

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 one another 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 6 - MARCH 22, 1988

CALENDAR

Thursday, Mar. 24

- 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 Jim Novak, 2117 Linden Ave. Potluck dinner included, bring a dish to pass.

Friday, Mar. 25

- 5:30 PM - FISH DINNER CIRCLE will meet at the Ivy Inn. Call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 by Wed. Mar. 23 for reservations.

Sunday, Mar. 27

- 10:00 AM - "THERE ARE THOSE TOO GENTLE"- Channing-Murray young adults' group.
- 5:30 PM - CHANNING MURRAY slide show on the PACIFIC CREST TRAIL at the Memorial Union.
- 6:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Monday, Mar. 28

- 7:30 PM - PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the meetinghouse.

Wednesday, Mar. 30

- 7:00 PM - HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE meets at the meetinghouse. Everyone welcome - new members are needed!!

Thursday, Mar. 31

- 12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Guest speaker Prof. Robert West will discuss his recent trip to Israel. Check "Today in the Union" for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

Sunday, Apr. 3

- 10:00 AM - "INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE: Tales Told By A Carpenter" - led by Dorothy Wetherby.
- 6:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Thursday, Apr. 7

- 12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Guest speaker Sterling Schallert will discuss "Habitat for Humanity". Check "Today in the Union" for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

Saturday Apr. 9

- 7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Warren Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd.

DEADLINE for the **NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE** will be **SUNDAY, APR. 3RD**. Submit notices for the period Apr. 8th - Apr. 21st.

Reserve Your Space Now!

A reminder to all art lovers - April 4 is the deadline for reservations for the trip to the Art Institute of Chicago to view the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit. Tell your friends and co-workers about this opportunity, and remind them that there are wonderful museums

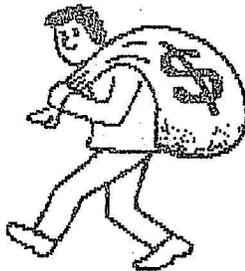
and shopping opportunities just a short walk from the Art Institute as an added attraction. The O'Keefe exhibit tour will start at 2:30 PM, so you will have plenty of time to take in those other attractions. There are two eating places in the Art Institute, one of them a cafeteria. Personal effects (coats, etc.) may be left on the bus during the day.

It's Parish Poll Time Again

The UUA's tentative agenda of resolutions to be voted on at the General Assembly in June was distributed at the Mar. 20th service. The Parish Poll ballot was distributed at the same time. They will be collected on Mar. 27th. If you cannot turn it in on the 27th, please mail the form to Anne Urbanski at 4629 Crescent Rd. Apt. 1, Madison, WI 53711 before Mar. 30th. The results must be mailed to Boston no later than April 1.

Building Fund Progress Report

Many members and friends have now paid their pledges - receipts to date for the Building Fund amount to \$23,831, or over 90 % of the amount pledged! Only \$61,169 to go to pay for the improvements!



From the Clipping File:

The word 'billion' is commonplace, as taxpayers know full well. But Alexander Trowbridge, who heads the National Association of Manufacturers, recently spoke of it in an entirely different way.

"Addressing officials of the Democratic National Committee, he said: 'A billion seconds ago it was 1951. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive and walking in Galilee. A billion hours ago no one walked on two feet on Earth. And a billion dollars ago was 10.3 hours ago in Washington, D. C.'"

- courtesy of Scotty Meek

(From a slightly different perspective, a million dollars in crisp new 1,000 dollar bills makes a stack just 11 inches high, while a billion dollars in the same bills makes a stack four inches higher than the Washington Monument! -Ed.)

'T's + Ideas = Lay Ministry

Prairie has a rotating Lay Ministry, and is accepting ideas for this coming winter season. New blood, new life, new ideas, new candidates, and nudgings are necessary to maintain the dynamic quality of Prairie!

If you can provide the 'T' and/or the idea, please send a short outline to the Committee on Committees, c/o Jack Jallings, by April 8th.

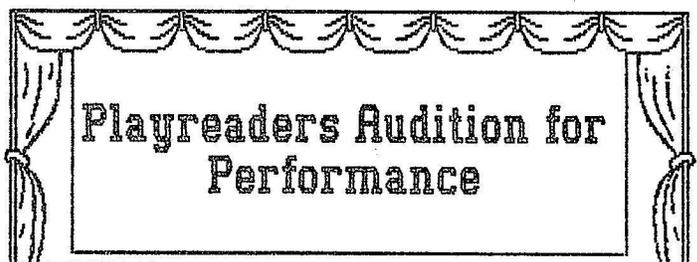
Say "I will!" Those who can say "I did" also say "I'm glad I did!"

