Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive | Madison, Wisconsin 53711

. . . As the prairie stretches out before us 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)

Richard Bonser, Editor	274-3248
Mary Mullen, President	271-5192
Anne Pryor, R. E. Director	244-7099
Meeting House	271-8218

TO CHANGE ADDRESS OR CANCEL PRAIRIE FIRE, CALL 274-3248

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Volume 27, Number 2 - January 24, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH. Submit notices for the period February 9TH - February 23RD.

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 26

12:00 N – CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union".

Sunday, January 29

9:00 AM – PRAIRIE SINGERS' PRACTICE at the Meetinghouse.

10:00 AM – "EAST ASIA – MYTHS AND REALITY": led by Mary Mullen. Sally Henshaw, Assoc. Director of the East Asian Studies Center and Chinese graduate student Wu Weidong focus on China.

11:30 AM – PARENTS COFFEE for Grades K-1-2 downstairs at the meetinghouse.

6:00 PM – CHANNING-MURRAY'S kick-off and welcome dinner will be at First Unitarian Society in the Hearth Room. All young adults are invited!

Monday, January 30

7:30 PM – PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday, February 2

12:00 N – CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union". The special guest will be Chancellor Donna Shalala.

7:30 PM – PROGRAM COMMITTEE meeting at the meetinghouse. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Friday, February 3

6:00 PM – CUUPS (the Covenant of U-U Pagans) celebrate the festival of Candlemas, or Lady's Day, at Prairie. The festival will include a potluck dinner, dancing, chanting, singing and sharing of creative endeavors. The public is invited to attend.

Sunday, February 5

10:00 AM – "MAKING PEACE WITH THE EAST": led by Mary Mullen. Sally Henshaw, Assoc. Director of the East Asian Studies Center, leads us in coming to terms with East Asian cultures.

Tuesday, February 7

7:30 PM – SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING at Judy Skog's house. 626 Orchard Dr. Call 273-4813 for information/directions.

Thursday, February 9

12:00 N – CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union".

Friday, February 10

6:30 PM – Youth Group Italian Dinner (See story).

Sunday, February 12

10:00 AM – INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE – VALENTINE'S DAY.

11:30 AM – POTLUCK LUNCH AT PRAIRIE

Thursday, February 16

12:00 N – CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union". Guest Kathy Miezio, a graduate student in Industrial Engineering, will speak on 'Occupational Stress'.

Sunday, February 19

10:00 AM - "RE-DEDICATION OF OUR MEETING HOUSE" coordinated by Rachel Siegfried and Sharon Scrattish, followed by -

12:00 N.- Open house for friends and neighbors. Watch future issues of Prairie Fire for further details.

6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY will meet at the home of Max and Carolyn Gaebler. The Gaeblers will talk and show slides of their stay in Australia this past year.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, PLEASE SCHEDULE BUILDING USE WITH PRESIDENT MARY MULLEN.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Rededication and Open House

The rededication and open house will be coordinated by Rachel Siegfried and Sharon Scrattish and will take place on February 19th. A regular adult service will be held at 10:00 AM. followed 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 lend 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 Sharon (437-5915), and get the items to her no later than February 12. Please put your name on each item so we can return it, and a caption so we know what's going on in the picture.

Prairie Singers' Practice Set

Barb Park and Aileen Nettleton invite all Prairie members and friends who enjoy singing to come and prepare to sing for the Rededication Service. The practice session will be held at 9:00 AM on January 29th at Prairie. Barb and Aileen are the "Choir Coordinators" for Prairie, and are trying to get a regular choir group started again.

Sunrise School Day Care

The Sunrise School, a private, non-profit daycare program serving children aged 2 1/2 to 6 years, must relocate from Hoyt School and has asked Prairie to rent space for their operation. The Prairie Board will consider their request at the next meeting to be held on Monday, January 30, at 7:30 PM at Prairie. The Board welcomes any Prairie member or friend who wishes to attend this meeting and invites all to express views to a Board member beforehand. Many facts about the Sunrise School and its request will be posted on the Prairie bulletin board. Further details are available from R.E. Chair Aileen Nettleton, Housing and Property Chair Bill Grover, or President Mary Mullen.

In general, here is what's involved. Sunrise School would need to use the entire R.E. space downstairs plus restrooms and the main room upstairs because they would be serving 35 to 40 children at one time. They would need to store some equipment. Children would be in the building from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM five days a week and would play outside for 30 to 40 minutes each morning and afternoon although the older children would often be taken to nearby Marlborough Park.

Prairie has already been inspected by State and City authorities. They have indicated that we basically meet requirements. However, we would be required to provide screens for the basement windows, additional pegs for children's coats, and 4 foot high fencing behind our building. We would probably want to put shredded bark in the back year and construct a storage area in the niche on the stage. (This was being considered before Sunrise made their request.) We would have to secure a conditional use permit from the City of Madison. Operating costs would increase for utilities, janitorial services, and general maintenance.

