

# Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

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

Prairie Smoke (Sieversia flora)

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Volume 24, Number 24 - December 2, 1986

## CALENDAR

### Friday, December 5

5:30 PM - Fish Dinner Circle Group at Crandall's Restaurant

### Saturday, December 6

7:30 PM - Playreaders Meeting at Pat Watkins' house

### Sunday, December 7

9:00 AM - R. E. Committee Meeting  
- Choir Practice  
10:00 AM - Introducing the Musical Bureaucracy, by Barbara James  
- R. E. Classes and Child Care  
11:30 AM - Soup potluck dinner  
1:30 PM - Office-Warming for Fran Remeika until 5:00 PM

### Monday, December 8

7:00 PM - Work Party at Prairie - see Al Nettleton for details

### Wednesday, December 10

7:00 PM - Shapenote Singers meeting at Prairie.

### Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:00 AM - Is this Bureaucracy Necessary? by Barbara James  
- R. E. Classes and Child Care

### Tuesday December 16

5:00 PM - Program Committee Meeting at Fredericka Schilling's house  
4337 Milford Rd.

### Sunday, December 21

9:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:00 AM - Intergenerational Service  
- No R. E. program

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

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Return to:  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
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Madison, WI 53711

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TO CHANGE ADDRESS OR STOP PRAIRIE FIRE,  
PLEASE CALL 274-3248

## Fish Dinner Circle

The informal Circle Dinner Group which meets once a month to attend a Friday fish fry will meet on Friday, December 5, at Crandall's Restaurant downtown. Please call Pat Watkins (233-5795) to be included in the reservation.

## Playreaders Meeting

The Playreaders group will meet Saturday December 6th, at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place, to read Sticks and Bones. All thespians at heart are welcome. No previous experience required.

## SOUP'S ON!

On Sunday December 7, Jim Novak will once again present his generous (and delicious) gift to Prairie. Jim will provide soup and condiments - others are requested to bring breads, beverages, (or desserts? - Ed.) to complement the soups. Don't miss this - Jim is a terrific cook!

## Musical Bureaucracy

The December 7th service will begin my double theme lay ministry and explain my transition from virtuous environmental activist to 'dulleyed bureaucrat' (and how to tell them apart). I found the change confusing and unpredictable. It raised a lot of questions which we will explore over the next three months. This will also begin the musical endeavor, so come prepared to breathe deeply, drop your inhibitions, and sing out!

The December 14th service will deal with the question "Is This Bureaucracy Necessary?" Prairie's closet bureaucrats will help in explaining what they do and how it might get done if they didn't do it. There will be time for discussion and (of course) some seasonal singing.

- Barbara James

## CHOIR PRACTICE

Each Sunday, starting Dec. 7th, there will be choir practice for all willing singers at 9:00 AM at Prairie. We will start working up some seasonal music of a sort suited to whatever talent we have on hand.

If you ever had a yearning to sing, ignore the (obviously) insensitive person who told you in your youth that you couldn't sing and give us your best shot. No matter what, we will be able to "make a joyful noise".

## R. E. Teachers

Please give Alison all of your receipts for expenses you have had during 1986 by December 14th. We would like to have reimbursements to you by the end of the year so that we start the new year with "clean books".

## Shapenote Revival

There will be a meeting of persons interested in doing (or learning) Shapenote Singing on Dec. 9th at 7:00 PM at Prairie. Don't be shy - this was invented for people who couldn't read music at all!

## Intergenerational Service

On December 21, Prairie will celebrate A Unitarian Universalist Christmas. As is traditional for Prairie, there will be a Symbol Tree. For those who are new to Prairie this year, our symbol tree is one that everyone may help decorate. If there is something special that has happened in your life during the past year, consider sharing the event with all of us. Bring something that symbolizes the event and place it on the tree. Following the service there will be a potluck holiday gathering. Bring breads, fruit, or juice to share.

## In Writing Only

At the December 21 Intergenerational Service there will be NO oral announcements. Anyone with an announcement for that day must have their announcements in writing to post on the bulletin board.

## Soundless?

The Building and Grounds Committee advises that our stereo system is ailing - a new turntable is urgently needed. Donations (suggested: \$10) are needed to cover the cost. Contact Al Nettleton (238-6053) for information or to donate for the turntable.

## Help Needed -

There is a need for samples of china made by the Wedgewood pottery factory in England to be used in the Intergenerational Service on December 21. A cup or saucer or other small item would be fine. The items will be well cared for and will be returned promptly. If you have an item to lend, please call Alice Bullen (838-8055) or Alison McKee (238-3302).

## R. E. Corner

### Nursery and Pre-School

On December 7th and 14th, those of you in these rooms will be getting acquainted with activities from the Growing Times curriculum. Rhonda, your teacher, will no longer be with you. Your new teachers will be Katie Catino and Barb Golden. They have enjoyed being in your room so much this fall that they decided they would like to be your teachers.

