

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

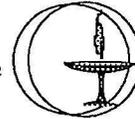
PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

... As the prairie stretches out, it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to God and be one with the natural world and with one another.

Prairie Smoke (Sieviersia 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

Return to:
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711



Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1604

Robert W. Park
DNR - Air Management
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

FEB 23 1989

Volume 27, Number 4 - February 21, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, March 5th. Submit notices for the period March 9th - March 23rd.

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 23

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union". The guest speaker will be Jay Schieber of Amnesty International.

Saturday, February 25

10:00 AM - BUILDING & GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETS to discuss the Prairie Garden. Rosy Nelson, a U.W. graduate student in Landscape Architecture, has volunteered to design the garden and will be at the meeting.

Sunday, February 26

10:00 AM - CAN A SECULAR HUMANIST LOVE CATS?: led by Warren Hagstrom and featuring poetry by T.S. Eliot and Patricia Watkins; a duet by Rossini

for two cats (sung by Dodie Chapru and Metje Butler) accompanied by Mike Briggs; and Tally's Trio, with a song about an Angora.

There will be a Special Collection for the Urban Ministry Fund.

11:45 AM - Special meeting to consider resolutions for General Assembly. (See related story.)

6:00 PM - "REPORT FROM DOWN UNDER", by Max & Carolyn Gaebler, at First Unitarian Society. (See related story)

Thursday, March 2

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

7:30 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at the meeting-house. Everyone is invited to participate.

Saturday, March 4

9:30 AM - Second Annual Cross-Country Ski outing at Dave & Marcia Johnson's Farm near Coloma. POT-LUCK MEAL: Bring a dish to pass. (See related story.)

Sunday, March 5

10:00 AM - THE GLORIOUS REVO-

LUTION OF 1688 AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, led by Malcolm Williamson.

Saturday, April 8

A special fundraiser bus trip is planned to the Field Museum in Chicago to view the new Egyptian exhibit. More details will be available in the next Prairie Fire.

Thursday, March 9

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY STUDENT LUNCH in the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union". The guest speaker will be Catherine Ramsey, graduate student doing AIDS research.

Sunday, March 12

10:00 AM - FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARE NECESSARY: Jack Jallings begins his lay ministry.
6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY potluck dinner and program at First Unitarian Society meetinghouse.

Saturday, March 18

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Dick and Julie Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive, Madison. (See related story)

Saturday, April 29

2:30 PM – A BUS TRIP TO THE MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER for Sean O'Casey's **Juno and the Paycock**. (See related story)

They Really Said It...

The names of the churches and newsletter editors responsible for these quotes have been mercifully withheld...

"Tuesday at 4 PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk please come early."

"Thursday at 5 PM there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers will please meet the Minister in his study."

"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

News And Views

Cats and Humanists...

The serious side to my Cats program (yes, there is a serious side) derives partly from a remarkable book by Vicki Hearn, Adam's Task: Naming the Animals. Ms. Hearn is both a skilled horse and dog trainer and an academician who talks with philosophers, psychologists, and zoologists about animals. The animal trainers and the academicians use quite different languages in talking about animals.

General Assembly Resolutions To Be Considered

A special meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26th, at 11:45 AM immediately after the service, to discuss the three study resolutions that will be voted on at the 1989 U.U.A. General Assembly. The resolution topics are:

- The Aids Crisis
- Protecting the Ecosystem
- Economic Conversion for Peace and Human Needs

The full text of the resolutions will be posted at Prairie beginning Sunday, February 12th. Come prepared for a spirited discussion of these topics. We expect the meeting to run no later than 1:00 PM.

Our comments will be summarized and mailed to U.U.A. by March 1st. (P.S.— Stay tuned for information about the annual Parish Poll, which will take place sometime in March or very early April.)

Report from Down Under

Prairie friend Max Gaebler (minister emeritus at First Unitarian Society) and his wife Carolyn returned recently from a 14 month tour in the land of backward seasons (Australia and New Zealand). Max served as a relief minister in two different churches down there. Max and Carolyn toured and photographed the areas extensively while they were there and will be presenting an illustrated report on their adventures on the evening of February 26th. The evening will begin with a **potluck dinner at 6:00 PM** to be followed by the talk and slide show. All Prairie members and friends are expressly invited to come. Those who cannot come for the potluck dinner can come around 7:00 PM for the slides.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688/89

The English revolution of 1688–89 was caused by religion in politics and one of its main slogans was "Toleration" (meaning religious toleration). The result of the revolution was a strange compromise which has lasted in England (with slow change) for three centuries. Its influence can be seen in the religious parts of the U.S. Constitution. The question of how to balance searching for lasting compromise against fighting for what we believe is as relevant today as it was three hundred years ago.

