

# 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 each other and be one with the natural world and with one another. PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

Prairie Smoke (Sieversia flora)

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DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, MAY 1ST. Submit notices for the period May 5th - May. 19th.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, Apr. 21

12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Guest Prof. Jim Stoltman from the Dept. of Anthropology, will speak on Wisconsin Indian Mounds. Check 'Today in the Union' for Unitarian Student Lunch.

### Sunday, Apr. 24

10:00 AM - "BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED" - the second in the alcoholism series presented by Lay Minister Julie Bonser  
12:00 AM - POTLUCK MEAL AT PRAIRIE  
1:00 PM - PARISH MEETING. (See agenda and related articles) Child care will be provided during the meeting.  
6:15 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

### Thursday, Apr. 28

12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Our guest will be Rev. Michael Schuler, candidate for minister at First Society. Check 'Today in the Union' for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

### Friday Apr. 29

Channing-Murray Spring Retreat through Sunday, May 1.

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RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

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

### Sunday, May 1

10:00 AM - "STEPHEN FOSTER: FROM PITTSBURG TO BELLEVUE" - music by members of the congregation, coordinated by Warren Hagstrom.

### Thursday, May 5

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

## April's Biggest Bargain! No Fooling!

There are still six seats left on the chartered bus to Chicago, and the Finance Committee has decided to let them go at a fantastically reduced price! You can get a round trip to downtown Chicago - shops, museums, art institute, and all - for the paltry sum of \$10 per person! Just one small difference from the regular tickets - this price does NOT include the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit. Please let Pat Cautley know no later than April 23 if you are going, and either pay in advance or be prepared to pay before boarding the bus. Even without the O'Keeffe exhibit, this price is the transportation bargain of the year! Don't miss it!

## 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.

# Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of the Nov. meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Reports of the Standing Committees.
4. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees.
  - (a) Building Committee.
  - (b) Fund Raising Committee.
  - (c) Loan Committee.
5. Report of the Committee on Committees.
  - (a) Election of Officers. (see report below)
  - (b) Election of 3 members of the Committee on Committees.
  - (c) Announcement of candidates for 1988-89 Lay Ministers.
6. Presentation and election of G. A. Delegates.
7. Presentation of Bylaw changes by the Bylaw Revision Committee.
8. Old Business
9. New Business (if requested by 10 or more members).

## Committee on Committees Report

Following is the list of nominees prepared by the Committee on Committees. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

President - Mary Mullen  
Vice-President - Jack Jallings  
Treasurer - Barbara Park  
Secretary - Lynda Lewis  
Finance Chair - Patricia Cautley  
Religious Education Chair - Aileen Nettleton  
Program Chair - Warren Hagstrom  
Social Action Co-Chairs - Shirley Grindrod  
- Judy Skog  
Housing and Property Chair - Bill Grover  
Long Range Planning Chair - Rick Ruecking  
Denominational Affairs Chair - Anne Urbanski  
Membership Chair - Sharon Scrattish

Committee on Committees: Jack Jallings  
Cinda LaMar  
Pat Meller  
Aileen Nettleton

## Building Program Status Report

The plans have been finalized by our Architect, Ed Solner, and released to bidders. Bids are due back April 21, so we will have cost figures available for the Spring Parish Meeting.

As a result of suggestions made to the committee by Prairie Members, several improvements have been made in the original design concept presented at the fall meeting. These include using the outside planter area as inside space, moving the women's restroom south and inserting a larger area for coats, adding a small pass-through from the kitchen to the entry hall, and putting a second rest room in the basement. In addition, alternate bids have been requested for two further changes. The first of these will provide cost estimates for putting a room under the addition with a level entrance to the basement. The second is for covering the main meeting room with a new sloped roof.

## Spanish Speakers Potluck

The Spanish Speakers' potluck dinner will be held twice in May, on May 8 and on May 22, at 5:30 PM. We have a nice group of "regulars" at all levels of proficiency, but would like to have some new faces. Please join us!

## Prairie Canoe/Camping Trip

The annual Canoe/Camping Trip will be held on Memorial Weekend, May 28, 29, and 30th, at Wildcat Mtn. State Park on the Kickapoo River. Bring your own canoe if possible - some rentals are available in the area. Mark your calendar now - details will follow in later issues of Prairie Fire. If you have questions, call Peg Stevenson at 233-6449.

## Garage Sale to be Held May 7

From all indications, this sale is going to be a best-ever event! We have established a number of committees and the following members have agreed to serve as chairs:

Posters - Mary Mullen  
Advertising - Dorothy Wetherby  
Consignment Sales - Linda Ellen  
Clean-up and Trucking - Bob Nelson  
Plant Sale - Rachel Siegfried

Also, a number of people have agreed to participate in the vital function of pricing, sorting and setup. This will take place on two evenings, Thursday, May 5, and Friday, May 6, starting at 7:00 PM. We need several more volunteers for each night to get the job done. Please call Henry Pratt at 233-7540 if you are willing to help.

# Garage Sale Donation Guidelines

The time to clean your attic, closets, basement, garage, and bookshelves is NOW. Keep the following in mind as you sort:

DO's (categories that always sell..)