Bylaw Amendments Due

If anyone has a proposed change to the bylaws, they should contact the long range planning committee to get their proposal incorporated in the draft for the Parish Meeting. NOTE- This is NOT intended to be a comprehensive overhaul of the Bylaws.

Spring Parish Meeting Set

The Spring Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, April 24, at 1:00 PM following the service and a potluck lunch. This is the meeting where we vote on the slate of new Board Members for 1988-89 and consider proposed bylaw changes. Other agenda items should be given to Mary Mullen in writing as soon as possible.



At the next convocation of the Prairie Playreaders, members will spend about five minutes auditioning for the starring roles in the play of the evening, selected by host Warren Hagstrom. The group will meet at 7:30 PM at the Hagstrom family estate, 916 Shorewood Blvd. (a few blocks North of University Ave.), in Shorewood Hills. The name of the play is a closely guarded secret, but our investigative reporters are on the trail and will report if possible in the next issue. If you enjoy plays and good fellowship, you'll like the playreaders group. New members are welcome, and it's a good way for newcomers to Prairie to get to know other Prairie folk.

A Good Deal and A Good Deal More...

Dayle Haglund and Diane Derouen have four tickets to the April 9 performance of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, to be held at the Madison Civic Center. They are offering these tickets as a Pro-Seeds mini-fundraiser for Prairie's General Fund and will be accepting bids on them for the next several weeks. These are choice seats (face value is \$13.27 each) all together and they would prefer to sell them as a block. If you would like one or more of these tickets, please call Dayle at 233-5199 and make an offer.

Bargains, Bargains, Bargains

That's what you'll find at the Prairie Garage Sale, providing you, and other Prairie members, check out your attic and garage for those "nearly perfect" and "used but plenty good" items to donate for the sale. Please notify sale manager Henry Pratt if you have items that will have to be picked up by truck prior to the sale. If you can help organize and staff this great money-making event, please notify Henry as soon as possible. Sub-committee positions of great prestige and light work load are still available. Henry's number is 233-7540. Items donated to the sale are, of course, tax deductible.

HUGGING:

- has no calories;
- reduces stress;
- exercises arm and shoulder muscles;
- stimulates a natural, drug free high;
- is an equal opportunity activity;
- is easy to transport from place to place;
- can be done anywhere from the concert hall to the zoo;
- does not require any special tools or supplies;
- can reduce heating bills;
- is environmentally sound.

Hug Therapy is not just for the lonely or hurting ones. Hug Therapy can make the healthy healthier, the happy happier, and the most secure among us feel even more so. Hugging is for everybody.

So what are you waiting for?

From The Hug Therapy Book
by Kathleen Keating

It's The Real Thing -

I'm happy to report that, after more than 8 months of looking for a 'real' job, I've finally found one (sort of...). I'm starting work Mar. 21 at the Wisconsin Counties Association, where I'm the new Publications Coordinator. I'll be editing a monthly magazine and doing brochures and - eventually - doing both via 'desktop publishing'. The job is LTE until June 30, with the likelihood that I'll be hired permanently if my work is good. I want to thank everyone who's been sending out 'good karma' during my job search.

- Anne Urbanski

CHANNING-MURRAY NEWS

Channing-Murray will present its service entitled "There Are Those Too Gentle" at Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society on Sunday, Mar. 27th. The service is based on James Kavanaugh's poem, There Are Men Too Gentle To Live Among Wolves.

Hiker Steve Firebaugh will present an illustrated talk on his five month, 2,100-mile trip along the "PACIFIC CREST TRAIL" Sunday night, Mar. 27, at 5:30 PM in the Memorial Union. Check 'Today in the Union' for Unitarian Student Group. Bring a brown bag dinner or pick something up from the cafeteria in the Rathskellar. EVERYONE WELCOME!



Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners at the Pizza Pit on University Ave. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:15.

R. E. CORNER

Preschool and Nursery

On Mar. 27, Sue will be telling you some stories from India. You will be able to taste some of the food eaten in India and learn a craft that Indian children might do.

On April 3, if you are not upstairs at the intergenerational service, you will be learning about Pakistan. Sue has plans to help you write your name as children in Pakistan might write theirs. She also has some stories to share with you about Pakistan.