– Malcolm Williamson

Prairie Ski Outing

The second annual cross-country ski outing at Dave and Marcia Johnson's Farm near Coloma will be held on Saturday, March 4th. Skiing will begin at 9:30 AM and continue until every-

one's too tired to go on... Dave and Marcia will provide a pot of hot chili and skiers are asked to bring a dish to pass for a Potluck Dinner.

To get to the Johnson's farm, take Hwy. 51 North to Coloma and exit at the Hwy. 21 off ramp (about 75 miles). Go East on Hwy. 21 about 4 blocks to the Coloma cemetery. Turn right on Slater Street and go about 1 1/2 miles South to the "Lumber" sign on the left and the mailbox on the right. Turn right into the driveway to the house.

This is a Fundraising Event. The requested donation is \$5 per adult and \$3 per child. The event is subject to cancellation due to unfavorable snow conditions. If there is any question as to cancellation, call Prairie at 608 / 271-8218 for a last minute report.

Bonsers to Host Playreaders

The Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Dick and Julie Bonser at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 18th. We are always looking for new 'talent' to join our group. If you are shy, just come and listen for a few meetings to see if you like it (and us). The play we'll be reading will be announced in the next issue of **Prairie Fire**.

A Playreaders' Field Trip

If you enjoy good theater, plan to join the "Prairie Playreaders" on Saturday, April 29th, for a Theater Bus Trip to the Milwaukee Repertory Theater production of **Juno and the Paycock**, Sean O'Casey's masterful representation of the heartache and pain engendered by the fervent patriotism of early 20th century Ireland. It is a story set in the past; but, still, apropos of this "modern" age. We will leave Madison at 2:30 PM and return at approximately 11:00 PM. The price of **\$16** includes bus fare and theater ticket only. After the show, we will stop at Fuddruckers (next to the Brookfield Mall), a restaurant known for its steaks, burgers, and salad bar, for dinner. Dinner will be on your own — a group as large as we hope to have (there will be room in the bus for 40) just cannot be seated together and served in any reasonable

amount of time, and we haven't the resources to arrange a catered meal.

Make checks payable to Prairie U.U. Society and mail them to Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place, Madison, WI 53705, NO LATER THAN MARCH 24TH.

New (folk) Songbooks

Arlene Ferguson has copies of the latest version of the "Sing Out" songbook — "Rise Up Singing". Because of a bulk purchase, single copies are available at a cost of \$8.50. If you are interested, please see her after church on Sundays or call her at 249-7075.

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.

Walk a Mile

in My Shoes:

Interview a Vet.

This annual contest for 15-23 year olds is being run again. Interview a Vietnam War veteran, find out how the war affected that person, and tell what you think or feel about what you've learned. Your entry can be an essay or a work of art or music. 22 prizes of \$500 or \$100 are offered. For details contact Nancy Lynch at 244-3906.

R. E. CORNER

The religious education program is well underway. Attendance fluctuates weekly, but averages around 20 children each Sunday. The most populous classes are the "About Your Sexuality" for middle schoolers and "A Place of One's Own" for the K-1-2 group. Regardless of numbers, each set of

teachers has been offering a quality program each week to their students.

Preschool

Yasmine Sido and Anna Nettleton ably led this group in the month of January, helping them to readjust to Prairie and to get to know each other. With Terry Krause's joining the team, the senses have been the focus of attention. Sea shells have been explored for touch and kaleidoscopes for sight.

K-1-2

Lindy McGraw and Marcia Johnson continue to lead their students in all types of fun activities related to the theme of homes. The children have made homes for favorite animals/characters which they brought from their own homes. They've also explored Noah's Ark as a home for animals, and had a Valentine's party.

The coming weeks will see the children discovering animal homes, with turtles the subject for next week. They will also be having some cooking projects.

