

# 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 God and be one with the natural world and with one another.

PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION  
Prairie Smoke (Sieversia flora)

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Richard Bonser, Editor      | 274-3248 |
| Mary Mullen, President      | 271-5192 |
| Alison McKee, R.E. Director | 238-3302 |
| Meeting House               | 271-8218 |

Volume 25, Number 23 - Nov. 17, 1987

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE WILL BE SUNDAY, NOV. 29TH. SUBMIT NOTICES FOR THE PERIOD DEC. 4TH - DEC. 17TH.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, Nov. 19

12:00 AM - CHANNING MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Tentative guest is State Representative Spencer Black.

### Saturday, Nov. 21

2:00 PM - CHANNING MURRAY LECKERLI PARTY - at Cinda LaMar's, 2418 Kendall Ave.  
7:30 PM - PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood. All welcome.

### Sunday, Nov. 22nd

10:00 AM - "THE PUZZLE OF PONDERING PRAIRIE PEOPLE" - a panel of Prairie youth (see story)  
12:00 AM - POTLUCK DINNER: Bring a dish to share.  
1:00 PM - FALL PARISH MEETING (see related story)  
6:30 PM - YRUU (7th-12th graders) at First Unitarian Society West Living Room; call Diane Derouen, 238-3766, for info.  
6:30 PM - UU ORIENTATION: "What's a Unitarian Universalist?" led by Mary Mullen and Rick Ruecking  
4337 Milford Rd. 271-5192

### Thursday, Nov. 26

Channing Murray members are invited to the Thanksgiving Dinner and Party at First Unitarian Society.

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

### Saturday, Nov. 28

YRUU LOCK-IN AT WEST YMCA  
call Diane Derouen, 238-3766,  
for information and time.

### Sunday, Nov. 29

10:00 AM - INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE  
6:30 PM - UU ORIENTATION: "Prairie: Past, Present, and Future" led by Ruth Calden. 4606 Waukesha St. 233-5717

### Monday, Nov. 30

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the meeting house. All welcome.

### Thursday, Dec. 3

12:00 AM - CHANNING MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union.

### Sunday, Dec. 6

5:30 PM - SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK (see related story)

### Friday, Dec. 11

5:30 PM - Fish/Ethnic Dinner Circle will meet at the Saigon Restaurant (see story).  
\*\* NOTE CHANGE OF DATE \*\*

## "Children of Change" Concludes...

"The Puzzle of Pondering Prairie People - Our Approach to Religious Education" will be the topic of the Sunday service on Nov. 22nd, concluding my "Children of Change" lay ministry series.

A panel of Prairie youth will present their reactions and memorable experiences about growing up in Prairie Society. Kristi Spring, David Stevenson, and (if possible) Geoff Bonser will share views about benefits and improve-

ments for our approach to religious education programs. Alison McKee, R. E. Director, will be the resource for a general discussion by all Prairie members about the philosophy and activities to include in religious education. Celebration and music, as usual, will enhance the service.

For the most part, the fall series of services have benefitted by significant contributions by guests and welcome, thoughtful participation by Prairie members in active discussions. The cooperation of Prairie musicians week after week add immeasurably to our enjoyment of our Sunday services. I greatly appreciate the kind and talented help I have received in planning and presenting these services.

- Lynda Lewis  
Fall Lay Minister

### Ethnic Connection Performs

Our own Ethnic Connection, including Dodie Chapru, George and Ruth Calden and Lee Burkholder, will be playing international folk music at the Madison Art Center's Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon. The musical group also will be performing at the International Folk Fair on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 1:45 PM in the Isthmus Playhouse. Both events will be held at the Madison Civic Center on State Street.

### Service Auction Results

We can pat ourselves on the back for a fun and rewarding service auction. Bodacious Brent (aka Brent Haglund) serving as auctioneer was ably assisted by Splendiferous Barb (aka Barb Barley). The (Encredible) Ethnic Connection entertained after a feast on pizza and pop donated by Pizza Hut. This winning combination raised around \$1240. Thanks to all and especially thanks to Karen Gross for her donation of carpentering time which turned out to be worth over \$335.