Grades K-1-2

On Mar. 27, you will be spending your last day with Marcia as your teacher. She will be busy planting thousands of trees for the next few months. Marcia has a great day of fun planned to help celebrate her going away.

On Apr. 3, there will be an intergenerational service upstairs. Come and join in the fun with your friends and family.

Grades 3-4-5

On Mar. 27, Rick will help you prepare to celebrate Passover. Some of you are familiar with this holiday, but for most of you it will be the first time that you have been able to celebrate it. Come, as always, prepared to have a great time.

On Apr. 3, there will be an intergenerational service upstairs. Come and join your family and friends for a morning of celebration together.

Grades 6-7-8

Utnapishtim who? This week we read two plays. The first was about King Utnapishtim in ancient Mesopotamia. The second was about "J" and "F", the two authors who wrote about Noah and the flood. It is surprising to see the similarities in the two stories.

How can I know what to believe?

Y R U U ACTIVITIES

All Prairie 7th to 12th graders and their friends are invited to participate in the joint Prairie - First Society Y.R.U.U. youth group. Regular meetings are on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society Meeting House. The Jr. group (7th - 9th grades) meets in the West Living Room and the Sr. group (10th - 12th grades) meets in the Annex. Call Diane Derouen, Y R U U advisor, at 238-3766 for more information.



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.

Friendly Supper Club

The friendly Supper Club will meet again at 6:30 PM on Monday, Apr. 4, at Bishops Cafeteria, 674 S. Whitney Way. This monthly interracial dinner group invites people of all ages and colors to 'break bread together'.



Race Unity Conference

The 5th Annual Race Unity Conference focuses on the need for equal education in America. A keynote speaker and panel of distinguished local leaders will consider whether our educational system provides a bridge or sets up barriers for people of color. The conference will be held Saturday, Apr. 9, from 1:30 to 4:30 at the State Historical Society, 816 State Street. The conference is co-sponsored by many local groups including the NAACP, the Urban League, the World Federalists, the Black Teachers Caucus, and the Madison Baha'i Community. For more information, please call 257-6396 or 255-8289.

Home Equipment Needed

A mother and 3 year old daughter need our help in re-establishing their household. After more than a year without a home, this formerly battered woman is again on her own and needs help getting started - kitchenware, small appliances, furniture, and girls clothes (size 5) are especially needed. Anything we can do will be a help. If you have something to give, call me at 273-3697.

- Linda Ellen



Sewing Materials Needed

The Bayview Sewing Class needs your help. The following items are needed in quantity:

Material- any type/color, 1 yard or more
Thread- all colors and types
Scissors- regular or pinking shears
Patterns- all sizes, esp. children's
Tape measures
Irons- steam type if possible
Ironing Boards- with covers

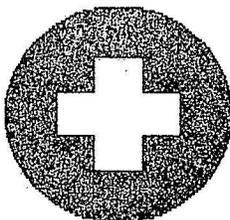
If you have any of the above that you can donate, please contact the Bayview Community Center office at 256-7808.

Bishop Tutu to Speak in Madison

Renowned anti-apartheid activist Bishop Desmond Tutu will speak on the evening of May 4th at the UW Fieldhouse. Tickets are \$2.00 and will go on sale March 21st at the Memorial Union, Bethel Lutheran Church, Grace Episcopal Church, and Luther Memorial Church. Tickets will also be available by mail from the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Any unsold tickets will be available the day of the speech at the UW Athletic Office.

Celebrate Red Cross Month

March is Red Cross Month. Remember, you can donate blood every two months. Why not write it on your calendars and donate regularly? Support the Prairie 'ONE-A-WEEK' club. Call 233-9300 for a convenient appointment or for information. Check with Lynda Lewis (271-2173), club coordinator, if you have questions about the Prairie Club.



Regional Men's Conference

Madison will sponsor the Midwest Regional Men's Conference at St. Benedict's Center in August. The next organizational meeting will be at WilMar Center on Sat. April 9, at 11:00 AM. Prairie men are encouraged to join and release their creative and positive energies.

- Jim Novak
- Bill Fetzner

Peace Festival Planning Meeting

There will be a planning meeting for the annual July 4 Peace Festival on Tuesday, Mar. 29, at 7:30 PM at the Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Ct. The Festival needs your energy and ideas. Call Lance Green, 249-5979, for more information.

Host Families Needed

Echanges Culturels Internationaux, a cultural exchange organization, is sending a group of French students ranging from 13 to 18 years of age to the Madison area for four weeks in July to experience the American culture in the context of a family.

