

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

... As the prairie stretches out until 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)

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VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3 - FEBRUARY 9, 1988

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be
SUNDAY, FEB. 21ST. Submit notices for the
period Feb. 26 - Mar. 10th.

CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 11

12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the
Memorial Union. Check 'Today in the
Union' for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

Saturday, Feb. 13

All Day - Cross Country Ski Outing and Building
Fund-Raiser at the home of Dave and
Marcia Johnson in Coloma, WI. (See
related story for directions)

Sunday, Feb. 14

10:00 AM - "SCROOGE ON VALENTINES DAY":
Intergenerational Service led by Kristi
Spring.

5:30 PM - VESPERS SERVICE AT PRAIRIE with a
finger food potluck afterward. Child care
will be provided. (See related story)

6:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Thursday, Feb. 18

12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the
Memorial Union. Check 'Today in the
Union' for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

6:00 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at
the home of Warren Hagstrom, 916
Shorewood Blvd. Bring a dish to pass for
the potluck meal.

Friday, Feb. 19

5:30 PM - ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at
Lu Lu's Restaurant, 2524 University
Ave., for an Arabian dinner. (See related
story)

Sunday, Feb. 21

10:00 AM - "HUMANISM THROUGH RELIGIOUS
EYES": UW Professor Richard
Schoenherr, a Catholic, humanist and
sociologist, dialogues with David McKee
on the secular and the sacred.

5:30 PM - SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at
Prairie.

6:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Thursday, Feb. 25

12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the
Memorial Union. Check 'Today in the
Union' for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

Monday, Feb. 29

7:30 PM - BOARD MEETING at Prairie.

Saturday, Mar. 5

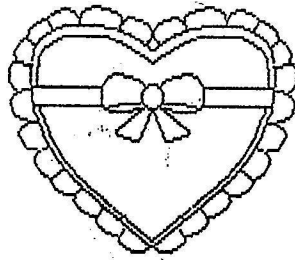
7:30 PM - PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of
Jack and Mona Birong, 599 Glen Drive,
Madison.

Friday, Mar. 11

7:30 PM - Jack and Betty Jallings will show slides
and prints from their trip to India last
January. Refreshments will be provided.

Scrooge on Valentine's Day

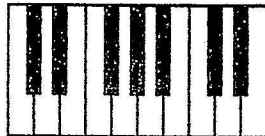
"Scrooge on Valentine's Day" will be the theme of the upcoming family service on Sunday, Feb. 14. Developed and led by Kristi Spring, with back-up support from Judy Spring and other members of the Prairie family, the service will offer a little something to everyone who has ever said "Bah, Humbug!" about the traditional hearts and flowers day.



You're invited to bring treats to share immediately after the service.

Attention Musicians!

Our music service this year will be held in early May and will feature the music of Stephen Foster. (It fits into Julie's lay ministry, since he died in Bellevue of alcoholism at the age of 38.) Essentially all of his compositions are songs with piano accompaniments, but I hope players of strings and wind instruments can find or make arrangements of them for their instruments. We will need some voices for solos and duets, and accompanists for them and the congregation of piano, organ, or guitar. Contact me if you wish to perform and if you want suggestions on particular pieces. I hope we can present to the congregation aspects of Foster's music containing beauty they may not have anticipated. His life can give a picture of bourgeois life in the upper Ohio valley in the antebellum period.



- Warren Hagstrom

Channing-Murray News

Letter-Writing Party

There will be a letter-writing party at Cinda LaMar's home, 2418 Kendall Ave., on Friday, Feb. 12, at 5:30 PM. We'll write letters to politicians on current public issues. Afterward, we'll go out for pizza.

Dinner and Program at First Society

There will be a Taco Dinner for Channing-Murray members and friends at First Unitarian Society on Feb. 14, at 5:00 PM. The dinner will be followed by a program and discussion featuring Annie Laurie Gaylor and Dan Barker from the Freedom from Religion Foundation. Join us for a lively discussion

and some great toe-tapping music! Bring a Valentine which you have signed but not addressed to anyone for our Valentine party time.

X - C Skiing



Dave and Marcia Johnson invite Prairie folk to visit beautiful winter-time Coloma for a day long cross-country ski outing, including a luncheon provided by the Johnsons. Families are welcome, but bring skis for everyone because no child care will be available.

Coloma is 1 1/2 hours North of Madison on Hwy. 51. Take the Coloma off-ramp on Hwy. 21. Go East about 4 blocks to the Coloma Cemetery (Slater St.) then turn right on Slater. Go 1 1/2 miles to the "Lumber" sign and the Johnson's mailbox. Please notify Dick Bonser (274-3248) or Dave or Marcia (715 228-4153) a few days in advance so they know how many to expect and can have the right amount of food, etc. on hand.

