

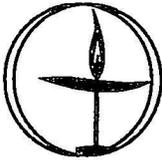
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Prairie U.U. Society
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Prairie Fire



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

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

Vol. 28, No. 11, 5-22-90

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, June 17. Submit items for June 21—July 31, 1990.

CALENDAR

Friday May 25—Monday, May 28
Prairie Annual Camping and Canoe Trip on the lower Wisconsin River. (See related story.)

Thursday, May 31
6:30 PM
FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Linda and Mike Sheehy, 629 Piper Drive. (See related story.)

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. (see related story)

Sunday, June 3
10:00 AM
"A PRAIRIE STIR FRY" by George Calden. (See related story.)

Sunday, June 10
10:00 AM
"SACRED SPACE, HOLY GROUND"; led by Julie Bonser.

Wednesday, June 13
7:00 PM
HISPANIC POTLUCK at the meeting-house. (See related story)

Saturday, June 16
7:30 PM
The PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS will meet at the home of Margaret Lawrence, 7438 Old Sauk Road, in the Wexford Crossing Condominium complex.

Sunday, June 17
10:00 AM
"PEOPLE OF THE BOOK"; (songbook) led by Mike Briggs.

Sunday June 24
10:00 AM
SERVICE OF THE LIVING TRADITION at the General Assembly in Milwaukee, probably at the MECCA center. Call Jack Jallings for more information.

Today's Quote:
The most common of all follies is to believe passionately in the palpably not true. It is the chief occupation of mankind.
-H.L. Mencken



Changing the Guard

As of May 1, please mail your pledges, contributions, expense receipts and bills to Prairie's new treasurer, Julia Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive, Madison, WI 53711.

New Members Wanted!

The Religious Education Committee is looking for at least one new member. The committee meets once a month to plan the curriculum and budget, to find teachers, and to help and support the R. E. Director. To be on the committee it is not necessary to have a child in the program. If you think you are interested, please talk to Linda Sheehy, 273-3865.

Memorial Weekend Camping and Canoe Trip

We will camp Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and canoe during the day Saturday and Sunday. No reservations are necessary—join us for all or any part of the weekend. We have been invited to stay at the Ruecking family farm near the lower Wisconsin and Kickapoo rivers. The only cost will be a contribution toward the cost of the portable toilets. There is water and some tables, but there will be a shortage of things to sit on, so bring stools, lawn chairs, and whatever else you have that suits the purpose. If you don't want to canoe, there is hiking at the farm or at nearby Wyalusing State

...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

Park, or you can just lean back and enjoy the day.

The Ruecking farm is 85 miles west of Madison on Route 18/151 (Verona Road). Stay on Route 18 (**careful!** at Dodgeville Route 151 turns south, and in Fennimore Route 18 makes two turns). West from Fennimore, mark 16 miles from the Prairie du Chien mileage sign to an Historical Marker (Military Ridge Road) and sign for "Badger Camp". Turn right (North) and make no more turns for 3 miles (some gravel) to a large gray brick house, "STONE APPLE FARM". WELCOME!

If you have further questions, contact either Rick Ruecking (238-2924), Ken Skog (273-4813) or Frank Ittis (251-6788).

Let's Reduce The Mortgage!

Our second mortgage, held by the M&I Bank, for the new part of our building is due for renegotiation later this summer. In addition, **we have to put a new roof on the old part of the building.** The cost of the roof, (**about \$11,000**) will take all of our present reserves, which isn't very wise. If we could just raise \$11,000 in outright contributions, we at least would not have to increase the principal of our second mortgage. Remember, most of our monthly payments go to interest, so any reduction of the principal (or keeping the principal from increasing) is worth a great deal. **Please consider this seriously. We already have \$500 pledged to the Mortgage Fund.** To ensure that your donation is properly credited, mark your check Mortgage Fund and mail it **by July 1** to Pat Cautley, Chair, Finance Committee, 4805 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705.

