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# Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
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## Vol. 28, No. 6, 3-13-90

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, March 25. Submit items for March 29—April 12, 1990.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, March 15

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

### Saturday, March 17

3:00—7:00 PM  
CUUPS Spring Equinox celebration, including a POTLUCK DINNER. All Prairie members and friends are invited. (see related story)

### Sunday, March 18

10:00 AM  
SHARING A VISION OF JUSTICE: A Celebration of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's 50th Anniversary, presented by the Social Action Committee. (see related story)

### Monday, March 19

7:30PM  
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meeting at the meetinghouse. Call Judy Skog (273-4813) for more information.

### Saturday, March 24

7:00 PM  
Prairie Playreaders meet at the home of May Fraydas & Paul Rynders, 718 Chapman St. The play will be Woody Allen's "Play It Again, Sam". All interested people are welcome.

### Sunday, March 25

10:00 AM  
MEN, WOMEN AND MACHINES—the first session of Mike and Norma Briggs lay ministry.  
10:00 AM  
TEACHERS' DAY OFF—INTERIM-STYLE WORKSHOPS replace regular classes today only.

11:30 AM  
Parish vote on the 1990 General Assembly Resolution proposals. (see related story)

### Tuesday, March 27

6:30 PM  
FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Rod and Peg Stevenson, 628 Sheldon St. All levels of ability are welcomed.

### Thursday, March 29

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



### Sunday, April 1

10:00 AM  
AUTOMOBILES—guest speaker Matt Joseph.  
11:30 AM  
POTLUCK LUNCH—please bring a dish to pass.  
1:00 PM  
ANNUAL SPRING PARISH MEETING at the meetinghouse.

### Friday, April 6

7:00 PM  
FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO: The Truth About Lies. (see related story)

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

## NEWS & VIEWS

### CUUPS to Celebrate Equinox

The Four Lakes/Madison CUUPS chapter, which is co-sponsored by Prairie and First Society, will celebrate the Spring Equinox on Saturday, March 17, from 3 PM to 7 PM at Prairie. All

*...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*

Prairie members and friends are specifically invited to join in. The celebration will end with a potluck meal. Please bring some flowers and a dish to share. CUUPS (the Covenant of U-U Pagans) is an official affiliate of the UUA and the Madison chapter has members from both Prairie and First Society as well as people that are not members of either group.

## A Vision of Justice

In early 1939, as the Nazi threat loomed over Europe, countless people desperately sought ways to flee to safety. The American Unitarian Association responded by sending a young minister and his wife, Reverend Waitstill and Martha Sharp, on a daring mission to Czechoslovakia to save as many people as they could. Come and find out more about UUSC's 50 years of projects and what our money really does at the 50th Anniversary celebration on March 18th.

## Volunteers Clean Up

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

Mar. 18: David Ogren & Maria Hansa  
 Mar. 25: Beth Lovern & Pat Cautley  
 Apr. 1: Rachel Siegfried & ??  
 Apr. 8: ?? & ??  
 Apr. 15: Carol Fishbaugh & Andrea Lawrence

## Coffee Makers Needed

Wanted: one or two people (a 'couple' will do nicely) to help out once or twice a month with making coffee for Prairie services. This is a great service to the congregation and will be greatly appreciated! Annis and Henry Pratt and Fran Remeika can't do it all! If interested, call Anne Urbanski at 258-8269.

## Call for Lay Ministers...

The Committee on Committees is still considering the Lay Ministries for 1990-91. If you would like to do a full or partial lay ministry, or even a single service, or if you have a topic you would like to see discussed, please contact one of these committee members:

Judy Skog 273-4813  
 Mary Mullen 271-5192  
 Al Nettleton 238-6053  
 Rachel Siegfried 271-2173  
 Tom Robinson 256-9090

## GA Resolutions Vote

It's UUA resolutions time again! Please review the resolutions printed in the last issue of the "UUA World" and then attend the brief meeting after the service on March 25 to discuss and vote on these proposals. Copies of the proposals will be available at the meeting on the 25th.

-Bill Robbins

## Annual Meeting Notice and Agenda

The annual Spring Parish Meeting will be held at Prairie on Sunday, April 1, 1990 beginning at 1:00 PM following the morning service and a potluck lunch. A quorum of thirty members is needed.