Host families of all ages are needed. You need not speak French, as all of the students speak English. A broad range of activities are planned for these students, and the host families are both welcome and encouraged to participate. Interested families should contact the ECI Madison Area Coordinator, Adrienne Michel Sager, at 238-4033 for details and an application.

SAVE THE DATES - '88

Mark Your Calendars--

APRIL 15-17 - Spring YAC conference at the Eliot U Chapel, Kirkwood MO. For information call Rev. Sandra Boler, (314) 821-0911.

MAY 7 - The Central Midwest District UUA Convocation will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Park, Illinois. The theme will be "Unitarian Universalist Visions and Values: Faith and Belief". Many sessions and workshops on topics related to faith and belief will be offered. For more information, contact the CMD office at (312) 383-4344.

MAY 20-21 - CMD-YAC Advisory Training at the Lakeside Center in Crystal Lake, IL. This will be a 'how to' workshop for adult advisors of UU Youth Groups. For information call Rev. Ann Tyndall, (815) 722-0836.

JUNE 10-12 - Creating Male Spirit: the second annual dance, movement and art retreat for men at LaSalle Manor in Plano, IL. Contact Br. Joseph Kilikevice at (312) 848-9772.

JUNE 16-22 - UUA General Assembly, Palm Springs, CA.

JULY 3-9 - Lake Geneva Summer Assembly I

JULY 9-16 - Lake Geneva Summer Assembly II

JULY 9-16 - Third Annual Midwest Leadership School at Beloit College, Beloit, WI. For more information, contact Elise Cade, 920 Oakwood Terrace, Hinsdale, IL. 60521.

Reflections of a Drop-In Shelter Volunteer

It's a typical Wisconsin winter night, bone-chilling and blustery, and you think you're well-prepared for the arrival of the guests.

All the food, some of it piping hot and all of it prepared by kindly, skillful cooks, is appealingly displayed. And there's a goodly amount.

But, as for any first-time host, you're a bit fidgety and anxious about the whole scene.

Then, the first of a long line of guests troops in. You feel yourself gulp a bit as you look incredulously at each new arrival. Frankly, it's worse than you expected, certainly than you -- accustomed to the cocoon-like comfort of upper-middle class Madison -- have ever experienced. It's as if you were dropped into the middle of a Rod Serling Twilight Zone episode.

But you weren't. You're standing in the basement kitchen area of Grace Episcopal Church with other food servers and volunteer staffers, and it's the Drop-In Shelter serving the Madison area's homeless -- men and women, some of them you'd later learn with roots in the Greater Madison area with relatives not anxious to see them, living in packing boxes, in ruined buildings, parks, on railroad sidings -- people victimized by deeply personal tragedies, economic disasters, mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction, many of them revealing by their utterances, their demeanor, their dress, the look in their eyes the private hell they experience continuously except, perhaps, for the warmth of people, food and surroundings at the Drop-In Shelter.

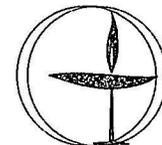
It would be easy to follow the example of the men described in Luke 10 who passed by on the other side of the injured Jew. In fact, that first night as a host was enough of a shocker to prompt flight. But no.

There'd be no fleeing, only a greater commitment to the task at hand -- to providing food, shelter and human warmth so vital to these fellow beings.