French Speakers' Potluck

The French speakers' potluck will meet on Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 PM at the home of Linda and Mike Sheehy, 629 Piper Drive. People with all levels of French-speaking ability are welcome, from those who are fluent to those who are attempting to revive their high school French. Call 273-3895 if you have questions.

A Prairie Stir Fry

One of the unique features of our Prairie Society is its ability to engage in stimulating discussions. At the drop of a hat Prairie people are ready and willing to talk creatively about any subject from Abortion to Zen.

On June 3rd, George Calden will lead a service entitled "A Prairie Stir Fry" that will celebrate our capacity to think differently, to espouse unpopular views and to express ourselves on a diversity of challenging topics.

Welcome Followup

On May 20, Prairie welcomed Meredith Thompson and Raza, Aaron, Heather and Isaac Lawrence to the Prairie Community. As a memento of the occasion, they will be accepting contributions to their "Prairie Books". Many of you forgot, on May 20, to bring your contributions of favorite poems, drawings, or whatever. Previous recipients of these "Prairie Books" have indicated that they are important gifts, so please participate—send your contributions to them directly at the addresses below or try to catch them at Prairie sometime this summer.

Beth Thompson
6809 Schroeder Road #8
Madison, WI 53711

Cynthia Haq and Bob Lawrence
2886 Stony Ridge Circle
Verona, WI 53593

Hispanic Potluck

A potluck dinner for all Spanish speakers of every skill level will take place on **June 13** (that's a WEDNESDAY!) at **7:00 PM** at the meetinghouse. If you need suggestions for what food to bring, call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382. We would like your thoughts on whether to go on meeting through the summer, or to lay off until September.

Don't Miss These Great Prairie Trips

There are two Prairie Trips set for this summer, and the registration deadlines are coming up soon! Reserve yours right away!

May 28 is the last day for us to reserve a choice seat for you at the **Sunday**,

August 26, matinee performance of Les Miserables, given by the Broadway cast at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater. To be sure of getting our choice seats in a block together, we must reserve (and pay!) early. The **ticket cost of \$46** includes bus fare and admission to the performance but meals and drinks are on your own. You must pay a deposit of \$20 by May 28th, and the balance of \$26 must be paid by August 8.

July 11 is the deadline for the **July 21 trip** to the Mitchell Park Conservatory Domes in Milwaukee for the summer flower show entitled Arabian Nights—Persian Delights which will include extensive water displays and colorful pavilions as well as brilliant displays of summer flowers. The bus will stop at the Mayfair Mall for lunch and shopping as an added attraction for the trip. The **cost of \$15** includes bus fare and admission to the domes. Lunch and shopping is on your own!

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.

Playreaders to Meet

The Prairie Playreaders will meet on **Saturday, June 16, at 7:30 PM** at the home of Margaret Lawrence, 7438 Old Sauk Road, in the Wexford Crossing Condominium complex. The name of the play to be read was not available at this time. Directions to her home are: *take University Ave. West to Old Middleton Rd.; follow Old Middleton Rd. to Old Sauk Rd. and turn left on Old Sauk Road; follow Old Sauk Rd. West past Gammon Rd. and Westfield Rd. and turn right into the SECOND Wexford Crossing entrance; then at the stop sign, turn left and go to the last house on the right.* While not required, it would be polite to call Margaret at 831-2508 to let her know you are coming.

New Grads at Prairie

Congratulations to Jenny Drapkin and Cara Nelson on their graduation from West High School! Best wishes from all of Prairie to you for your futures!

Singers Needed for GA Choir

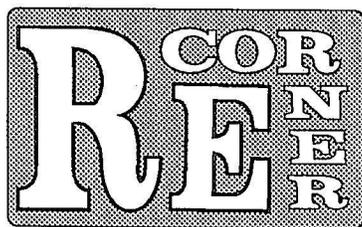
The General Assembly Planning Committee has invited a mass choir

composed of musicians from throughout our Central Midwest District to sing on June 21 at the opening ceremony of the upcoming GA in Milwaukee. This should be a really exciting event—the choir will be performing 3 selections, 2 of which have been commissioned especially for this occasion. The Opening Service will set the tone for the remainder of GA, and will include a Banner Parade and an address from Betty Allen, director of the Harlem Arts Project.

