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Editor  
Prairie U.U. Society  
5213 Milward Drive  
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# Prairie Fire



**Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society**  
2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

Richard Bonser, Editor .....274-3248      Anne Pryor, R. E. Director .....244-7099  
Jack Jallings, President .....835-3746      Meeting House .....271-8218  
To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call 274-3248

## Vol. 28, No. 4, 2-13-90

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, February 25th. Submit items for March 1-March 15, 1990.

# CALENDAR

### Thursday, February 15

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union".  
7:00 PM - "GODDESS OF A THOUSAND NAMES"; a presentation sponsored by the Madison CUUPS chapter. (see related story)

### Saturday, February 17

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent Street (West of Hilldale). The play will be Peter Ustinov's "Halfway Up the Tree", a farce written during the 60's.

### Sunday, February 18

10:00 AM - "OUT OF OUR HANDS; the Handcrafts of Prairie People", led by Orange Schroeder. (see related story)

11:30 AM - Prairie Band Practice  
12:00 N - RE COMMITTEE MEETS for lunch at the home of Al and Aileen Nettleton.  
6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY'S 'EXPERIMENTAL COOKING' DINNER and program will be held at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. (see related story)

### Monday, February 19

7:30 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the meetinghouse. New members welcomed!

### Tuesday, February 20

7:30 PM - SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meet at the meetinghouse.

### Thursday, February 22

12:00 N - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on "Today In The Union". Special guest will be Ruth Gibson, MRE at First Society, who will talk about a unique "Unitarian Universalist Who's Who".

### Sunday, February 25

10:00 AM - "GOOD TIME MUSIC" featuring Mike Briggs and some 'mystery guests'. Part of Orange Schroeder's Biophilia lay ministry. (see related story)

11:30 AM - Prairie Band Practice  
2:00 PM - Dunn's Marsh Nbrhd. Assn. meeting, featuring Mary Mullen's "History of Dunn's Marsh". (see related story)

### Monday, February 26

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE BOARD meets at the meetinghouse. All members welcome to attend.

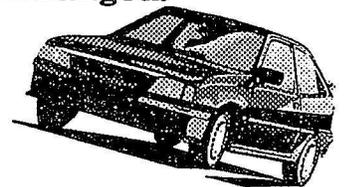
### Tuesday, February 27

6:00 PM - FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK. The first meeting will be at the Sheehy's, 620 Piper Drive, Madison. All skill levels are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

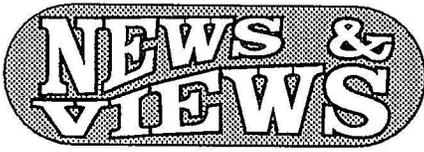
### Thursday, March 1

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

**Channing-Murray students are especially invited to join us at Prairie for Sunday Service and coffee. Rides can be arranged!**



*...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*



## A Midwinter Lay Ministry

**"Out Of Our Hands"**, on February 18th, will be your opportunity to show off something that you have made, such as woodworking, needlework, painting, pottery, etc., if craft work is part of your life. Don't worry about how artistic your creation is — we want to focus on the pleasure it gave you to make it and the pride you feel at having completed it. (Please plan to bring only one piece of your work, clearly labeled with your name.) During the service we will talk about the joy of working with our hands, and ask those who wish to talk about their craft. We will also see a brief slide presentation on the special embroidery of the Hmong refugees.

**"Good Time Music"** on February 25th, which will feature Mike Briggs, the Prairie Orchestra and perhaps a few surprise musical guests, will allow us all to enjoy a medley of upbeat music guaranteed to set toes a-tapping and give the musicians and the audience an opportunity to talk about the joy music brings to the performer and to the listener.

Later in March, actor Ted Swetz of American Players Theater will share his passion for the theater with us and will answer our questions about the role drama and literature have in bringing pleasure and meaning to our lives.

## Band Practice Resumes

The Prairie Band will practice each Sunday after the service. Bring your guitars, trumpets, french horns, trombones, flutes, harmonicas, accordions, drums, or whatever else you play. We're an informal group that will perform at Prairie on occasion. Call Mary Mullen (271-5192) or Mike Briggs (238-1227) with any questions.

