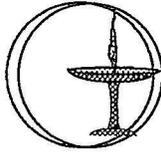


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# Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian - Universalist Society

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

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244-7099  
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To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call 274-3248

## Vol. 27, No. 20, 11-7-89

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, November 19th. Submit items for November 23rd - December 7th, 1989.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, November 9

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'. Madison area CUUPs members will be the special guests. (see related story)

### Friday November 10

CMD Annual Meeting begins in Rockford, IL through Sunday, Nov. 12th.

### Sunday, November 12

10:00 AM - "A PERSONAL VIEW OF BUDDHISM" by Richard Ringler.  
11:30 AM - POTLUCK DINNER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
1:00 PM - FALL PARISH MEETING including adoption of the budget for 1990.

### Thursday, November 16

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.  
7:30 PM - HOUSING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETS at the meetinghouse.

### Saturday November 18

7:30 PM - PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Watkins.

### Sunday, November 19

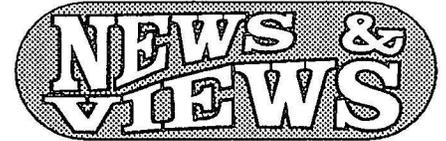
10:00 AM - "U-U's AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS-ARE WE STILL ALL THAT DIFFERENT?" coordinated by Warren Hagstrom with assistance from middle school students and Erin Bosch.  
11:30 AM - R. E. COMMITTEE MEETING—note change of date!  
6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY DINNER at First Unitarian Society Meetinghouse. (see related story)

### Monday, November 20

7:30 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the meetinghouse.

### Friday, December 1

7:30 PM - FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO: "Religion and Politics in Central America"



## Relieve Your Guilt...

If you have not been contacted about pledging to support Prairie, or if you have not yet returned your pledge form, please think carefully about the importance of Prairie to you. Prairie needs your financial support as well as your physical participation. Send in your pledge to the Finance Committee, c/o Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St., Madison, WI 53705.

## Thanks to the Caregivers!

The following people have signed up to wash dishes and clean up after coffee time on Sundays:

Nov. 12 Maria Hansa, David Ogren (extra help will be needed this day due to the Potluck Dinner scheduled!)  
Nov. 19 Leland Bullen, Alice Bullen  
Nov. 26 Mike Sheehy, ??  
Dec. 3 Donna Murdoch, Rachel Siegfried

## Auction News

**Good News!** The Prairie Auction held on Nov. 4th sold virtually all of the special objects and services donated by Prairie members and friends. It was a resounding success, netting a total of \$1,196.95!

...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

Many people helped with it, donating services, food, energy, and time—and we thank you all. In addition, it was a lot of fun with Marty Drapkin as auctioneer (who knew just how to coax us to raise the offer), and a lively group of members and friends to cheer each other on.

## A Personal View of Buddhism

Our guest on Sunday, November 12, will be Richard Ringle, professor of English and Scandinavian Studies at the UW, and winner of distinguished teaching awards. Richard is also a practicing Buddhist, and, not coincidentally, a leading peace activist in Madison. He will give us a personal view of Buddhism.

## Special Board Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the Prairie Board during the potluck meal at 11:30 AM on Nov. 12 to consider the recommended budget for 1990. All board members should plan to attend and sit together.

## Nominees for Vacant Positions

The following names have been submitted in nomination for the vacant positions on the Board:

- Vice President— Bill Robbins
- Denom. Affairs— Cinda LaMar
- Committee on Committees— Rachel Siegfried

## Fall Parish Meeting

The regular fall parish business meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, at 1:00 PM following the morning service and a potluck dinner.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Approval of minutes.
2. Committee reports.
3. Election of:
  - Vice President
  - Denominational Affairs chair
  - Committee on Committees member
4. Consideration of the 1990 Budget.

## Are We Different?

This fall our middle school students have been visiting other churches in Madison. They will share their observa-

tions and ideas with us in the first part of the service. Warren will summarize some research about changes in other denominations in recent decades that make them more like us in some respects. Members of the congregation are invited to share their experiences in these regards—about dogmatism, orthodoxy, sexism, the authority of the clergy, and so forth.

## Help With the Nifty Gifty!

One of our annual events is the Nifty Gifty, at which our children have an opportunity to make gifts for family members using recycled materials as an alternative to commercial holiday shopping. This is an excellent opportunity for adults to share their talents and interests with children through a hands-on activity. This year the Nifty Gifty will be on Sunday morning, December 10th.