Vespers is for You

69% of the people who responded to the survey on religion were interested in a meditative experience. This is what we offer at Vespers - some quiet music, candles, a few readings, time for meditation. This is a small gathering that offers a moment of peace in our busy lives. Come and join us.

Last Chance?

A few "Entertainment '88" books are still available from Finance Chair Pat Cautley. Prairie's general fund will receive \$5 for each book sold at \$25. If you'd like a run-down of the savings available, call Pat at 238-5373. There are coupons for restaurants, sports equipment, theatre and movies, car rentals, and many other items. You just can't miss with a deal like this!

Mortgage Committee Appointed

The Prairie Board has appointed a committee to negotiate the mortgage that will be required to finance the construction of our addition and renovation. The members are:

Henry Pratt, convener
Mike Briggs
Eileen Nettleton
Lu Kummerow



Building Fund Progress Report

The Building Fund Committee reminds all Prairie Folk that their pledges to the Building Fund are due to be redeemed this month. While we have done very well for a small society, the project is very costly and **WE NEED MORE MONEY!** Please, examine your bank balance and your heart and, if you can, increase your pledge.

Many members and friends have already paid their pledges - receipts to date for the Building Fund amount to **\$10,575!** Only \$74,425 to go!

Parish Meeting Reminder

The Spring Parish Meeting is set for April 24th. Anyone wishing to submit bylaw amendments for consideration at that meeting must have them published in the issue of Prairie Fire which closes March 20th. If possible, the Board would like to receive notice of the proposed amendments at its meeting on Feb. 29th., which is the last Board meeting before the publication deadline.

U-U Singles to Meet

The U-U Singles Club will meet **Sunday, Feb. 14,** at **11:30 AM** in the Annex at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The subject for the meeting is "Vacation as a Single". Where are your favorite spots? Come prepared to share insights, anticipations and even horror stories.

Ethnic Dinner Circle

The Ethnic Dinner Circle, an informal group which meets once a month to enjoy typical meals from other lands and cultures, is open to any interested person. It is a good way for those who do not cook or have no room to entertain to take part in one of the major social activities of Prairie, the circle dinner.

The next event, an Arab dinner, will be at Lu Lu's Restaurant, 2524 University Ave., at **5:30 PM, Friday Feb. 19.** The meal will consist of soup (four choices), pita bread, and your choice of Couscous with Beef or Moussaka as a main dish. The price for the meal will be \$6.25, which does NOT include beverage, dessert, tax or tip. Alcoholic beverages are NOT available. **Reservations are required.** Please call Pat Watkins at 252-7960 before 4:30 on Wed. Feb. 17 to make a reservation, and be prepared to specify your choice of entree.

Camp UniStar Reunion

Ever been to Camp UniStar on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota? Or are you interested in learning more about this U-U run camp? Then come to Prairie at 7:30 PM on Sunday, Feb. 21st for an evening of slides and reminiscence about a terrific (and relatively inexpensive) way to spend a summer week.

Bring snacks or beverages and your enthusiasm. For more information, contact Terry Krause, 251-1762.

Travels in Tibet



Philip Golden, a graduate student in South Asian Studies at the UW, will offer a slide presentation at Prairie on **Wednesday, Mar. 2,** at **7:30 PM.** Philip toured Tibet in 1987 with Gesha Sopa, his professor. There will be no admission charge.

- Lee Bullen

Prairie Artist on Display

Betty Jallings will have one of her sculptures on display at the Wisconsin Regional Art Program Workshop, which will be held at the Wisconsin Center on Mar. 5, 1988.

R. E. CORNER

Preschool and Nursery

Feb. 14th is an intergenerational service Sunday. Many of you might like to join your parents upstairs for this service. If you want to remain downstairs with Sue, she will be sharing some Valentine stories and projects with you.

On Feb. 21, Sue will take you on an adventure to China. She has two stories, The Wandering Star and The Dragon King to share with you. You will learn a little about a Chinese craft too.

Grades K-1-2

On Feb. 14, you will join your family and friends for an intergenerational service upstairs.

On Feb. 21, Marcia will share the parable of the sower at the Sea of Galilee that Jesus told many years ago. You might have a chance to plant your own seeds on this day!

Grades 3-4-5

On Feb. 14, plan to join your family and friends upstairs for an intergenerational service.