Proposed Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from 11/12/89
- III. Reports of Officers & Comm. Chairs
  - A. Treasurer: Barbara Parks
  - B. Religious Ed.: Aileen Nettleton
  - C. Finance: Patricia Cautley
  - D. Program: Julie Bonser
  - E. Membership: Anne Urbanski
  - F. Social Action: Judy Skog
  - G. Hous'g & Property: Al Nettleton
  - H. Denom. Affairs: Cinda LaMar
  - I. Long Range Png: Rick Ruecking
  - J. President: Jack Jallings
- IV. Other Reports
  - A. Newsletter: Dick Bonser
  - B. Sunrise School: Rachel Siegfried
  - C. Cost analysis of Sunrise occupancy: Barb Park, Rick Ruecking, Mary Mullen
- V. Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, June 21-26, 1990
- VI. Report of Comm. on Committees
  - A. Election of Officers, etc.
    1. Comm. on Committees slate
    2. Nominations from the floor
  - B. Election of new Committee on Committee members
  - C. Lay Ministers
    1. Comm. on Committees report
    2. Suggestions from the floor
- VII. Election of GA Delegates
- VIII. Proposed bylaws committee

## Playreaders to Meet

The Prairie Playreaders is an informal group of people that like to read and listen to plays. We meet once a month at the home one of the group to socialize and read a play. There is no prerequisite for membership, nothing to sign—

all you need is curiosity and willingness to try us out. The next meeting will be held on March 24th at 7:00 PM at the home of May Fraydas and Paul Rynders, 718 Chapman St. The play will be "Play It Again, Sam", by Woody Allen. The hosting members usually provide munchies and a treat. It would be a courtesy to call and let them know that you are coming so they can plan how much to provide. Their phone no's. are H: 238-0151 and W: 262-3921.

## Board Nominations

**President:** Jack Jallings  
**Vice President:** Bill Robbins  
**Secretary:** Norma Briggs  
**Treasurer:** Julie Bonser  
**R.E. Chair:** Erin Bosch  
**Finance Chair:** Pat Cautley  
**Program Chair:** ??  
**Social Action Chair:** Judy Skog  
**Membership Chair:** Anne Urbanski  
**Housing/Property Chair:** Jean Matos  
**Long Range Png Chair:** Dan Laux  
**Denom. Affairs Chair:** Carol Fishbaugh

## 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. Prairie will soon be receiving a local volunteer packet to facilitate this task. **If you are interested, call Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Lawrence (845-5615) or President Jack Jallings (835-3746) and let them know.**

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?

## Friday Night Video

"The Truth About Lies", a TV program by Bill Moyers, will be the feature on Friday Night Video, Friday, April 6, at 7:00 PM at Prairie. Why do we lie? Is truth an endangered species among politicians? Oliver North lied to Congress and he became a hero to millions.

Do the American people love to be lied to and to be deceived? How has deception shaped our foreign policy and our daily lives? Join us in seeing this outstanding documentary, followed by discussion.

-George Calden

## Marcia Needs Our Help

Marcia Johnson, who is in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, is supposed to form a preschool program for the community she and her husband David are living in. She is presently working with community children of all ages and their parents on providing art and language activities for the summer months. She is making books for the children from salvaged materials since there are none available in the community. Sending books, while it might seem a good idea, doesn't work because of the extremely heavy import duties charged against anything that could be called merchandise. One Peace Corps worker had to pay \$26 in duty fees for a box of tampax and a few candy bars! Large manilla envelopes, however, seem to come in alright without duty being charged.

What she needs most, she says, is pictures that she and the children's parents can paste into the books they are making. Pictures cut from magazines are fine—any size will do. They should be pictures that would interest children of any age. She hopes to have book making parties this fall to make enough to form small libraries in the schools in the area and to use in the new pre-school program she is to supervise. She plans to teach the children to sketch as well, so there will be drawings to include in the books, too.

She will be able to gather books to take back with her when she is back here in July, but she'll need some help with the cutout pictures before then—sports, animals, people doing things. These are things that we, as individuals, can do to help her out. Her address was published in the last issue of **Prairie Fire**.

## Thank You, Drop-In Volunteers!

The Madison Urban Ministry is planning an Appreciation Day for the volunteers who have worked at the Drop-In Shelter. The event will consist

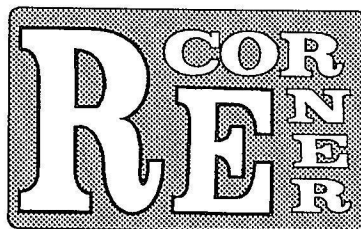
of a luncheon April 29 and will be scheduled in three shifts, at 10:30, 1:00 and 3:30. More details will follow in the next issue of **Prairie Fire**.

Prairie members and friends who have volunteered since May of 1988 (when Leland Bullen, the current coordinator, started asking for volunteers) are:

Barbara Barley, Julie Bonser, Dick Bonser, Mike Briggs, Alice Bullen, Leland Bullen, George Calden, Pat Cautley, Randy Christenson, Jennifer Drapkin, Orton Gray, Lance Green, John Grindrod, Shirley Grindrod, Michelle Honoré, Frank Iltis, Betty Jallings, Jack Jallings, Barbara Rames, Bill Robbins, Rick Ruecking, Rachel Siegfried, Kate Tucker, Susan Vaughn, Danielle Wellander, Dorothy Wetherby and Malcolm Williamson.

Thanks to these people who have demonstrated Prairie's concern for those in need.

