Vol. 28, No. 21, 12–4–90

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, December 16. Submit items for December 20—January 10, 1991.

Thursday, December 13
7:00 PM
MEN'S GROUP meets at Prairie.
7:30 PM
WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP.

Saturday, December 15
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAY READERS MEET at Rachel Siegfried's home, 5209 Tolman Terrace. The play will be Mary, Mary, by Jean Kerr, or an alternate yet to be chosen. All Prairie folk and friends are invited! Call 271-2173 for directions or more information.

Sunday, December 16
9:00 AM
SINGING GROUP PRACTICE for holiday services. See Aileen Nettleton.
10:00 AM
"PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH STORYTELLING"—led by Mark Wagler.

Friday, December 21
7:30 PM
CUU Ps WINTER SOL STICE CELEBRATION at Prairie Society. Everyone is invited to come and learn what 'pagans' do to celebrate the onset of winter!

Sunday, December 23
10:00 AM
INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY SERVICE featuring the Prairie Symbol Tree. Led by Mike and Norma Briggs.

Today’s Quote:
“All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income.”
- SAMUEL BUTLER

Coffee Service Volunteers
The following persons have volunteered to set up the coffee service on Sunday mornings. Our thanks to these volunteers for taking care of all of us!

Dec. 9 Paul Adams & Elizabeth Alexander
Dec. 16 Barb Park
Dec. 23 ??
Dec. 30 ??

Additional volunteers are needed for the open dates! (continues...)

...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
The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Dec. 9 Rosemary Dorney & Sharon Scrattiah
Dec. 16 Randy Hill & Al Nettleton
Dec. 23 Betty Jailings & Cindy LaMar
Dec. 30 ??

The following have signed up to greet visitors on Sunday mornings. More volunteers are needed!

Dec. 9 Lee & Alice Bullen
Dec. 16 ??
Dec. 23 ??
Dec. 30 ??

Any volunteers who cannot work on the day they’ve signed up, please let Anne Urbanski know so she can locate a substitute.

Holiday Choral Group

Come and sing together! Practices will be held at 9:00 AM prior to the service for the next few weeks. Contact Aileen Nettleton at 238-6053 for more information.

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 following items are needed for the project. If you can contribute, bring them to Prairie on the Sunday before (December 9th).

- Old gift wrapping paper and ribbon
- The Sunday color comics
- Stationary paper, preferably plain
- Old socks (they can be holey, but not smelly!)
- Buttons that match
- Toilet paper and paper towel cardboard tubes
- Cloth remnants, (heavier weight materials preferred)
- Beans or lentils

These other following items we would like to borrow for the day—they’ll be returned to you when we are done:

- Larger-size heavier sewing needles
- Inked stamp pads, different colors
- Pinking shears
- Cassette tapes of art-inspiring music (seasonal tapes would be great if not heavy on Christmas Carols)

The R.E. Committee needs people to supervise the making of the items and to help with gift wrapping or card printing. Please let Linda Sheehy (273-3895) or Anne Pryor (244-7099) know soon.

Symbol Tree Service

Please bring a symbol suitable for hanging on Sunday morning, December 23. Mike and Norma Briggs will lead the service, which will once again include the symbol tree. Symbols can be anything that is important to you or symbolic to you. You will have an opportunity to place your symbol on the tree and explain what it means to you. This will be a candle-light service, so please bring a candle you can hold. There will be no R.E. program since this is an intergenerational service.

Pat Watkins Returns Home

Prairie Member Pat Watkins, who was injured in a fall at home recently, returned home on Monday, December 3rd. She has a broken ankle and will be confined to a wheelchair while it is mending. She wishes to thank all her friends for their support and kindness while she was in the hospital and will be glad to receive visitors at home during her convalescence (but don’t be surprised if the house is a bit messy...).

Take an Active Part!

The Program Committee needs your help! We are putting together upcoming Sunday morning programs and we need both ideas and leaders! Please come to the next program committee meeting on Sunday, December 16th, at 11:30 AM at the meetinghouse. For more information, call Bill Robbins at 837-0409.