All UUs who love to sing are encouraged to join in as part of this choral union. You do not have to register for GA in order to participate. Nor do you have to be a member of your church choir. However, you will need to attend 2 rehearsals. For the first rehearsal, you have a choice of attending a rehearsal at the **Mequon, Wisconsin Church**, 13800 N. Post Washington Road, scheduled for **Monday night, June 4, at 7:00 PM** (Call 414/375-3890 for directions) or attending the rehearsal scheduled for **Monday night, June 11, at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, IL**, 2100 Half Day Road (708/234-2460 for directions). Please attend whichever of these 2 practices that is most convenient for you.

The second rehearsal will be held just prior to the Opening Ceremony, and will be the only opportunity to practice together as a total choir. It will begin promptly at **6:00 PM on Thursday, June 21st**.

If you are interested in being one of the musicmakers, please contact duRee Bryant by phone at 708/529-1505 (W) or 708/359-2053 (H) or by note at 1210 Del Mar, Palatine, IL 60067.



Many thanks to all the

teachers who devoted their time and energy to the RE program this year:

Erin Bosch
Peg Stevenson
Linda Nelson

Sharon Scattish
Dean Schroeder
Karen Gross
Anna Nettleton

Also, many thanks to the outgoing R.E. chair, Aileen Nettleton, for all her guidance and leadership during the past year.

Summer Volunteers Needed

Because there are no regular Sunday school classes during the summer, the R.E. committee is looking for volunteers to help downstairs each Sunday we meet at Prairie. We need one volunteer to plan an activity (if you need ideas, Anne Pryor has resource materials) and one to take care of the children who can't participate in the activity. Please call Linda Sheehy if you can help any of the following dates: June 3, 10, 17; July 1, 15, 29; August 12, 26.

How Did We Do?

The Religious Education Committee is in the process of evaluating the past year's program. The Committee welcomes any comments from parents with children in the program or from any other interested adults. Please contact Linda Sheehy, Ken Skog, Alice Bullen, or Maria Ogren with comments.



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 in the foyer 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.

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

Foster Care Needed!

"Jonathan," a 10 year old boy, is in need of respite foster care every other weekend and in emergencies. He is intelligent, likes animals, and is very interested in the natural sciences and fishing. "Jonathan" does display some behavioral challenges; however, he responds well to clear consequences and a structured environment.

A foster parent can be single or a couple. Someone who is accepting and has an understanding of Paganism and Goddess religions is needed. Foster parents are part of a professional team working together to meet "Jonathan's" needs. Reimbursement will be \$35 a day. Please call Retta Kanthak at Dane County Human Services, 273-6642, for more information.



Looking Ahead—

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.

They're Flying The Coop Again...

And they have a house for rent (cheap!) from June 11 to August 17, just 1/2 block from Prairie. Talk to Mary Mullen or Fredericka Schilling at 271-5192 for details.

JUNE 1990

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>Prairie Fire</h1>					1	2 Prairie Bus Trip to the Monet Exhibit
3 10:00– A Prairie Stir-Fry; by George Calden	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00– Sacred Space, Holy Ground; by Julie Bonser.	11	12	13 7:00 PM– Hispanic Potluck at Prairie	14	15	16 7:30 PM– Prairie Play-readers meet at the home of Margaret Lawrence
17 10:00– People of the Book (songbook); by Mike Briggs	18 7:30 PM– Prairie Board Meeting at Prairie	19	20	21 General Assembly	22 General Assembly	23 General Assembly
24 10:00– Service of the Living Tradition- at the GA in Milwaukee General Assembly	25 General Assembly	26 General Assembly	27	28	29	30

Prairie U–U Society Activity Calendar