

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 grab 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 25, Number 15 - July 28, 1987

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE WILL
BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH. SUBMIT NOTICES
FOR THE PERIOD AUG. 13TH - AUG. 27TH.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug. 2

NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE.
10:00 AM - BICYCLE TRIP TO MT. HOREB
AND POTLUCK DINNER. See
related story.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

7:30 PM - R.E. COMMITTEE MEETING at the
meeting house.

Sunday, Aug. 9

9:00 AM - POTLUCK BREAKFAST
10:00 AM - "OF PATRIOTISM, SOLDIERS, AND
WAR: Views from literature
and music"-led by Pat Watkins
(see related story)

Sunday, Aug. 16

9:00 AM - POTLUCK BREAKFAST
10:00 AM - "REPORT ON LITTLE ROCK"-
Highlights of the General
Assembly. Cinda Lamar and
Lynda Lewis.

Sunday, Aug. 23

NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE TODAY.
4:30 PM - PRAIRIE PICNIC at John and
Shirley Grindrod's home.
(see related story)

Saturday, Aug. 15

1:00 PM - PLAYREADERS Organizational
Meeting (see article).

Saturday, Aug. 29

Orientation/Training for R.E. Teachers

Potluck Breakfast

There will be a potluck breakfast at
9:00 AM every Sunday that Prairie meets
this summer. Come and break bread with
us, and bring a dish to pass.

Budgets Are Due

The Finance Committee wishes to remind
all Committee Chairs that the budget
proposals for 1988 are due to Faye
Glessner in writing by Friday, Aug. 7th.

Bike Trip/Potluck

Member Sharon Scrattish will be hosting
the BICYCLE TRIP AND POTLUCK at her home
at 403 N. 4th Street in Mt. Horeb on
Sunday, August 2. The trip is a modest
13 miles each way. Swimming at the Mt.
Horeb public pool will be available
one-half block away from her home, and
there may be folk singing as well.

We'll meet at the parking lot which
marks the beginning of the trail at
10 AM on Sunday. To get to the lot,
follow Verona Road (Hwy 151) to Co. Hwy.
PB (at the Dane Co. Home) and turn left
onto PB. Turn right into the parking
lot about one-half block south on PB.
Sharon will meet us there at 10:00 AM to
collect the potluck dishes, swim suits,
etc. and to hand out maps. If you'd
rather not bicycle to her house, come by
car. Quite a few people did last year.

If there's enough interest, Sharon will
also host an overnight campout for kids
on Sunday night. The kids will be
driven back to Madison on Monday
morning. Please call Sharon at (608)
437-5915 if your child wants to do this.

Fall Tune Up Time

Tune up your piano for the fall! Bob
Park's brother Warren will again be

visiting in the Madison area from his home in Minneapolis. He is an excellent piano tuner and will be available to service your piano at a bargain rate. He will be in the Madison area from Aug. 8th to the 11th. Please call Bob Park at 635-7519 if you are interested.

A Second Chance

If you missed Dorothy Wetherby and Fredericka Schilling's service on aging entitled "Aging: The Best Is Yet To Be?" and want to hear it live instead of on tape, you should know that they will be presenting it on August 2 at First Society at 10:00 AM.

Patriotism, Soldiers And War

This service will consist of readings by the Playreaders and others, and will include selections by Prairie musicians. If you have a favorite passage or would like to read a passage, call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 or 262-7960. Ten minutes will be included for writing an anti-war protest letter or postcard. Bring your own stationery and a stamp.

Little Rock Report

Join us Sunday morning on August 16 for a first hand report on the highlights of the UUA General Assembly held in Little Rock, Arkansas, this past month. Cinda LaMar and Lynda Lewis will share their experiences as Prairie's delegates.

Cinda, who is coordinator of the young adults' Channing-Murray group, directed a workshop about organizing successful student groups. Lynda attended every last minute of all morning sessions about business and resolutions. From dawn to past midnight all week, the wide selection of services, programs, workshops, celebrations and parties offered opportunities to satisfy the diverse interests of UUs. Next year's meeting will be in Palm Springs, California.