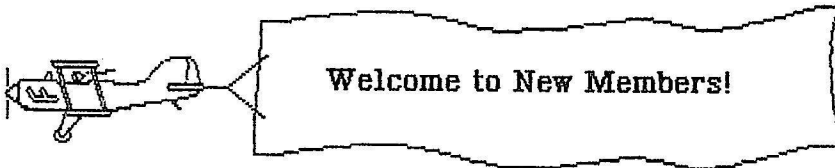
On Feb. 21, you are sure to have a grand time as you celebrate Mardi Gras with Peg. This is traditionally a grand celebration and I am sure you will make it one yourselves.

Grades 6-7-8

We are continuing to explore the role of religion in shaping our society. The next 2 weeks will be a celebration of our differences.

Y R U U ACTIVITIES

Y.R.U.U. activities are open to all Madison area 7th to 12th grade U-Us and their friends. Regular meetings are on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society Meeting House.



The following individuals have recently signed the membership book. Please extend a warm welcome to:

Jeff Glover
14 Maple Wood Lane #23
Madison, WI 53704
Phone # 246-0773

Danielle Wellander
& Malcolm Williamson
5117 Denton Place
Madison, WI 53711
Phone # 273-2273

Barbara Schleicher
4710 Crescent Road
Madison, WI 53711
Phone # 273-1934

Please write their names and phone numbers in the space provided at the back of the Prairie Directory.

Need a Room of Your Own?

I'm looking for a companionable woman to share my flat at 341 West Wilson St. - walking distance to almost everything worthwhile except Prairie Society. Pleasures include a screen porch, a backyard with garden space, plenty of raspberries and peaches, and the company of my dog and my cat "Amazing Grace". Parking is free and the rent is negotiable. For more information or a walkthrough, call me at 255-3536.

- Dorothy Wetherby

Be Where the Ideas of March?

The Program Committee has programs planned for each Sunday during March, April and May. The Committee is now looking for ideas and persons who are interested in presenting services during the month of June. An idea sheet is located on a clipboard at the back of the auditorium. You may also call Jim Novak at 249-4474 or Julie Bonser at 274-3248 to volunteer time or ideas.

Peg Stevenson is looking for someone to help organize the Spring (Memorial Day Weekend) Canoe Trip on the Kickapoo River. Please call her at 233-6449 if you are willing to help.

A Special Thank You from Omega School

About seventeen years ago, a group of concerned citizens, some of them Prairie members, got together because they wanted to develop some form of alternative education for young people. The good idea gradually turned into a small, non-profit, community based organization that today provides basic education instruction to youth and adults.

In 1987, Omega School served about 230 students, 53 of whom completed their GED (high school equivalency). Omega accounts for about 10% of all GED's awarded in Dane Co. Many of the students, who range in age from 17 to 65, are referred by corrections, mental health treatment and other agencies. Most have been unsuccessful in other educational settings. About 42% are minorities.

Omega has had the benefit of Prairie's continued support over the years. Rita Reffner, Dick Bonser, and Marty Drapkin have all served on Omega's Board of Directors. Many others, including Julie Bonser, Betty Jallings and Jack Jallings have been active supporters. Also, many of you have been kind in your donations through United Way's check off campaign.

This year's funding from United Way will allow Omega School to continue the reading program, buy a copier, have clerical assistance, and, best of all, have an on-site child care program. The child care program will be very small - only three or four children of Omega students will be present at any time. It is anticipated that by offering this service more parents of pre-schoolers will be able to continue with their education, particularly individuals who are referred by a special teen parent program coordinated by the Urban League.

On behalf of the students, staff, and board of Omega School, we'd like to publicly thank you, the people of Prairie, present and past, for your continued financial and moral support. Omega School is a clear embodiment of our shared Unitarian - Universalist belief in social action. If it weren't for that belief in action, it is unlikely that Omega School would ever have been formed.

- Judy Spring and David Wernecke
Co-Directors of Omega School

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Food Donations Urgently Needed!

Please help us to help our neighbor. We are collecting food for a family of five - a mother and four children, two of which are teenagers. These people are living near the meetinghouse. They need and appreciate our assistance. On Jan. 24th, the donation box was nearly empty.

Volunteer Counselors Needed

The Womens' Jail Project, located at 310 S. Ingersoll St. in Madison, is looking for volunteers to do one-on-one counseling and advocacy with women in jail. Contact the project at 251-6314 if you are able to help.