## A Good Idea ...

Why not copy a good idea? Anyone interested in starting an ongoing **French Speakers Potluck**, please contact Linda or Mike Sheehy at 273-3895. All levels of ability will be welcomed!

## Volunteers Clean Up

The following people have signed up to wash coffee cups, pots, etc. after Sunday services:

Feb. 18: John & Shirley Grindrod  
Feb. 25: Kevin & Sandy Hopkins  
Mar. 4: Donna Murdoch & Frank Iltis  
Mar. 11: Jack & Betty Jallings  
Mar. 18: David Ogren & Maria Hansa  
Mar. 25: ?? & ??  
Apr. 1: Al Nettleton & ??

## Favorite Things:

The following is an extremely condensed (arbitrarily selected) list of Prairie members' favorite things from Orange Schroeder's Feb. 11th service:

Ocean waves; rice pudding with raisins; Upham Woods; grandchildren; piano concertos; the smell of fresh bread; lilacs; riding my bike; good music; blueberries; parties with friends; great theater; sex; ethnic food; family; cotton shirts; driving fast; circle dinners; Farmers Market; cold beer on a hot day; Christmas; giggles; a good burp; Cardinals (the bird, not the team); reading; October; chocolate; old photographs; new romance; playing games; warm apple pie; London; canoe rides; sleeping; a baby's laugh; the first crocus; freedom; new people at Prairie; Beatles; quilts; rivers; motorcycles; full moon; moon shadows; rainbows; dancing; and singing.

Many of these appeared more than once. If we missed your favorite, we're sorry, but the list went twice around the room! It was fun discovering who else liked the same things that we did, too!

## Goddess of a Thousand Names

The Madison CUUPS chapter is cosponsoring this slide presentation exploring the herstory of Goddess Religions from the Paleolithic era to the present. The narrator will be Amber K., a Wiccan High Priestess and past First Officer of *Covenant of the Goddess*, an international confederation of covens. The slide show will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Feb. 15th, on the U. W. Campus. Check 'Today in the Union' at the Memorial Union for building and room number or call Linda at 233-6960

or Rick at 256-6165 for information. This is an educational and historical presentation jointly sponsored by Wiccan-Druid Student Outreach, Madison Area Pagan Alliance (MAPA), and CUUPS.

## Prairie Member Dies

Dorothy Lee Wetherby, a long time member of Prairie Society, died Tuesday, February 6th, by her own hand. She is survived by her mother, Lillian Wetherby, 620 3rd Street East, Willmar, MN 56201, her sons, Mark Oстераas, 2620 4th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN 55901, and John Oстераas, 3237 South Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306. Friends of hers who were unable to attend the memorial service at First Unitarian Society on February 11th may wish to correspond with her family. Dorothy had in the past been an energetic and creative member of the Society, and she will be missed.

## Finding Our Way to Grief

Many people I've talked to feel we need to meet and share our feelings of anger, guilt, relief, and confusion. We want to learn what events led to Dorothy's decision to die. Therefore, I have arranged for a staff person from the Crisis Intervention Unit of the Mental Health Center and a volunteer from Survivors of Suicide to facilitate a meeting at Prairie on Sunday, Feb. 18th at 1:00 PM. Please join us—and if you know of others who had been trying to help Dorothy, invite them also. I will provide barbecue and buns for lunch at 12:15 PM for those who are staying for the meeting. If you are attending, please bring a salad or dessert to share.

—Julie Bonser

## Black History—

Prairie member Dr. Rosemarie K. Lester will lead off a five week series entitled **"Black History: A Global Perspective"**, with an illustrated presentation on blacks in German history. Her presentation, entitled **"From Africans to Afro Germans: Image and Reality of Blacks in German Cultural History"**, will be on Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 PM in the Memorial Union. Check 'Today in the Union' for the room assignment.

## An Historic Occasion!

On February 25th at 2:30 PM, Prairie's meetinghouse will be open for "In Our Own Words: The Best of The Dunn's Marsh News", a significant local history event and booksigning. The affair will include a movie about the U. W. Electric Research Farm that was located in the neighborhood from 1944 to 1965. Prairie member Mary Mullen has a key role in this event.