If you have an idea for a way to use recycled materials to make a 'nifty gift', or if you are interested in helping kids on a specific project, we need you! This includes both adults and high schoolers. Planning will begin soon. Please contact Anne Pryor (244-7099) or Michelle Honoré (837-0409) with your suggestions and offers of help.

## Strike Up the Band!

We had our first practice and presentation at Upham Woods and we can't wait any longer to do it again—strike up the Prairie Band! Any one who plays an instrument—guitar, accordion, french horn, trumpet, clarinet, harmonica, you name it!—is invited to come each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM to practice a few numbers. We'll start the first Sunday in December. Mike Briggs will be our convener. Call Mike (256-3445) or Mary Mullen (271-5192) if you have any questions.

## Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual Members and Friends of Prairie

You are invited to a soup supper and brainstorming session to help Fredericka Schilling and Mary Mullen prepare for their lay ministry which is tentatively entitled "Positively Lesbian and Gay." Meet at Fredericka and Mary's, 4337 Milford Road, at 6:30 PM on Thursday, Nov. 16th. Call a day or two

ahead so we can make enough soup. If you can't come, please make your ideas/concerns known before then in person or by telephone—271-5192. Straight folk are also invited to make suggestions to Fredericka and Mary prior to this meeting.

## What's Your Opinion?

What do you think about Gays/Lesbians/Bisexuals in UUism? Lay ministers Fredericka Schilling and Mary Mullen request that each Prairie member and friend fill out a survey on the subject. The survey, which was used throughout our denomination in 1987, is available at Prairie on Sundays or you can call Mary or Fredericka at 271-5192 to have a questionnaire mailed to you. Please return them before Thanksgiving day, November 23rd.



Guest speakers at the noon lunch on November 9th will be members of CUUPs (Covenant of U-U Pagans) in the Madison area.

The Sunday dinner and program on Nov. 19th will feature guest Jack Thornburg, who recently returned from St. Lucia in the West Indies. He will talk with us about his experiences living and working on St. Lucia. The dinner will be at 6:00 PM at the First Unitarian Society meetinghouse, 900 University Bay Drive.

Channing-Murray, the University of Wisconsin Student Unitarian - Universalist group, meets every Thursday at noon. Wednesday evening dinner meetings will be held at the Headliners Food Court next to Kinko's on University Avenue at 6PM. There's plenty of room for our group and we have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. We're usually done by 7:00 PM.

# RECORDER

## Preschool

This class consistently enjoys a low child-adult ratio with typically one or two children attending per Sunday. Because of this the leader, Anna Nettleton, is able to plan activities that are fairly involved for this age. For instance, for Halloween the group carved pumpkins and then roasted and feasted on the seeds. The week before, the children traced their body shapes onto long sheets of paper and then painted their images, first having helped to make the liquid paint. During this past Sunday morning, the group cut and pasted animal pictures into collage form and then played some favorite games.

## K-1-2

The curriculum for this level deals with all types of metaphors for "homes". One's body as a home is a concept discussed by the children and leader, Dean Schroeder. One discussion centered on the importance of good nutrition in order to keep one's body-home healthy. That day the children baked pumpkin muffins using fresh pumpkin. The idea of one's first home being the mother's womb was illustrated with pictures of how fetuses develop, and highlighted by making ingenious replicas of an embryo inside a mom by using hard boiled eggs inside paper cups decorated to look like baby and mother.

For Halloween, Karen Gross led the children in sharing scary stories and making animal masks. Thanks go to parent helpers Linda Sheehy and Tamara Lee.

## 3-4-5

Sharon Scattish and Linda Nelson continue to explore UU beliefs and principles through stories, games, and activities. For the principle "We believe that everyone should have a vote about the things that concern them", the group created a beautiful ballot box and

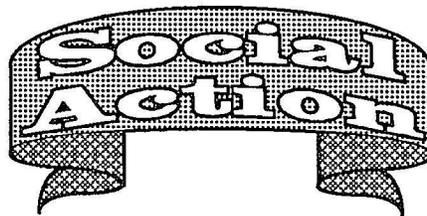
voted on what activity they should do as a class. Making cards for nursing home residents was the eventual winner.

To illustrate that "We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world", the story of Sadako was discussed and the children practiced making origami paper cranes. A walk through the Arboretum, complete with the children sketching what they saw as beautiful, was the first in a series of activities for the principle "We believe in caring for our planet, Earth."

