Volume 27, Number 1 - January 10, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND. Submit notices for January 26TH - February 9TH.

CALENDAR

Friday, January 13
5:30 PM - ETHNIC/FISH DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at the Bahn Thai Restaurant, 944 Williamson Street.

Saturday, January 14
2:00 PM - CUUPS planning meeting for the Candlemas Festival, at Prairie. Bring a snack or beverage to share.
7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon Street.

Sunday, January 15
10:00 AM - "WHITE WOMEN, BLACK MEN, BROWN CHILDREN: The Racism nobody talks about". A panel discussion led by Pat Watkins. Finger food potluck afterward. (See related story.)

11:30 AM - Parent Coffee for Grades K-1-2.

Sunday, January 22
10:00 AM - "JAPAN AND US: Deep Differences and Similarities". American baseball players in Japan will trigger exploration of cultural differences and our own fears of Japan. The first in a 3 service mini series on East Asia coordinated by Mary Mullen.

11:30 AM - Parent Coffee for Grades K-1-2.

Thursday, February 2
7:30 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE meeting at the meetinghouse. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Sunday, February 19
10:00 AM - "RE-DEDICATION OF OUR MEETING HOUSE" coordinated by Rachel Siegfried and Sharon Scattish, followed by:
12:00 AM - Open house for Prairie friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be served. Watch future issues of Prairie Fire for further details.
**Prairie Playreaders to Meet**
The Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon Street (diagonally across from the Nettleton's) at 7:30 PM on Saturday, January 14th. The play will be Galileo by Bertold Brecht. New participants are welcome – previous experience is not required. It would be a courtesy to call Donna at 238-0630 to let her know you are coming so she’ll know how much to prepare for treats.

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**Santa’s Early at Prairie!**
Remarks on Dec. 17 from the kitchen crew to the effect that a Microwave Oven would be a big help in preparing for potluck meals were overheard by member Dan Laux, who appeared about four hours later with a big new Microwave Oven as a gift for Prairie! What a wonderful gift – Thanks, Dan!

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**Now Thank We All...**
**The Painters!** Thanks to the entire paint crew who worked over the last two weeks, we have transformed our classrooms. Come and see how nice they look with a new coat of paint. Thanks to Bob, Linda and Andy Nelson, Nora Bosch and Tiana, Arlene Ferguson, Ken Skog, Rachel Siegfried, Diane Derouen, Bill Grover, and Al, Anna and Greg Nettleton.

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**Rededication and Open House**
The rededication and open house will be coordinated by Rachel Siegfried and Sharon Scratish and will take place on February 19th. A regular adult service will be held at 10:00 AM. Contrary to previous announcements, it will NOT be followed by a potluck lunch but by an open house, beginning at 12:00 Noon. The meetinghouse will be open for all of our friends and neighbors to inspect and admire, and refreshments will be served.

Members and friends are encouraged to provide photos and slides covering the times from our beginning days to the present. If you have pictures or other mementos from Prairie’s past, please contact either Rachel (271-2173) or Sharon (437-5915).

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**White Women...**
**Black Men...**
This service will present a panel of people who have been or are presently in an interracial relationship. It will address some of the subtle and overt racist acts and attitudes which they, their partners, and their children have been subject to. Be prepared to participate in the discussion with your own questions, comments, and experiences. Please bring finger foods, and plan to stay a while after the service for refreshments, fellowship, and conversation.

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**Get Well Soon...**
Prairie friend Verna Doyle is at home, recovering from recent surgery. We all wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

