

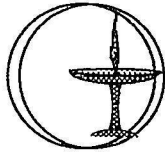
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 27, No. 21, 11-21-89

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, December 3rd. Submit items for December 7th—December 21st, 1989.

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 23

Channing-Murray Thanksgiving Dinner, at the home of Catherine Ramsey and Tom Ball, 726 W. Main St., Apt. #303.

Sunday, November 26

10:00 AM - "FRUITS OF OUR LABOR", an intergenerational Thanksgiving service led by Julie Bonser. We will share apples (a harvest symbol) as part of the service. (see related story)

Thursday, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

7:30 PM - FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO: "Religion and Politics in Central America". (see related story)

Sunday, December 3

9:00 AM - PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE, at the Meeting-house. (see related story)
10:00 AM - "NO WAR TOYS", an intergenerational service led by Anne Pryor.

Thursday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 10

9:00 AM - PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE, at the Meeting-house.
10:00 AM - NIFTY GIFTY for R.E. students in the downstairs classrooms. (see related story)
10:00 AM - "SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE HOMOPHOBIA TO ME", led by Mary Mullen and Fredricka Schilling.

Monday, December 11

7:00 PM - SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meeting-house. (see related story)

Thursday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 17

9:00 AM - PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE, at the Meeting-house.
10:00 AM - "BETTER GAY THAN GRUMPY—But what about the rest of the family?" by Mary Mullen and Fredricka Schilling

Thursday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 24

10:00 AM - To be announced.

Sunday, December 31

10:00 AM - To be announced.

NEWS & VIEWS

Thanksgiving, or Harvest
Home, has been a time to reflect on those things we are thankful for at this season. It is also a celebration of the harvest of our endeavors. This Sunday at Prairie, we will have a chance to celebrate the "Fruits of Our Labors" by sharing our thoughts about the 'seeds' we have sown and what we have

...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

received as a harvest in return. Please bring an apple or two to share during the service.

—Julie Bonser

Eric Hagstrom's

MFA Show Opens!

Prairie Members are invited to the opening of Eric Hagstrom's MFA show, Saturday, December 2nd, at 7:00 PM in the 7th floor gallery in the Humanities Building, 455 North Park St. The exhibition of prints and masks, "The Revenge of the Forest", can be seen from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM between December 1st and December 8th.

Friday Night Video

The Video Tape scheduled for December 1 is "Religion and Politics in Central America". Last week, six Jesuit priests were tortured and murdered in El Salvador. Priests and nuns who identify with the poor are harassed and threatened with death in Guatemala and Honduras. On the other hand, evangelical fundamentalists and Mormon missionaries are welcomed by repressive governments. Join us to view this interesting film that discusses the role of God and government in Central America.

—George Calden

Strike Up the Band!

We have 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 questions.

Thanks to the Caregivers!

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

Nov. 26 Mike Sheehy, ??
Dec. 3 Donna Murdoch, Rachel Siegfried

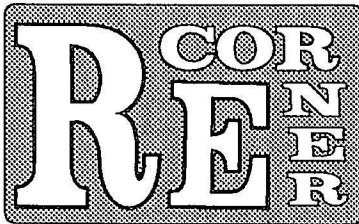
Help With the Nifty Gifty!

If you are interested in helping kids on a specific project, we need you! This includes both adults and high schoolers. 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 year the Nifty Gifty will be on Sunday morning, December 10th.

This is an excellent opportunity for adults to share their talents and interests with children through a hands-on activity. We need shoeboxes and small jars such as baby food jars for this year's gifts. Please contact Anne Pryor (244-7099) or Michelle Honoré (837-0409) with your donations and offers of help.

Spanish Speakers' Potluck

Prairie's Spanish speakers will hold their monthly potluck on Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 PM at the Meetinghouse. The group is an informal group with all levels of ability represented. Everyone is welcome! Please call Orton Gray at 273-4041 and tell him what food you'd like to bring to the potluck. (It doesn't have to be Hispanic!)



IN THE BEGINNING of November, the R.E. teachers and director met to survey the year to date. All feel pleased and satisfied with the fall semester, especially with the wonderful children attending, the support received from parents, and the rather consistent high attendance. This last factor, having a core set of children who attend R.E. sessions regularly, can be a true aid to the R.E. teachers, allowing for continuity between classes and for the development of community. We appreciate efforts made by families to regularly come on Sunday mornings.