### Grades K-1-2

On December 7th, Andrea will be your teacher. You will be learning about the holidays of Hanukkah and Christmas. For your craft project, you will have a chance to make special ornaments.

No December 14th, all of your teachers will be with you for the final class of 1986. They have planned a special day for you. Come and enjoy the day with them all.

### Grades 3-4-5

On December 7th, those of you in this class will be learning about the birth of Jesus. Mary Beth will be sharing the story of his birth with you. Your craft project will be building a manger scene.

On December 14th, there will be a special class for you at the Haglund's. Look for a letter in the mail explaining a little bit more about this special day.

### Grades 6-7-8

On December 7th, those of you in this class will be able to participate in your own Nifty Gifty. Come prepared to make some gifts for your friends and family.

On December 14th, Bob has invited a special visitor to be with you. Your visitor will tell you about his trip to the U. S. S. R. and what he learned about the country while traveling there.

### Mentoring Group

Peg Stevenson's mentoring group will meet on December 7th from 10:00 to 11:00 at 4337 Milford Rd. (Mary Mullen and Fredrika Schilling's home).

THERE WILL BE NO R. E. PROGRAM ON DEC. 30TH.

## Singles Group Meets

The First Unitarian Society Singles Group invites Prairie U. U. singles to join with them in their activities. On December 14th they will meet at the Sheraton for brunch at 11:30 AM. They will meet on December 28th at 10:00 AM at Cherokee Country Club for Cross Country Skiing (or Hiking - depends on the weather) with a brunch to follow at 12:00 at 5000 N. Sherman. For information on this event call Jeri at Cherokee (249-1000) and for general information call Mary Ann Rush at 233-5975.

## Social Action Corner

### Beyond War Award

The award of the 1986 Beyond War Award to The Contadora Group (Columbia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) for their dedicated efforts toward peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Central America will take place in a live TV broadcast linking the four countries and the USA which will be shown on December 14th, 1986, at the Union South from 3:30 to 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from William E. Tans, 2116 Monroe Street, Madison WI 53711. For information, call 251-4456 or 271-4263.

### Border Support Benefit

The border Support Group, a committee of the Madison Sanctuary Community, is sponsoring a benefit. All proceeds will go to work with Central American refugees on the Texas-Mexico border. Join us for festive foods, the premier of our new slide show on the border, a pinata, and speakers recently returned from the border. Childcare will be provided. The benefit will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7th, at 5:00 PM in the Atwood Community Center in Madison, WI. A donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children is requested.

### Red Cross Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Red Cross Bloodmobile to be held at the Dane County Forum on Dec. 24th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Nurses and non-medical volunteers may sign up for either morning or afternoon sessions and will be trained on site. Call Red Cross Volunteer Services at 233-9300 by December 15th.

## Prairie Members Honored

State Legislator Mary Lou Munts was named "Stateswoman of the Year" by the Wisconsin Women's Caucus at a luncheon on Nov. 22nd.

Professor Carolyn DeJoie was named "Woman of the Year" by the National Association of Media Women, as reported in the December issue of Wisconsin Ideas magazine.

## WRONGS WRITED

In the last issue of Prairie Fire, Frank Iltis was incorrectly listed as a new member. Frank is in fact a friend of Prairie, though we can hope that the report was prophetic--

## Hot Off the Press!

George Calden has announced a new book that should be of interest to all Prairie folk. It's called Roots and Wings and consists of nine talks he has given over the years as a lay minister. Chapter headings are:

1. The Gospel According to Woody Allen.
2. The Liberation Theology of Father Carney.
3. Barbara Savage - Around the World on a Bicycle.
4. Refusenik - Trapped in the Soviet Union.
5. A Musical Tribute to Woody Guthrie.
6. Beethoven - Unitarian "Saint"?
7. Is Marriage an Endangered Species?
8. For the Love of Pete (Seeger).
9. Zen and the Art of Motorcycling.

The book can be obtained at Prairie for \$5.00 and all of the proceeds go to Prairie. Prairie Fire subscribers away from Madison can write to George at 4606 Waukesha St., Madison, WI 53705 for a copy. Checks should be made out to Prairie U. U. Society.

## Come & Wish Me Luck

I have happily moved my business into a newly acquired little office building, and now I'd like Prairie folk to help me celebrate my good fortune.

Please join me for beer, Tom & Jerrys, and milder stuff at an 'office-warming' any time between 1:30 PM and 5:00 PM on Sunday Dec. 7th. My office is only 3 miles from Prairie, at 6311 Lacy Road (see attached map). Y'all Come!

- Fran Remeika