3-4-5

Pat Cautley and Betty Jallings have been leading the grade 3-4-5 group on a trip into the past, exploring the belief systems of ancient cave dwellers, Babylonians and Sumerians. Various myths and legends have been examined, including the epic of Gilgamesh. Some of the activities have included the making of clay seals like those used in Sumer and a treasure hunt with clues written in hieroglyphics.

In the next few weeks, Egypt and Greece will be studied, including a video next week on pyramid building.

6-7-8

Many thanks to Erin Bosch for leading the grade 6-7-8 group in a series of values clarification exercises during the month of January. Especially enlightening were interviews the students held with each other.

As of the beginning of February, Julie Bonser and Marty Drapkin are leading 11 students in the course "About Your Sexuality". This class will be meeting every Sunday morning except for the Easter intergenerational service.

Y R U U

Y R U U meets at the First Unitarian Meetinghouse, 900 University Bay Drive, most Sunday evenings between 6 PM and 8:30 PM. Meetings usually involve food, games, and shared involvement in various activities.

Our Y R U U Advisor is Nancy Lynch. If you have concerns, need more information, or have transportation problems, please feel free to call her between 9 AM and 9 PM at 244-3906. She'd like to hear from you!

YRUU members should also take a look at the contest described in the Channing Murray section — "Walk a Mile In My Shoes".

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Recycling

Prairie now has an account at Recycle Worlds, 2701 Packers Ave, 244-5451. You may take your recyclable items there. Before you get your recyclables weighed, tell them to put the money in the "Prairie Society" account. They will give you a receipt so you can claim your donation to Prairie on your taxes. Recycle Worlds accepts aluminum cans, corrugated cardboard, glass, newspapers, plastic bottles, and tin cans. They are open M-F 9-5:30; Sat 8-4 and Sun 11-4.

You can also bring your recyclables to Prairie. 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. Please do not obstruct the downstairs entryway. If you have more than will fit in the containers, or items other than glass and aluminum, please contact either me or Ken to make a direct transfer from your car to ours after the service on Sunday.

—Judy Skog

Did You Know...

Recycling a four foot stack of newspaper will save a 40 foot pine tree??

Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to make new cans from aluminum ore?

Paper and aluminum recycling generates only 5% of the air and water pollution created by manufacturing the same products from raw materials?

Urban Ministry Fund

Whitney M. Young, Jr. (1921—1971) was a prominent civil rights leader and active Unitarian—Universalist. His decade of service as Executive Director of the National Urban League produced historic breakthroughs for minority adults and youth in employment, education, and entrepreneurship. He coupled personal warmth and dignity with deep social commitment and canny organizational skills. In 1969, he was awarded the highest U. S. civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom.

The Whitney M. Young Urban Ministry Fund was established in 1983. Grants are made each year for the purpose of:

1. strengthening struggling UU urban congregations.
2. training UU leadership for urban ministries.
3. providing seed money for new UU societies of diverse racial and economic makeup.
4. creating channels for suburban—urban cooperation.
5. affirming in concrete ways our commitment to the city and its people.

February is Black History Month. To honor Whitney M. Young, the Social Action Committee will take a collection for the Whitney M. Young Urban Ministry Fund on Sunday, February 26th.

March for Women's Equality / Women's Lives

Now is the time to stand up and be counted in the fight for women's rights. An historic March for Women's Equality / Women's Lives will take place in

Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 9, beginning at noon. The march will end in a rally for keeping abortion safe and legal, and for the Equal Rights Amendment. Participants are asked to wear white clothing in the tradition of the suffragettes and march in delegations.

Buses will leave from Madison on Saturday, April 8, and return on Monday, April 10. The cost is \$85 and some scholarships are available. Call Madison N.O.W. (Lynne Quento, 256-5729) or Judy Skog (273-4813) for more information.

How about sending a U.U. delegation?

Blood Donor Volunteers are Needed

Prairie and First Society are partners in a One-a-Week blood donor club. More members are needed! It's never too late to start your blood donor career. It's painless – it's priceless – it's essential – it's truly a gift from the heart! Call Pat Meller at 271-1214 or the Red Cross at 233-9300 for further information.