1. Rooted garden perennials such as lily of the valley and hosta.
2. House plants. (there's still time to start some of your favorites..)
3. Usable furniture.
4. Tools and garden equipment.
5. Children's clothing and books.
6. Toys.
7. Sports equipment.
8. Linens and bedding.
9. LP records.
10. Fiction (especially 'trashy' novels).
11. Small appliances and kitchen items.

DON'Ts (categories that never sell well).

1. Magazines and periodicals.
2. Out of date text books.
3. Dirty or torn clothing.

Donated articles may be delivered to Prairie on Sunday, May 1, in the morning or on Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6, between 7 and 8 PM.

WHEN IN DOUBT - BRING IT OUT!

DON'T MISS SEEING THE FAMOUS ARTIFICIAL FOOT DONATED BY DOROTHY WETHERBY!

## Too Valuable to Give Away? CONSIGN IT!

For items too old, large, and/or valuable to simply donate, an experienced consignment shop owner will safe-guard your treasures while you collect money and save on newspaper advertisements. Prairie will deducts 25% of the selling price of any item consigned. Items must be priced at \$10 or more to be consigned. Suggested items are:

large, nice furniture  
antiques and collectables  
tools  
fine jewelry  
stereos and TVs  
artworks  
camping gear  
furs and wedding dresses  
bicycles

musical instruments  
general office equipment

Basically, anything you would run a newspaper advertisement to sell is a candidate for consignment. Items that are too large to move readily or potential theft targets will be shown via polaroid photographs. Please make advance arrangements for consignment items with Linda Ellen at 273-3697.

## Calling All Plant Lovers!

Now is the time to divide and repot your houseplants. Pot a few for our plant sale, which will be a part of the rummage sale. Do you have any plants which are too big, too ugly, or have simply lost your interest? We can use them. Start cuttings from your swedish ivy or a wandering jew or other easily grown vines.

Popular plants are perennials such as hostas, wild ginger, lily of the valley, violets (be sure to label the color), columbine, day lilies, and other wild flowers.

We also need more volunteers to help with this part of the sale. Please call Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173 if you can help.

## CHANNING-MURRAY NEWS

Channing-Murray's spring retreat will be held at Rick Ruecking's farm near Wyalusing State Park. We'll car-pool for the trip and meet at First Society at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning for the two hour drive to Rick's farm. We'll be back in Madison late Sunday afternoon. There'll be hiking, games, great food, long chats, singing, and a great bonfire on Saturday night. If you like camping, bring a tent - there's lots of room. If you don't like sleeping out, there's room for you in the farmhouse. Bring a poem, music, or whatever you'd like for a spontaneous, original outdoor service, Sunday morning. Sara Indorf, Andy Levi, Catherine Ramsey, and Ellen Barker are coordinating plans and meals. Catherine is tentatively arranging a Friday night camp-out at Wyalusing State Park for those who would like to go a day early. Call Catherine at 251-2681 if you're interested or would like to help. Call Cinda at 238-9884 or 233-9774 if you have questions or plan on going - she needs to know how many will be there to plan for meals.

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 April 24, Sue will be telling you something about the biggest country in the world, Russia. She will have some crafts and games to share with you that children do in Russia.

On May 1, Sue will explore Europe with you. Europe is made up of lots of different countries, so Sue will have some stories and games to share with you from a few different countries.

### Grades K-1-2

On April 24, Jennifer will continue to tell you about Johnny Appleseed. This Sunday, you will learn about how he was a scout and messenger who kept an eye out for danger. When there was danger, he would alert his neighbors.

On May 1, Jennifer will tell you about how Johnny Appleseed was sower. It is because of his sowing that he got his name.

### Grades 3-4-5

On April 24, you will be celebrating Ramadan with Rick. Ramadan is a time of fasting in many parts of the world. Come and help celebrate the fast (and learn about why such a fast takes place) with your friends on this day.

On May 1 (yes, it is already May), Peg will be sharing with you Japanese Children's Day. This day is a day that celebrates all children. This day is a day that celebrates all children. It is sort of like our Mother's and Father's Day.

Peg Stevenson, David McKee and Rick Ruecking drove the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to Deer Park Buddhist Center on April 17th. We looked around the temple, listened to the chanting, and spoke with Geshe Dunya through a translator.

### Grades 6-7-8

We are watching "Inherit the Wind". Part two will be viewed on April 24. How do we know what is truth?

## 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.

April 24 will be the last regular meeting of YRUU until next September. All Prairie kids who will be in the 7th grade next year are invited to attend the April 24 meeting to get acquainted.

There will be an overnight party and work session to end the year on Saturday, May 14th.

Anna Nettleton attended the Central Midwest District Youth Conference on April 16-17. It is wonderful to have our youth involved in the wider U. U. Community!

## 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.

### 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.

## EARTH FAIR '88

Earth Fair '88 is being held on Saturday, April 23, from 11 AM to 5 PM at Olin Park. A wide range of family activities will provide fun and learning about the earth, our natural world, and recycling.

## Recycling News

Most people agree that recycling is a good thing. Did you know that you can now recycle plastic?

