

# 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 21 October 21, 1986

## Calendar

- 10:00 a.m.--ME AND ELEANOR (Eleanor Roosevelt)--Rachel Siegfried  
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby and child care.  
4:30 p.m.--Vesper Service, at Prairie

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 10:00 a.m.--MARGARET MEAD, ONE WHO DARED,  
Pat Cautley.  
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care.  
4:30 p.m.--Vesper Service, at Prairie

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m.--I AIN'T GONNA BE TREATED  
THISA-WAY, a musical tribute to  
Woodie Guthrie, George Calden.  
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care.  
4:30 p.m.--Vesper Service, at Prairie.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

1:00 p.m.--FALL PARISH MEETING

### VESPERS CONTINUE

The consensus at Upham Woods was that Prairie vespers services should continue and take place every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. It was also decided that participants should pay some portion of the child care costs by voluntary contributions. If you come to a service, please bring a candle and holder. We have also been having a "finger food" dinner after the service, so bring a little something to nibble. If you would like to serve as a leader for a vespers service, contact David McKee (238-3302, 262-4723).

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## R.E. Corner

Nursery and Pre-school: On October 26th and November 2nd Rhonda, your new teacher, will be starting activities with you from the Growing Times curriculum. You will enjoy lots of new activities and getting to know your new teacher.

### Grades K-1-2

~~Beginning on October 26th you will be~~ learning about Native Americans. On the 26th your teachers will be Lindy and Sharon. You will have a chance to make clay pots and play some games that the Native Americans have given to our culture.

On November 2 Sharon and Andrea will be telling you about what Native Americans are doing today. You will be able to listen to some stories and do an art project.

### Grades 3-4-5

On October 26th those of you in this class will have a chance to look at pond water in a microscope and see the life it contains.

On November 2nd Mary Beth and Dayle will explore with your class the wonder of birth. You will have a chance to look at books, read about and ask questions about birth. You may have a special visitor to your class too!

### Grades 6-7-8

Thank you all for folding the UNICEF boxes. This will be the day (October 26th) that the boxes are distributed. This week you will continue with your discussion of obstacles met in trying to find peace. You will be looking at aggression and how it hinders our attempts to find peace.

(Continued on page two)

R.E. CORNER (Continued from page one)

On November 2nd you will look at the issues of stereotyping and prejudice and how these become obstacles to peace. You will be looking at how group identification becomes prejudice and what causes prejudice to develop.

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A note to the Parents of RE Children

It has been brought to the attention of the RE Committee that children are causing some disruptions after their classes are dismissed. The committee would like all parents to check in with their children immediately following the service upstairs. After classes teachers are busy cleaning up from their class and planning for the upcoming class. It is unfair to the teachers that they spend time cleaning rooms and then the children mess them up in their play.

The RE Committee will be getting a list of parent volunteers together to assist with the supervision of children after class. That person will be responsible for getting games going (Prairie has plenty in the storeroom) so that the children will be able to play together. It is still important that all parents take charge of their children after classes are dismissed.

Donations Needed for RE

The RE Committee would appreciate the donation of a wall clock for the downstairs room(s).

We would also like to have donations of any good outdoor play equipment. Balls, jump ropes and the like would be appreciated. Paper towel is needed for the Pre-K classes also.

Please give any donations to Aileen Nettleton or Barbara Golden.

High School Helper Needed

The nursery is looking for another high school student to help out on Sundays. The pay is \$6.00 per Sunday. Call Barbara Golden, 231-1490 if you are interested.

FALL PARISH MEETING SET FOR NOV. 23

The regular fall business meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, November 23, 1986 at 1:00 p.m. All members are invited to submit agenda items, in writing to Rick Ruecking, 5721 Elder Place 53705. This is Prairie's annual budget meeting when the Board presents a recommended budget to the Society. Please save this date and plan to attend. We want your participation and assistance in setting the budget for next year.

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Social Action  
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DROP-IN SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As Lance Green pointed out in the previous Prairie Fire, Prairie has been providing volunteers to staff the Drop-in Shelter since January of this year. We need nine people one night in each month to help the professional staff to greet, feed, and provide an atmosphere of welcome and security to people who are temporarily in need of warmth and a bed for the night. As of today, not enough volunteers have come forth to fulfill our October 27th commitment. It is not an exciting job--it can be boring, but it is a chance to demonstrate our sense of the oneness of the human family. If you call Lance, he can tell you in which of the three shifts there are still vacancies. If you can't do it this month, plan on helping Nov. 24 or December 22. Call lance at 249-5979.

UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS

You can buy these beautiful cards to benefit the work of the UU Service Committee. Suggested donation is \$6.00 per box of 12. Please place your order by Nov. 2, on the sheet on the table in the main room. Thanks.

