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# Prairie Fire



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

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## Vol. 28, No. 8, 4-10-90

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, April 22. Submit items for April 26-May 10, 1990.

# CALENDAR

### Thursday, April 12

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

### Sunday, April 15

**10:00 AM**  
THE DODO AND THE EASTER BUNNY: an Intergenerational service. Second in the Briggs' 'Man, Woman, and the Machine' lay ministry.

### Monday, April 16

**7:30 PM**  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the meetinghouse.

### Thursday, April 19

**12:00 N**  
CHANNING MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on 'Today In The Union'. Today's guest is Bonnie Milgrini, who will speak on Sufi Religion and Spirituality.

**7:30 PM**  
RECEPTION FOR CUUPS FOUNDERS Linda Pinti and Lesley Phillips at the meetinghouse. (See related story)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets at the meetinghouse.

### Saturday, April 21

**7:30 PM**  
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Al and Aileen Nettleton. The play is to be announced.

### Sunday, April 22

**10:00 AM**  
THE DEATH OF THE WORKER: Third in the "Man, Woman, and the Machine" lay ministry by Mike and Norma Briggs.

### Monday, April 23

**7:30 PM**  
PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING for both old and new boards at the meetinghouse.

### Tuesday, April 24

**6:30 PM**  
FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Jean Tucker, 2724 Center Ave. Call 249-2639 for information.

### Thursday, April 26

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

### Friday, April 27

**6:00 PM**  
ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE meets at the new Ruby's Chinese Restaurant, in the former Atrium Mall on Odana Road.

### Saturday, April 28

**8:00 AM**  
PRAIRIE BUS TRIP to the Mitchell Park Domes and Milwaukee Zoo. (See related story)

### Sunday, April 29

**10:00 AM**  
To be announced.

### Saturday, May 5

CHANNING-MURRAY CAMPING WEEKEND at Wyalusing State Park. (See related story)

### Monday, May 7

**7:00PM**  
SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Call Orton Gray at 273-4041 for information.

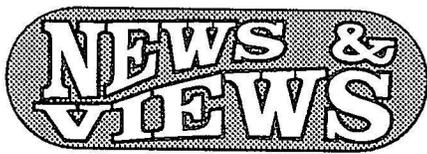
### Saturday June 2

**8:00 AM**  
PRAIRIE BUS TRIP to the Chicago Art Institute show, *Monet in the 90's—The Series Paintings*. Call Donna Murdoch at 238-0530 if you have questions.

### Today's Quote:

Civilization is a limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities.  
-Mark Twain

...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



## Volunteers Clean Up

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

Apr. 15: Carol Fishbaugh &  
Andrea Lawrence

## Visitors from Boston

The Reverends Linda Pinti and Lesley Phillips, co-founders of the Covenant of U-U Pagans (CUUPS), will be in Madison on **Thursday, April 19**, prior to their attending *Womanquest*. The local CUUPS group invites you to attend a reception from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Prairie UU Society meetinghouse. Lesley and Linda will tell us about CUUPS—what is happening nationally and what other chapters are doing. They will also preview CUUPS activities scheduled for the General Assembly session in Milwaukee on **June 21–26**.

## Ethnic Dinner Circle

The Ethnic Dinner Circle rises again, like the Phoenix. **Ruby's Chinese Restaurant** has moved from their old location on Whitney Way to the former Atrium Mall (now Full Compass Sound Systems) on Odana Road. Some of us are curious about their new place and hope you are too! If you'd like to join in the investigation on **Friday April 27**, at 6:00 PM, call Pat Watkins at work between 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM at 262-7960 or at home (if you can catch her there) at 233-5795 to make a reservation. Reservations are required and must be made by Wednesday, April 25.