Madison Recycling Center ( 2200 Fish Hatchery Road, 251-2115) is open from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM and accepts the following kinds of plastic (crushed or uncrushed):

Pop bottles (rinse & remove caps)

Milk bottles (rinse & remove caps)

Household bottles (rinse & remove caps)

Acceptable: laundry soap, fabric softener, bleach, ammonia, dish soap, household cleaners, shampoo/conditioner, antifreeze, motor oil.

Unacceptable: ketchup, mustard, jelly, vegetable oil.

Madison Recycling currently pays 2 cents per pound for pop bottles and 5 cents per pound for milk and household bottles. When you add this to 50 cents per pound for aluminum, 2 cents per pound for glass, and 1 cent per pound for paper, recycling also makes economic sense.

Prairie is still recycling glass and aluminum, and will begin recycling plastic and paper soon so start saving your plastic and newspaper. Starting in May, I will collect them after service on the first Sunday of the month. If there is no service on the first Sunday, I will collect the following month. For Plastic, see the above instructions - for newspaper, package it any way you like so long as I can carry it.

-Judy Skog  
273-4813

## Forum on Nicaragua

A Madison-based group, the Wisconsin-Nicaragua Partners, has been providing humanitarian assistance to Nicaragua for many years. Two Nicaraguan Partners, Gustavo "Toni" Lopez and his wife Nini, will be visiting Wisconsin early in May to speak about the reality of Nicaragua and to raise funds for medical relief. Toni is a former Nicaraguan Supreme Court Judge; both he and his wife are fluent in English and will be able, through slides and discussion, to provide answers to questions about their

country in an atmosphere free of the partisanship that usually surrounds this issue.

For churches and individuals seeking to further the cause of peace and reconciliation in Nicaragua, the Lopezes' visit is a practical answer to the question, "How can we help?". St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave., has offered the use of its sanctuary to the Lopezes for a public forum, to be held on Monday, May 2, 1988, at 7:00 PM.

## Peace and Justice Issues to be Discussed by Senate Candidates

Peace and Justice Issues will be the topic of a U. S. Senate Candidates' Forum which will be held at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ (1501 Gilbert Rd., Madison) on Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 PM.

## Homophobia?

Whatever you believe about homosexuality, the fact is it exists. Quite likely, you have friends, acquaintances, perhaps even family members, who are lesbian or gay. Many of these individuals are seeking some understanding from the religious communities of which they are a part.

In an effort to come to some new levels of understanding about this controversial topic, we are inviting the members of your congregation to a day-long workshop entitled "HOMOPHOBIA: SOCIETY, THE SYNAGOGUE, AND THE CHURCH". It will be held from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, April 30, at the University United Methodist Church at 1127 University Ave. Participants will hear from gay men and lesbians who have struggled with their faith, from parents who have dealt with their own fears, and from several religious professionals who will share their journeys as well. A poster and detailed information is available at Prairie for those who are interested.

## FREE Theatre Performance

There will be a free performance in Madison of "Family", a musical to strengthen families. It's happening at the Madison Area Technical College Truax Campus Auditorium on Saturday, April 23, at 2:00 PM. Parking will be free as well. It's put on by the Illusion Theater, a professional, non-profit theater company from Minneapolis, specializing in strengthening families and preventing interpersonal violence.



Their newest production, "Family", mixes scenes, slides, songs, and dialogue that can help families pinpoint weaknesses, celebrate strengths, and consider possibilities for change. All family members are encouraged to attend - parents, children, single parents, divorced, stepparents, and families in transition. The play lasts an hour and ten minutes, followed by 20 minutes of discussion with the cast. For more information, call Sally Casper, Wisconsin Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 256-3374.

## Conference on Children and the Future

Concerts by folk singers Tom Pease and Greg Brown, a production of the play "Kid", a keynote address by Betty Bumpers (founder of Peace Links), and a wide selection of workshops for kids and adults will be featured at a conference called "Children and the Future: Parenting and Education for Peace". The conference will take place Friday evening, May 20, and Saturday, May 21, at Edgewood College with a special benefit concert by Greg Brown on Saturday night at the First Congregational Church.

See the brochure on the Prairie bulletin board for details or call Tim Turner of Wisconsin Educators for Social Responsibility, 256-8241. The conference is a must for anyone seriously interested in parenting or educating for peace.

## SAVE THE DATES - '88

### Mark Your Calendars--

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 7 - Prairie Garage and Plant Sale.

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) 722-0835.

MAY 28-30 - Prairie Canoe/Camping trip to Wildcat Mountain and the Kickapoo River.

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) 849-9772.

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

JUNE 26-JULY 2 - Lake Geneva Singles Week

JULY 3-9 - Lake Geneva Summer Assembly I

JULY 9-16 - Lake Geneva Summer Assembly II

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

## FOR SALE PRO-SEEDS TO PRAIRIE

I have a 20 cubic foot upright freezer in excellent condition that I no longer need. It is a J. C. Penney deluxe model and is about 12 years old. If you are interested, please call Richard Bonser at 274-3248 and make an offer. I need the space - you need the freezer - Prairie needs the money! Lets make a deal.