DANCE TO END PREJUDICE

People of all races are invited to the Fourth Annual Dance to Eliminate Prejudice, Saturday, Nov. 1, 8:00 p.m.-1 a.m., at Great Hall, Memorial Union. This event is free, sponsored by the BaHai faith.

CASINO NIGHT AT HERITAGE HOUSE: SAT., NOV. 8

Madison Area Association for Retarded Citizens is sponsoring "Casino Night" at Heritage House, 3855 E. Washington, on Saturday, November 8. Tickets are \$12.50 with cocktails at 6 and dinner at 7. Games from 8:30 to 11:00. Proceeds are to be used for a wheelchair van. The grand prize: two round trip airline tickets to Florida. For more information or tickets call 273-3630 or Barb Barley (249-5979).

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There will be a Beyond War introduction Wednesday, October 29 from 7:30 to 9:30 at Carole Doeppers home at 2115 Jefferson St. (255-3013). The presentation will be by Bob Nicholas and Eleanor Brown (233-0233). This group was motivated by the nuclear crisis. It emphasises a positive approach and a way to reach out to non committed and uninformed people.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR HELP WITH THE PROGRAM AT UPHAM WOODS:

Erin Bosch, Norma Briggs, Mike Briggs, Lee Bullen, Alice Bullen, Pat Cautley, Gordon Cunningham, Marty Drapkin, Arline Ferguson, Bill Fetzner, Gordon Gibson, Faye Glessner, Jack Jallings, Betty Jallings, Diane Knott, and Aileen Nettleton.

Argene McDowell, David McKee, Pat Meller, Mary Mullen, Linda Nelson, Anna Nettleton, Rick Ruecking, Katya Sido, Judy Skog, Judy Spring, Fredericka Schilling and Betsy True.

Thanks also to Rick Ruecking for his organizational efforts and to everyone who pitched in to help with meals and cleaning.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE EIGHTEEN PEOPLE who helped canvass Prairie Society for the 1987 pledge year. It isn't always easy to ask for money and yet Prairie needs it to operate. We have not yet gotten a response from everyone and still need more pledges. At the November board meeting we will be cutting programs since we don't have enough pledges to meet our proposed budget. However, another big thanks to those people who already have so generously pledged. Faye Glessner, Chair Finance Committee

Results from September 28 Survey

Several persons expressed interest in getting details of the survey taken of the congregation September 28. The first question was, "What was your family religion during your childhood?" I have grouped the responses to make them comparable to those of a sample of 12,000 U-U's asked the same question in 1966. My apologies to those Presbyterians, Christians, Communists, etc., who feel misclassified.

Family religion	Prairie U-U		UUA 1966
	number	%	%
Unitarian-Universalist	7	12	12
Liberal Protestant	19	32	28
Methodist	14		
Congregational	2		
United Church of Christ	1		
Presbyterian	1		
Quaker	1		
Fundamental Protestant	5	8	21
Fundamentalist	1		
Baptist	3		
Christian	1		
Liturgical Protestant	4	7	12
Lutheran	1		
Episcopalian (& C of E)	3		
Roman Catholic	11	19	6
Jewish	2	3	4
Mixed	3	5	3
Catholic and Lutheran	1		
Catholic and None	1		
Baptist and Methodist	1		
Other	3	5	5
Christian Science	1		
Other	2		
None	5	8	9
None	3		
Atheists	1		
Communist	1		
Totals	59	100	100

(Continued on other side)

A second question asked, "Do you believe in God? ('Yes' or 'no' are not the only answers.)" Several persons were rather eloquent, in just a couple of sentences, in epitomizing themes of eminent theologians and philosophers. Crudely summarized, the results are ---

"Do you believe in God?"	number	%
Yes	7	12
Yes, qualified (not a personal God, life force, spirit, etc.)	11	19
Sometimes	2	8
Maybe, unsure	5	8
Depends on definition	2	3
Not a meaningful question	1	2
Agnostic	2	3
Not much; no, depends; probably not; no, qualified	10	17
No	<u>19</u>	<u>32</u>
Totals	59	100

And the third question asked, "Do you regard yourself as a Unitarian-Universalist?"

	number	%
Yes	44	75
"So far"	1	2
Yes, qualified	2	3
Yes in philosophy, not sure about UJA	1	2
Partly, somewhat	1	2
I'm not sure what that means	1	2
Not answered	1	2
Not sure	1	2
No, "don't want to be labelled"	1	2
No	5	8
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	59	100

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2

... and on that day anyone who has announcements, thoughts, poetry, quotations, complaints or whatever, should hand them to our new editor, Dick Bonser. We wish him success and enjoyment in his new job. And we thank the people who have really written most of the material we have printed. Thank you for all your expressions of appreciation. Alice and Lee