## You Meet the Nicest People...

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for a wide variety of jobs at the 1990 General Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 21 to June 26. Some people have already volunteered, but many more are needed. **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? If you are interested, call **Prairie's Volunteer Coordinator, Andrea Lawrence at 845-5615.**

## Help Wanted!

We need someone to organize and coordinate Prairie's annual Memorial Day Canoe Trip on **May 26, 27, and 28**. This event has been one of Prairie's rites of spring for many years now, and it is enjoyed by many members and friends. The organizer needs to select a stream, find a campground, and arrange for people to sign up and collect money for the costs involved. Please call Julie Bonser at 274-3248 if you are willing to help.

## U.U. Needs You/You!

Prairie's RE program is looking for new talent. If you would like to contribute your talents to working with our children, this is your chance. They are looking for teachers for classes from kindergarten through middle school. You could team up with another adult to teach a group of 4 to 10 children. The curriculums for next year include "God's Folk", stories of past heroes, "Stepping Stone Years", and "How Do I Know What to Believe?" Please contact Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053, Ken Skog, 273-4813, or Anne Pryor, 244-7099 if you have questions or are interested in volunteering.

## CMD Youth Conference

There will be a CMD Youth Conference this spring, on **April 20, 21, and 22**, in Saint Louis, Missouri. The theme of the conference is "One World—One People". There will be a van going to the Conference from Madison and all Prairie Youth are encouraged to attend. Contact Anna Nettleton, 238-6053, for more information.

## The Tours Are Back!

Prairie's Finance Committee is back with the Fundraising Tours—an activity that has proved to be very popular over the last two years. The first tour of this year will be on **Saturday, April 28**, to the Mitchell Park Conservatory Domes and the Milwaukee Zoo.

The Domes will have a special exhibit, "*Springtime in the Alps*", with a Swiss Chalet overlooking a garden of flowering bulbs, perennials and annuals. Then we will go to the Milwaukee Zoo, one of the outstanding zoos in the country, for the afternoon. The cost, excluding lunch, is **\$18**. For a small additional charge, you may ride the Zoo Train or Zoomobile. The bus will leave Madison at 8:00 AM and return about 4:45 PM. The deadline for registration is April 18th.

The second tour is to the *Monet in the 90's—The Series Paintings* exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute on **Saturday, June 2**. This is an unusual opportunity as the exhibit is only being shown in Boston and Chicago in the USA before moving to London. The cost, excluding lunch, is **\$35.00**. The deadline for reservations is May 7. Our price for this tour is much less than is advertised elsewhere (\$55-\$65) so available seats are expected to go quickly. Reserve yours right away!

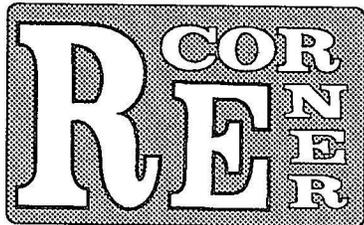
Send your checks, made out to Prairie UU Society, to Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon St., Madison, WI 53711. Call her at 238-0530 if you have questions.



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.

Thursday Lunches continue at the Memorial Union. You can bring a brown bag or buy something from one of the Union Cafeterias. These lunches feature frequent guest speakers and we have a number of good ones lined up for the semester. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community. The guest this month is Bonnie Milgrini, who will speak on Sufi Religion and Spirituality on April 19th.

Mark **May 5 & 6** on your calendars! A **camping and hiking weekend** is planned for these dates at Wyalusing State Park. We're hoping for a sunny, warm spring weekend rather than a May snowstorm! Paul Kosir is a naturalist at Wyalusing and he will be coordinating the weekend. Please call him at 246-9603 with your ideas, suggestions, and offers of help.



On **March 30 and 31**, I took part in a retreat for U.U. religious educators sponsored by the CMD Religious Education Committee. It was held at the Center for Development in Ministry in Mundelein, IL, and was attended by several DRE's from throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The weekend offered a valuable opportunity to share ideas, issues, and concerns with my colleagues. There were also sessions in Tai Chi, sacred dance, and guided meditation. These regular gatherings continually provide a great time to become renewed and to come away with new ideas for each of our programs.

