PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whalen Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

As the prairie stretches and blends becomes one with the sky, let us reach out for peace and be one with the natural world and with one another. PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

Prairie Smoke (Stevensia flora)

Volume 27, Number 8 - April 18, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUN-
DAY, April 30th. Submit notices for the period May 4th — May 18th.

1:00 PM — Spring Parish Meeting and Elections, a
Quorum of 30 persons is essential. Child Care
Provided! (see agenda, etc. in this issue).

Thursday, April 27
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 Meeting
House. Topics to be
discussed include summer
programs. (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.
Reservations are due by
Sunday, April 9 (See
related story).

Sunday, April 30
10:00 AM — FUNDAMENTAL
CHANGES, Jack Jallings
lay ministry, continues
with guest speaker Denny
Caneff, Director of
Wisconsin Rural Develop-
ment Center, Inc. The

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News & Views

A Word of Thanks...
The Young Religious U-Us would like to sincerely thank those of you who so generously provided home hospitality for our youth conference on April 7th to April 9th at First Society. The conference was a great success and we couldn’t have done it without each and every one of you. Thanks again!

Call for Lay Ministers
Do you want to bring your ideas to Prairie as a lay minister? If so, the Committee on Committees would like to hear from you. Call Rick Ruecking, Cinda LaMar, Fredricka Schilling, or Malcolm Williamson and tell them what you’d like to do. It is not necessary to have a proposal for three months of services. This year’s split lay ministry worked out pretty well. Ask any past lay minister. Those who can say “I did that” also say “I’m glad I did that!”.

R E Teachers Needed For Next Year
This is your chance to share in the growth of our Prairie children and their futures. If you enjoy children and would like to share your gifts! The RE Committee is looking for two teachers for each age group for next fall: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Groups range in size from 5-12 children per Sunday. Curriculum materials give a foundation for the program to which you can add your own creativity for active learning experiences. Team teaching allows you to plan together with another adult, as well as with the RE Director. It can be a very rewarding experience and a good way to get to know our kids. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Anne Pryor, RE Director, 244-7099, or any committee member: Ken Stog, Diane Derouen, Alice Bullen, Nancy Lynch, or Aileen Nettleton.

Notice and Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting
The annual spring parish meeting will be held on Sunday, April 23, at Prairie, starting at 1:00 PM. It will be preceded by a potluck dinner. Childcare will be provided during the meeting. A Quorum (30 members) is essential for conducting business. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of minutes of the Nov. 13, 1988 and April 9, 1989 parish meetings.
3. Treasurer’s Report.
4. Reports of Standing Committees.
5. Reports of Building Committees.
6. Report of Comm. on Committees:
   - Board Nominations:
     - President: Jack Jallings
     - Vice President: Malcolm Williamson
     - Secretary: Norma Briggs
     - Treasurer: Barbara Park
     - R.E. Chair: Aileen Nettleton
     - Finance Chair: Pat Caulley
     - Program Chair: Julie Bonser
     - Social Action Chair: Judy Stog
     - Membership Chair: Anne Urbanski
     - Housing/Property Chair: Jean Matos
     - Long Rge Planning Chair: Rick Ruecking
     - Denominational Affairs: Mona Birong
   - 7. Election of new Prairie Board.
   - 8. Election of 3 new Committee on Committees members.
   - 9. Choose 2 delegates to General Assembly.
   - 11. Presentation of plan for stage alcove storage construction.
   - 12. Adjournment.

Channing–Murray to Present Service
Channing–Murray, the university-age Unitarian student group, will present the service at Prairie on Sunday May 7th. Channing–Murray is affiliated with both Prairie Society and First Society and has been active on university campuses for over 100 years. Channing–Murray’s presentation, which will include readings and original music compositions, will be based on the book Hope for the Rowers, by Trina Paulus. The music will include works by Bolling, Gershwin, Monk, and our own Elizabeth Alexander. The service will also include a special arrangement of the song, My Favorite Things. This energetic group of young adults is looking forward to seeing you on May 7th.

Summer Program Ideas Sought
We have no lay minister during the summer, but we do plan on meeting every Sunday. We hope to go on some outings but also to have services in the Meeting House about every other Sunday. The Program Committee seeks suggestions for programs and, even better, volunteers to lead them. If you have ideas for outings or for services at the Meeting House, give them to Warren Hagstrom or other members of this year’s Program Committee, or to the chair of next year’s committee when we know who that person is, or come to the meeting of the Program Committee on April 27.

