

# Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

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

Prairie Smoke (Sievversia flora)

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Volume 24, Number 26 - December 30, 1986

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 4

No Choir Practice (too many people out of town)  
10:00 AM - "Resolutions for 1987"  
4:30 PM - Vespers Service, at Prairie. Bring a candle & holder. Child care provided. Finger food meal afterward.

### Monday, January 5

6:00 PM - Informal Interracial Dinner at McKees' Family Restaurant, 1414 S. Park St.  
7:30 PM - Prairie Board Meeting - at Prairie.

### Tuesday, January 6

7:00 PM - R. E. Committee meeting at Diane Derouen's home - 2205 Van Hise Ave.

### Wednesday, January 7

7:00 PM - Shapenote (and other part-song) group reconvenes after holiday hiatus at Briggs home  
7:30 PM - Long Range Planning Committee meets at Rachel Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Friday, January 9

5:30 PM - Fish Circle Dinner: see Pat Watkins for reservations.

### Saturday, January 10

6:30 PM - Playreaders Potluck Dinner Theatre. Playreading at 8.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

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Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
5213 Milward Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

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

### Sunday, January 11

9:00 AM - Choir Practice resumes.  
10:00 AM - "If You Miss Me at the Back of the Bus...", an intergenerational service celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy and meaning for us (see related story, pg. 3).  
4:30 PM - Vespers Service, at Prairie. Bring a candle & holder. Child care provided. Finger food meal afterward.

### Tuesday January 13

5:00 PM - Program Committee meeting and potluck meal at 4337 Milford Rd. Over by 7 PM.

### Wednesday, January 14

7:00 PM - Shapenote (and other part-song) group meets at Briggs home, 2259 West Lawn Ave. More singers needed!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH. SUBMIT NOTICES FOR THE PERIOD JAN. 16TH - 29TH.

### **Fish Circle Dinner**

This group will meet at The Washington Host Restaurant this month. For reservations, call Pat Watkins at home (233-5795) or at her office (262-7960) between 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM. No reservations will be accepted after 12:30 PM on Jan. 7th.

### **Play Readers**

Warm up with Playreaders on January 10 at 5209 Tolman Terrace. A 'Potluck Dinner Theatre' at 6:30 PM will celebrate Rachel Siegfried's birthday with playreading to follow at 8:00 PM. Anthony Shaffers' "Whodunnit", the 1982 British comedy thriller, will be read. Please call host Lynda Lewis (271-2173) if you'd like to join in the festivities.

## Many Thanks . .

The intergenerational Christmas service on Dec. 21st was the product of many helping hands and voices. We wish to say thanks to all who helped, including the children and adults who read for us, the Prairie Chorus that sang for us, and the recorder group, the Prairie Winds, who played for us. Several people played the piano for us and sometimes we all sang and after the service and the food, there was more singing. The 'Symbol Tree' was a beauty and came to Prairie as a gift from the Johnson Tree Farm.

Sharing food, music, and thoughts of Christmas are a large part of an intergenerational service and we thank all of you who participated and helped to make it a success.

-Alison McKee and  
Alice Bullen, Coord-  
inators for the R.E.  
& Program Committees.

## ADDRESS CORRECTION

The return address for adult education classes at First Society was incorrectly listed in the last Prairie Fire. Registrations should be sent to:

The Rev. Carol Taylor  
First Unitarian Society  
900 University Bay Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

## New Turntable

A new turntable has been acquired for our sound system. It will greatly enhance the quality of our music reproduction. Donations are still needed to cover the cost. Please contact Al Nettleton at 238-6053 with your pledge or contribution.

## R. E. Corner

### Nursery and Pre-School

On January 4, the children in these classes will continue working on activities in the Growing Times curriculum. If at all possible, please bring a small picture of yourself that will be suitable to hang on the wall for the duration of the year.

### Grades K-8

On January 4, those of you in these grades will have the first of two Sundays of Winterim classes. The activities that will be available to you on the 4th will be printing with Alice and Lee Bullen, cooking with Andrea Torres, a slide show with Al Nettleton, and Russian culture with Linda Lewis. Some of the classes are limited in size or by age. Please sign up for classes on the sign-up sheets on the wall in the main R. E. room.

## Thank You - Pat Watkins

The R. E. Committee would like to thank Pat Watkins for her donation of holiday decorations, table cloths, and St. Nicholas Posters used at the intergenerational service on Dec. 21st. The committee would also like to thank her for her donation of gifts which the R. E. Committee distributed to the children on the 21st.