Many thanks go to those volunteers who helped put on Super Spring Sunday on March 25th. This was a teachers' day off, interim style, with Prairie adults providing interesting and fun sessions for the kids. With about 20 children in attendance, Beth Lovern provided easels, melted wax and paint for a multi-media painting experience. Cindy Haq Lawrence, along with Mike Sheehy and another assistant, taught several youths how to make their own kites. Linda Sheehy led a pretzel baking session, and there was the opportunity to write to secret friends. Again, many thanks to all the great volunteers who helped make the day so much fun.

The following Sunday was the last day of the secret friends program, when the children and youths told their adult friend who they are. On the whole, the program was lots of fun for all involved. **Some friends still haven't met each**

**other due to absences.** Please try to contact your secret friend to make that in-person connection. Also, if anyone has any feedback on the program, I'd be interested in hearing it so as to make improvements for next year.

## Last Week in:

### Preschool...

The preschoolers learned about April Fool's Day and made pictures for their secret friends, led by Anna Nettleton.

### K-1-2...

The K-1-2 group, led by Karen Gross, made boats and whales out of Styro-foam plates.

### 3-4-5...

Linda Nelson led this group in a discussion of what folks do in church: sing, worship, have potlucks, help each other. They also made flaming chalices and talked about the origin and meaning of this symbol.

### 6-7-8...

This group went with Peg Stevenson to the Buddhist temple to experience a worship service there.



## Red Cross Blood Donors

The Badger Red Cross Blood Center supplies the total blood needs of 90 hospitals in Wisconsin and surrounding areas. One of the best ways to ensure this supply is through the One-A-Week Clubs, which guarantee a donation of one pint a week from their membership. Prairie and First Society have jointly formed such a club and the following Prairie people deserve recognition for their participation in this effort: **Dick Bonser, Mike Briggs, Barbara James, Aileen Nettleton, Barbara Rames, Fredericka Schilling, and Judy Skog.**

If you are under age 66, weigh at least 110 pounds, and are in good health, please consider joining other Unitarians

in the One-A-Week club. You set your own schedule—a visit to any Red Cross location is a simple and painless process requiring only one hour of your time, of which about seven minutes is needed for the actual donation. The rest is a brief check on your medical condition to ensure that you're fit to donate and a visit to the canteen for cookies, milk or coffee, and relaxation.

The One-A-Week Club book is always available at the Donor Center and at Bloodmobile or other donor locations. When you give, please ask for the book and sign it, identifying yourself as a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Society so we will get credit for your donation.

For more information and the current location of the Bloodmobile donor sites, call Pat Meller at 271-1214.

## Peace and Freedom Dinner

The Madison branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom invites you to its annual "Peace and Freedom Dinner" on **Sunday, April 29th**, at the Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Avenue. Prof. Nellie McKay, of the Afro-American Studies and English departments, will speak on "Linkages: Women in the Peace and Civil Rights Movements". The "Ethnic Connection" will offer music from around the world during the 6-7 PM social hour.

Call Margaret Stephenson at 257-7372 for reservations or send \$15 to Mary Sabatini, Peace Office, 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703.

## Sunrise Honors Earth Day

Hello from Sunrise School to all Prairie UU friends! Now that snowsuit season is behind us, we can all breathe a sigh of relief. We wish to invite you to a special event we are organizing on **Saturday, April 21**, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, for Earth Day. It is a combination of festival, ecological awareness activities for children and parents, and fundraiser for Sunrise. Activities will include drumming, singing and dancing with a guest Native American drummer, dancer and flute player, Project Wild games and activities, skits, and an Earth Circle Pledge. There will be booths with food, interesting things to buy, and things to do and look at

available indoors throughout the afternoon. Please come and celebrate the planet we all share—you're all very welcome!

