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Prairie U.U. Society
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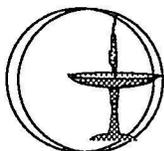
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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian - Universalist Society

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

Richard Bonser, Editor
Jack Jallings, President

274-3248
271-5192

Anne Pryor, R. E. Director
Meeting House

244-7099
271-8218

To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call 274-3248

Vol. 27, No. 16, 9-12-89

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, September 24. Submit items for September 28—October 12, 1989.

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 14

12:00 N - CHANNING—MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'. Guest Randy Bennett will speak on "The Mormon Religion".
7:30 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the meeting house.

Sunday, September 17

10:00 AM - "CAN A U-U BE A CHRISTIAN?" led by Warren Hagstrom, lay minister. Come prepared to share your views on the subject.

Monday, September 18

7:30 PM - R. E. COMMITTEE MEETING at the meeting house.

Thursday, September 21

12:00 N - CHANNING—MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.

Friday, September 22

6:30 PM - CUUPS FALL EQUINOX CELEBRATION and potluck in the West Living Room at First Unitarian Society. Please bring a dish to share. (See related story.)

Saturday, September 23

7:30 PM - PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Meller. (see related story.)

Sunday, September 24

10:00 AM - "ST. PAUL AND POWER" led by lay minister Warren Hagstrom. How the Christian congregation at Corinth in the first century CE was similar to, and different from, Prairie.
11:30 AM - PARENT COFFEE for parents of the K-1-2 class.

Monday, September 25

7:30 PM - BOARD MEETING at the meeting house.

Thursday, September 28

12:00 N - CHANNING—MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'. Guest Dorothy Gosting (from the Madison Texas Border Support Group) will speak on "Detention of Central American Children at the Border".

Sunday, October 1

10:00 AM - "BIBLE STORIES—GOOD, BAD, AND AWFUL" led by lay minister Warren Hagstrom.
11:30 AM - PARENT COFFEE for parents of the 3-4-5 class.

Thursday, October 5

12:00 N - CHANNING—MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.

Friday, October 6

7:30 PM - FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO: "Running on Empty".

Thursday, October 12

12:00 N - CHANNING—MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.

Friday, October 13

5:00 PM - Upham Woods Retreat Begins with a Potluck Dinner after work at Camp Upham Woods. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. (See related story in this issue.)



...As the prairie stretches out until it 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

NEWS & VIEWS

Can a U-U be a Christian?

The adult program for September 17, "CAN A U-U BE A CHRISTIAN?" was stimulated by Cinda LaMar's report about the General Assembly in August. Cinda reported that some U-U Christians at the GA expressed unhappiness with their status, or lack of it, in the Association. Some of our members expressed surprise that Christians would want to be U-Us, or vice versa, and the ensuing discussion threatened to take up the rest of Cinda's service. Come prepared to share your views on the topic. What about Christianity and Unitarian-Universalism makes it possible or difficult for a U-U to be a Christian?

-Warren Hagstrom

St. Paul and Power

The adult service Sept. 24 takes off from Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians. That congregation was a fractious bunch, disagreeing about a variety of things—not so unlike Prairie. And people used a variety of tricks to get their way—some of them not in our repertoire, like speaking in tongues. But maybe we could try... (If there's time, we might have something to say about another aspect of power, relations with the state. This could take off from Paul's Epistle to the Romans, "The powers that be are ordained by God.")

-Warren Hagstrom

Fall Equinox Celebration

Madison's Four Lakes Circle of CUUPs (Covenant of U-U Pagans) invites all Prairie members to our fall equinox/Harvest Home celebration on **Friday, Sept. 22nd, at 6:30 PM** in the West Living Room at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The celebration will feature meditations, chanting, and (most important!) a Harvest Home potluck dinner. **Children are welcome.** Parents, please bring a favorite game or toy to help your children stay comfortable and happy. This is much more a PARTY than a religious service and we'd like you to come, have fun, and get to know us better. Call Dick or Julie at 274-3248 for information.

Upham Woods Retreat

This is our chance to spend a weekend as a Prairie Community in a lovely natural setting along the Wisconsin River. The program includes discussions, crafts, sports, and outdoor activities as well as singing, dancing, and a talent show. We try to take into account the needs of all ages in planning activities. Please let Peg Stevenson, who is looking for both ideas and volunteers to carry them out on that weekend, know what you would particularly like to have us offer and what activities you would be willing to lead or help with. Call Peg at 233-6449.

Membership Committee Needs Members!

There are many activities to help with, including (but not limited to) setting up coffee for the service, greeting visitors, helping with potlucks, organizing Circle Dinners, working on the semi-annual directory, and so on. If you are interested, please call Anne Urbanski, Membership Chair, at 258-8269 after 6 PM or on weekends.

Friday Night Video

Starting Friday night, Oct. 6th, at 7:30 PM, and every first Friday night of the month thereafter, Prairie will show an interesting movie, TV commentary, or other compelling VCR feature. The shows will be followed by group discussions.

