Vol. 27, No. 22, 12-5-89
The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, December 17th. Submit items for December 21st—January 4, 1990.

Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.

Saturday, December 16
7:30 PM—PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Dick and Julie Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive. (see related story)

Sunday, December 17
10:00 AM—"BETTER GAY THAN GRUMPY—But what about the rest of the family?", led by Mary Mullen and Fredricka Schilling.
11:15 AM—PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE, at the Meetinghouse.

Monday, December 18
6:45 PM—PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the meetinghouse.
7:30 PM—(tentative) PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the meetinghouse.

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—"INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION"

Sunday, December 31
10:00 AM—PRAIRIE WINTER SPORTS DAY

New Lay Ministry Begins
"Positively Lesbian and Gay" will be the title of a four Sunday mini series led by Fredericka Schilling and Mary Mullen. Mary, Fredericka and daughter Robin have lived as a family for the past five years. Fredericka, raised a Unitarian, has always been proud of her denomination's acceptance of diversity. She was drawn to do a lay ministry when she read the results of a 1987 UUA survey on lesbian and gay issues. Much to her surprise, the denomination nationally did not seem to be as accepting as expected. She sees this lay ministry as an opportunity to explore with her own congregation the joys and sorrows of living the gay life.

Mary, daughter of a United Methodist minister and missionary mother, has been a member of Prairie for a number of years. She has participated in many services at Prairie, including several on gay issues. She had noticed that there had been no services on gay issues for several years, so when Fredericka came home saying she had signed them up for a lay ministry, Mary enthusiastically joined in.

Both Fredericka and Mary are excited about sharing gay culture, history,
struggles and the U.U.A. guidelines for “The Welcoming Congregation". Topics to be included are homophobia, family issues, history, music, gay pride, and Unitarianism.

The two December services will be on the 10th and the 17th. The lay ministry will conclude with services on January 14th and 21st. Middle school students are especially welcome to come and see how their church can be a welcoming congregation.

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 to practice a few numbers. We’ll start the first Sunday in December. Check the calendar to find out when practice time is. Mike Briggs will be our convener. Call Mike (256-3445) or Mary Mullen (271-5192) if you have questions.

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!)

Prairie Playreaders Meet
The Prairie Playreaders is an informal group of Prairie members and friends who enjoy plays and meet once a month to read (or to listen to) a play chosen by the host for the month. There are no requirements. Some of us are ‘closet’ actors or actresses. Some just like to read aloud, some just like to listen. This is your invitation, gentle reader, to join us for mutual pleasure, exquisite goodies, and a few laughs in the reading of “A Majority of One”, a comedy by Leonard Spigelgass. We’ll meet at 7:30 PM on December 16th at the home of Dick and Julie Bonser, 5213 Millard Drive, Madison.

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.

Channing-Murray will hold an Informal Music Evening on Sunday, December 10th, at the First Unitarian Society meetinghouse, 900 University Bay Drive. There will be solos by Tom Ball, Sam Bates and Elizabeth Alexander as well as group singing. We’ll order out for pizza (estimated cost $2-3 each). Call Cinda (238-9884) for information.

Congratulations to Rory Nelson and David Pritchitt on the announcement of their engagement and upcoming wedding on June 9th, 1990.

Congratulations also to Geoff Bonser on his recent election to the Channing-Murray Board.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society 1989-90 Membership Survey

December 1, 1989
The Membership Committee is surveying Prairie members both in the Madison area and elsewhere to determine the official number of members to be reported to UUA headquarters in Boston by February 1, 1990. Please take a few moments to fill in the form below, even if you are an “old hand” and attend every week, as it will help us to have this record for all of our members in the Madison area.

Name(s) __________________________ Phone (____) __________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _______ Zip ________________

Children (Names and Birthdays—under 18 only)
(1) ____________________________ (2) ____________________________
(3) ____________________________ (4) ____________________________

Special talent(s) you wish to share (drama, dance, playing an instrument, computer skills, bookkeeping skills, woodworking, etc.):

Please either drop your completed form in the “Membership Survey” box at Prairie or mail it to: Anne Urbanski, Attn: Prairie Membership, 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison, WI 53703

Please respond by Sunday, January 14th, 1990 at the latest! THANK YOU!!
Emergency Relief Needed
UUSC asks our help in sending immediate Emergency Relief to El Salvador. 300,000 persons have been displaced, many have no food, water, or medicine. UUSC is in a position to deliver immediate aid to these people but needs our donations to help cover the cost. There will be a special collection for this purpose on Sunday, December 10th.

Guest At Your Table
Lee Bullen distributed 'Guest At Your Table' boxes several weeks ago. If you took one home, it's now time to return it, full. Please bring the boxes and your contributions to Prairie next Sunday, December 10th, and give them to Lee so he can send the money to the UU Service Committee.

Share Your Good Fortune
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 fresh or frozen food, please call Fredericka Schilling at 271-5192. She will take it to the families.

The box has been almost empty lately. If each of us added just one item to our shopping list for these folk, it would help them immensely without burdening any of us. Foods that are especially welcome include milk, fresh fruit, eggs, meat, canned fruit and veggies and easy to fix dinners. These families also need shampoo, toothpaste, soap and other personal and home care products. Remember our neighbors when you go shopping!

Comfort For Sale!
Stay warm with this fine wood stove. Ideal as a supplemental heat source or for use in a cabin. Price: $225.00 or best offer, including the woodpile! Call Lee Urbanek at 258-8269, evenings.

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.
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<td>Prairie Winter Sports Day</td>
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