## 6-7-8

The latest church visited and discussed by this group was *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*. Impressions of the visit focussed on the huge size of the building and congregation, the fact that one of the ministers is a woman, and that there is an effort there to eradicate gender-based language when referring to God. Thanks to Lindy McGraw for assisting leader Erin Bosch with transportation.

The group is in the process of creating a church trivia quiz based on what they've discovered through their travels this semester. This quiz will be given to Prairie adults during a morning service in the near future.



## 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 Fredericka Schilling (271-5192). She will take it to the families.

## UNICEF Cards

### Available at Prairie

Beginning Sunday, October 29th, UNICEF Christmas cards will be available at Prairie, both for sale and for ordering in case we run out of the kind you want.

All of the money paid for these cards goes directly to UNICEF, which has a very extensive program to help the world's children - teaching mothers how to prevent dehydration due to diarrhoea, immunizing children against communicable diseases, helping establish clean water supplies, and many other services.

## Clothing and Toys Needed

I work with teenage parents who are always in need of infant clothing and toys. I can accept donations of clean clothing for infants from birth to 3 years. Toys should be for that age group also. Call Fredericka Schilling at 271-5192 if you can contribute, or bring your items to Prairie on any Sunday.

## Recycling

We're back in business! There are 4 containers in the backyard garbage can enclosure. They are labeled "Prairie Recycling" and contents are labeled 'clear glass', 'colored glass', 'plastic', and 'aluminum'. Acceptable items include:

Glass (clear or colored): must be rinsed, no metal lids or caps.

Aluminum: cans, foil, pie tins, must be rinsed or washed.

Plastic: milk and 2 liter pop bottles, detergent, anti-freeze, shampoo bottles, etc. must be rinsed, no caps or lids.

**PLEASE NOTE: NO FOOD CONTAINERS ARE ACCEPTABLE** —(ie- yogurt, ketchup, icecream, butter, etc.). They have seven (7) different layers of plastic and can't be recycled!!

We still have an account at Recycle Worlds (2701 Packers Ave., 244-5451) if it's hard to bring your things to Prairie. When you drop your things off, say it's for Prairie Society. Or you can take your things to the recycling center of your choice and send the money to Barb Park (W 10804 Wildwood Way, Poynette, WI 53955-9471). Questions? Call Judy Skog at 273-4813 evenings.

## Other Ongoing Social Action Projects

Don't forget to visit your Red Cross Blood Donor Center regularly to do your part for the UU one a week donors club. We need 52 pints per year between Prairie and First Unitarian Society, and you can help!

The homeless families at the YWCA need personal hygiene articles just as much as ever, and they can't spend food stamps for such things even if there was enough left after buying food to cover the cost. For more details about what is needed, contact Judy Skog at the above phone number.



### Looking Ahead—

November 10–12: CMD Annual Meeting, in Rockford, IL, Registration due by Nov. 1, 1989.

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

April 20–25, 1990: U U Women's Convocation, Lake Geneva, WI.

June 21–26, 1990: UUA General Assembly, Milwaukee, WI.

### Address Change

Terry Krause reports that she has a new address:

1841 Sheridan Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
Phone: 244-8707

Please update your directory with this information.

## GA Planning Underway

The 1990 General Assembly will meet in Milwaukee, WI, from June 21st to June 26th. The theme will be *Sound The Chorus of Faith*. Many volunteers will be needed to staff a convention with 3,000 delegates, and recruiting will begin soon after the first of the year. Our district's responsibility will be in welcoming and taking care of the delegates and other U–Us who will be attending. Materials will be distributed in early winter describing the volunteer process and the huge variety of jobs that we need to fill.

### Absent Friends

David and Marcia Johnson have written to let Prairie friends know that they are enjoying their new life as Peace Corps Volunteers in Paraguay. They are living with a poor Paraguayan family and currently in a rigorous 12 week training program with 33 other volunteers.

After the training program, Marcia and David will be assigned to a rural village where Marcia will set up a head start program, recruiting parents and teaching them to teach. David will be working with farmers and small business people, trying to help them become more efficient. David will also be building his famous solar cooker as a demonstration model. (For more details, call Ruth or George Calden at 233-5717) Letters can be sent to:

David and Marcia Johnson PCT  
Cuerpo de Paz  
Chaco Boreal No. 162  
c/o Meal Lopez  
Asunción, Paraguay