The video presentations will deal with subjects of religious, philosophical, and political interest, generally with a humanistic flavor. We plan to show such features as "Religion and Politics in Central America", "Exploring Psychic Powers", "The U. S. Secret Government", and such movies as "El Norte", "Salaam Bombay", "Missing", and others of similar nature.

At our first meeting on Oct. 6th, we will show the film "Running on Empty", an excellent movie about a 1960's couple who participated in a Sterling Hall type bombing during the Viet Nam war, and who have since been on the run from the F. B. I.

Come join us at **Friday Night Video.**
George Calden

Spanish Speakers Potluck

Several people who speak some Spanish and would like to speak more have been meeting informally once a month. Usually, we have a potluck meal and try to stick to conversation in Spanish only (for better or worse!) for at least an hour.

We'd welcome additions to our group, especially since not everyone can make it every time. We aren't a really 'clubby' group, nor are we many in number (six at a meal is a lot!). Neither are we intimidating—a wide range of Spanish is spoken and at various skill levels. We talk about food, ourselves, trips to Spanish-speaking countries, and anything else that we have the vocabulary for. Nobody gives—or receives—grades. We try to help one another out. It works pretty well. Most of us feel we've gained in confidence (and even ability) from our meetings.

We usually plan meetings based on the schedules of whoever wants to come. So, if you think you might like to try us out, give Orton Gray (273-4041) a call. (We haven't met in Sept. yet but will probably set a day very soon.)

Finance Committee Needs Project Manager

Prairie has found an excellent means of raising money. We assumed the role of Travel Agent, and in the last two years have organized six day trips which have netted Prairie approximately \$4,000. Organizing these trips is neither difficult nor terribly time consuming and it can be rather enjoyable, especially the travel portion of the work. The problem is that two people, already overcommitted, are handling all of the details and both of them have physical limitations which make some of the necessary standing and movement difficult. We desperately need a volunteer or two who would 1) serve as the referral when people phone for additional details about the trips (requires someone at home most of the time or with an answering machine and a good telephone personality); 2) receive reservations and mail instructions and confirmations; 3) act as the host/hostess on the bus and make the trip (requires good organizational skills and a winning, people-oriented, outgoing personality. If you are interested in managing this major fundraising activity for Prairie, call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 between 10 AM and 6 PM.

Playreaders 1989-90

Play Schedule

Please cut and post this for future reference. We hope this schedule will help you avoid conflicts when planning other events. The Playreaders meet once a month at members' homes. Everyone is welcome to attend at any event. Neither a commitment to the group, theatrical experience, talent, nor any pre-reading of the play is required. All you need is an enjoyment of literature and theater, an enjoyment of open discussions, and the desire to get together for a social evening. Information on dates and locations will be printed in the **Prairie Fire** about two weeks prior to each meeting. Please join us if you can.

- Sept. 23: Hostess- Pat Meller; Play- Ira Wallach's Absence of a Cello, or Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes.
- Oct. 21: Hostess- Rosemary Dorney; Play- something by August Strindberg.
- Nov. 18: Hostess- Pat Watkins; Play- Milan Stitt's The Runner Stumbles or Edward Albee's Tiny Alice.
- Dec. 16: Hosts- Dick & Julie Bonser; Play- to be announced.
- Jan. 20: Hostess- Donna Murdock; Play- T. S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party or Tennessee Williams' Summer and Smoke.
- Feb. 17: Hostess- Pat Cautley; Play- to be announced.
- Mar. 24: Hostess- May Fraydas; Play- Woody Allen's Play It Again, Sam or a play by Wendy Wasserstein or Tina Howe.
- April 21: Hosts- Al & Aileen Nettleton; Play- to be announced.
- May 18: Hostess- Lori Pederson; Play- George Bernard Shaw's Back to Methuselah, Act I. This is also the day for the Playreaders annual fish fry.
- June 16: Hostess- Margaret Lawrence; Play- to be announced.

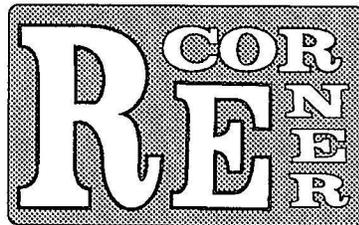
In July and August, the Playreaders do not meet.



Channing-Murray, the University of Wisconsin Student Unitarian-Universalist group, meets every Thursday at noon. On September 14, guest Randy Bennett will speak on 'The Mormon Religion'. On Sept. 28th, guest Dorothy Gosting (from the Madison Texas Border Support Group) will speak on "Detention of Central American Children at the Border". Wednesday evening dinner meetings will continue on the Union Terrace at 6PM. In bad weather, we meet inside near the big door to the Rathskellar.

Channing-Murray donut sales will be resuming in September at both First Unitarian Society and Prairie Society. This is the best way we've found so far to raise money to send young adults to General Assembly.