Prairie Picnic

The picnic will be held at the Grindrod home, 5235 Harbor Court (near the Spring Harbor boat ramp). Bring a dish to pass and your own meat to grill. The grills will be ready to use at 4:30 PM but swimmers, boaters, and talkers are encouraged to arrive earlier. You may be able to talk John into a sailboat ride...

Programs Wanted

The Program Committee invites any of its members to do a service in August or early September. There are three or four openings on Sundays to present your favorite subject of religious concern.

-Jim Novak

Help Wanted

The Program Committee is seeking an individual to lead the intergenerational service on October 24, 1987. The topic will be "United Nations Day". See or call Jim Novak at 249-4474 if you are interested. This is your opportunity to give your perspective on peace in the world.

Looking for a Home

I need a home for a long time member of my family. Zinda is on the small side (about 25 lbs) for a dog, very friendly and smart -- of course. I can't have her with me, but am willing to pay for her keep if necessary to find her a loving home. If you are interested, call me at 251-5427. References are available from her many friends (cats, ferrets, and Unitarians).

- Faye Glessner

On the Sick List

Member Jack Jallings is out of circulation for a while with a recurrence of a slipped disc in his back. He might appreciate a call from his friends while he is convalescing. Get Well Soon, Jack!

Help Us Celebrate!

All Prairie People and friends are invited to come and help us celebrate an anniversary on Sunday, August 9 from 1:00 PM to ???. Bring finger foods and we'll supply the fluids. No cards or gifts, please.

- Alison & David McKee

Organizer Needed!

The Board is looking for one or more individuals to organize the program and registration for this year's Upham Woods retreat. If interested, please contact President Mary Mullen at 271-5192. This year's retreat will be held on October 10th and 11th.

Wedding Reception

Sita Robinson and Tim Diehl will be married on August 15 in Portland, Oregon. All Prairie members and friends are invited to join them for an informal reception on August 29 at 12:00 Noon at the farm of Joe Lawrence and Barbara James in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. Bring your loved ones, your musical instruments, and a dish to share. Please RSVP to Sita or Tim at (608) 256-1151.

R. E. Corner

Most of us are fully enjoying our long awaited summer vacations and yet this is the time of year that much of the "behind the scenes" work goes on for R.E. Some of the things that are currently "in the hopper" are a teacher's orientation day, an R.E. registration morning (more on that later), Nifty Gifty and of course R.E. classes. As I work with the R.E. Committee on these and other projects, I can say that I am getting anxious for Fall. There are so many interesting prospects in the near future! I'd like to share with all of Prairie just what some of these are. The best way to do this is to tell you, in as much detail as possible, about some of the upcoming classes being offered.

Last year our middle-schoolers had a wonderful year working on a video. That project seemed to be something that all of the participants enjoyed working on. I was hard pressed to come up with something quite as interesting as filming a video for the upcoming middle school class. After much talk with R.E. Committee members, I think I can say that there is an interesting project in the wings. The children will be working with the How Can I Know What to Believe? curriculum which seems to lend itself well to a newspaper project. Issues that come up in this curriculum center around knowing what to believe about other people, God, religion and believing. Aside from these issues mentioned in the curriculum, there are many other issues that can be explored in a newspaper format. I see many possibilities for this newspaper project, yet the form that the paper(s) take is wholly dependent upon the teachers and students. Teachers who will be working with these students are Cinda LaMar and Al Nettleton. Cinda has been working very closely with Channing-Murray during the past few years. Al has been a part of Prairie from its earliest days. With such strong UU ties I am sure Cinda and Al will be great resources and teachers for our middle schoolers.

The 3-4-5 class will thoroughly enjoy their Holidays and Holy Days curriculum.

This curriculum is just as its title suggests, a celebration of many different holidays and holy days. The holidays selected for inclusion in this curriculum were chosen because they in some way lift up a value we UU's affirm. Of course, getting ready to celebrate the holidays is half, if not all, of the fun. Much of the lessons will be spent doing just that, preparing to celebrate the holidays. Of course the conclusion of the preparations will be the celebration. Included among the holidays will be many which the children are familiar and some with which they will not be familiar. In celebrating "holy days" it is hoped that the children will be given a chance to examine the religious beliefs of others, and in the process examine their own beliefs. The teachers for this class will be Rick Ruecking and Peg Stevenson. Rick has been leading our services upstairs for the past two years so it will be quite a treat for the children to have him downstairs celebrating with them. Peg has been active with R.E. in the past and I am sure looks forward to the many celebrations ahead. Of course, any adult who would like to participate in any of these celebrations would be welcome to help out, I am sure. The children will have an active and exciting year with Peg and Rick.