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**Womanspirit ...**
**...a Workshop**
The North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, IL is sponsoring a weekend workshop for women on January 20, 21, and 22. The workshop leaders are Rev. Elinor Artman, a UU minister, and Shelly Jackson Denham, a lifelong UU whose songs convey her original and creative expression of religion as an integral part of our daily lives. The fees are $25 for the workshop and $6 for the concert with a $5 late fee for registrations received after January 9, 1989. Home hospitality is available. For more information contact Janet Nortrom at First UU Church in Milwaukee (414/964-3764) or Registrars Shirley Thompson (312/933-5771) or Helena Chapin (312/234-2460). Registration forms are also available from Denominational Affairs Chair Anne Urbanski.
What Is It?
It's smaller than a breadbox, vegetable and mineral combined, as useful as thumbs, and as big a bargain as free money! What is it? Why, the Entertainment '89 coupon book, of course! This isn't quite your last chance to pick up one of these terrific bargains, but the deadline is approaching. They provide coupons for free meals, theater tickets, and other entertainment items for an entire year for the paltry sum of only $25, of which Prairie gets to keep $5. If you are a dedicated stay-at-home and none of these treats tempts you, you can still help Prairie by sending a $5 donation to Pat Cautley, the Chair of the Finance Committee. Please call her at 238-5373 for more detailed information on the contents or to order your personal and gift copies of this super bargain.

First Society Sponsors X-C Ski Weekend
Prairie folk are invited to First Society's 4th annual UU X-C Ski Weekend at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI, on February 3rd to 5th, 1989. The group stays in cabins with rooms for each family or group of 2 to 3 singles. Deadline for reservations is December 16. Rates vary from $65 to $82 for adults and from $42 to $56.50 for kids. Rates depend on whether you rent equipment or want instruction. Fees include 5 homecooked meals and a wine tasting party.

Flyers and registration blanks are available from Mary Mullen, or you can call Gordon or Vera Cunningham at 271-1246.

Hospitality Needed For YRUU Conference
YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) will be holding a conference in the Madison area at First Unitarian Society on Friday and Saturday, April 7th and 8th, 1989. The group, which includes a number of Prairie youths, need to locate several places where 2 to 6 boys OR girls can stay for a couple of nights. The young people will have their own sleeping bags. If you have space and can help, please call Anna Nettleton at 238-6053.

Thanks!

Paint For Sale
Help Prairie and yourself by buying our leftover interior paint. We have two gallons of flat satin white, one and a half gallons of flat white, and three-quarter gallon of light yellow satin flat paint. The suggested price per gallon is $10.00.

CHANNING—MURRAY NEWS
Thursday lunches are scheduled every week, often with special guests and spirited discussion. Look for the room number on 'Today in the Union' under Unitarian Student Group. Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners at Headliners Food Court on University Ave. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:30.

Correction to the last Prairie Fire: Grades 3–4–5 will be taught by Pat Cautley and Betty Jallings. The curriculum, Time Travellers, is new and will be an exciting exploration of belief systems throughout the ages.

Grades 6–7–8 will be led by Erin Bosch and Jean Matos for the month of January, during which various values clarification exercises will be experienced. For the rest of the semester, Marty Drapkin and Julie Bonser will lead About Your Sexuality, a 12 week course on human sexuality.

A mandatory parent orientation for About Your Sexuality will be held on January 15 at 12:30 PM. This session will include the purposes, goals, and objectives, an overview of the curriculum's filmstrips and tapes, a discussion of instructional approaches, and a question and answer period. Please be sure that at least one parent of each 6–7–8 grade student attends in order to confirm your child's participation in the course.
Parent Coffees will be held on January 15th and 22nd. The Jan. 15th session will be for parents of the Grade 3-4-5 students and the session on the 22nd will be for the parents of the Grade K-1-2 students. Both sessions will start at 11:30 AM.

Preschool Teacher Position Open
We are looking for a preschool teacher for Sunday mornings. The teacher will be paid at the rate of $12 per Sunday and will be responsible for planning learning experiences for the children aged 3-5 and supervising childcare for the very young children. The person should enjoy working with young children. Coursework in child development would be helpful as well.

Please call Aileen Nettleton (238-6053) or Anne Pryor (244-7099) if you are interested or if you know of someone who is interested in this position.

YRUU
Plans are in the works for an overnight ski trip, possibly late January or February. Both senior high and middle school groups are invited. Watch for the YRUU newsletter for further details or contact Nancy Lynch at 244-3906.