- Faye Glessner  
Finance Chair

### Service Auction Extras-

Item #1: Robin Park-Doob and/or his dad, Bob Park, offer an introductory one-hour lesson in Basic language programming for your home computer, preferably a Commodore computer. The course is suitable for ages 8 through adult.

Item #2: Rachel Siegfried's roommate needs two wooden wall mounts for horse harness manufactured. She offers a minimum bid of \$20 for the service. Call Rachel at 271-2173.

### Room Needed

Professor Wang De Xiang, a friend of Prairie, has received funding from the UW Law School to continue his studies here until next summer. He needs an American family to stay with until then. He is currently living with a family whose son is returning home on Dec. 1st, at which point Prof. Wang will have to move. He is a very good and active cook, and his English language skill has much improved during his stay here. He is also a willing TAI CHI teacher. If you have space for him, please call him at 233-4557 or call me for more information at 231-2199.

- Lora Mermin

### Fall Orientation

Do you ever wonder what Unitarianism is all about? Do you wish you knew more about Prairie? Would you like to meet some new and old people from Prairie? Come join us for discussion and snacks on Sunday evenings at 6:30 on Nov. 15, 22, and 29th. We will meet in different homes starting at Fredericka Schilling's, 4337 Milford Rd., just 1/4 block from Prairie. If you have questions or would like to come for 1, 2, or 3 evenings please call Fredericka at 271-5192. The topics are:

- Sun. Nov. 15 - "Sharing Ourselves" led by Sharon Scattish. 4337 Milford Rd. 271-5192
- Sun. Nov. 22 - "What's a Unitarian Universalist?" led by Mary Mullen and Rick Ruecking 4337 Milford Rd. 271-5192
- Sun. Nov. 29 - "Prairie: Past, Present, and Future" led by Ruth Calden. 4606 Waukesha St 233-5717

### Music and Flowers..

Calling all Poinsettia and music lovers! The Madison Boy Choir Christmas concert will be held at 4:00 PM on Dec. 13, and tickets are available from Christopher McKee. He also has some beautiful Poinsettia plants for sale. They are 16"-17" high and have 5 to 7 blooms. They come in 6" foil wrapped pots and cost \$8.50 each. If you are interested in either item, contact Christopher at 238-3302.

## Spanish Speaker's Potluck

Everyone is welcome to come to the potluck dinner on Sunday, Dec. 6th, at 5:30 PM at Prairie. No great linguistic or culinary ability is necessary. Call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 or Faye Glessner at 251-5427 for more info.

## Entertainment Books

Enclosed with this issue of Prairie Fire is a flyer listing some of the great options available thru Entertainment '88 - fine dining, casual dining, theater, sports, retail discounts. The books sell for \$25 each and Prairie keeps \$5 for each one sold through Prairie.

You can help Prairie's operating budget by buying one yourself, giving one for Christmas, and selling several to your co-workers and neighbors. Books are available from Faye Glessner (251-5427).

## \*\*\*\*\* CHANNING-MURRAY NEWS \*\*\*\*\*

"At Channing-Murray's Leckerli\*(fest)  
It's not how you look, it's not how  
you're dressed.  
We really don't care how you style your  
hair  
Or if you wear sandals in chill autumn  
air  
But it might cause alarm if you wouldn't  
charm  
All of those present by tiring your arm  
Or at least being willing to give it  
your best  
At Channing-Murray's Leckerlifest!"

\*-A Swiss cookie. Some assembly  
required, including strenuous stirring  
of the honey-based dough.

The Leckerlifest will begin at 2:00 PM  
on Saturday, Nov. 21, and will continue  
until the baking is done. The place  
will be at Cinda LaMar's home, 2418  
Kendall Ave. Bring a friend, a spouse,  
a possiq, or whatever. Enjoy cider,  
munchies, and camaraderie. Leave with  
cookies, friend, spouse, etc.