## Social Action Notes

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the Kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among neighbors,  
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman  
(courtesy of Denise Tracy)

### Interracial Dinner

People of all colors are invited to 'break bread together' at the third monthly gathering of the 'Friendly Supper Club'. Come to McKees' Family Restaurant, 1414 S. Park St., at 6 PM on Monday, Jan. 5th. Bring a friend of a different color!

### Guest at Your Table

The donation boxes will be collected Jan. 4th. Please fill out and bring the address portion of the box, along with your cash or a check made out to UUSC (you can date it in Dec. for tax reasons) to Prairie that day. Thanks from people everywhere!

-Lance Green

### Join the Red Cross Club

One of your 1987 New Year's resolutions could be to join in forming a Prairie Society club to regularly donate blood to the Red Cross. We would need six to ten donors to give blood bimonthly. If you want information about qualifications to donate blood or about forming a donor club, call Lynda Lewis (271-2173).

### Draft - AGAIN?

Editor Erwin Knoll predicts, in the January issue of The Progressive, that there will soon be a new call for conscription, not only for the military, but for civilian service!

From whom will the call come? The Joint Chiefs of Staff? The New Right? No, he says, from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party(!). Some Democrats see conscription as a way to erase the public perception that they are weak on defense. Gary Hart is an enthusiast for the draft. At least two other potential candidates are also keen on the idea.

Timothy Noah, editor of the neo-liberal Washington Monthly, calls it "a good way to perform a variety of important tasks, from rebuilding infra-structure, to caring for those in need, to cleaning up the environment, to boosting military manpower."

All this suggests that people who are concerned about the direction the new Congress will take should begin to write letters to their new or re-elected representatives. It could be that at the beginning of a new session, Congresspeople will be a little more amenable to the wishes of their constituents than they will be after they have established their courses.

-Leland Bullen

## Civil Rights on PBS

"The only chain that a man can stand,  
Is the chain of hand in hand,  
Keep your eyes on the prize,  
Hold on, hold on..."

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE  
(Traditional Freedom Movement Song)

"EYES ON THE PRIZE" is the story of black people waking up to the potential within themselves to change the system; reaching for, and working to realize what rightly belongs to all Americans, the "prize" of the American Dream: equality. This series, coming on Public TV in January, will evoke the joy, the anger, the sorrow, and the success of the decade 1954-1965. The series focuses on the contributions of black and white Americans, the accomplishments and failures of The Movement, and how American institutions, government and citizens responded to the challenges. Check your TV program guide for the time and channel in your area.

Program One - The Awakening. In the 1950's, two events helped focus the nation's attention on civil rights for black Americans: the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till, and the Montgomery boycott that forced the desegregation of public buses

Program Two - A Matter Of Justice. In an historic decision in 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were unconstitutional, and integration became a matter of justice. On September 24, 1957, the 101st Airborne escorted nine black children into Little Rock's Central High School - essentially a federal invasion of a sovereign state.

Program Three - Ain't Nobody Gonna Turn Me Around. It has been five years since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus.

The Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee is formed. Freedom Rides roll into the deep South for the first time. "No Comment Nixon versus a Candidate with a Heart."

Program Four - An American Moment. In Albany, Georgia, five per-cent of the black population goes to jail to protest violations of the federal law ordering desegregation of facilities in the Trailways bus terminal. August, 1963: The March for jobs and freedom.

Program Five - Freedom Summer. Mississippi becomes a testing ground as thousands of northern college students touch the consciences of the white majority and help to mobilize the black political potential.

Program Six - Selma - The Final March. Ten years after the Montgomery bus boycott, a bloody Sunday at the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, leads to the death of Rev. Jim Reeb, a white Unitarian minister from Boston.

## Denominational Affairs

### Leadership School

Last summer 23 participants attended the first Midwest Leadership School. This weeklong program of lay leadership training included lectures and small group work in organizational development, theology, and personal spiritual journeys. The curriculum was developed over the past decade in eight UU Leadership Schools. The participants and staff of the first Midwest School have recommended that the program continue.

The second Midwest Leadership School will take place at Beloit College in Beloit, WI, from July 11 through July 18, 1987. The teaching staff will again consist of Denise Tracy (theology), Susan Holton (organizational development), and Elise Cade (dean). There is a Society Fee of \$75 which will entitle a team of up to four members to register. The tuition will be \$300 for each participant. Scholarship aid will be available from some area councils.

### Spring CMD Conference

The Spring CMD Conference will be held at First Church in Chicago on May 9th. It will feature UUA President Bill Schulz as a speaker. Fifteen workshops, including Central America and the Future of UUism; Spirituality, Music and Hymns as Symbols of Faith; Faith Stages in 2001; Raising Children in a Nuclear Age; and The Bible (An Old Book for a New Faith) will be presented. Contact the CMD office (312-383-4344) for more information.