

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

... As the prairie stretches on until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch 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 11 - May 31, 1988

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH. Submit notices for the period June 15th - June 30th.

of programs for the summer and next year. We'd like to hear about specific programs you would like and also your ideas on programming in general.

CALENDAR

Saturday, June 4

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Dorothy Wetherby, 341 W. Wilson St. (see related story)

Sunday, June 5

10:00 AM - "IROQUOIS RELIGION: THE FALSE FACE SOCIETY" - led by Eric Hagstrom, with music and slides.

11:30 AM - POTLUCK MEAL and Discussion.

Friday June 10 through

Sunday, June 12

There will be a Y R U U conference entitled "Y R We We?" at the Unitarian Church in Rockford, IL.

Sunday, June 12

10:00 AM - "PERESTROIKA" - led by Lee Bullen. The Ethnic Connection will perform their 'Perestroika Stomp'.

Potluck Lunch and Discussion

Following the service on June 5, there will be a potluck lunch for Prairie Members and Friends. Please bring a dish to pass. Warren Hagstrom and the Program Committee will also lead an open discussion

Playreaders to Meet

The Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Dorothy Wetherby, 341 W. Wilson St., at 7:30 PM on Saturday, June 4. The play will be "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Momma's Hung You In The Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad". If you have questions, critical comments, or need directions, call Dorothy at 255-3536.

Building Concerns Bump By-Laws

For the third time, parish members put off the tedious business of dealing with proposed By-Law changes while building project matters took precedence. This time, the By-Law discussion was moved to the Fall Business Meeting of the society. Members at the continued session of the Parish Meeting on May 22nd were encouraged to express any reservations about the proposed revisions to the Board this summer and fall. The proposed revisions would:

1. Abolish the Publicity Committee and make publicity a function of the Program Committee.
2. Abolish the Hospitality Committee and make most of those duties the responsibility of the Membership Committee
3. Provide for termination of membership when repeated attempts to locate a member over a 2 year period have been unsuccessful instead of only upon written request of the member.

Building Bids 1 1/2 Times Architect's Estimate - Plans Drastically Reduced!

When the construction bids for the proposed expansion came in with the lowest bid at roughly 1 1/2 times the estimated cost, Members at the May 22nd session of the Parish Meeting decided to go for a much reduced project that should fit the \$85,000 budget approved last November. The newest plans scratch the addition to the East (Whenona Drive) side of the building while extending the entry to the South (Crawford Street) about 10 1/2 feet from the present walls.

The biggest savings resulted from reducing the size of the addition, keeping the plumbing all on one side of the entrance wing, and reducing the scope of demolition. The revised plan will have the following features:

1. The front porch will become part of the interior of the building.
2. All ground floors will be raised to the meeting room level, thus making the front entrance and bathrooms handicapped accessible.
3. The kitchen will be brought upstairs, allowing the present kitchen to become a large classroom.
4. One unisex bathroom will be installed in the basement.

The motion approving the go-ahead on the revised plan passed by voice vote with approximately 4 "no" votes. The motion allows the Board to act on financing without a parish meeting as long as loan terms don't exceed any of the following conditions:

1. The term is not to exceed 25 years.
2. Monthly payments should not exceed \$700.
3. The total project cost shall not exceed \$92,000 including the as yet unpaid architect's fees.

UU Singles Summer Camps

This summer you can take your choice of three separate weeks at a Unitarian Summer Camp for single people. These camps have been run for a number of years by a group of Midwest Unitarians and have been very successful. There will be a week at George Williams College at Lake Geneva, WI, June 26-July 2nd and two weeks on the beach at Saugatuck,

MI, Aug. 7-13th and Aug. 21-27th. Accommodations are comfortable, some with private bath, and others with shared facilities. The program is planned to appeal to a wide spectrum of single people and includes discussion groups, sports, parties and more. Registration is limited to 50 men and 50 women at each camp, and the price is all-inclusive, including beverages at nightly parties. It's important to get your deposit in early as they fill up quickly. The price is very reasonable. For further information, call Sharon Spencer at (312) 248-1242 or John Halbeck at (312) 447-4534.

Trip to American Players Theatre

The Unitarian Women's Alliance is sponsoring a bus trip to see The Tempest at the American Players Theater on Sunday, July 17. The bus will leave First Unitarian Society parking lot at 3:30 PM, so plan to meet no later than 3:15 PM. Tickets for the play are \$22.80 and for the bus are \$10.00. Box lunches are also available. Call Eleanor Brown at 233-0233 for further information. **Registration and check must be postmarked by July 2nd.** Send them to Eleanor Brown at 2817 Van Hise Avenue, Madison, WI 53705.

Lots of Room Left at LGSA II

Central Midwest District has advised us that there is lots of room still available at the second Lake Geneva Summer Assembly session from July 17 through July 23rd. This nearby summer UU family camp features 5 morning workshops for adults and a morning children's program, leaving the afternoons free for swimming, sailing, sunbathing, reading and playing. Further information is posted on the bulletin board and registration forms are available on the back table. Details are also available from Anne Urbanski (271-1349) and Mary Mullen (271-5192).

Channing-Murray News

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.

This summer, Channing-Murray will continue the Thursday lunches at the Memorial Union only instead of meeting inside, we're going to meet out on the Union Terrace at noon. Considering that the

Union Terrace is one of Madison's favorite spots, we'll really need to watch for one another and wave! At least we're going to give this a try! Come and join us.