Prairie Landscaping
Diane Derouen has found a graduate student in landscape architecture eager to design a prairie planting for us. The student, Lori Nelson, presented a first draft to a committee meeting March 27th. It is a very exciting plan and includes ideas for the remainder of our site as well as the prairie garden. We hope to present the plans after our regular Sunday meeting on May 14th.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 7:30 PM, April 23rd at the Meeting House. Anyone interested in being on the committee is welcome.

Diane has offered to match donations up to $500 for construction of the Prairie. We want to meet this challenge, so cough up some cash money so we can get started! Contact Diane Derouen (238–3766) or Rachel Siegfried (271–2173).

Housing and Property News & Notes
Our new Janitor, Henry Fox, is doing a good job. Please bear with us while he is getting the meeting room floor stripped of old dirty wax. Eventually it will be clean, waxed, and shiny.
We would like to get the classic Hammond Organ and speaker out of Prairie. If you would like it, or know of someone who would, please give us a call. A suitable donation to Prairie would be appropriate, of course.

Many more people are urgently needed to help get the building and grounds ready for Sunrise School. There will be a meeting to plan the work held at Prairie at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 24th. Please help with the planning and with the work to come.

-Rachel Siegfried
271-2173

(UUA Committee
Members Sought
Another way of experiencing U-Uism is to participate at a level beyond Prairie. If you are looking for a challenge and stimulating new friends, and can travel to committee meetings, perhaps you'd like to volunteer for a UUA Board Committee. Check the Prairie bulletin board for a list of the openings and then contact Mary Mullen if you are interested.

Take a Hike...
With First Society
Elver Park, at the South end of Gammon Road, has several miles of hiking/skiing trails. If you are interested in exploring them with an informal group of other U-U's from First Society and Prairie Society, meet at the Park parking lot next to the shelter at 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 29th. Perhaps we can go somewhere to eat afterwards (anyone have Entertainment 89 coupon books?). Wear sturdy shoes or boots. We'll try again another week if the weather is bad.

-Gordon Cunningham

Grades 3-4-5
During the past weeks, this class has been continuing to explore various religions of the world. Finishing with Hinduism, the class made incense burners, with plans to use them soon. While looking at Buddhism, the class made pictures of Thai pole houses in which gifts to spirits are offered. Old testament stories will be a means for learning about Judaism. The biblical legends will lead up to stories about Moses. The class is also going to help the R. E. Director develop guidelines to help Prairie's children know how to use the new grounds.

Grades K-1-2
This class was the first to use our new kitchen facilities downstairs when they made applesauce. The following week they made popcorn and watched the movie Free To Be You And Me. Their gastronomic explorations continue, merging with a unit on the five senses, with a celebration of spring via a walk through the neighborhood to look, feel, smell and hear signs of the budding season, and topped off with making strawberry shortcake for themselves and the preschool class. In upcoming weeks, this class will use homemade play dough to make animal figures and homes for them, and to make their own peanut butter.

Preschool
This youngest class will continue their focus on spring, plants, and growth through learning about prairie flowers and Prairie’s own prairie-to-be. If possible, they hope to help with the prairie planting—

R. E. Director Awarded Scholarship
The Central Midwest District Religious Education Committee has awarded a $100 scholarship to enable Prairie's R. E. Director to attend a TLC conference. The conference, "Fine Arts in the Church School", will be held in Crystal Lake, IL, the weekend of April 21 and will focus on ideas for using music, drama, an art media in R. E. programs.

Grades 6-7-8
“About Your Sexuality” continues with enthusiasm for two hours each Sunday morning. Upcoming topics will include methods of birth control, friendship and sexuality choices.

Channing–Murray will be presenting a worship service at Prairie Unitarian Society on Sunday, May 7th. The theme for this service is “Hope For The Flowers”.

Corner

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. or at Pizza Pit near MASCO on University Ave. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:30. We’ll be alternating between the two places for a while, and the April 26th dinner will be at Headliners. The location for the May 3rd dinner will be at Pizza Pit and we’ll be back at Headliners on May 10th.

