ride at LVS ranch (right next to the campground) @ \$10 per hour (we have not planned this as a group activity, but can let the owners know of your interest): SAT\_\_\_ SUN\_\_\_ MON\_\_\_
- (7) Are you interested in Hands Across America on Sunday? Barb or Lance will call you \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) Are you interested in a canoe partner? \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) Do you need a ride? \_\_\_\_\_

The costs for the campsites are based on a conservative estimate of the number of people. If there is extra money at these rates, it will be refunded proportionately.

Please return this form to Peg Stevenson or Barb Barley with a check made out to one of us.

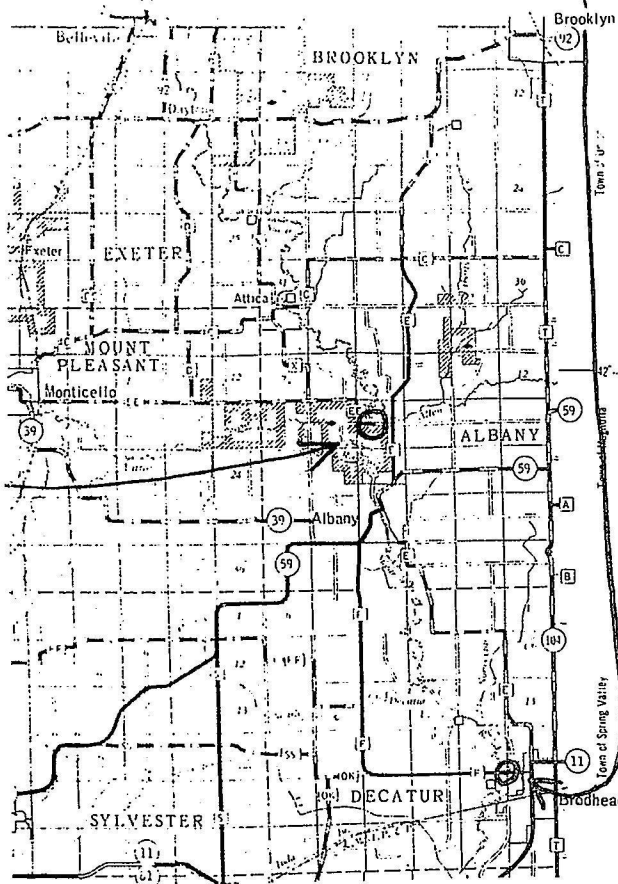
Peg Stevenson  
628 Sheldon St.  
Madison, WI 53711

Barb Barley  
186 Dixon St.  
Madison, WI 53704

233-6449

273-3630

Madison



Put in for first day

Campground (897-2207)