

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

... As the prairie stretches out into the distance becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to the earth 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 27, Number 5 - March 7, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, March 19TH. Submit notices for the period March 23RD - April 6TH.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING at Prairie.
6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY potluck dinner and program at First Unitarian Society meetinghouse.

Sunday March 26

10:00 AM - EASTER SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE, followed by a **POTLUCK DINNER.**

CALENDAR

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.

Saturday, March 11

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 12

10:00 AM - FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARE NECESSARY: Jack Jallings lay ministry begins with Norma Briggs speaking on Children's Rights vs Parent's Rights.
11:30 AM - SUNRISE SCHOOL

Thursday, March 16

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

Saturday, March 18

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

Sunday, March 19

10:00 AM - FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARE NECESSARY: Jack Jallings lay ministry continues with a mystery guest.
2:30 PM - CUUPS VERNAL EQUINOX FESTIVAL at Prairie Meetinghouse. (See related story.)

Thursday, March 23

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

Thursday, March 30

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 MEETS at the meetinghouse. Everyone is invited to attend.

Saturday, April 8

8:00 AM - A special fundraiser bus trip is planned to the Field Museum in Chicago to view the new Egyptian exhibit. (See related story)

Friday, April 14

5:30 PM - ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE will meet at the *Essen Haus*. Save this date and plan to join us for an evening of German food and gemütlichkeit. Don't forget to call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 to make your reservation before 4:30 PM on April 12th.

Sunday, April 23

Spring Parish Meeting and Elections
This is World Children's Day.
(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)

News And Views

Fundamental Changes Series

Sunday services during the term of Jack Jallings lay ministry, from March 12 through May 7, will have the central theme of "Fundamental Change". To quote Jack exactly, "When one looks at society, at home and world wide - economic, political, environmental, educational, and many other concerns - only one answer is clear - namely that fundamental changes are necessary." The lay ministry will feature seven or eight individuals, representing both conventional and unconventional approaches, describing what they believe those changes should be. Controversial? Yes. Chaotic? Probably. Disagreements? Without a doubt!

Norma Briggs, a long time member of Prairie, an attorney, will begin the "Fundamental Changes" series with a presentation on the subject of Children's Rights vs Parent's Rights.

Prairie Ski Outing

Re-Scheduled

The second annual cross-country ski outing originally scheduled for March 4th at Dave and Marcia Johnson's farm near Coloma had to be **rescheduled due to the ice storm** on March 3rd. The outing will now be held on **Saturday, March 11th**. Skiing will begin at 9:30 AM and continue until everyone'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.

Board Approves Sunrise School

Informational Meeting Set

After a long meeting devoted to estimating the costs of renting space to the Sunrise School, the Prairie Board, on Feb. 12th, gave tentative approval to the rental proposal. The first step in the process will be to apply to the City of Madison for conditional use permits that will allow Sunrise to occupy our building and to use the Knights of Columbus parking lot located a block north of Prairie for teacher parking. Vice President Jack Jallings filed requests for these permits February 27, which means that the Madison Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on them on March 20.

Meantime, a neighborhood informational meeting was held on March 1. The neighborhood meeting, attended by 10 residents (90 flyers had been distributed) turned up concerns about parking and traffic primarily. These concerns were allayed somewhat by Sunrise's agreement to rent teacher parking space from the Knights of Columbus and to inform parents to park only adjacent to Prairie property and not in front of homes. Sunrise predicts that no more than six cars at a time will be dropping or picking up children, which means our parking space on the street should be quite adequate initially.

The Board tentatively set the rent at \$10,800 annually (with a provision to return part of that if costs are substantially less than estimated). The Board also specified that details of space use must be negotiated to Prairie's satisfaction before any rental decision is final.

Uppermost in the minds of the Board is our own need to have a place that will remain welcoming to our members and friends and their children and full protection from cash subsidization of Sunrise School. The cost estimates include line items for reserve, a share of the mortgage, and contingencies. Together, these "cushions" amount to over 30% of the \$10,800 tentative rental fee. In arriving at the tentative rental fee, the Board estimated that our janitorial expenses would increase \$1,200 even though we would require Sunrise to do its own daily cleaning and that we would need to hire a building manager at \$100 a month. At present we have neither a building manager nor a janitor. Members and friends interested in these jobs or with knowledge of people who might want to manage or clean the building are urged to contact a Board member.

