The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, November 18. Submit items for November 22—December 6, 1990.

Vol. 28, No. 19, 11–6–90

Wednesday, November 14
12:00 N
Channing-Murray lunch at the Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on Today in the Union.

July 00 PM
STORYTELLING WORKSHOP at Prairie. (See related story.)

Thursday, November 15
7:00 PM
STORYTELLING WORKSHOP at Prairie. (See related story.)

Saturday, November 17
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Watkins. Call 233-5795 or 262-7960 for more information.

Sunday, November 18
10:00 AM
“PRAIRIEMONIES: A REPRISE AND FAREWELL” led by Annis Pratt

Wednesday, November 28
12:00 N
Channing-Murray lunch at the Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on Today in the Union.

Sunday, December 2
10:00 AM
“AFTER LIFE: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?”—Presented by Prairie’s Middle School group. NOT an intergenerational service.

Today’s Quote:
“Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn’t the work he’s supposed to be doing at that moment.”
—Robert Benchley

Don’t Miss the Grand Opening...

Of Marty’s Magnificent Curio Mart. Set aside November 10th for the social event of the season including the kickoff effort of Prairie’s annual chase after enough money to keep the doors open.

The evening will begin at 6:15 PM with a pizza dinner (and other goodies) and continue with the auction of donated “White Elephants” and of expert services of various Prairie members and friends. Invite all your friends as well. The sale and auction will begin at 7:30 PM.

...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
Bring your forgotten treasures (how about that matched set of Dean’s Dairy Milk Crates you’ve collected, ...or the Do-It-Yourself Guide to Open Heart Surgery that you bought in a moment of weakness?) on the night of the auction or drop them off at Pat Caoutley’s house if you need to deliver them early. If you’ve a special skill that others could use, please also consider donating your time and/or materials for one or more occasions as well to help Prairie make ends meet this year.

Whatever you like to do or do well...

Sofa Donated for Sale
Carolyn Dejoie has generously offered Prairie a French Provincial sofa to be sold at our White Elephant Auction. We have a photograph of it and know that it is in excellent condition. If you would like more information about it, please call Carolyn at 274-2152.

Annual Fall Meeting Agenda Set
The Executive Board will meet at 9:00 AM prior to the parish meeting to take final action on adoption of the recommended budget for presentation to the Society. The President has been asked to include on the board agenda the proposal that further study be given to the possibility of Head Start using our premises. The reasons given for the request are twofold, first that space and financial considerations should be more thoroughly explored, and second that five or six members have volunteered to help in any additional work made necessary because of having a tenant.

The Annual Fall Meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 11, following the morning service and a Potluck Lunch in the meetinghouse. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Consideration and Adoption of the 1991 Budget.
3. Consideration of proposed Bylaw Amendments.
4. Such other business as may properly come before the congregation.
5. Adjourn.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments:
The following bylaw amendments have been submitted for consideration by the Society at the Annual Fall Meeting:

I. Pertaining to revised timetable for selection of Lay Ministers:

if the lay ministry option of Article VIII is in effect, to solicit and interview candidates, and announce at the Annual Meeting Regular Fall Business Meeting the names, terms of service, and prospective roles of lay minister candidates for the coming year. These names, along with any additional recommendations from members, shall be passed to the Executive Board for approval.

and revise ARTICLE VIII (MINISTRY), B., (Lay Ministry):

1. When seeking one or more lay ministers for terms of not more than one year, the Committee on Committees shall solicit and interview candidates, and shall make recommendations to the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting.

2. These recommendations, along with any additional recommendations from members, shall be considered and acted upon by joint action of the old and new Executive Boards at the first Executive Board meeting following the Annual Regular Fall Business Meeting.

3. The Committee on Committees shall follow the spirit of the 1972 report of the "Soul Searching Committee" in making its selections and recommendations.

4. A lay minister may be dismissed by a three-fifths vote at a business meeting. In the event of dismissal, the minister’s salary and fringe benefits shall be continued until the end of the appointed term or three months, whichever is shorter.

II. Pertaining to non-discrimination

Re-number Articles X and XI to XII, andinsert:

ARTICLE X: NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Society welcomes members, friends, and guests and hires employees without regard to age, race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

Storytelling Workshop Scheduled

Mark Wagler, a professional story teller for many years, has expressed interest in working with the Prairie community on the topic of stories. He’ll be doing this in many different ways, the first of which will be a workshop on storytelling technique. This will be an opportunity to improve one’s storytelling abilities through focusing on such items as use of voice, constructing dialogue, use of gesture and choice of story. The workshop would be especially valuable for R.E. teachers (both current and potential future ones) and others who either work with children or utilize public speaking. Of course, anyone with an interest is very welcome to attend.