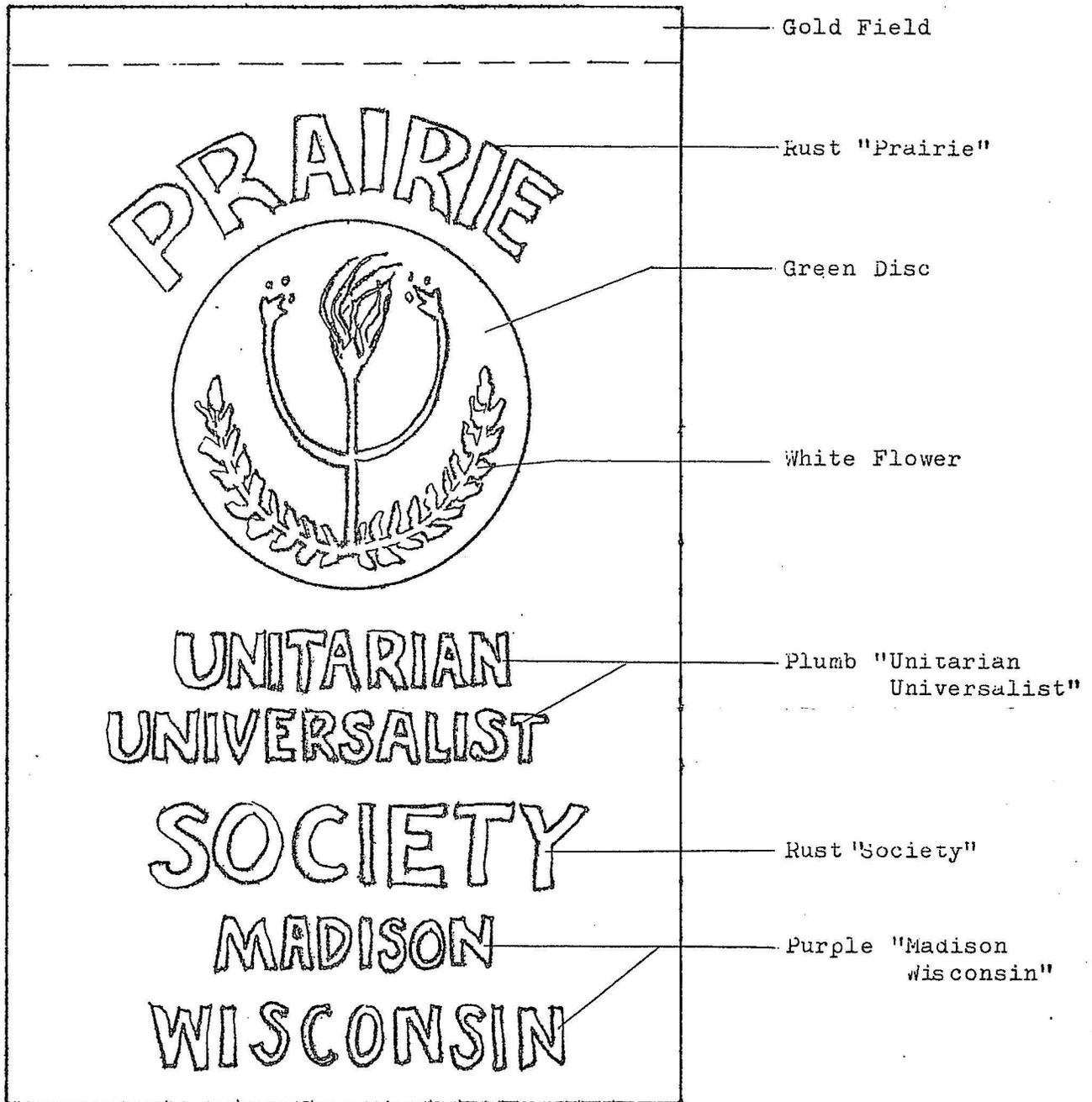
Over the months and years which followed it became a growth experience, a constant sharpening of perceptiveness to assure that the Drop-In Shelter experience remained much more than an internship in psychiatric social work (you recall with a shiver the disturbed war vet whose hostility blared out as he told how Jesus had saved him from a continuing career as a killing machine as a mercenary soldier in Africa) and that it assured a focus on men and women as children of God who need many, many good Samaritans in the larger Madison community to provide financial support, gifts of clothing, food, shelter and, above all, love. And when these gifts are provided by compassionate citizens, businesspeople, government agencies, churches and church people one saw the gains, both personal -- for helpers and those helped -- and corporate -- in the renovation of the Shelter and in the broader involvement of churches and countless churchpeople and compassionate others adding their names to the lengthening lists of volunteer workers.

There are recognition dinners and awards and eulogies of sorts for those who work and give. Perhaps that's as it should be in our media-oriented society, but the greatest reward and deepest satisfaction is in the heart and the soul which, in this mission of mercy, respond to the clarion call: "If you do this for the least of these you do also for Me."

- Anonymous



ROUGH DRAFT FOR PROPOSED BANNER FOR PRAIRIE:



The motif here is an adaptation of the Prairie Smoke logo design which we have used on T-shirts. As well as the flower, it also symbolizes the Unitarian-Universalist Chalice, the three flowers of the Geum Tri-florum forming the cup and the flame.

The design breaks down into 6 color, and 6 design units, as shown above. Except for the white flower on the green disc, which supplies sparkle, the brightest colors are used on words in descending order of importance.

This will be a very bright and visible banner, easily read from a distance, can be carried by 2 or 1, hung, or draped across railings.