Channing Murray will travel to Sara and Alex Indorf's for a day of fun on Saturday, Sept. 30th. We'll car-pool and leave at noon from Cinda's, 2418 Kendall Ave. The drive to the Indorf's new home in Honey Creek, WI will take about two hours. A potluck picnic is planned for the evening meal. Alex and Sara have extended an invitation to stay overnight to those of you who wish to do so. Give Cinda a call (238-9884) if you're coming so she can get rides arranged and let the Indorfs know how many people to expect.



Welcome Back!

The RE program began anew on Sept. 10th. A registration/open house started off the morning, with 16 children registering in the program. 27 children actually attended.

As we've done in the past, the children joined the adults for the first 10-15 minutes of the service upstairs, after which they and their teachers went downstairs to their groups.

6-7-8:

The children/youths are divided into four age-based groups. The oldest, composed of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, meets with Erin Bosch and will be basing their year on the "The Church Across the Street" curriculum. In this program, the emphasis is on visiting other churches, synagogues, and temples, attending a service and speaking with members. The visits will be preceded and followed by discussions about that particular denomination, its beliefs, and practices.

On their first day, the middle schoolers focused on choosing the religious societies they will visit this year. They are: Catholic, Jehovah's Witnesses, Quaker, Moravian, Mennonite, Jewish, Buddhist, Seventh-Day Adventist, Lutheran, and Mormon.

3-4-5:

This group, led by Linda Nelson and Sharon Scratish, will be exploring Unitarian-Universalism this year. The first few weeks will each be based on the U. U. principles successively.

This great group of artists had a lot of fun making wonderful name tags and singing along with George Calden on their first day.

K-1-2:

This active group will be focusing on homes and their many variations for the fall. Led by Karen Gross and Dean Schroeder, they began the semester on the theme of "Your House". They sang songs to get to know each other, saw a film strip on homes, and played a 'dragon game' at the park on a beautiful sun-filled morning.

Planet Earth as our home and feeling at home in our bodies, especially learning how to handle different emotions, will be themes for upcoming Sundays.

Preschool:

Teacher Anna Nettleton spent a great morning with lone preschooler Katie Skog. They talked and colored and made personalized place mats.

Activities and themes form the "Growing Times" curriculum will be the basis for this group's semester.

Where in the World Were We?

A group activity enjoyed by both children and adults the first day of the semester was locating on two maps sites visited during

the summer. Come downstairs and see where we've all been and add your own travels to our montage.

-Anne Pryor
R. E. Director

Miscellany

Changes:

-of Phone Number- Linda Ellen has a new phone number. You can reach her at 233-6960.

-of Address- Annis Pratt is back in Madison for the school year. Her new Madison address is 2602 Arbor Drive #234, Madison, WI 53711. Her new phone number is 238-8596. Please add these changes to your copy of the directory.

Preschool Coordinator Needed

Prairie's R. E. Program needs a new Preschool Coordinator. The duties of this position include:

Planning and leading Sunday morning activities for nursery and preschool children from September through May. Supervise teenage assistant. Provide lots of love and joy to the children each Sunday.

SALARY: \$12.00 per Sunday.

A detailed job description is available upon request. If interested contact Anne Pryor, R. E. Director, at 244-7099.

Looking Ahead—

November 16-19: YRUU/UU-UNO Youth Conference on Disarmament.

Host Family Needed—

Dean and Orange Schroeder are looking for a family with a teenager to host a Danish teenager, Pernille Bengtsen, for the 1990-91 school year. Pernille is an enthusiastic, outgoing young woman who speaks excellent English. Dean and Orange feel she would have the best American experience in a home with kids her own age (16). If you are interested, please call Dean and Orange at 256-8813.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

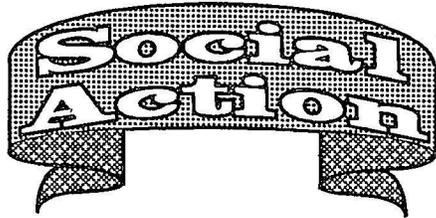
We are writing to ask you to please return the Prairie Smoke to the masthead of the Prairie Fire. We have always appreciated it for its beauty and appropriateness to the design. Furthermore, we especially enjoy Prairie Smoke because, both as seeds and blossoms, it is one of our favorite desserts, the flavor being so wonderfully delicate...

Yours truly,
Cheeky, Charity, and family



Sorry, Cheeky. It just doesn't fit in the masthead any more. Here's a copy of it for you though. Is there a place for it somewhere else in the Prairie Fire? What do other Praire people think?

-Ed.



Share With Our 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. If you have food and the Meeting House isn't open, or if you have fresh or frozen food, please call Shirley Grindrod. She will take it to the families.

Minority Women's'

Perspectives...

The perspectives of Wisconsin's minority women on women's issues are provided in a 1989 book edited by Carolyn M. Dejoie (a Prairie member). The purpose of the 86 page book is to heighten awareness of the diversity among minority women, particularly with regard to women's issues.