(This preview will be completed in the next issue of the Prairie Fire.)

Teacher Training Date Set

There will be a teacher training day on August 29th. It will be an all day event at which you will be able to do a major part of your planning for the semester. You will also have a chance to learn more about teaching in the R.E. setting. Please put this day aside and plan to join us. Others who are interested in R.E. are welcome to attend. Call Alison at 238-3302 for details.

Playreaders Organize

Throughout the year Playreaders get asked all sorts of questions, like: What play will you be reading in November? Who decides what plays you read? I live in a tiny apartment, how can I have playreading at my house? Can only people who are good at reading aloud come to Playreaders? Would I have to come every time? If I come, do I have to read? Where do you get the playbooks you read from? And lots more.

To keep the mystery at a minimum, and participation at a maximum, we decided to put some answers where everyone could

see them. (Where else by in Prairie Fire?)

-Anyone can come to any playreading. Just watch for the calendar announcements in the newsletter. If you don't know how to get there, call the host/hostess.

-You don't have to come every time, but you may want to!

-You don't need any special skills or experience. It helps if you like to read aloud and have done it a lot, but many of us hadn't before we came to Playreaders. And all of us improve as we do more of it.

-You can just sit and listen if you like. Or you can ask for a very small part till you feel more confident.

-We usually get our plays from the Madison Public Library. Unfortunately, they've decentralized their play collection, so you may have to hunt a bit to get all available copies. (Check with a "veteran" playreader for help on how to do this.) Some people may have personal copies, and sometimes copies can be found in one of the University collections.

-And now the biggie. Every summer about this time any available Play-readers (i. e. former Playreaders and anyone else interested) meet for lunch and decision-making about the coming year's playreading schedule. We bring notes about plays we've read in the past or would like to read. We also bring our personal schedules for any fixed events during the coming year (travel, graduations, performances we'll attend or participate in, etc.), anything that might conflict. We then attempt to set up a schedule for one playreading or theatre visit experience (as an occasional break from playreading) per month. This way people get to express preferences for the month they prefer to have guests. Sometimes months are not spoken for; people who can't make the planning meeting usually fill in those dates. We are flexible. People can and do exchange dates, and the unexpected does occur. But this way, we can give Prairie Fire a reasonably accurate schedule to print in September; then other Prairie events can be scheduled so as not to conflict with Playreaders. This is especially true for Saturday evening events at the meeting house and for Circle Dinners.

Did we say that we normally meet one Saturday per month, at 7:30 or 8:00 PM (host's choice), and that the host/hostess chooses the play and provides at least 4-5 copies (preferably similar) of it? So, if you have a play you'd like

to read, if you've written a play you'd like to hear read aloud, or if you'd just like to come and listen, why not plan to attend the annual organizational lunch (VERY informal) on Saturday, Aug. 15th, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at a place to be announced. We promise to choose a place with reasonable prices, since we want as many as possible to come.

PLEASE let one of us know, by Aug. 9th, if you plan to come, as we must make reservations. Remember, you don't have to have a playreading at your house, but we'll appreciate input on what plays to read - and also, it's just a nice occasion to get together.

Pat Watkins
W: 262-7960
H: 233-5795

Rosemary Dorney
W: 263-4220
H: 238-4382

(Map for Tim Diehl's Reception)

JAMES & LAURENCE
FARM
(608) - 455 - 2042

- 1) TAKE PARK ST. SOUTH
OUT OF MADISON - IT
TURNS INTO HIGHWAY 14
- 2) TURN RIGHT ON
HIGHWAY 92
- 3) TAKE HIGHWAY 92
THROUGH BROOKLYN
AND ABOUT TWO
MILES BEYOND
- 4) TURN RIGHT ON
MORTENSEN ROAD
- 5) FARM IS ON THE
RIGHT.

