

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
Alison McKee, R.E. Director 238-3302

Volume 24, Number 20 October 7, 1986

Calendar

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

NO SERVICE AND NO R.E. UPHAM WOODS RETREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00 a.m.--COVENANT FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE
FREE SOCIETY, led by Anne Forbes
Observation of U.N. Sunday.

10:00 a.m.--R.E. classes, baby & childcare
After the service: Discovery Toy Sale, pro-
ceeds to go to Prairie

11:30 a.m.--Luncheon prepared by Shirley
Grindrod. Proceeds to Madison Sanc-
tuary program.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

5 - 7 p.m.--Program Committee Meeting at
Fredericka Schilling's, 4337 Mil-
ford Rd., 271-5192.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 a.m.--ME AND ELEANOR (Eleanor Roose-
velt) by Rachel Siegfried

10:00 a.m.--R.E. classes, baby & childcare

CARD TABLES NEEDED

Because the long tables usually used for lunches at Prairie, will be used for the Discovery Toy Sale, there is a need for people to bring card tables for the lunch that is planned after the October 19 service. Please put it on your calendar so you will remember to put a table in your car for Prairie.

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R.E. Corner

NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL: The R.E. Committee still continues its search for a pre-school coordinator. We will need to have adult volunteers to help the two high school students, Yasmine and Elia. Activities planned for the children include stories, art projects and being outside if the weather permits.

Grades K-1-2: On October 19th Andrea and Lindy will explore language with you. You will learn words from the languages of Native Americans, the Spanish and the deaf. You will also learn about American art and music. You will have a chance to make your own instruments and do your own art work.

Grades 3-4-5: On October 19th Mary Beth and Dayle will help you explore stories that come to us from the stars. You will learn about the constellations and have fun looking at star maps. Have any of you ever been to an observatory?

Grades 6-7-8: On October 19th David and Bob will be discussing fear with you. Come ready to discuss some of your own fears, why you have fears, how you might react to a fearful situation.

Thanks from the R.E. Committee:

The R.E. Committee would like to thank Pat Meller for donating the nice desk lamp to the R.E. office. Thanks also to Leslie and Pat Watkins for their donation of goods from Leslie's store. Thanks also to Alice Bullen for repairing books from the R.E. library. Finally, thanks to Jim Novak for providing lunch for the R.E. teachers and helpers on September 27.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS QUESTIONS

NOW:

- How do we solve the urgent space problems for the R.E. needs of our children?
- Do we remodel our building for this purpose?
- Should we have a fund drive?

FUTURE:

- What do we want Prairie to be in 5 to 10 years from now?
- Do we need professional staff if we continue to grow?
- What type?

The committee is beginning several months of parish-wide discussion on these questions at Upham Woods on Saturday, from 3-5. Bring along your thoughts and desires and any opinion or answers you may have.

--Jack Jallings, chair,
Long Range Planning

HIGH SCHOOL HELPER NEEDED

Elia Golden will be working at The Ovens on Sundays. We will miss his help in the nursery as will the children. Presently we are looking for another high schooler to help in the nursery. The pay is \$6.00 a Sunday. Call Barb Golden, 231-1490 if you are interested.

BOARD APPROVES NEW PRAIRIE FIRE EDITOR

At the Prairie Board meeting Monday evening, Oct. 6, Dick Bonser was approved as editor of Prairie Fire, succeeding Alice and Lee Bullen, who are retiring.

ANNIS PRATT POETRY BOOKS AVAILABLE

A number of copies of Pemmican, the collection of poems by Prairie member Annis Pratt, are still available. The copies are similar to the ones sold at Prairie's service auction except that they are printed on commercial book paper instead of the "mouldmade" that was used for the auctioned copies. The books are priced at \$5.00, of which \$4.49 will go to Prairie. The remaining 51¢ represents the cost of materials. The books may be ordered by calling Alice or Lee Bullen, 838-8055, or purchased at Upham Woods or at Prairie.

Congratulations to the Sido family on the birth of Daniela on October 2. Mother Kyra and daughter are doing well.



Social Action

Leland Bullen, Chair

HOW TO KEEP NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUT OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

In observing United Nations Sunday on October 19, we will identify some specific ways in which our individual lifestyles and actions relate to world peace, using the guidelines offered by the "Covenant for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons". Endorsers of the Covenant select companies among the top 30 producers of nuclear weapons components and pledge to:

- * avoid buying their products;
- * avoid investing in their securities;
- * write to the company head explaining why;
- * transfer purchases and investments to socially responsible alternatives.

