

# 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 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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DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be **SUNDAY, JULY 24TH**. Submit notices for the period July 28th - August 11th.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, July 17

Service at Unity Chapel in Spring Green.

7:00 PM - SPANISH SPEAKER'S POTLUCK at the home of Jean Matos, 324 Vilas Street. Call Jean at 255-2209 for more information.

### Tuesday, July 19

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Thursday, July 21

6:00 PM - PAUSE Picnic at Tenney Park (see related story)

### Sunday, July 24

Afternoon Ice Cream Social and Dixieland Jazz music at Sauk City Free Community. (More details to follow)

### Tuesday, July 26

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Sunday, July 31

AFTERNOON BEACH PARTY at the Grindrods.

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JUL 14 1988

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

### Tuesday, August 2

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Sunday, August 7

No Service currently scheduled.

### Tuesday, August 9

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Sunday, August 14

No Service currently scheduled.

### Tuesday, August 16

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Sunday, August 21

No Service currently scheduled.

### Tuesday, August 23

7:30 PM - ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION meets - at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

### Sunday, August 28

4:00 PM - Potluck Picnic and Theater Trip - at APT in Spring Green (see related story).

## Alternatives to Addiction

'Alternatives to Addiction' is a support and study group for people interested in a non-theistic approach to overcoming addictions is meeting every Tuesday. We meet from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. If you are interested or want more information, call Julie Bonser at 274-3248.

## PAUSE for a Picnic

PAUSE continues on summer Thursday evenings July 21 with a potluck picnic at Tenney Park. Between 6 and 6:30 PM, we will meet in the park near Sherman Terrace and the Yahara River across from the beach. The potluck picnic will begin at 6:30 PM. Activities include socializing, swimming, games and a hike after the picnic in the Cherokee conservation area.

Prairie Adult Ultimate Summer Events (PAUSE) offers opportunities for adult Prairie members and friends to meet for supper and socializing on alternate Thursdays this summer. You are welcome to call Lynda Lewis at 271-2173 for information about activities.

## Paganism Explained (and Experienced)

Christa Heiden Landon, a Pagan priestess and doctoral candidate at Meadville-Lombard Theological School, will be in Madison July 22-24 for a lecture, experiential workshops and Sunday worship service on the topic of Paganism and Pagan theology. Christa is a member of the continental coordinating council of CUUPS, the Covenant of UU Pagans, an official affiliate of the UUA. Lecture and workshops are individually priced; a fee of \$20 for all events will be charged for those registering Friday night. All events will be held at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. For information, contact Roger Backes (835-5850) or Lorna Aaronson (255-0296).

Friday, July 22, Lecture:

7:30 PM - Pagan Theology (\$3.00).

Saturday, July 23, Workshops:

10:00 AM - Encountering the Sacred Cosmos: Discovering the Gods and Goddesses Within Each of Us (\$10.00).

2:00 PM - Celebrating the Seasons of Our Lives: The Eight Pagan Festivals (\$10.00).

Sunday, July 24

Worship: 10:00 AM - Tracing the Green Thread: Reverence for Nature in Unitarian Universalist History.

Discussion: 12:00 Noon - Establishing a Madison chapter of CUUPS. Join in a potluck lunch with a dish to share or pay \$2.00 to help with the cost. All are welcome.

## Board Secretary Resigns

Beginning in August, Prairie Society will need a new Secretary for the Executive Board. Lynda Lewis, the present secretary, is moving to Milwaukee on August 1. If you are interested in doing this job, call either Vice-President Jack Jallings at 835-3746 or Lynda Lewis at 271-2173 for more information.

## August 28th is the Twelfth Night for Prairie



Prairie Society is once again scheduling an excursion to American Players Theatre. The featured performance this year is "Twelfth Night", one of the Bard's better known comedies. The play begins at 6 PM. Reservations are due by August 1 and the tickets will cost \$10.00 (of which less than \$1 will go to the Prairie Building Fund). There will be a potluck picnic before the play, starting at 4:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass, your own place setting, and your own beverage.

Please mail your checks (made out to Prairie Unitarian Society) to Bonnie Grosnick, 6820 Park Ridge Drive, Madison, WI 53719, by August 1. Call Bonnie Grosnick at 273-4553 for further information if you have questions.

## Artists Take Note--

All Prairie Artists should save Thursday evening, September 1st, for a grand event (details as yet unknown). We will start the festival o' the flakes festivities with a flair, fireworks, and fun. You will be asked to present an art piece or perform.