## Fellowship of Reconciliation

The Fellowship of Reconciliation will hold its national conference "Celebrating Our Past: Charting the Future" on July 4-8 at Lake Geneva. Part of the conference will also be a special opportunity for people aged 15-23 to meet with Soviet youth from the Russian Orthodox Church. This program would begin on July 3. For more information, contact F.O.R., Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, phone: 914/358-4061.



### Looking Ahead—

- April 20, 21, and 22: CMD Youth Conference: "One World—One People", in Saint Louis, Missouri.
- April 21: *Brother Spirituality Symposium*, First Unitarian Church, Chicago.
- April 21: CMD Mens' 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.
- June 24-30: *LAKE GENEVA SINGLES WEEK* combines personal growth workshops with fun in the sun. Brochures are available at Prairie or call Sharon Spencer (312/973-2715) or John Halbeck (708/447-4534).
- July 14-20: *UU Bayside Camp: Around the World in 80 Ways*, on Lake Geneva at Williams Bay, WI.
- Oct. 5-7: *CAMP UPHAM WOODS Retreat* for Prairie UU Society at Wisconsin Dells.

## Help Wanted!

Is there a professional wallpaper hanger in Prairie? Does anyone know of a good professional wallpaperer that they would recommend? If so, please let either Pat Watkins or Dick Bonser know. Call her at 262-7962 days, call him at 274-3248 evenings.

## Summer at Sunrise

Join us this summer for the Earth Lovers' Family program, June 18th to August 17th. We have openings for 2 1/2 to 6 year olds, part or full days. We are City certified and State licensed. Call 276-7816 for information or to register.

## A Weekend in German(y)

For all of you folks who have learned and liked the "awful German language" (Mark Twain) but lack the opportunity to practice, I am going to conduct a "total immersion" German weekend at St. Benedict Center on Friday and Saturday, **May 18 & 19**, through UW-Madison Extension. A few spaces are still available. For further information please call me at 262-2075 (office) or 255-7039 (home).

- Rosemarie K. Lester

## Mail for the Johnsons...

I just found out the hard way that there's a difference between the letter and package rate per ounce on material sent to Paraguay. I put my clippings in a large brown envelope reinforced by cardboard and discovered that (a) I had to make out a Customs declaration slip and (b) I had to pay a much higher rate per ounce to send the envelope. I wonder if anything sent as a "package" may be perceived, on the other end, as

vulnerable to duties. I checked with the postal clerk, and he confirmed that if I had just folded them and sent them in several regular #10 "letter" envelopes, they would have been regarded as letters and thus would not have required a declaration slip. They would also be very unlikely to be opened because, as he said, "they would just assume there was nothing in there but a letter." They would also have cost much less to send at the first class rate rather than the parcel post rate.

Since the whole idea was to avoid import duties and I don't know what they'll do with this package, now, in Paraguay, I would recommend the letter envelope route, even if it means folding your clippings. If you do send a brown envelope ("package"), be sure to indicate on the declaration slip that the goods enclosed are not new, but just clippings from old magazines, otherwise they may be subject to duties.

- Rosemary Dorney

## Peace Links—US/USSR Pen Pals

The Peace Links project advertised last year in several Russian newspapers for people interested in being pen pals with an American. They have received over **4,000 letters** in response—half in English and half in Russian. They are from persons of **all ages and walks of life**. Peace Links needs people like you who are **interested in making a friend** in Russia and **willing to make a commitment** to write and receive letters. If you are interested, please return the form below to: **Peace Links, 747 8th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.**

Please send me a letter. I'll keep Peace Links posted as our friendship develops. I would like to receive a letter from: \_\_\_\_\_ a woman, \_\_\_\_\_ a man, \_\_\_\_\_ either one. Age range: \_\_\_\_\_, profession: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in English, \_\_\_\_\_ in Russian.

Here's a little bit about me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_