If all goes well, Sunrise School will move its pre-school into Prairie in mid to late June. If conditional use permits are not granted or details of the lease (including financial arrangements) cannot be worked out, the Sunrise School will probably have to close its own doors, leaving at least 30 children's parents to find other daycare.

A Prairie informational meeting is planned for Sunday, March 12, after the morning service. Anyone with an interest in learning about the proposed rental or who wishes to express concerns about the proposal should attend. The Board has spent at least eight hours discussing this proposal and individual members have spent many additional hours researching the probable impact of having this daycare at Prairie. The Board would like to share this information with the membership at large and learn what additional concerns there may be that have not already been considered. A representative from the Sunrise School will also attend.

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. Why not come and listen for a few meetings to see if you like it (and

us). The play we'll be reading will be **Toys in the Attic**, by Lillian Hellman.

Parish Poll

The 1989 Parish Poll will be distributed on Sunday, March 19. We will vote on whether to include resolutions on these topics on the Final Agenda for the General Assembly:

- G-1 Ending Covert Operations
- G-2 Expanding Concern for Animals
- G-3 Inner City Youth
- G-4 Need for Adequate Income
- G-5 Palestinian Human Rights
- G-6 Protecting Our Children by Limiting Population Growth
- G-7 Strengthening the United Nations
- G-8 Stronger Sanctions Against Apartheid

The following business resolutions will also be considered:

Denominational Survey on the direction of the UUA Dept. for Social Justice
Location of UUA headquarters
Supporting Proposals of the Common Vision Planning Committee (re: homophobia and heterosexism in UU)

A box will be placed in the meeting room on March 26 and April 2nd for collecting parish poll forms. Instructions on voting procedure will be included on the poll form. Please bring your parish poll, with your preferences marked, to Prairie by April 2nd. If you can't bring the form to Prairie, please mail it to Anne Urbanski, 4629 Crescent Rd., Madison, WI 53711. She must receive them no later than April 4th.

CUUPS Festival Scheduled

The Covenant of U U Pagans invites persons of all ages to the Vernal Equinox (Eoustar) Celebration on Sunday, March 19th, at 2:30 PM, at Prairie Society Meetinghouse. Seasonal events scheduled include:

 An egg hunt (please bring eggs, jellybeans, etc. to share or a small donation to help with the costs)

 Parachute games

 Songs and stories

 A Potluck dinner (please bring a dish to pass)

Fundraising Bus Trips Scheduled

Field Museum

This event is a General Fund fundraiser. The bus will leave Madison at 8:00 AM on April 8th from the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot. There will be a lunch stop at 11:15 at *Water Tower Place*, with two hours free time for shopping or what have you. The next stop will be the Field Museum, which has recently installed a new permanent exhibit which is a re-creation of an Egyptian Pharaoh's son's tomb and its contents. Wall reliefs and hieroglyphs have been recreated throughout the tomb and about 1400 art objects and artifacts are displayed. We'll leave Chicago at 4:30 PM, make a brief snack stop, and arrive back in Madison at 7:45 PM. The price of \$30.00 includes transportation and entrance to the museum.

Theater 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.

Payment for either trip must be received **NO LATER THAN MARCH 24TH**. Make checks payable to Prairie

U.U. Society and mail them to Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705. If you sign up after March 12, please call Pat at 238-5373 to verify seat availability for the trip you are interested in. Pat will also be able to provide any additional information you want about either trip. Reservations will be confirmed and all necessary information about either trip will be sent with your receipt.

Call for Agenda Items

It's been an eventful year at Prairie and now that we're finally back into a functioning building, it's time to turn our thoughts to the ordinary but just as important future of Prairie — the regular Spring Business Meeting.

This is an invitation to all members to submit items for the agenda of the parish meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 23, 1989, at 1:00 PM. Normal items for this meeting are the election of officers, the election of Committee on Committee members, the election of GA delegates, and the presentation of lay minister proposals for the coming year. Any item you want discussed at the meeting must be submitted in writing to President Mary Mullen or Secretary Norma Briggs. All items should be submitted by Sunday morning, April 2nd to comply with our bylaws. Items submitted will be printed in the **Prairie Fire** as part of the meeting notice.

New (folk) Songbooks

Arline 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.

Spring Cleaning?