The next scheduled meetings are Sunday January 15th and Sunday January 22nd at First Unitarian Meetinghouse, 900 University Bay Drive. The senior high group meets in the annex from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and the middle school group meets in the West Living Room from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

R. S. V. P. To Help
If you are 60 or over and would like to help others by giving of yourself, call RSVP at 238-7787. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program provides meaningful volunteer opportunities in many different non-profit organizations in Dane County. Volunteers are especially needed for the Driver Escort Program and in the following Schools: Van Hise Middle, Huegel Elementary, and Muir Elementary.

Recycling
The collection containers for glass and aluminum have a temporary home in the downstairs entry-way. When the Prairie Board assesses space and use needs, the containers will be moved to a permanent location. Each Sunday, I will personally take newspaper and plastic containers (sorry, no plastic bags) but I don’t plan to have collection bins for these at this point.

U. U. National Workshop on Social Justice
The National Workshop on Social Justice will be held in Washington DC from April 16th to the 18th. Workshops will include creative worship, empowerment, small group sharing, witnessing, group lobbying, nurturing community, and many others. For further information, write UUNWSJ, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401, or phone 301/266-8044. Travel and Youth subsidies are available.

By recycling my junk mail and container cardboard (i.e. — kleenex & cracker boxes) I’ve managed to eliminate one garbage bag a week. Amazing, isn’t it? The nice thing is that Madison Recycling pays for all that stuff!

Drop-In Shelter
In December, we held an “Empty Blanket” collection and collected $67.00! The money was sent to the Madison Urban Ministry to support the Drop-In Shelter for the homeless at Grace Episcopal Church. We continue to send volunteers to staff the shelter on the fourth Monday of the month. Help is always needed. Contact Lee Bullen at 838-8055 if you’d like to volunteer.
Nuclear Free Zone Conference

An International Nuclear Free Zone Conference will be held in Eugene, OR from Feb. 8th to the 11th. It will focus on the concerns of local NFZ's throughout the world and the impact they may have on their own national policies regarding nuclear defense. For more information, write the NFZ Conference Organizing Committee, P. O. Box 3197, Eugene, OR 97403.

Miscellany

Dr. Martin Luther King Day Observances

Friday, Jan. 13th. 6:00 PM – Community Dinner at First Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. Donations accepted for meal costs. Meal provided by the Response to Hunger Network.

Saturday, Jan. 14th. 10:00 AM – Community Choir organization and rehearsal at St. Paul AME Church, 402 E. Mifflin St. The choir will perform on Monday Evening in the Civic Center.

Monday, Jan. 16th. 12:00 N – Observance of Dr. King’s birthday in the Capitol Rotunda.

and a march to the Civic Center. Monday, Jan. 16th. 7:00 PM – Observation of Dr. King’s birthday at the Civic Center Oscar Mayer Theater. Guest Speaker, Edith Finlayson, music by the Choir formed on Saturday.

Ethical Issues in Aging...

Meadville/Lombard Theological School and the Central Midwest District now offer continuing and lifelong education programs for lay people and ministers. The next offering this spring is entitled “Ethical Issues in Aging and Dying: How Our Religious Values Work”. It is a workshop for the elderly and their children with presentations from Rev. Richard Kellaway of New Bedford, MA and Dean Spencer Lavan of Meadville/Lombard. The workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 25th, from 9 AM to 5 PM at Meadville/Lombard, 5701 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL. The registration fee of $50 includes lunch and a packet of readings. Overnight lodging can be arranged. For further information, contact Meadville/Lombard at 312/753-3195 or the CMD office. Registration forms are also available from Anne Urbanski.

Visions And Values III

"Visions and Values III, Myths We Live By" will be held on Saturday, May 6th, at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, IL. The Rev. Alice Blair Wesley will present the keynote sermon during the morning worship service. Symposia and workshop topics relate to the varied roles of myths in our lives and our denomination. The afternoon service will feature the installation of Spencer Lavan as Dean of Meadville/Lombard Theological School. Watch for further information in later issues of Prairie Fire.