## U. U. YOUNG ADULTS MEET..

U. U.'S from 18 to 35 are meeting to  
plan a Spring Conference. The meeting  
will be held on Dec. 5 from 10 AM to  
2:00 PM in Oak Park, IL. For more  
information call Marty Heine at (312)  
524-0451 or Barbara Need (312) 667-1916.

## Fish/Ethnic Dinner Circle

This informal group meets once a month  
in a restaurant for food and fellowship.  
It is ideal for those who do not cook or  
have no place to entertain, but wish to  
be part of a dinner circle. The next  
meal will be at the Saigon Restaurant,  
6802 Odana Road, on Friday, Dec. 11th,  
at 5:30 PM. The preis fixe dinner will  
cost \$13.20 including tax and tip, and  
will consist of: soup (your choice),  
Lemon Fish, Stuffed Orange Chicken, Beef  
Lemon Grass, Phoenix Tail Shrimp, Fried  
Rice, and Egg Roll.

Reservations are due by 4:00 PM on Wed.  
Dec. 9th. Call Pat Watkins between  
10:30 and 4:30 at work (262-7960).

Please Note: We have been pretty lax  
about reservations. Because this is a  
family style dinner, reservations are  
imperative. If you come without a  
reservation, you will not be included in  
the group; if you make one and don't  
show, you will be billed for your  
meal(s).

## Committee Members Still Needed

On Sept. 28th, the Prairie Executive  
Board created a Building Remodeling  
Committee and appointed Al Nettleton,  
Tom Robinson, and Rick Ruecking as the  
first three members. This committee  
will work with the architect and con-  
tractors to carry out the remodeling  
plan when the Board gives the go-ahead  
signal. If you want to be involved in  
the process, notify Al, Tom, or Rick, or  
call president Mary Mullen at 271-5192.

## Building a Dream...

Prairie Society took a bold, forward  
looking step at the Sept. 20th parish  
meeting when a decision was made to  
undertake an \$85,000 building renovation  
project. The improvements will greatly  
expand our R. E. space and will make all  
major facilities in our building handi-  
capped accessible.

OUR GOAL: to raise as much as possible  
of the funds required by January, 1988,  
so that the Board can negotiate a loan  
for the balance and get bids for  
construction during the summer of 1988.

PROGRESS REPORT: As of Nov. 16th,  
Pledges amounting to \$24,305 had been  
received by the Building Fund Committee!

## Calling All Members!

Take your choice! All Prairie members and friends are asked, urged, appealed to, invited, implored, entreated, and perhaps even begged (if they don't feel obligated) to attend the regular fall parish meeting on Sunday, Nov. 22nd., at 1:00 PM at Prairie. Some of our most faithful members won't be able to attend this meeting because they're involved in the Civic Center's Holiday Folk Fair. That doesn't change the attendance required for a Quorum, however, and your President promises that the meeting will adjourn in time for any and all to catch at least an hour of the fair!! Free child care will be provided during the meeting.

20 Members are needed for a Quorum! Every member is entitled to speak and vote on issues of great importance to Prairie's Future - Your Future! The agenda is reprinted below, and the 1988 recommended budget was printed in the last issue (Nov. 3) of Prairie Fire.

### Parish Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the Sept. 20 parish meeting.
2. Treasurer's report.
3. Election of a Denominational Affairs Chairperson.
4. Standing Committee Reports.
5. Report on the Upham Woods discussion of the need for a minister, administrator, or secretary. Action as appropriate.
6. Finance Committee Report
7. Discussion and approval of the 1988 Operating Budget.
8. Report by the Capital Fund Raising Committee. Action as appropriate.
9. Old Business
10. New Business.
  - a. Discussion of need for capital budgeting for major maintenance and repairs.
11. Adjournment

## To Make a Prairie...

A Prairie member has pledged \$100 to create the new "prairie plant" garden. This member has also PLEDGED TO MATCH OTHER "PRAIRIE PLANT" GARDEN PLEDGES (up to a maximum of \$500). If you are interested in re-establishing our symbolic prairie, your extra gift for that purpose will automatically double in size!!