For a portion of the service, we will form small working groups, using the Covenant's "Socially Responsible Buyers Guide" to determine strategies for using our "purchasing power" to take a stand against nuclear weapons.

After the service a luncheon will be served by the Social Action Committee under the direction of Shirley Grindrod. The meal will be a fund raiser for Prairie's contribution to the Madison Sanctuary program.

DROP-IN UPDATE

The Drop-In Shelter for the Homeless at Grace Episcopal has now operated for 2 years. See the enclosed article to find out how well it's been serving this mission.

Since January '86 Prairie has provided volunteers to help out on the 4th Monday of each month, with 21 Prairie members participating. Thanks to every one!

WE NEED YOU to help continue these efforts. Please call Lance Green, 249-5979 to volunteer for Oct. 27, Nov. 24, or Dec. 22. You can also help with donations of money, warm socks, boots, hats, sweaters, or with winter coats. Also you can urge your congressmen to support the Homeless Persons Survival Act, S-2608 and HR 5140.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following people who have signed the membership book: Bill Fetzner, Nancy Lewis, and Betsy True.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 19.

IT'S CIRCLE DINNER TIME

Circle Dinners are small (6-8 persons) or larger (10-12 persons) groups of Prairie members and friends who gather each month for potluck dinners and fellowship at homes of Circle Dinner members. Each group is a good mix of newcomers and long-time members, young and older adults, singles and couples (gay or straight). Joining a circle is one of the best ways of getting to know Prairie people and having a wonderful meal to boot.

If you missed the sign-up sheet in September, call Mary Mullen (271-5192), Rita Reffner (231-1816) or Ruth Calden (233-5717) Give some thought to whether you'd prefer to be in a large or small group. (Rumor has it that small groups were remarkably successful last year.) Also decide whether you'd rather meet strictly with adults or whether you want to be in a group that includes children of all the members at the dinners.

As last year, we'd suggest that each group consider trying some special ways to make the Circle Dinner a satisfying experience for each member - This is an idea that worked well with several groups last year: each member comes to each circle dinner prepared with one question for each member and at least part of the evening is spent asking and answering these questions. You'd be surprised at how the questions multiply and the answers grow in length and interest.

- Other suggestions: Have each member bring
- a selection from a favorite record
 - a book that influenced him/her as a child or as an adult
 - a favorite poem or reading
 - slides of a travel experience or of an especially important event
 - an object he or she has made
- Have discussions on . . .
- one's heroes, heroines, villains; as an adult, as a child
 - a book central to one of the lay ministries
 - an idea expressed in the Sunday service
 - articles from journals, magazines, or a short story
 - an unforgettable character
 - if we believe in reincarnation, as what would we like to come back?
- Group experiences . . .
- see a play or movie together and discuss over dinner, dessert
 - hold an informal group sing of "those old favorites" or those from the Prairie songbook
 - visit an art exhibit at one of Madison's many galleries, react over dinner
 - prepare a Sunday service, to be carried out by circle dinner group
- Anything else that strikes your fancy . . .

LETTER FROM ELISABETH JONES

October 1, 1986

Dear Prairie,

Greetings from the Land of Eternal Sunshine, and Fog. Tom and I had a great trip out here with some breathtaking scenery in S. Dakota, Wyoming and Utah. We've leased a townhouse in Berkeley which is within walking distance of several first-rate restaurants and bookstores and a complete little village with 2 supermarkets, a fish store and a wonderful produce market. The Bay is just a short distance away, with San Francisco on the other side. So far, we've been over to see opera (Jenufa), Cats, another play, the S.F. Symphony, and to attend an all-day symposium at the Art Museum on post-modern art. There's so much to do here it takes your breath away--we've passed up Neil Diamond, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul & Mary, Rudolph Serkin and Pavarotti, among others!