Channing-Murray is planning a **used book sale on April 15** at First Unitarian Society and they need your donation of good used books. Fiction usually sells well, particularly the 'trashy novel' sort. Please bring your donation to Prairie on any Sunday prior to the 15th or call Cinda LaMar at 238-9884 (home) or at 233-9774 (work) to make other arrangements.

Celebrate Passover...

with a Seder

The Seder is the traditional Passover meal for those of the Jewish faith. Passover this year comes on Wednesday, April 19th. If you are interested in taking part in such a celebration, please call either Shirley Grindrod (238-4422) or Arline Ferguson (249-7075). If there is enough interest, a Seder will be organized at Prairie that evening.

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

R. E. CORNER

With the warm weather almost upon us, the R. E. Committee has looked ahead to when our children will probably play outside while we parents socialize after the service. To assure their safety, the R. E. Committee would like to recruit an adult volunteer each Sunday to be outside with them. This adult (parent or non-parent) will supervise the play, basically making sure that where the children are and what they're doing is safe for both themselves and Prairie's grounds. So, once spring weather is actually with us, please be prepared to volunteer twenty minutes or so of your time after the morning service.

Until then, parents are reminded that at 11:15, when both the adult and R. E. programs conclude (theoretically, at least), they are responsible for their children. This means that when the children come upstairs and rejoin the

adults at 11:15, it is up to the parents as to whether the child will remain upstairs or go back downstairs to play until the family is ready to leave.

If the children do go back downstairs, please be aware that there are no adults scheduled to supervise their activity. This means that parents should check on their children periodically if they're going to be upstairs for any extended period. The R. E. Committee also invites any adult who happens to be downstairs and observes inappropriate behavior (roughhousing, abuse of materials, etc.) to intervene and explain what behavior would be acceptable.

We hope that Prairie adults will be willing to share responsibility for the children of Prairie in these ways.

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!

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Share With Our Neighbors

Now that Prairie is again open for business, we can again accept food donations for our needy neighbors. There are two families in our immediate neighborhood that need our help to be properly nourished. Please bring your donations on any Sunday and place them in the small room outside the Men's room. During the week, you can drop off donations at Mary Mullin's/Fredricka Schilling's home (call first). Perishable items can be donated as well as staples. Fredricka will see to it that perishables are delivered promptly. (Money is also an acceptable gift.)

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; Saturday 8-4 and Sunday 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 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.

-Judy Skog

World Children's Day

April 23rd is World Children's Day. In conjunction with this, Discovery Toys is selling interactive kites (you create your own design) for \$2.25 of which \$1.00 will be donated to UNICEF. After Prairie on that day, we will probably go to the park to fly them. I have to pre-order them in lots of 10, so if you are interested or know of any groups that would be interested, please contact me at 249-7075 by March 20th.

- Arline Ferguson

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 for a few days three or four times a year in your home, call Dorothy at Briarpatch, 251-1126.

You Could Be a Teacher!

Volunteer to tutor English to adults from all over the world. If you can speak English, you can teach English. The Madison Literacy Council will train you in a four-hour workshop on Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost of the workshop is \$7.00 which covers a tutoring manual and membership in the Council. Become involved in helping adults in our community improve their English skills. Tutoring a foreign person in English is a rewarding, broadening, and stimulating experience. For more information or to register, please call Sara Minkoff, Pat Shannon, or Denise McKay at 255-0351.

Benefit Bingo for V.I.P.

The Volunteers in Probation will hold their first annual Benefit Bingo at the Madison Christian Community Church, 7118 Old Sauk Road, Middleton, from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and "HELP STOP CRIME".

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.

1989 General Assembly

The 1989 General Assembly will be held from June 22 to June 27 at New Haven, CT, on the campus of Yale

University. Prairie is permitted to send two voting delegates to GA. So far, two members have expressed an interest in attending either as visitors or as delegates - Cinda LaMar and Arline Ferguson. We will elect our delegates to GA at the spring Parish Meeting on April 23rd. Anyone else who is interested in being a delegate to GA please notify Anne Urbanski by March 15th. Her phone # is home: 271-1349, work: 266-6480.

Help Wanted

Prairie Society needs a Janitor! The job is 4 hours per week at \$7.00 per hour. The job is available now through July 1, 1989, with a possibility of an extension at that time. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, have them call Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173.

