Vol. 28, No. 22, 12-18-90

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, Jan. 6. Submit items for Jan. 10—24, 1991.

Sunday, January 6
10:00 AM
"PRAIRIE RESOLVE" New Year's Service led by Al Nettleton.

Monday, January 7
6:30 PM
SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK meets at the meetinghouse.
(see related story)

Sunday, January 13
10:00 AM
"HIDDEN ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DEBATE" presented by Roger Faulkner, Prairie's newest member.
11:30 AM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING in the basement at the meetinghouse.
All Members & Friends are welcome!

Sunday, January 20
10:00 AM
To Be Announced

Wednesday, January 23
6:30 PM
FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Rosemary Dorney.

Sunday, January 27
10:00 AM
To Be Announced

Monday, January 28
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the meetinghouse.

Today's Quote:
"Perhaps I know best why it is man alone who laughs; he alone suffers so deeply that he had to invent laughter.”
- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Coffee Service Volunteers
The following persons have volunteered to set up the coffee service on Sunday mornings. Volunteers are needed!

Dec. 23 ??
Dec. 30 ??
Jan. 6 ??
Jan. 13 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services. Volunteers are needed for the open dates!

Dec. 23 Betty Jallings & Cinda LaMar
Dec. 30 ??
Jan. 6 Andrea Lawrence & Carol Fishbaugh
Jan. 13 ??

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

Dec. 23 ??

...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
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. Contact Aileen Nettleton at 238-6053 for more information.

Correction Notice
Calendar items in two recent Prairie Fires announced that Pat Watkins had reserved the meetinghouse for a birthday party on Friday, December 28th. Although I long ago reserved the building for such a purpose, the past five months have been so hectic that I have been unable to make the necessary preparations for the party I wanted—and my recent accident demolished any remaining ability to pull it off. I did not put the birthday party notice in the Prairie Fire, I don’t know how nor why it was printed, but I want to announce that there will be no Birthday Party for Pat Watkins this year!
-Pat Watkins

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
Words cannot fully express my appreciation for the outpouring of loving concern, thoughtfulness, help, and labor from the members of my Prairie Family. You have made me feel so wonderful in the midst of pain, frustration, and depression, that my accident was almost worth the enlightenment it brought me about the importance of Prairie and Prairie people in my life. I never knew nor expected that you cared so much; I found out that you did. Thank you for all the cards, the phone calls, and the visits. Special thanks and big hugs to: Diane Derouen for the plant and the couscous (which was a great treat); Barbara Rames for the books; Rosemarie Lester for the plant; Betsy True for shoveling the blizzard away from my Norwood Place doorstep; Tim Fast for his commitment to shoveling by Meadow Lane place for the remainder of the winter; Pat Meller for the great Chinese dinner and the coffeecake; Donna Murdoch & Julie Bonser for shopping; John & Shirley Grindrod for the library and the pillow; Al Nettleton for the indoor flooring which allows me to navigate parts of my house in the wheelchair; Al Nettleton, John Grindrod, and Rick Ruecking for building the ramp which will enable me to get out; and to all of you who contributed funds for the ramp. Many others have asked what they can do to help, and my one special need is grocery shopping. As I live only two blocks from Hilldale, anyone who plans to be at Hilldale and would be willing to pick something up for me at Kohl’s or Sentry or Walgreens would have my undying gratitude. Thanks again to all of you, and Happy Holidays!
-Pat Watkins

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!

Symbol Tree Service
Please bring a symbol suitable for hanging on Sunday morning, December 23. Mike and Norma Briggs will lead the service, entitled LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU, which will once again include the symbol tree. Symbols can be anything that has meaning for you in your life (and fits on the tree). There will be no R.E. program since this is an intergenerational service.

This is also a candle-light service, so please bring a candle you can hold and (for a candleholder) a round piece of cardboard with an x cut in it, like this—

Housing & Property News
There will be a workday at Prairie to tend to indoor fix-up on Saturday, Dec. 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. Members are asked to sign up for one Sunday this winter and volunteers are still needed for the months of February and March.