## Budget Issue...

I would like to add to the budget \$200 to provide for lawn mowing next spring, summer, and fall. Volunteers have been almost non-existent for this particular chore. If you agree, help support the motion at the Fall Parish Meeting on Nov. 22nd.

- Rachel Siegfried

\*\*\*\*\*  
R. E. CORNER  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Preschool and Nursery

There will be special activities for you on Nov. 22nd and Nov. 29th. Sue will be on vacation but there will be a familiar face or two as your other teachers will be with you. Come dressed for outdoor activities if the weather is good.

### Grades K-1-2, 3-4-5, 6-7-8

On Nov. 22nd, there will be no regular R. E. classes. Come and have fun with all of your friends as you play games, snack and possibly view a film together. Come dressed for outdoor activities if the weather is good.

On Nov. 29th, there will be an inter-generational service. You will be joining your family and friends upstairs for the morning service.

### 6-7-8 Grade Report

We continue to explore dilemmas of belief in people, god, death, and religion.

Last Sunday we discussed the issue of football team prayers at Memorial High School. The consensus was that if there were prayers, they should at least have hoped for maiming and extreme harm to the opposing team.

### 8th Grade Mentoring Group

The Mentoring Group will be meeting at 9:00 AM on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, at McDonalds on the frontage road off of Verona Road near Prairie.

## Love and Help Badge, Anybody?

In 1981, the UUA published a new version of Religion In Life, a UU identity program which was designed for use as an emblem award program for Boy Scouts. A year later a similar program was written for Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts. You may recall that Dan Stevenson received his emblem for completing this program at the recognition Sunday last May.

The program is designed such that any child age 7-11 may earn this emblem whether or not they are involved in scouting. The material comes in a work book format and is designed with independent work in mind. Children should not have difficulty completing the requirements for the emblem and I am willing to assist them in this work. If anybody is interested in working on this emblem (or has any questions about it), please call me at 238-3302 by Dec. 1 so that I can order the materials for you. The cost of the booklets will be \$5.00.

- Alison McKee

## **Nifty Gifty Helper Needed**

An adult is needed to help with a soldering project for older children on the Nifty Gifty day, Dec. 6th. For more information, call Metje Butler at 244-3659.

## **Scholarships Available!**

The Stanfield Scholarships Program offers financial assistance to Unitarian Universalist students in law school or to U. U. art students preparing for art in painting, drawing or sculpture. For more information, contact Mary Mullen at 271-5192. Applications must be received in Boston by February 15, 1988.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES**  
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## **'Tis The Season...**

Why not make this a different kind of Thanksgiving, Christmas or Hannukah season for yourself or your family - one focussed on helping others? Even if you only spend one hour on this giving effort, it will probably be worth a lot more than an hour of shopping!

Consult the Social Action bulletin board for a list of 40 agencies/organizations that can use your donation of goods or time this holiday season. The list is

neatly divided into 8 types of goods and 6 types of volunteer services needed.

Goods needed range from food items to toys and clothes to Christmas trees and gift wrap. Or you could volunteer to prepare or serve a meal, prepare or distribute food baskets, deliver toys, sort or wrap gifts, or put on an entertainment.

For more information on how to get involved, call United Way's Voluntary Action Center, 246-4380.

## **Respite Volunteer Program**

The Oregon Area Senior Center and the Fitchburg Senior Center are developing a new program that will be of great benefit to many local people who are involved in long-term caregiving situations. Because of the stress that is placed on a caregiver by the need to give continuous support to a dependent individual, there is great need for respite - some "time out" for this family member, friend, or neighbor responsible for the usual care. Through a special grant from the Dane County Commission on Aging, a respite volunteer program is being developed. The goal is to get this service into place before the caregiver is near collapse or before nursing home placement for the person receiving care is imminent. Prairie has brochures for anyone who would benefit from some respite services or anyone interested in becoming a respite volunteer. Caring, patient, responsible adults are needed to provide this "time out". This is not a volunteer commitment that requires frequent service for long periods of time. Anyone interested in either aspect of this program may also wish to contact Anne Staton, Respite Coordinator, at 835-5301.