The workshop will be held at Prairie on Wednesday and Thursday, November 14 & 15, from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. It would be most beneficial for folks to attend both evenings, as the second session will build upon the first. If that isn’t possible, arrangements could be made.

At least six people are needed in order for the workshop to be held. Please contact Anne Pryor, 244-7099, as soon as possible if interested.

A Warm Welcome To...

New member Heidi Oliverson and her son Luke, who signed the membership book on October 28th. Their address is: 505 N. Rosa Road Madison, WI. 53705-2660 Phone: 238-2265
Our Thanks To...

Orange Schroeder, for her help in preparing for the November 4 program. It was based on Unplug the Christmas Machine: How to Have the Christmas You've Always Wanted, by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppack Staeheili.

Program News

Nifty Gifty

"Nifty Gifty" is Prairie's annual yule time tradition of providing the youth an opportunity to make gift items from recycled materials. This year it will be held on December 16th.

The R.E. Committee is in the process of recruiting people who would like to help make Nifty Gifty happen this year. We need craft ideas, people to supervise the making of the items, folks to help with gift wrapping or card printing, and people to donate materials. If you are able to do any of the above, please let Linda Sheehy (273-3895) or Anne Pryor (244-7099) know soon. Watch for a list of needed items in the next Prairie Fire.

Preschool/Nursery

Anna Nettleton is still acting in an "on call" capacity this fall. When children of this age group are present she provides child care. When no children are present, she assists in the large and lively K-1-2 group.

K-1-2

Following the legends of Johnny Appleseed, the children in this group made applesauce (using some very fun peeling and slicing equipment). This corresponded with the time John Chapman made "apple sass" for Rachel Bryan to help her get well again. Beth Lovern led this session with the aid of parent volunteer Judy Skog. The next Sunday found the children exploring the meanings behind the traditions legends and symbols of Halloween. Each also drew pictures of the Honored Dead or of their favorite Halloween symbol. This session was led by Dana Dopp with Anna Nettleton assisting.

3-4-5

Finishing up their multi-week review of different cultures' creation stories, this group wrote some themselves. Here's an example from Erik Schroeder:

Once there was only fire, and it grew bigger, and bigger, and then, BOOM! Fire became trees and the ashes became the earth. But it was very hot on earth so Erik the god of all said "I want coolness!" So there was coolness. There was no one to worship him so he made humans. But his humans...
were dying because they were hungry and thirsty so Erik made plants and water. So his humans were happy and so was Erik.

The following week, they left behind the unit on creation myths and entered that of "Stories that Science Tells Us," which begins with the scientific story of the origin of the universe. Pudding was made to illustrate how the earth went from hot and molten to semi solid with crust on top. A balloon with dots for stars was blown up to illustrate the expanding universe. Mike Sheehy and Dean Schroeder lead this group.

6-7-8

This group has begun to videotape interviews of Prairie members on the topic of life after death. Working the equipment as well as scripting and conducting the interviews is a challenge, but one that is being well met by the participants. Interest in the project is high. Karen Gross, Andrea Lawrence and Marty Drapkin lead this group.

Food... Food... Food!

Now that I have your attention, I want you to know we are still collecting food for two neighborhood families. Both are single parents who work full-time but receive low wages without benefits. They fall through the cracks in the social services system for any kind of assistance. Monthly they struggle with housing cost, medical expenses (no insurance) and food.

They have plenty of canned food. Needed is cheese, apples, meat, fruit and cereal. If you give cash, I will buy some perishables. If you bring perishables, I will deliver them on Sunday. Make yourself feel good—Donate!

- Fredericka Schilling

UNICEF Cards Available

UNICEF cards will be available the next two Sundays at Prairie. There are several assortments of note cards (no message) and stationery as well as the more familiar kinds of holiday greeting cards. We don't mean to be rushing the season—as we talked about on November 4—but we want to give members the opportunity of helping children if you are going to be purchasing greeting cards anyway, or buying stationery, note cards, or calendars as gifts.

Looking Ahead—

Nov. 9-11: Central Midwest District Annual Meeting at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet. Registration $20 plus meals & concert. Call 708/481-5339 or 708/481-5055.

Nov. 10: Prairie’s Annual Service Auction & Sale at the meetinghouse, 6:15 PM.

Nov. 11: Fall Parish Meeting—Adoption of Budget, at the meetinghouse following the morning service.

Jan. 4, 5 & 6: Midwest Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (MUUYAN) conference in Madison, hosted by Channing-Murray. Contact Cinda LaMar at 238-9884.