Sidewalk Care Volunteers:
Dec. 23 Jim Harvey
Dec. 30 Ken & Judy Skog
Jan. 6 Frank Iltis
Jan. 13 Mary Mullen
Jan. 20 Randy Hill
Jan. 27 Jack & Betty Jallings

Attention, All Musicians!
Al Nettleton and Rosemarie Lester are organizing a program on Kurt Weill for Feb. 24th. Please volunteer to perform some of Kurt’s music and let either Al or Rosemarie know of your selection.

Welcome, New Members!
The following persons have signed the membership book recently. Please enter their names in your directory and give them a warm welcome when you meet!

Ann Lockhart
1160 Emerald St.
Madison, WI 53715

Greg & Jackie Pavek
210 W. Fountain St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Phone: 608/935-2794
Children: Josh (15), Sara (10)

Roger Faulkner
146 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 257-8669 or 255-9722

Spanish Speakers’ Potluck
The Spanish Speakers’ Potluck will be held at 6:30 PM on Monday, January 7th at the meetinghouse. All levels of skill are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share. Contact Kate Tucker at 221-2168 for more information.
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.

Thursday night dinners will resume on January 3, and Wednesday lunches will resume on January 23.

The semester Kick-Off meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th, at 6:00 PM in the Copper Hearth Room at Union South, where there is a fireplace we can use. There will be a spaghetti dinner provided but salad, bread, beverages, etc. are needed to go with it. Volunteers are needed to cook the spaghetti and sauce.

There has been a change in the arrangements for the MUUYAN conference. Rather than being sponsored by Channing–Murray, it will be coordinated by former Channing–Murray member Karl Olson, who now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and will be held on January 25-27 in New Glarus, WI.

**Program News**

**Nifty Gifty**
Thanks to all who helped make Nifty Gifty so successful and fun: Metje Butler, Anne Urbanski, Alice Bullen, Ann Lockhart, Robin Park-Doob, Betty Jallings, Michelle Honore, Peg Stevenson, Lilli Sandler, Claire Sandler, Brandon Sheehy, Emilie Dickson, Josh Pavek, Anna Nettleton, Barbara Park, Judy Skog, Fredricka Schilling, and Aileen Nettleton.

**Interim**
We are in the process of recruiting adults to share a favorite interest or project with our youths on one or both of two Sunday mornings—January 6 and January 13. Do you like to paint, sculpt, make paper, dance, study the stars, travel, pantomime? Then you are the person we need! Please see Anne Pryor (244–7099) or Linda Sheehy (273–3895) if you can share your interest with our children.

**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 Ilitas.)
- **The Once a Week blood donors club** (Red Cross Blood Bank.)
- **Recycling** (containers are in the garbage can area in back.)

**Support Mental Health**
Help the Yahara House, a psychosocial rehabilitation club for people with persistent and severe mental illness, 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. 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**
“Guest At Your Table” boxes were distributed on Sunday, November 25, for contributions to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. 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

Convocation ’91
Convocation ’91 is the seventh annual assembly on UUs for lesbian/gay concerns. It will be held in San Francisco on Feb. 15, 16, & 17. The keynote speaker will be Kim Crawford Harvie from Boston’s Arlington Street Church. Registration fees are set on a sliding scale from $45 to $75 based on income, include all activities, and include six meals. A $20 late fee will apply to registrations received after January 15, 1991. If you are interested in attending, see either Mary Mullen or Fredricka Schilling for more information.

Looking Ahead–
Jan. 25–27: Midwest Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (MUUYAN) conference in New Glarus, WI. Contact Karl Olson, 402/474-4106.
Feb. 15–17: Convocation ’91, the seventh annual assembly of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian/Gay concerns, in San Francisco. Contact Mary Mullen or Fredricka Schilling for more information.

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.

Networking: Help Wanted!
As many of you know, I’m job-hunting in earnest as I lost my job Nov. 30th. My training is in journalism and I have lots of experience in magazine writing and production. I don’t want to limit my opportunities only to magazines as there aren’t many jobs in that field in the Madison area. I’d like to present myself as a “communications specialist.” Please try to think of someone (in a business) whom I might contact—not necessarily to ask for a job—but to ask if they know of anyone I can talk to. If you can think of anyone for me to contact, please call me at 258–8269. Thanks!

- Anne Urbanski