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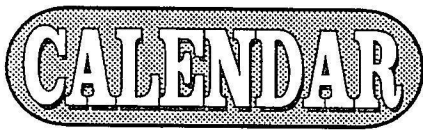
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248

Vol. 28, No. 19, 11-6-90

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



Saturday November 10

6:15 PM
ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION AND WHITE ELEPHANT SALE at the meetinghouse. (See related story.)

Sunday November 11

10:00 AM
"THE MAGICAL CHILD AND THE ART OF BIRDWATCHING" presented by Annis Pratt and Ruth Calden.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH—Please bring a dish to pass, and stick around for...
1:00 PM
FALL PARISH MEETING at the meetinghouse to adopt the 1991 budget. (See related story & agenda.)

Monday, November 12

6:30 PM
SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the meetinghouse. All skill levels welcome. Call Kate Tucker at 221-2168 for information.

Wednesday, November 14

12:00 N
Channing-Murray lunch at the Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on Today in the Union.
7:00 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 REPRIS AND FAREWELL" led by Annis Pratt

Wednesday, November 21

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

Sunday, November 25

10:00 AM
"THANKS-TAKING: A NATIVE AMERICAN VIEW OF THANKS-GIVING": An intergenerational service presented by Ms. Pem Yellow Bird, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nations, Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.

Wednesday, November 28

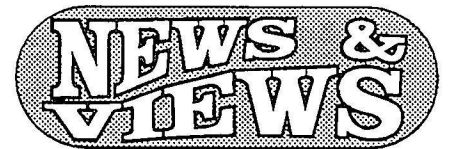
12:00 N
Channing-Murray lunch at the Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on Today in the Union.

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 BENCHLY



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

11-6-90 FF.

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:

Amend ARTICLE VII (Standing Committees), B (Special Committees), 2 (Committee on Committees), c, (3):

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.

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 Cautley'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.

II. Pertaining to non-discrimination

Renumber Articles X and XI to XI: and XII. and insert:

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 Staeheli.



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

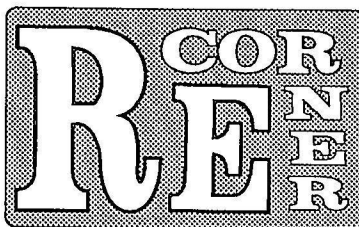
Wednesday Lunches are held at the Memorial Union. You can bring a brown bag or buy something from one of the Union Cafeterias. These lunches feature frequent guest speakers and we have a number of good ones lined up for the semester. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community. Check "Today In The Union" for the room location.

Sunday, November 18, will be Channing-Murray's monthly dinner and program. It will be held in the Copper Hearth Room, Union South, at 6:00 PM. The guest speaker will be John Sumwalt, minister of Wesley United Methodist Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Remember Pem Yellow Bird? She's the Native American woman who spoke so eloquently about her people's religion at a Channing-Murray meeting last February. She will be the guest speaker at Prairie's Thanksgiving Service on November 25, and she'll be speaking about a Native American's view of Thanksgiving.

Channing-Murray will be hosting the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (MUUYAN) conference on January 4, 5 & 6. The conference is now in the planning stage, and both ideas and volunteers are needed. Please

call Javid Butler with your ideas or drop him a note. His phone no. is 608/549-3081 and his address is P.O. Box 106, Richland Center, WI 53581. The conference will be a great opportunity to meet young adults from our neighboring states.



Wish List

With the moving of Sunrise School, the basement has lost much of its former attractive and comfortable furnishings. We'd like to recreate the warm and lively atmosphere that the basement had last year and also better equip the kitchen. We need your help to do so. If anyone could donate or lend any of the following items, we'll be able to make the children's space much more welcoming.

Preschool/Nursery Area

Toys safe for infants to play with. We have lots of appropriate pre-school toys, but not many for infants or toddlers.

K-1-2 Area

Floor cushions (large pillows), one or two plants, and LEGO blocks.

3-4-5 Area

Floor cushions (large pillows), posters (mounted so they can be hung on the wall) or wall hangings, balls for outdoor play.

6-7-8 Area

An area rug, plants, and posters (mounted so they can be hung on the wall) or wall hangings.

Kitchen Area

Silverware, a juice pitcher, plates and bowls, mixing bowls, measuring cups and spoons, and storage containers.

Thanks for any assistance you can provide in this area! Contact Linda Sheehy or Anne Pryor with your donations.

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 dieing 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.



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, see coordinator Frank Iltis.)
- 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.

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.