For the use of Prairie, the Sunrise School is prepared to pay between $900 and $1000 per month. The director, Velga Dunis Matteson, says that the daycare would be willing to provide its own janitorial service and to schedule occasional parent workdays to help maintain the building.

The school has its own liability insurance. It is a progressive parent-run establishment whose philosophy is akin to Prairie's. It employs 12 staff (5 - 6 on site at one time) including the director and a book-keeper.

Prairie Committees have been asked to research costs associated with sharing our space with the Sunrise School as well as look into whether and just how we can share space. As many members will recall, some of our recent remodeling was undertaken with the idea of making our space daycare ready.

Now, the question is, **are we ready** to serve the general community by sharing our new spaces with an actual daycare operation? Please talk to a Board member or come to the January 30 meeting.

CUUPS To Celebrate Candlemas

CUUPS (the Covenant of U-U Pagans) will celebrate the festival of Candlemas, or Lady's Day, on Friday, February 3rd, at 6:00 PM at Prairie. The festival, which is open to all interested persons, will include a potluck dinner, dancing, chanting, singing and sharing of creative endeavors. The Four Lakes Area Chapter of CUUPS is co-sponsored by Prairie and First Unitarian Societies. It was formed by a small group of people who had attended the workshops on Pagan-

ism presented by Christa Landon at First Unitarian Society last fall. The purpose of the festival is to welcome spring's earliest stirrings and celebrate the return of the light. We encourage all Prairie members and friends to come and share the festival with us. Please bring a dish to share, a candle, and some examples of your creative efforts to show to the rest of us.

First Society 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 or 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.

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.

Prairie Member on National TV

Prairie member Fran Remelka will be featured in one of the shows on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" series. The program, entitled "The Case of George J. Stein", is presently expected to be shown on Channel 15 (NBC) on the evening of February 15th.

Part Of The Whole

A human being is part of the whole, called by us the universe, A part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separate from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures.

Albert Einstein

Absolute Last Call for Entertainment '89

If you would like one of these coupon books, a real bargain if you like to eat out or go to the movies or the theater, this is your last chance! See Pat Cautley after the service or call her at 238-5373.

If you have been selling books and have some left over, please bring them to Prairie next Sunday or give them to Pat as soon as you can.

Signs Of The Times

You know you're getting older when–

everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

your children begin to look middle-aged.

your back goes out oftener than you do.

you look forward to a dull evening at home.

Looking Back...

As we welcome the coming year in hope and expectation, it is also rewarding to recall our past...

Ten years ago at Prairie:

... Holly Loring, who now lives in Boston, was R. E. Director. Holly visited us this fall and sang at one of our services.

... Prairie was meeting during the 78-79 church year at the Woodland Montessori School on Colby Street.

... Lay ministers were Lois Hagstrom, Metje Butler, John & Laura Small, and Mary Lou Munts. Mary Lou appeared on the McNeill-Lehrer program because of her major role in the passage of Wisconsin's 'no-fault' divorce law.

... Sunday school teachers included Rebecca French, Aileen Nettleton, Betty Hill, Helen and Marian Briggs, Julie and Dick Bonser, Peg Stevenson, Karen Childs, Mel Micke, Galen Smith, Jack & Betty Jallings, and Barb Park.

... Dick and Julie Bonser invited us all to a house warming at their 'new' home on Milward Drive.

... We began to search for a permanent home and made an offer to purchase the old Trading Post building at 3819 Nakoma Road.

... Mike and Alexi Lyman were married in the Grindrod's garden on August 4th. Two weeks later, Barbara James and Joe Lawrence were married at their farm in Brooklyn.

... Rose and Galen Smith move to Whitewater.

Five years ago at Prairie:

... Dayle Haglund was R. E. Director and Mike Briggs was President of Prairie.

... Andrew Mattarella-Micke, Heidi Bosch, and Ian Park took part in the children's' dedication ceremony.

... Lay ministers were Warren and Lois Hagstrom, Diane Worzalla and Marty Drapkin.

... Bob West presented a memorable service on the 'Ethical and Spiritual Values in Rock Music'

... Mary Mullen toured the Texas border communities with the Madison Sanctuary Committee.

... The first annual Prairie Service Auction took place and netted $890.00.

... Pat Watkins organized the Gigantic Giant Garage Sale, which netted Prairie $824.00.

... We had graduates galore— Bret Caldwell, Geoff Bonser, John Briggs, and Kim Capozio from high school; Shawn Pollock and Theron Caldwell from the U.W.; Norma Briggs and Rosemary Dorney from the U. W. Law School.