## Orientation Meetings Set

There will be a series of orientation meetings held in March for new Prairie members, people considering joining, and anyone else interested. The meetings will take place on three consecutive Wednesdays in March—the 7th, 14th, and 21st—beginning at 7:00 PM. **Please call Anne Urbanski (258-8269) if you plan to attend.** The topics will be:

March 7: Exploration of our religious background (how you got to Prairie).

March 14: A brief history of Unitarian-Universalism.

March 21: Everything you wanted to know about Prairie but were afraid to ask...

The location will be either at Anne's home or at Prairie, depending on the number of persons wanting to take part.

## GA Is On The Way!

The 1990 General Assembly will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and hundreds of volunteers are needed for a wide variety of jobs. Some people have already volunteered, but many more are needed. The volunteer coordinator for the GA is Irene Sanderson, 5005 North Palisades Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217. She has asked for **Local Volunteer Recruiters** from each society by **Feb. 15th** to help with this monumental task. Prairie will soon be receiving a local volunteer packet to facilitate this task. If you are interested in taking on this vital task within Prairie, call President Jack Jallings (835-3746) and let him know. Call soon! Time is of the essence!

Volunteers actually working at the GA will, depending on the time they put in, receive **either free registration or half price registration.** Those who

have gone to a General Assembly have all reported that it is a wonderful experience. This may be our best chance to attend at an affordable price, so why not volunteer today?



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

For the next few weeks we'll also be planning and discussing ideas for the **Channing-Murray worship services** in March. Please join us in planning and participating in these important young adult worship services. Everyone's help is needed! The theme of the services will be:

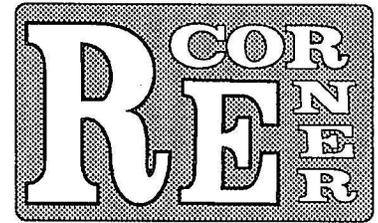
"Transylvania and Back:  
A Journey of Religious Freedom"

A musical and philosophical examination of our historical connection to Transylvania and Eastern Europe and a celebration of recent progress toward religious freedom.

Noon luncheon guests already scheduled this semester include Ruth Gibson, MRE at First Society, who will talk about a unique "Unitarian Universalist Who's Who" on Feb. 22nd; Jim Armstrong, owner of Armstrong Creative, who will discuss advertising with us on March 1st; and on March 8th our guest will be Madison Police Chief, David Couper.

Sunday, February 18th will be Channing-Murray's '*Experimental Cooking*' dinner and program evening. It will be held at 6:00 PM at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Bring something made from a recipe that you haven't tried before. If you live in a dorm, bring something from the store or deli that you haven't tried before. If you can't do either, come anyway! The special guest for the

evening will be Pem Yellow Bird, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nations, Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota. She will speak on American Indian Spirituality.



## Secret Friends

During the coming weeks the R. E. program would like to institute a "secret friends" exchange between the children and adults of Prairie. Each child will pick a name from the pool of participating adults and then send a letter, painting, drawing or some other sort of message to their adult each week. The adult should respond in kind. Only the child will know the identity of their friend, the adult won't. The children will be able to use some of their R. E. class time each week for making their message. We'll end the exchanges on a potluck Sunday in the spring, with secret adult and child friends sharing a meal together.

We heartily encourage all Prairie members and friends to be a secret friend with a Prairie youth. This will be a great way for adults and children to interact on a one-to-one basis. Anyone interested in participating should see or call R. E. Director Anne Pryor for more details.

## Teachers' Day Off

The R. E. teachers typically are relieved of their teaching responsibilities one Sunday per month due to intergenerational services. There is no intergenerational service scheduled for March, so they are facing a long eight weeks with no break. We'd like to provide the teachers a day off on March 25th with a one day interim session. We already have two volunteers to lead hands-on workshops on a favorite topic, but we need at least two more. If you have a special interest that you'd enjoy sharing for an hour with our young people, please let Anne Pryor know.

## The Past Two Weeks in:

### Preschool...

Anna Nettleton has led this delightful group in creating a marble track, making picture books about pets, reading stories and making pine cone bird feeders.

### K-1-2...

Focusing on the different ethnic groups that constitute America, Dean Schroeder and Karen Gross have begun to introduce this group to different facets of immigration. The physical and emotional aspects of immigration were explored. The story Watch the Stars Come Out about children coming to America on a ship to reunite with their parents was one point of focus. Relating immigration to their own travels was another. Looking at the contributions of each ethnic group will be the theme of the semester, with Dean having focused on Norwegian songs and stories. Karen also helped the children get ready for Valentine's Day by helping them make some beautiful valentines.