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Celebrate The Rebirth Of The Sun!

CUUPS (the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is hosting a celebration of the Winter Solstice at 7:30 PM on Friday, December 21st at Prairie UU Society. Prairie members and friends are specifically invited to come and take part in a festival that has been celebrated in one form or another for thousands of years. Please bring a candle and finger food snacks to share (non-alcoholic drinks are OK as well). There will be a brief ritual followed by the sharing of food and fun!

Housing & Property News

There will be a workday at Prairie to tend to indoor fix-up needs on December 29th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Although our walks are shoveled after each snowfall we will need volunteers to sand the walks and clear drifted snow off the steps before Sunday services. We will circulate a sign-up sheet. Members are asked to sign up for one Sunday this winter.

In the Mailbox...

Dear Valued Friend,

Enclosed you will find a tribute to your outstanding support of the Annual Program Fund. It is a testimony of your commitment to the stewardship of our faith, so display it proudly! Your congregation is among the 637 who have set the superb example for others to achieve.

Through your contribution you have not only supported Religious Education, Ministry, Social Justice and many other programs, you have also made it possible for your district to receive grants. Among other things, these grants allow for the continuation of the District Executive program.

I would like to share some thoughts with you that came from Doug Powers, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

I think it speaks to all of us. He writes:

"Our congregation has moved recently from an inward focus to one that includes a greater appreciation of the benefits it receives from the UUA. One tangible reflection of our broadened denominational horizon has been our decision to contribute our fair share to the Annual Program Fund. While not an easy step, it is one we are resolved to continue, buoyed by the satisfac-
ation that comes from taking responsibility for the sense of community and interdependence we share with all Unitarian Universalists.

Thank you. You're terrific!

Fia Scheyer, Director
Annual Program Fund
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

BUICK GIFTY

A special invitation is extended to all children and youths to come to Prairie on Sunday, December 16th, to make gifts that they can give to family and friends. There will be lots of different things to make, so come early: Nifty Gifty will go from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM. Please bring 50¢ to help pay for supplies. There won't be regular R.E. sessions that day, just gift making downstairs. Be sure to wear old clothes in case things get messy. Hope to see you there!

UNICEF Cards Available

UNICEF cards are presently available at Prairie. There are several assortments of note cards (no message) and stationery as well as the more familiar kinds of holiday greeting cards. If you miss them at Prairie, look for them at Orange Tree Imports, run by Prairie members Orange and Dean Schroeder.

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 costs. 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

Support Mental Health

Help the Yahara House and help yourself at the same time! HOW? buy an Enter­tainment Coupon Book for 1991 from them and enjoy a year of fine dining, fast food, and other special deals. Most of the coupons provide two meals for the price of one. Yahara House is a psychosocial rehabilitation club for people with persistent and severe mental illness. The cost of the book is $25, of which $5 is a donation to Yahara House (and therefore tax deductible). If you're interested, call Julie Bonser at 274-3248 or talk to her after any Sunday service.

Guest At Your Table

The UUSC headquarters suggests that each family or individual using a box write their name and address on the box so the gift can be credited to them by the Service Committee. A gift of $25 will make the donor(s) a member of the UUSC. A donation of $50 will be matched by the North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society of Pandome, New York.

The Service Committee requests that we send our “Guest At Your Table” contributions as soon after January 1st as possible so that they can close their books for the fiscal year.

- Leland Bullen

Looking Ahead-

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

Help Wanted

A. Greeter. Cheerful, friendly reliable person(s) to come to Prairie around 9:40 AM to greet people as they arrive at Prairie on Sunday.

B. Coffee Maker. Cheerful, reliable person(s) to make coffee for Prairie services on a semi-regular basis (once or twice a month). The job entails arriving by 9:15 AM to make 1 or 2 pots of regular coffee, 1 pot of decaf coffee, and hot water for tea. The coffee can also be made on Saturday afternoon and set to start on Sunday with timers. We need more volunteers!

Applicants for either position should call Anne Urbanski (258-8269) evenings for an interview. The rewards are substantial, but involve no remunera­tion of any sort.