## **Join Hands...**

Each year the Dane County Dept of Social Services holds a "Join Hands" Holiday Sale to benefit the needy in the Madison area. The proceeds go to support free meal sites for the homeless and folks identified as in poverty, disabled or aged can purchase the sale items at 75% off.

The Join Hands sale needs merchandise from businesses and resale items from anyone. To donate, call Kate Klopatek at 249-5351, ext. 217 during the day or at 249-3175 evenings.

## National Workshop on Social Justice

To get on the mailing list for UUA's 12th annual National Workshop on Social Justice, send your name and address to UUNWSJ, 333 Dubois Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401, or call (301) 266-8044. Travel and youth subsidies are available for the workshop that will be held April 17-19, 1988 in Washington, D. C.

## Double Duty With Aluminum

You can save the Earth and Prairie at the same time! When aluminum is recycled, rather than mined, purified and processed, many adverse environmental impacts are avoided and much energy saved. You can do this and raise money for Prairie by bringing in your used aluminum for recycling. We have so far collected 30 lbs of aluminum with a profit to Prairie of \$12. For the most part, this will mean collecting, rinsing and bagging beverage cans. But take a close look at other items you might throw away - aluminum pans or cookware, lawn furniture, appliance housings, etc. Please just make sure what you bring in is clean and is aluminum - test it with a magnet! Leave your aluminum in the labelled barrel in the men's coatroom, or call me about large items at 249-5979.

- Lance Green

## What's Apheresis?

### RED CROSS NEEDS APHERESIS DONORS

Apheresis is a special kind of blood donation. Instead of giving whole blood, as in the regular donation, donors give specific components of blood for patients with leukemia and other malignant diseases. Since the possibility of exactly matching a donor to a recipient is about one in 5,000, a large number of committed donors is needed. The local Red Cross is currently working to increase its apheresis registry by 2,000 donors.

When you plan to give blood as a member of Prairie's "One-A-Week Club", you may want to check out becoming an apheresis donor. We also need an increase in our membership. Especially in this Thanksgiving holiday, think about donating to the Red Cross. Phone 233-9300 if you have any questions or ask Lynda Lewis, Prairie Club Coordinator (271-2173).

## Deer Hunting Protest

The Alliance For Animals, Inc. will protest the annual killing of thousands of deer by sports hunting on Sunday, Nov. 22nd. The primary focus of the protest is the use of state parks, recreational areas, and refuges for deer hunting.

Members of the Alliance and other participants will form a caravan through the city, ending at the Capitol. For further information, contact Lu Kummerow (233-9121) or call the Alliance For Animals, Inc. at 257-6333.

## UUSC Holiday Cards

Once again you can purchase Holiday Cards and help out the UU Service Committee at the same time. This year's card depicts people of many races creating music to celebrate World Harmony. Please sign up to order cards or other materials (jewelry, T-shirts, tote-bags, chalices) on the form on the table at the back of the main room or call Lance Green (249-5979) by Nov. 15th.

## Support for UNICEF

Prairie members and others are invited to support UNICEF through the purchase of UNICEF cards and calendars at Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe Street. All of the proceeds go to support UNICEF.

## American Players' Theater

APT needs to raise \$200,000 by December 31 to continue. Contributions can be made to:

American Players' Theater  
P. O. Box 819  
Spring Green, WI 53588

## Glass Recycling

The Response to Hunger Network is also recycling glass - they're filling it up with canned produce and jam to give to the needy. They need clean (really clean, not just rinsed) jam jars and either narrow or wide-mouth mayonnaise type jars with screw-on lids in 1/2 pint, pint, quart and 1/2 gallon sizes. I will put out a separate collection box for these type of jars.

If you have questions or comments, you can call the Response to Hunger Network at 255-2255 (1-5 PM M-F) or you can call me in the evenings at 273-4813.

- Judy Skog