Our noon guest on April 27 will be Channing Murray member Scott Fredrick, who recently returned from Czechoslovakia. He will speak on “Being Unitarian in Czechoslovakia”.

A Potluck Picnic is scheduled for April 30th on Picnic Point. Members and friends will meet at 5:30 at the entrance to Picnic Point and walk to one of the fire pit areas for cooking facilities. The theme, “Bring Something of Yourself” will be fun and help us get to know one another better. Examples of things to bring include a favorite reading to share, a dance to teach, a song to sing, juggling, or a favorite game. If you don’t feel comfortable “doing something”, just come and enjoy the camaraderie. If the weather is cold, we’ll meet at Cinda’s house and start the fireplace!
Prairie Youth Group Get-Together
At 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 29th, the Prairie Youth Group (grades 6 and up) are invited to come to Prairie to hear Claire Sandler tell us about her stay in the Soviet Union. This is a great opportunity to hear someone you actually know tell about her experiences in a foreign country. Afterward, we'll have a potluck munch-fest and play some games. Bring a liter of soda or a bag of munchies or some other goodies. RSVP to Erin Bosch (238-6285) by noon on Saturday, April 29th.

P.S. — Prairie adults who are interested are also invited!

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!

Help The Homeless
The YWCA and the Salvation Army provide shelter for homeless families. In 1988 the 'Y served 122 families (65 male headed and 57 female headed) with a total of 231 children. They also served 115 homeless single women.

There is a desperate need for the things you can’t buy with food stamps: diapers, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, hand lotion (especially in winter), laundry soap, fabric softener, and feminine hygiene products.

I am collecting items of this sort on the first Sunday of the month for the YWCA families. Please bring your donations for this group on May 7.

—Judy Skog

Madison Boychoir Annual Concert
The Madison Boychoir invites you to attend their annual spring concert on Friday, April 28th, at 7:30 PM at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue. Tickets may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling the Boychoir office at 256-5709. Ticket prices are $5 for adults and $3 for children, students, and senior citizens.

UUSC Golden Anniversary
The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee will be celebrating its 50th anniversary from June 1979 to June 1990. They are asking us to help them celebrate by writing original skits, poems, or songs that express the goals, projects, and/or historical importance of the UUSC. The theme is “Sharing a Vision of Justice”. Topics to consider for the creative works are: sharing, partnership, neighbors working together, interdependence, human dignity, connection with other nations, peace, and global justice. Entries received by UUSC (78 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108-3497) by June 30, 1989 will be considered for national distribution in conjunction with World Service Sunday, Guest at Your Table, and UUSC Membership Sunday. We could also sponsor a local event. So—put on your creative thinking caps and get to it! Submit works to Judy Skog (273-4813) or send them directly to the UUSC at the address above.

AIDS Memorial
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.

Part of the quilt is already on display at the Madison Art Center, where it will be shown until June 4.
By the end of January, 48,582 Americans had died of AIDS, more than the number of Americans killed in combat in Vietnam! Ninety-one percent have been men, and a disproportionately large percentage of them have been black or Hispanic. This appears to be in part due to a higher incidence of I-V drug abuse among black and Hispanic groups, but it also is due to substantial differentials in the level, quality, and quantity of health care available to those groups according to Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force.

Homecomings—
Bringing U-Us Together
The Homecomings Bed and Breakfast Travel Directory is a guide to UU homes throughout the country that will provide bed and breakfast for UU travelers. The 1989 edition was published on March 15 and is available for $10.95 (US) from Homecomings, Box 1545, New Milford, Connecticut, 06776. The price includes postage and registered ID that identifies you to your UU hosts. Says one UU traveler, "It's like staying with old friends. I can't wait to go back again."

For Sale—Proceeds for
Prairie Item
I have two tickets to "Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street", for the Saturday, April 22, performance at 8:00 PM in the Wisconsin Union Theater. The tickets are $7.00 each. Call Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970 if interested. (We bought two pairs by mistake).

More Tickets Available
I bought too many tickets to the Prairie Home Companion performances at the Civic Center on Thursday and Friday, May 25 and 26. Anyone interested in buying some of these tickets, please call me at 233-4357.

-Mary Lou Diehl

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, author of "Myths of Time and History", will present the keynote sermon during the morning worship service. Symposia and workshop topics, such as "The Male Warrior Mythology" presented by Roger Backes of Madison, WI, 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.