-friends o' flakes

## Distribution Director Needed

A mature, responsible individual with good manual dexterity and the ability to deal with US Post Office regulations is urgently needed to manage the vital task of Prairie Fire distribution. This task is currently managed by Lynda Lewis, who will be moving to Milwaukee on August 1. This aspect of newsletter production involves picking up the newsletter at the printer, folding and stapling the individual copies, applying the mailing labels, bundling the newsletters by Zip Code according to Post Office rules, and taking the bundled newsletters to the main post office for delivery. This job takes roughly three person-hours every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon. There are several individuals who are willing to help with this task and are experienced in doing it. Interested people should contact Lynda Lewis at 271-2173 or Richard Bonser at 274-3248 for more information.

## CHANNING-MURRAY NEWS

This summer, Channing-Murray will NOT be holding the Thursday lunches at the Memorial Union.

Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners on the Memorial Union Terrace. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:15. Look for us near the Union Theatre steps. For further information, call Cinda LaMar at 238-9884.

## R. E. CORNER

During the summer, we are having informal activities and child care for our children each Sunday that we meet at Prairie. If you are willing to help one Sunday, please call Alison McKee at 238-3302.

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATES - '88

Mark Your Calendars--

**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.

## A Change in Name Only

Drop "Lewis" and add "Dale". Lynda Lewis has legally chosen a new last name. Starting July 13, she will be Lynda Dale, which is the last name of her stepfather. Nearly 40 years ago, her mother and stepfather were married. Because of their care and encouragement when she was a child and their support since she's been an adult, Lynda has decided to "adopt" her stepdad.

## For Lease - 88/89 Fall/Winter/Spring Season

I have a delightful 1BR cottage on a quiet cul-de-sac near Monona Bay. It is within biking distance to the Campus and the Capitol and will be available furnished or partly furnished. It will be available from August, 1988 to May or possibly July of 1989. The rent is \$425 per month. Call me at 255-7039 for more information if you're interested.

-Rosemarie Lester



## Death Notice

At 7:30 AM on Thursday, July 7, my mother, Ella Bonser, died at age 81. She died peacefully in her sleep at Methodist Health Center, a nursing home here in Madison, Wisconsin. She had lung cancer and a brain tumor that had been caused by the lung cancer. The tumors caused a rapid and progressive loss of physical and mental abilities, but very little

pain over all, which was merciful to her and to we who cared for her. She also suffered from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and I believe that her death from these tumors was by far preferable to that particularly horrifying death of the persona in an otherwise healthy body. While she had lived apart from us by her own choice for the last 19 years, I brought her here to live out her final days where we could love and care for her in the most direct and personal way possible. We had not gotten along well together and she would not ask me for what she wanted, so I never knew until her illness made it a necessity that she had strongly desired a close and loving relationship with me and my family. What ill health made necessary became a blessing both for her and for us, for she often said how happy she was that we were together and how much she enjoyed our love and care. We had only three months together to make up for thirty years of misunderstanding, but we had them and I am thankful that we did.

I knew her mostly as a harsh and strict person with high standards, much given to judgment of others and afraid of close relationships. Yet she was kind and generous on many occasions, to friends and strangers alike. In these last months, she revealed another side of her personality to us - an open, sweet and loving aspect which I found quite delightful. While she lived here in Madison at Elder House, a retirement apartment, she won the hearts and admiration of those she lived with through her sweet disposition and her determination to keep going and maintain her independence as much as possible. I believe that she always tried to do what she had been taught was right, even when the doing cost her something she treasured or dearly wanted. She made friends slowly and had only a few in consequence. She was however, very loyal, dedicated and close to those she did have. She was very close emotionally to my father. She was devastated when he died 19 1/2 years ago and may never have fully recovered from that loss. She has had a powerful influence on my life, both as child and as adult, for in these last days she unwittingly taught me the power of forgiveness and showed me the benefits of forgiving on both the forgiver and the forgiven.

By her own command, there was no funeral service or visitation. She has been cremated and the ashes scattered on the waters. This was done for my father on his death in 1969 and so they have been reunited at last. Since there was no funeral, there was of course no reason to send flowers. I ask those who wish to show their regard to do so by making a memorial donation in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Requiescat in Pace et Lux Aeternam.

- Richard Bonser