A R C Fruit Sale

The Dane Co. Association for Retarded Citizens is holding a fruit sale. Fruit may be ordered between Jan. 11 and Feb. 15, and it will be delivered on Feb. 28. You may order oranges, grapefruit, or a variety box including both plus some apples. Prices range from \$9 to \$18 per box and satisfaction is guaranteed. To order, please see Barbara Barley not later than Sunday, Feb. 14. Orders must be prepaid. For more information, call Barbara at 249-5979.

Economic Progress...

The Madison Institute will present a forum entitled "Economic Progress: Reviewing a Great Wisconsin Idea" at Pres House, 731 State Street Mall, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 20. The forum will be keynoted by Jeff Faux, nationally known Progressive Economist and author, and will include many individuals actively working in or concerned with the field of economic development in Wisconsin. The registration fee is \$15 (\$7 for students/low income persons) prepaid to The Madison Institute, P. O. Box 2022, Madison, WI 53701-2022.

On the Road to Peace...

Representative Jim Moody will present a program entitled "Trip to Krasnoyarsk: A Step on the Road to Peace" on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 PM, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Ave. Rep. Moody is an official observer to the Geneva arms control talks and one of the only Westerners to visit the Krasnoyarsk radar station in Siberia. His presentation will include a discussion on the INF Treaty and its ramifications. The presentation is sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility of Madison. For further information, call 256-8261.

Campus Ministry Lecture Series

The seventh annual lecture series of the Madison Campus Ministry is titled "Agenda for a Prophetic Faith: Prophetic Religion and the Problem of Citizenship". The series, which will begin on Feb. 21, features five distinguished lecturers on the subjects of political obligation, empowerment, and implementation participation by the individual in the context of the '80s. The first session will be held at the First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave., at 7:00 PM on the 21st. Tickets to the series are available for \$7 from the Madison Campus Ministry.

Volunteer Coordinator Wanted

Lance Green has been arranging for Prairie folks to help at the Drop-In Shelter since February of 1986, and he would like to give someone else the chance to do this service. It involves making phone calls, putting announcements in the Prairie Fire, keeping simple records and occasionally contacting the shelter. If you might like to try this, please call Lance at 249-5979.

Beat the Winter Blues!

Brighten your table, lunchbox, and dessert plate with California Navel oranges, Florida Temple oranges, Florida red grapefruit, and/or Washington State Red Delicious apples and support the Madison Boy Choir at the same time. For more information or to place an order, contact Christopher McKee at 238-3302.

League to Sponsor Play-Reading

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a reading (with music) of "Out of Our Fathers' House". The play-reading will be done by Phi Beta at the Oakwood Retirement Theater on **Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25**. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased from Pat Watkins. Anyone interested in attending a fish dinner/theater party should let Pat know at 252-7960.

Looking Ahead...

The Central Midwest District UUA Convocation will be held on **Saturday, May 7, 1988**, in Oak Park, Illinois. The theme will be "**So Great A Cloud of Witnesses: Images of God for Our Time**", and the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Laurel Hallman, Parish Minister, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas. The Convocation will feature the second annual CMD Choir, conducted by John Giles, and a nine piece brass ensemble. The fee for the Convocation will be \$25.00.

PRAIRIE SOCIETY ANNUAL BUDGET

REVENUES	1988
Pledges	20,750
Contributions	1,500
Prairie Fire	100
Building Rent	167
Service Auction	1,500
Interest	0
T-Shirt Sale	0
Other Fundraising	500
TOTAL	\$24,517

EXPENDITURES	1988
PROGRAM	
Lay Ministers	1,050
Lay Minister Expense	0
Publicity	575
Song Books	80
Program Expense	300
Childcare incl. Vespers	0
	\$2,005
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	
Director's Salary	6,050
Preschool Teacher	468
Social Security	525
Preschool Aide	434
Curriculum	125
Materials & Supplies	250
Books for Library	40
Travel & Conferences	400
Chalises	120
Snacks	200
	\$8,612
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS	
UUA Annual Program Fund	2,070
CMD Dues	460
NCAC Dues	25
UU Service Committee	100
UUA Pamphlets and Books	100
Gen'l. Ass'y. Scholarship	200
	\$2,955
MEMBERSHIP	
Directory	25
Name Tag Holders	15
Intro to Prairie Sheets	10
Other	15
	\$65
OFFICE	
Telephone	500
Minutes and Stamps	150
	\$650
HOUSING AND PROPERTY	
Mortgage	4,286
Utilities	1,700
Insurance	450
Maintenance and Supplies	410
Janitor	759
	\$7,605
OTHER	
Long Range Planning	25
Ceremonies	25
Finance	50
Upham Woods Scholarshi p	100
Prairie Fire	2,425
	\$2,625
TOTAL BUDGET	\$24,517

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society - February, 1988
VIEWS ON RELIGION SURVEY RESULTS

This survey was conducted in December, 1987 and January, 1988, during Lance Green's lay ministry entitled "A Humanist Search for Religion." In this search, many questions arose: What is religion? What purposes does it or should it fulfill? How should it operate? Do Prairie folks adhere to beliefs/principles as set forth by self-proclaimed secular humanists? This survey was performed to better understand ourselves as a religious community. These instructions were stated on the survey:

Please check all spaces which reflect your own beliefs and definitions.