R. E. Corner

Y R U U News

There will be a Y R U U conference at the Unitarian Church in Rockford, IL on June 10, 11, and 12. Entitled "Y R We We?", the conference will feature musical events, swimming, dancing, discussion groups, a fancy dress dinner on Saturday night, and a great deal of creative fun and enjoyment. Sex, Drugs, Alcohol, and Firearms are prohibited, and written parental approval is required. Registration will begin at 7 PM on Friday and the cost will be \$15. Advance registration can be mailed to:

Heidi Van der ohe
4122 Cushman Rd.
Rockford, IL 61111

For more information, call Heidi at (815) 633-4380, Kristin at (815) 877-8788, or the Church office at (815) 398-6322.

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Food Donations Urgently Needed!

Please help us to help our neighbors. We are collecting food for two families, a family of five - a mother and four children, two of which are teenagers - and a family of two where the mother is unemployed. These people are living near the meetinghouse. They need and appreciate our assistance.

Peace and Justice in Central America

On Tuesday evening, June 7, at 7 PM, There will be a 5th Anniversary Celebration of our Commitment to Peace and Justice in Central America. The celebration will take the form of an ecumenical prayer

service in the Chapel at St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave. The prayer service will be followed by a reception and slide presentation covering the recent delegation of the Wisconsin Interfaith Committee on Central America to Arcatao, El Salvador. This delegation was the first group of North American citizens to reach Arcatao in over a year.

SAVE THE DATES - '88

Mark Your Calendars--

JUNE 10-12 - There will be a Y R U U conference entitled "Y R We We?" at the Unitarian Church in Rockford, IL. For more information, call the Church office at (815) 398-6322.

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 Kilikevics at (312) 848-9772.

JUNE 15-22 - UUA General Assembly, Palm Springs, CA.

JUNE 26-JULY 2 - Lake Geneva Singles Week

JULY 3-9 - Lake Geneva Summer Assembly I

JULY 4-8 - Channing Summer School, Channing Memorial Church, Newport, R I. For further information contact Rev. Frank W. Carpenter, (401) 846-0643.

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.

AUG. 7-13th - Saugatuck MI Singles Week. For further information, call Sharon Spencer at (312) 248-1242 or John Halbeck at (312) 447-4534.

AUG. 21-27th - Saugatuck MI Singles Week. For further information, call Sharon Spencer at (312) 248-1242 or John Halbeck at (312) 447-4534.

I Would Pick More Daisies

If I had my life to live over, I'd try to make more mistakes next time. I would relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I know of very few things I would take seriously.

I would take more trips. I'd climb more mountains, swim more rivers and watch more sunsets. I would do more walking and looking. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would have more actual troubles and fewer imaginary ones. You see, I'm one of those people who lives prophylactically and sensibly and sanely, hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had it to do over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after another - instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, hot water bottle, a gargle, a rain coat, aspirin and a parachute. If I had to do it over again, I would go places, do things, and travel lighter than I have.

If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would play hooky more, I wouldn't make much good grades except by accident. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies.

-Brother Jeremiah

What Is Your Real Religion?

A Suggested Sketch for a Different Questionnaire on Religious Beliefs - by the Reverend James Curtis (5-7-57)

1. Why do you like a sunset?
2. Why do you pull all the dandelions out of your lawn?
3. Why do you like to make money? What is money for?
4. What was the last book you've read? Why did you read it?
5. Which of the following words do you feel is "more obscene" or "dirtier" ..Ebastard" or ..Nigger"?
6. What would your Black friends think about your reply to the last question? What? You don't have any Black friends?
7. Why not?
8. Do you have any friends? What is a "friend" anyway?
9. When your basic beliefs or assumptions are questioned, do you feel good?
10. When you hear an unfamiliar or completely new idea, what is your first reaction: "Crackpot!" or "Genius!"?
11. What image pops into your mind when you see a bearded man: a hippie? Jesus? Abraham Lincoln? Mitch Miller?
12. Why are you afraid of teenagers?
13. Do you like your children?
14. Do you sometimes laugh or smile in public at

your own shortcomings? Do you have any shortcomings?

15. Has making love ever been a religious experience for you? If not, what was wrong?
16. When you wake up in the morning, are you eager and pleased to begin another day? If not, what's wrong?
17. What do you long for, above all else?
18. What do you want?

PRAIRIE OFFICERS AND LAY MINISTERS 1988-89

President:	Mary Mullen	271-5192
Vice Pres:	Jack Jallings	835-3746
Treasurer:	Barb Park	635-7519
Secretary:	Lynda Lewis	271-2173
Finance Com:	Pat Cautley	238-5373
Relig. Ed.:	Aileen Nettleton	238-6053
Program Com:	Warren Hagstrom	238-4970
Soc. Act.:	Shirley Grindrod Judy Skog	238-4422 273-4813
Hsg. & Prop:	Bill Grover	845-9505
Den. Aff.:	Anne Urbanski	271-1349
Membershp:	Sharon Scrattish	437-5915
Long Rg.Fl.:	Rick Ruecking	238-2924
Comm./Comm.:	Fredericka Schilling	271-5192
	Dorothy Wetherby	255-3536
	Cinda LaMar	238-9884
	Rick Ruecking	238-2924
Lay Ministers:	Al Nettleton Jack Jallings plus Mini-Ministries by several others	

Please paste this list in your Prairie Directory for ready reference.