... Lois Hagstrom and Metje Butler won awards at the Madison Art Guild competition.

CHANNING MURRAY

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.

The noon lunches will begin again on Thursday, Jan. 26th. Wednesday night dinners resume again on Wednesday, Jan. 18th.

Channing-Murray's kick-off and welcome dinner will be Sunday, Jan. 29th, 6 PM, at First Unitarian Society in the Hearth Room. We'll cook a spaghetti dinner and have a blazing fire in the fireplace. This is a good time to see old friends and meet new friends (bring a few of yours along). If you need a ride, call Cinda at 238-9884 or 233-9774.

CHANNING-MURRAY will meet at the home of Max and Carolyn Gaebler on the evening of Feb. 19th. The Gaeblers will talk and show slides of their stay in Australia this past year. Watch the newsletter for more details on this one!

THE CORNER

Parent Coffee Scheduled

There will be a parent coffee for parents of the K-1-2 students at 11:30 AM after the adult service on January 29th. If you have a child in R.E. in this age group (or one you'd like to enrol), please plan to attend.

Craft Materials Needed In R. E.

The K-1-2 class needs appliance sized cartons or large sheets of corrugated cardboard for their current projects. If you have some or know where we can get some, please contact the teachers or R. E. Director Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

Youth Group Dinner Scheduled

The Prairie Youth Group (6th grade and up) will have an Italian Dinner Party on February 10th from 6:30 to 10:00 PM at Prairie. We will use Prairie's new kitchen to prepare: Spaghetti, garlic bread, tossed salad, milk, soda, and sundaes for dessert. Call Erin (238-6285) by Wednesday, Feb. 1 to RSVP and tell her what ingredients you'll bring. First, we'll all cook, all clean up, and then play games afterward. Bring a game to play if you like. Non-Prairie friends are always welcome.

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.

SOCIAL ACTION

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.

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

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.

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.

UU Blood Donors Exceed Goal

The UU Blood Donors One-A-Week club, composed of members of Prairie and First Unitarian Societies, had 'pledged' 86 pints of blood in 1988. Actual donations were 108 pints or 125% of the amount pledged. Prairie members Rick Ruecking, Barbara Rames, and Judy Skog were among those donating in December. Congratulations to the group on its outstanding performance and our deepest thanks for their invaluable 'gift from the heart'.

Friendly Supper Club

The Friendly Supper Club is an informal interracial group that meets on the first Monday of each month for dinner. The purpose is to 'break bread together' and to make friends with people of other racial groups. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 6th, at Bishop's Cafeteria, 674 S. Whitney Way. Bring your old friends and make some new friends at the *Friendly Supper Club!*

A R C Fruit Sale

The Dane County Association for Retarded Citizens is once again holding its annual Citrus Fruit Sale. Individuals may order small or large boxes of California Navel Oranges or Texas Ruby Bed Grapefruit at a cost of $12 or $18 and $10 or $15 respectively. The fruit is fresh picked and satisfaction is guaranteed – any spoilage will be gladly replaced. Orders may be placed between now and February 10, 1989, and the fruit will be delivered on Saturday, February 25th. Payment in advance is requested. Orders may be placed directly with A R C at 233-9738 or through Prairie member Barbara Barley at 249-5979.

Interracial Families Network

The IFN is a peer support group for birth, foster, and adoptive families who are parenting transracially. We meet every fourth Thursday, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at 605 Spruce St. Call the Family Enhancement Program, 256-3890, for more information.

Lyme Disease Support Group

A Lyme Disease support group was organized at a meeting on January 14th in the Madison Senior Center at 330 W. Mifflin St. UUA member Lora Mermin has been instrumental in organizing this group. If you are interested in taking part or want more information, call Lora at 231-2199.

Crisis Homes Needed

A Crisis Home is one which provides short term shelter to adults referred by the Crisis staff at the Mental Health Center of Dane County. Many of the people have some type of mental illness but have been carefully assessed as being safe in a community setting. Only one person at a time is placed in any one 'Crisis Home'.

Over the past year, many people have found the program to be a helpful "time-out" from the loneliness and problems they were experiencing. The home providers have also found it to be a rewarding experience, as well as a way to make some extra income. (The Crisis Home Program pays $45 per day, tax free, to the homeowner for this service.) Home providers can choose how often they participate in the program, and they always have the option of saying 'no' to a potential guest.

If you are interested in being a home provider in this new and exciting program, and if you have at least some daytime availability in your home, please call Russell Bennett at 251-2341.

MISCELLANY

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.

Roommate Wanted

Needed – a new non-smoking roommate to share Rachel Siegfried's home. There is a large bedroom with separate bath and dressing area. Kitchen facilities are shared. If you are interested, please call Rachel at 271-2173.