Here are the results, with some brief write-ins included:

1. My "official" relationship to Prairie Society is: (51 total returned)

78%(40) member, 14%(7) friend, 4%(2) children, 4%(2) unknown

2. Religion is:

- a. 84% -each individual's core of beliefs and values
- b. 18% -belief in god(s) and the supernatural
- c. 31% -a set of beliefs held by an organized group
- d. 41% -a community of persons that regularly assemble to share beliefs
- e. 24% -other: glue to hold together culture, reinforce values, humanize homo sapiens; belief in an ideal to be attained by humans, exemplified by some gods and held by a group; introspection regarding beliefs; exploring and understanding the meaning and end of human existence; our relation with nature; etc.

3. My beliefs/principles include:

- a. 94% -the "golden rule" for human relations
- b. 22% -the existence of a god or gods
- c. 24% -existence of a soul, separable from the body
- d. 22% -some form of reincarnation or afterlife
- e. 80% -fulfillment of life's purposes in this life, not in the "hereafter"
- f. 0% -solution of the world's problems by divine intervention
- g. 75% -personal responsibility for individual destiny
- h. 22% -some divine purpose exists for the universe
- i. 88% -individual right to free inquiry in all fields of endeavor
- j. 84% -separation of church and state
- k. 75% -individual economic and democratic freedom
- l. 75% -development of ethical system without "divine authority"
- m. 63% -scepticism of supernatural claims
- n. 61% -scientific, rational methods to develop knowledge and test claims to truth
- o. 73% -scientifically-derived evolutionary theory of life
- p. 84% -commitment to universal education and literacy

Prairie Views on Religion Survey p.2

4. A religious organization should:

- a. 49% -establish and openly express a set of beliefs/principles
- b. 18% -offer answers to fundamental questions such as:
 - 10% -existence of god
 - 14% -creation of universe
 - 22% -spiritual existence
 - 14% -creation of life
 - 16% -immortality
 - 33% -right and wrong
 - 35% -human relation to nature
 - 16% -other: ways to cope with and overcome war and prejudice; good and evil; significance of self; view of world and universe; "salvation or enlightenment"
- c. 94% -provide a setting to explore answers to the above questions
- d. 71% -aid spiritual growth of its members
- e. 69% -provide religious education for:
 - 73% -youth
 - 63% -adults
- f. 75% -provide ministry for individual member's needs
- g. 35% -train and utilize clergy to further its purposes
- h. 88% -encourage individual expression of beliefs
- i. 37% -actively recruit members
- j. 4% -attempt to convert persons of other religions
- k. 57% -initiate youth into its faith
- l. 75% -recognize/honor persons important to its formation
- m. 86% -empower members to actively take part in its workings/decision-making
- n. 90% -organize social events to help build congregational community
- o. 75% -provide structures for social action
- p. 71% -celebrate annual holidays
- q. 86% -hold celebrations for life passages
- r. 37% -hold regular services/meetings which can include:
 - 55% -atmosphere for worship
 - 71% -group expression of beliefs
 - 69% -sermon/presentation
 - 82% -opportunity for discussion
 - 47% -responsive readings
 - 78% -singing
 - 69% -meditation
 - 18% -prayer
 - 76% -rituals of some type
 - 61% -taking of a collection
 - 24% -other: promote sense of community; express personal joys and sorrows; dancing; choir; instrumental music; people from other faiths; traditional observances; support each other in time of need; laughing, smiling, holding hands, crying; group social action; sharing experiences
- s. 22% -take no part in the political process
- t. 35% -be exempt from governmental taxation
- u. 10% -other: aid the poor and helpless; support justice and civil liberties; outreach into community; You left out LOVE!

5. Prairie Society is a religious organization:

- 86% YES (plus "barely" 3x, "sort of", and "in the best sense of the word!", etc.)
- 4% NO (plus "at least, not in the traditional sense")
- 10% OTHER: "can't say"; "probably"; "good question"; "maybe"; "don't know"

Thanks for your input! L.G.