### 3-4-5...

Continuing with their investigation of Unitarian Universalism, Sharon Scratfish and Linda Nelson are leading this group in meeting individual Unitarians and seeing the application of UU principles in their lives. Two Prairie members, Anne Urbanski and Rosemary Dorney, were invited downstairs and interviewed by the children about their participation in Prairie. Some questions asked: "Do you like the songs? Do you like the services, and why? What other church would you go to if not to a UU Church?"

On the following Sunday the group looked at the life on Malvina Reynolds, listened for UU principles in her music, and even wrote new lyrics to "Magic Penny".

### 6-7-8...

The past two weeks focused on the religion of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Two visitors, Howard Litke and Ernest Maloney, came to Prairie to talk to the group about the beliefs and practices of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The following week had six Prairie youths attend a Jehovah's Witnesses service. They found it a bit long (2 1/2 hours!), very biblically based, professing some different values than commonly found at Prairie, but overall interesting, at

least for its diversity. Peg Stevenson is this group's leader and Aileen Nettleton helped by taking the young people to the Jehovah's Witnesses meeting.



## Escort to Prairie Needed

There is a 62 year old woman who lives within 2 blocks of Prairie who would like a ride or escorted walk to Prairie on Sunday mornings. Can we take turns reaching out to this woman or is some one person willing to volunteer? Even if you cannot do it every Sunday, any help at all would be appreciated as she can't get to Prairie by herself. Please call Fredericka Schilling at 271-5192 if you can help.

## Recycling News

Prairie is still in the business of recycling. We take glass (rinsed, no lids), aluminum (rinsed), and plastic soda and milk containers (rinsed, no lids). Please DO NOT send any food containers. If you have a lot of stuff, it's OK to leave it in my breezeway (626 Orchard Drive). Prairie has an account at Recycle Worlds, 2701 Packers Ave. You can take your things there and ask them to put the money into Prairie's account. You can also go to Madison Recycling, 2200 Fish Hatchery Road. We don't have an account there, so please send the money (labeled recycling) to Barb Park, W 10804 Wildwood Way, Poynette, WI 53955-9471. It is possible to recycle other things, like tin cans and junk mail, but I don't have the space to collect them. Check with your favorite recycling center to see what they take. Any questions? Call me—Judy Skog—at 273-4813.

## Earth Day 1990

Earth Day 1990 seeks participation from all kinds of individuals, groups and institutions. International, national and regional organizations will provide support of various kinds. But ultimately the success of Earth Day in New York, Frankfurt, Nairobi, Santiago and Leningrad will be determined by local

organizers with the foresight and dedication to organize an event that makes a difference.

Earth Day 1990 will be the product of a huge coalition of loosely affiliated organizations, reaching far beyond existing environmental constituencies to involve the broadest possible cross-section of participants. You can make a difference. To get involved or find out more, contact:

Earth Day 1990  
P. O. Box AA  
Stanford University  
California 94305



## Looking Ahead—

- March 17: *Feminist Theology Symposium*, First Unitarian Church, Chicago.
- April 21: *Brother Spirituality Symposium*, First Unitarian Church, Chicago.
- April 21: CMD Men's' Group retreat *Vitalizing Connections: Our Lives as Men in the 90's*, The Lakeside Cntr, Crystal Lake, IL.
- April 20-25: *WOMANQUEST: U U Women's Convocation*, Lake Geneva, WI.
- May 12: CMD conference on *Visions & Values IV— Searching For The Sacred*, Hinsdale Unitarian Church, Hinsdale, IL.
- June 21-26: *SOUND THE CHORUS OF FAITH: UUA General Assembly*, Milwaukee, WI.
- July 14-20: *UU Bayside Camp: Around the World in 80 Ways*, on Lake Geneva at Williams Bay, WI.

## Alterations & Sewing Sale

Member Rachel Siegfried announces that she is having a special 10% off sale during January and February on all of her sewing services. She is talented and versatile (makes her own jeans!) and would be happy to alter, repair, or make a new garment just for you! Call her at 608/271-2173.