We've only been to 3 of the UU churches in the East Bay, and have several more to go. First U of Berkeley is high up in the hills --a large church, beautifully designed, with a great view of the Bay and San Francisco; a very formal service. The church in Hayward, a town about 15 miles south, is small and very informal, no frills, and has a feeling of warmth and community; I know the minister, Mark Belletini, from the national project we're both serving on. The 3rd church we've been to is a small down-and-out fellowship not far from us in Berkeley with a minister who seems really out of it. At none of these churches did I find the vitality of Prairie; though the one in Hayward came closer than the others. If it were not so far, I think we'd join it; but we're going to take our time deciding.

You might be interested to know that the UU project I've been working on is going to be released at GA next year, according to Forrest Church, our chairperson. It's a Study Guide with 7 video tapes on the Seven Principles of UUism. I may go to GA this next year, though it's in Little Rock, not one of my favorite places. (Maybe I'll see 2 or 3 of you there--hope so!)

I've not yet started work on my new book, we're still settling in, but I hope to start researching it soon. --If any of you feel the urge to drop me a line--do; I'll do my best to reply, though I'm hardly the world's best correspondent.

I think of you all often, both singly and en masse, and send you my love--

Elisabeth Jones

1227 Henry St
Berkeley, CA 94709 (415) 527-6655



Madison Urban Ministry
1127 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53715
(608) 256-0906

9/12/86

MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS THE DROP-IN SHELTER

The Drop-In Shelter located at the Grace Episcopal Church is a ministry of the Madison Urban Ministry, serving adult men and women who need emergency shelter. The shelter is open to all people who are not incapacitated by drug or alcohol abuse and abide by the rules of the shelter. The shelter was originally located at the University United Methodist Church on University Avenue and on October 15, 1985 was opened at the Grace Episcopal Church site. Capacity of the shelter is 48 people with guests welcome from 8:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M. Staff include a full-time director, two full-time night managers, two part-time night managers, two part-time social workers, a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time custodian. The budget for the 1986 calendar year is \$145,000 with 15% of the funds coming from the Dane County Unified Services Board, 15% from the City of Madison, 14% from the United Way of Dane County, 27% from the State of Wisconsin and 29% from contributions.

The philosophy of the Drop-In Shelter is rather simple...provide a warm, safe place for homeless people to find shelter. The program includes a light evening meal, breakfast, a cot and a blanket. A shower is available with the shelter furnishing towels, shaving gear, shampoo, deodorant and soap to the guests. Volunteers that bring clothing provide the shelter with the opportunity to have warm clothes for needy guests. We utilize a "soft entry" approach at the shelter with guests registering and having a minimum of forms or documentation to fill out. From October 15 to June 30 664 different people have been sheltered with 85% being men and 15% women. The average age of the guests is 34 years, the average length of stay 11 nights and the average number of guests per night 41.8. The cost per guest per night was \$8.85. During this period 131 guests were referred to housing, 82 referred to the UCAN Men's Shelter and 16 to jobs.

The success of the shelter is possible only because of the support and the reliability of volunteers. Over 38 churches and synagogues participate in providing food and supervision each night, with each responsible for one night per month. Over 400 people have spent several hours each month mingling with those in need of shelter, food and love. It is a local ministry in need of continuing support.

As one police officer indicated, it is a place where people can find the services they need with a minimum of ceremony! Both the shelter's success and its future depend on volunteers and we hope each of you will participate in showing God's love in this very direct way.

The following is a listing of the programmed activities which will be available at Upham Woods. Many other possibilities will be continually available, including just sitting, walking, talking with friends, or enjoying nature's silence.

Friday evening

- 6:00 - 7:30 POTLUCK DINNER -- bring a dish which does not require use of kitchen facilities
- 7:30 - 9:00 SING-ALONG -- We will bring along the Prairie songbooks; you bring along your musical talents and instruments.
- 7:30 - 9:00 SLIDES OF RUSSIA -- As a follow-up to the Sunday program on Russian Rufuseniks, Betty and Jack Jallings will show slides of their trip.
- 9:00 - 10:00 FRAZZLED LIVES -- Mary Mullen will lead a discussion on finding satisfaction in busy lives. This is not on how to squeeze in more, but on how to stay sane through it all.
- 9:00 - 10:00 MASSAGE -- Faye Glessner will lead a massage workshop to help you unwind.

Saturday "For all ages" includes unaccompanied children.