AIDS Memorial

Part of the national NAMES quilt – in which each panel recalls a person who died of AIDS – will be on display at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Fieldhouse from May 5 to May 7 as part of a Gay and Lesbian Pride March thru downtown Madison on May 6. The exhibit will be free but donations are requested to pay for bringing the quilt to Madison and also to raise money for the Madison AIDS Support Network. The materials used are as varied as the lives and lifestyles of the memorialized dead: vinyl, taffeta, leather, burlap, corduroy, carpeting, stuffed animals, Barbie dolls, silk flowers, and more. Stop by the Field House and look at it.

Preserve Freedom of Speech

WOJB radio is an Indian-owned and operated radio station located in Hayward, WI. The legislature has approved state funding for the station twice, and twice the Governor has vetoed the funding. The most recent amount vetoed by the Governor for WOJB was \$15,000. During the same time period, the State has provided two

million dollars to Wisconsin Public Radio to fund its operations. WOJB needs your help – please send your contribution to: WOJB-FM, Route 2, Box 2788, Hayward, WI 54843.

Volunteers needed

Briarpatch, Inc. is looking for mature adults and families to provide short term voluntary emergency shelter to youth experiencing personal and family problems. Training is provided by Briarpatch. If you are interested in providing emergency shelter in your home for a few days three or four times a year, call Dorothy at Briarpatch, 251-1126. Also, Dorothy would be pleased to speak to any group interested in learning more about the Volunteer Foster Home Program and other programs and volunteer opportunities that are available at Briarpatch.

Miscellany

Visions And Values III Is Coming

"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.

Mark Your Calendars

The 1989 General Assembly of the U.U.A. will be held from June 22nd through June 27th at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

The Three Stages of Unitarian Universalism

The New UU Stage:

The New Unitarian Universalist just in from the cold, typically struggles with strong negative feelings about the religion of his/her upbringing. If they seem negative about religion, it's often for good reason. The New UU is often strongly "rationalistic" in his/her critique of religion. Vocabulary, or more precisely, word games, are extremely important to New UUs. They also distrust institutionalism in religion, and anti-clericalism is not uncommon at this stage. They are often coming out of the closet, religiously speaking, and though they may not yet know what they do believe, they are sure of what they reject. Some Unitarian Universalists remain "New UUs" for a lifetime.

The Mid UU Stage:

Mid UUs make up the bulk of any healthy Unitarian Universalist congregation. Vocabulary is not quite so loaded in this stage (words like "church," "minister," and "worship" begin to lose toxicity for Mid UUs), but word games remain a Unitarian Universalist addiction for many. Having arrived at a more secure place for themselves Mid UUs are more interested in defining their beliefs in a more positive way. Comparative religions interest the Mid UU, who is generally working to construct a personal, eclectic theology. Having established their reputations as rationalists, they often express some willingness, even hunger, for more "spirituality" in their church. Mid UUs are the worker bees of the congregation. They are active on committees, they pay their pledges gladly, and they give over evenings to church work because they want to contribute something back. Mid UUs are often found attending summer leadership school and they make excellent Unitarian Universalist evangelists. If they stick with it and continue to grow, they sometimes reach an even deeper level of Unitarian Universalism: the Deep UU.

The Deep UU Stage:

Roughly equivalent to Erickson's "generative" stage or Fowler's "prophetic" stage, Deep UUs exhibit a truly eclectic theology, independently arrived at. The mark of a Deep UU is true tolerance for the other two stages. Deep UUs have at least moved beyond word game addiction and view theological language as something to be used for communication rather than word play. Their generosity of spirit often earns them recognition as group elders, counselors, and healers. They have actually read a book or two of Unitarian Universalist history, because they recognize that sacred story as their own. Some rare Deep UUs reach this stage very quickly. Most of us keep trying to get there.

-Ron Clarke, UUA
modified by Patrick O'Neill

from "American College Encyclopedic Dictionary", 1952:

secular: adj. 1.of or pertaining to the world, or to things not religious, sacred, or spiritual; temporal, worldly. 2.not pertaining to or connected with religion, as literature, music, etc. 3.dealing with non-religious subjects, or, esp. excluding religious education. 4.(members of the clergy) not belonging to a religious order. 5.occuring or celebrated once in an age or century 6.going on from age to age.

humanism: n. 1.any system or mode of thought or action in which human interests predominate. 2.devotion to or study of the humsnties; polite learning; literary culture. 3.the studies, principles or culture of the Humanists.