At that meeting, we also decided to have an R.E.-wide party on December 17th. Rarely do all the different R.E. groups combine for joint projects or celebrations. Nifty Gifty, on December 10th, will be the first such interaction of the semester. The following Sunday, the 17th, will follow suit with a special end-of-the-semester, all-ages-of-R.E.-kids, holiday party. *Music, singing, cooperative art projects, and tasty snacks are planned.* It should be fun! More details will be forthcoming as the time draws nearer.

Interim:

If anyone has a particular skill or interest that could be developed into a program to share with Prairie's children, please contact Anne Pryor. Interim Session, the time between fall and spring R.E. semesters, is approaching. She will be recruiting adults to spend a morning leading a participatory session on a favorite theme: baking, dance, theater, ceramics, photography, another culture, carpentry, recycling, **WHATEVER!** Interim will include the first two weeks in January.

Preschool

The preschoolers are playing lots these days, with puppets, blocks, castles, and outdoors as weather permits. They've also decorated the downstairs bulletin board with hand-traced turkeys for Thanksgiving.

K-1-2

This group has recently looked at the topics of families and death. On families, they discussed all the various forms families come in and talked about gathering as a family for the holidays.

On the topic of death, the group sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", read the stories "The Angel", "The Little Match Girl", and "The Mountains of Tibet". The first two gave a classic Christian depiction of heaven. The last spoke of reincarnation, offering an alternative view of life after death. The children drew pictures of their own choosing: the little match girl, graves in a cemetery, and hill, and participated in discussions of the themes.

3-4-5

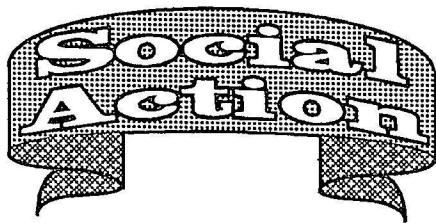
Because they enjoyed their first trip to the Arboretum so much, this group went again, picnicking in a favorite site

and gathering items from the natural world with which to decorate a wreath. This was in relation to the principle dealing with caring for planet Earth.

Again based on a principle previously covered, that of democratic participation, the group made holiday cards to send to nursing home residents. They also wrote letters to President Bush voicing their concerns on acid rain, deforestation of tropical rain forests, the war in El Salvador, and drugs.

6-7-8

The middle schoolers visited the Society of Friends' meeting and experienced a type of service quite different from Prairie's! They also presented a delightful and very informative service to Prairie's adults about their new-found knowledge of other religious denominations in Madison.



The Friendly Supper

Club is a gathering of people of all colors to break bread together. It meets on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is at the South Town Bonanza Restaurant on December 4th at 6:30 PM. Come out and join the group—bring a friend or make a new one!

Drop-In Shelter

Volunteers Needed

Prairie has just lost two regular volunteers for work at the Drop-In Shelter: Malcolm Williamson and Danielle Wellander. To keep a large enough roster so that each volunteer is called on only every third month, we need to replace them. Prairie staffs the shelter on the fourth Monday of each month (and the Tuesday morning after). There are three shifts: 8 PM to 12, 12 to 5 AM and 5 to 8 AM. One person on the first shift should arrive early (7:30 PM) to help set up for the evening meal and can leave at 11:30 PM instead of 12:00.

Volunteers are urged to bring a jug of milk as a donation (the milk of human kindness!). They ask for 2% milk if possible. If you think you might be interested, I'd be happy to answer questions about the work.

—Lee Bullen

UNICEF Collection

Prairie's young people collected a total of \$68.00 for UNICEF as part of the Halloween 'Trick or Treat for Unicef' drive. Here's a **big Thank You** for all the children and parents who helped with the collection. The money will be used by UNICEF to improve clean water availability for villages in Africa.

—Alice Bullen, Unicef coordinator

Nonviolence: Israeli & Palestinian Perspectives

Amos Gvirtz is an *Israeli pacifist*, active with the *International Fellowship of*

Reconciliation and its local affiliate, Israelis and Palestinians for Nonviolence, as well as with War Resisters International. He works on the Kibbutz and spends much of his time organizing and writing about peace and justice issues.

Nafez Assailey is *acting Director* of the *Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence* in East Jerusalem. A pacifist who also works with Israelis and Palestinians for Nonviolence, Nafez has helped respond to needs of West Bank Palestinians.

Nafez and Amos have worked together on various occasions. They have a wonderful rapport and very similar personalities. They will appear in Madison on **Friday, Nov. 24th at 1:00 PM** and on **Saturday, Nov. 25th at 6:00 PM** at the **Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court**. For more information, contact Joan Raducha at (608/231-2392).