Prairie furnishes three shifts on the fourth Monday of each month (and the Tuesday morning following). The shifts are as follows: 8:00 PM to 12:00 PM; 12:00 to 5:00 AM; and 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. We have lost several of these volunteers and need a few more so that no one will need to be called upon more often than every third month. The middle shift is the most difficult to supply but other than the 'un-godly' hour it is the most leisurely period and offers opportunity to read or study or write. Please think about volunteering and let Lee Bullen know if you will.



## Secret Friends

So far, the "secret friends" program, pairing a youth with an adult who exchange weekly messages, has been very popular. The children are excited

about drawing or writing to their adult buddy, and especially enjoy getting a message in response. There are 23 pairs of secret friends to date, with all children in the RE program participating, and even more adults who would have liked to. I'm particularly impressed by the dedication of participating adults who make special efforts to get their letter to their youthful friend on Sunday, even if they themselves are not going to be there. Some people have mailed their letters to the church during the week, others have had a friend drop it off. Such enthusiasm and commitment is very heartening to me as the organizer and also to the children, since this is a very concrete way in which they'll learn that Prairie adults really do care about, are interested in, and like **THEM**.

## Super Spring Sunday

On Sunday, March 25, the RE Program is going to have a morning of fun workshops for our young people. They'll be able to choose among baking pretzels, painting with wax and tempera, making kites, and marbling paper Japanese style (sumi nagashi). It should be a fun and interesting morning—all Prairie youths are invited.

## The Past Two Weeks in:

### Preschool...

This group does lots of playing, reading of stories, and special activities such as creating displays of pictures of favorite animals.

### K-1-2...

Continuing their survey of different ethnic groups in the U.S.A., this group focused on Hispanic Americans, making God's Eyes (Ojos de Dios) and listening to Spanish music. The following week they made pictures for their secret friends. They also did some things to learn further about Spanish speaking immigrants: they cooked corn muffins and baked bananas, listened to mariachi music and read a folk tale from Mexico.

### 3-4-5...

This group in investigating U-U ideas about "big religious questions". They focused one week on the concept of God, drawing pictures of their own idea of God and then discussing how people's concepts take form. The following week they played the U-U game, a fun way to

learn more about what each other believes, and about commonly held beliefs in Unitarian Universalism.

6-7-8...

Continuing their investigation of other paths, this group attended a service at the Midvale Baptist Church. One of the messages which really stood out was "the only way to be alive is through Jesus". The following week, Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, a practitioner of the Hindu Religion, visited the class. The topics discussed ranged from polytheism and reincarnation to sacred cows and the status of Hindu women.



The Social Action Committee has ongoing projects in the following areas (and we need your help in all of them):

- The Drop-In Shelter for homeless men (we staff it on the 4th Monday of the Month)
- The Once a Week blood donors club (Red Cross Blood Bank)
- Recycling (containers are in the garbage can area in back)
- Food pantry (we collect food for 2 families in our neighborhood. The collection box is outside the men's room)

From time to time, we also do letter writing after the service on topics of concern and sometimes pass the hat.

On February 25, we collected \$74.50 for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for projects in El Salvador. These projects include starting community based health programs, providing medical kits, rebuilding homes (especially for female-headed households), and repopulation of refugees in areas affected by the fighting in November and December.

If you have an issue that's really bugging you and you want the Society to be more involved, get involved with the Social Action Committee. Remember—Action is our middle name. For

more information on any of this stuff, call Judy Skog at 273-4813.

## Peace Education

The April program at the Madison Children's Museum is *Play Fair*, a traveling exhibit from Chicago's Peace Museum. In conjunction with the exhibit, cultural programming on April 14th and the 28th will be centered around the Soviet Union. Admission is \$1.50. call 256-6445 for information.



## 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 Center, 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.

## Did You Know...

that someone records the service every week at Prairie and the tapes are available to be checked out? If you missed a service and want to listen to the tape, or want to hear a favorite service again, please see either Bill Robbins or Judy Skog after any service.

## Host a Foreign Student

The Nacel Cultural Exchanges, a non-profit organization, is seeking families in our community willing to share their homes and family life with a French, German, or Spanish student. The students are ages 14-18 and can be hosted from June 30 until July 27 or July 27 until August 24. It is not necessary to speak French, German or Spanish. Applications and more information may be obtained by writing to Allen and Clare Hibbard, 4043 Birch Knoll Drive, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 or by calling 612/429-7130 or 800/828-6736.

## CONTEST

### Standing Up for Peace



Why have some people risked their jobs, their homes, their families and even prison to take a stand for peace? This is *your* chance to find out. The Standing Up for Peace Contest invites you to talk face to face with someone who has refused to fight in war, pay taxes for war, or build weapons for war, and then to express what you think and feel about what you heard through writing, art or music.

The contest is open to young people ages 15-23. The deadline for entries is May 1, 1990.

To enter, send for the Standing Up for Peace Contest booklet, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960 (914) 358-4601.

\$500 PRIZES \$100