- 7:30 BREAKFAST IS AT 7:30 PROMPTLY
- 8:30 - 12:00 HIKE AROUND THE ISLAND -- Argene McDowell will lead this hike, and we have set aside enough time to go all the way around -- weather permitting.
- ~~8:30 - 10:00 FAMOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS -- UU minister Gordon Gibson will provide surprising information about those who share our UU heritage.~~
- 9:00 - 10:00 PAPER MASKS AND PAPER AIRPLANES -- Peg Stevenson and Rick Ruecking will lead this workshop with paper projects for all ages.
- 10:00 - 11:00 POWER -- Faye Glessner will lead a workshop on personal power issues in our lives.
- 10:00 - 12:00 NATURE WALK -- Learn more about the beautiful natural setting of Upham Woods with Pat Cautley as your guide.
- 10:00 - 11:00 WETLANDS CREATURES -- Use nets to catch water critters to examine closely in the Upham Woods laboratory under the guidance of Bill Fetzner (for all ages).
- 10:00 - 11:00 TAROT CARDS -- Diane Knott will share her large collection of cards and discuss Tarot readings.
- 11:00 - 12:00 STORYTELLING -- All ages will be entranced by Fredericka Schilling's reading (assisted by Vicky Lord)
- 11:00 - 12:00 VESPERS DISCUSSION -- As a follow-up to the four recent Prairie vespers programs, David MeKee will lead a discussion about their possible continuation.
- 12:00 LUNCH PROMPTLY AT NOON
- 1:00 - 2:00 PRINTMAKING -- Judy Spring and Lee Bullen will lead a workshop for all ages on simple printmaking.
- 1:00 - 3:00 ORIENTEERING -- Experienced outdoorsman Gordon Cunningham will teach the skills of using a

compass, using a map, and pacing out distances so that you can find your way along a short course.

1:00 - 3:00 THEOLOGY FOR TODAY -- Gordon Gibson will share his expertise in a discussion of personal theology.

1:00 - 3:00 POETRY READING -- Bring your own poems or personal favorites to share.

2:00 - 3:00 NATURE CENTER -- Judy Skog and middle schoolers Claire Sandler, Colin Bosch, Brian Sheehy, Anna Nettleton, and Katya Sido will lead a group to the nature center and beyond to the obstacle course (all ages).

3:00 - 5:00 ADLER ON EDUCATION -- Lee Bullen will lead a discussion of the interesting ideas about education for the 21st century recently presented in the Christian Science Monitor.

3:00 - 4:00 STORYTELLING -- Alice Bullen will fascinate all ages with her reading -- assisted by Andrea Torres.

3:00 - 4:00 CAPTURE-THE-FLAG -- Erin Bosch will lead a rousing game on the playing field.

3:00 - 5:00 LONG RANGE PLANNING -- The long range planning committee will lead an important discussion on where we want Prairie to go, where we are headed now, and how we should proceed.

4:00 - 5:00 TREASURE HUNT -- Aileen Nettleton will send folks across the Upham Woods site in search of treasure.

4:00 - 5:30 ADULT VOLLEYBALL

5:00 - 5:30 KAZOO BAND PRACTICE -- Marty Drapkin will lead a session for interested musicians and semi-musicians of all ages in preparation for the talent show.

5:00 - 5:30 VESPERS SERVICE -- Join us for some quiet moments

5:30 DINNER AT 5:30 PROMPTLY

7:00 - 8:30 TALENT SHOW -- Marty Drapkin will M.C. this showcase for Prairie's talents. Bring a talent to share.

8:30 - 9:30 INTERGENERATIONAL FOLKDANCING -- Arline Ferguson will teach simple dances for all ages.

9:30 - ???? TAVERN SING-ALONG -- Some folks will adjourn to a nearby tavern for beer and singing with Mike Briggs.

9:30 - ???? GAMES -- Other folks will play games in the basement of the dorm -- bring your favorites.

Sunday

6:30 - 7:30 BIRD WATCHING -- Join Judy Skog to see the early birds.

7:30 - 9:00 BUFFET BREAKFAST -- Gone are the days of Sunday breakfast at the crack of dawn at Upham Woods -- eat when you are hungry, but be sure to be there before 9:00.

9:00 - 10:00 CLEANUP the dorms and cabins

10:00 OUTDOOR SERVICE -- Bring a poem or reading to share on the themes of fall, change, and transition as part of this participatory service.

12:00 LUNCH

1:00 CLEANUP the lodge building