Vol. 29, No. 3, 2-5-91

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, February 17. Submit items for February 21—Mar 7, 1991.

The Music of Kurt Weill led by Rosemarie Lester & Al Nettleton, with musical contributions from several Prairie members and friends.

Today’s Quote:
“Confession is good for the soul only in the sense that a tweed coat is good for dandruff—it is a palliative rather than a remedy.”

- Peter De Vries

...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
Join the Prairie Band!

Anyone who plays an instrument of any kind is welcome to meet with the Prairie Band on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM at Prairie. Right now we have guitar(s), harmonica, trumpet, trombone, accordion(s), and spoons (percussion) as well as the piano. We try to play any music a member brings and often we play songs from the Prairie Song-Book. We are very informal and have a good time. For more information, contact Mary Mullen at 271–5192.

French Speakers’ Potluck

The next French speakers’ potluck will be held at Nancy Schraufnagel’s apartment, 501 N. Whitney Way, Apt. #7, on Wednesday, February 20, at 7:00 PM. Please call Nancy at 273–3195 for more information or directions.

Attention, All Musicians!

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE! Al Nettleton and Rosemarie Lester are organizing a program on Kurt Weill for March 10th. Please volunteer to perform some of Kurt’s music and let either Al or Rosemarie know of your selection.

New Member Orientation (Friends, too!)

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a 3 session orientation for new Prairie members, prospective members, and interested friends of Prairie. High School students are also encouraged to come. All session will begin at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions. The dates and topics are as follows:

Tues. Feb. 12 Your personal religious journey, or “how I got to Prairie”.
Tues. Feb. 19 Overview of Unitarian-Universalist history and (ahem) “beliefs.”
Tues. Feb. 26 Overview of Prairie Society history and structure.
Meetings will be held either at my house, 317 N. Baldwin St., just north of E. Johnson Street, (if less than 10 people) or at Prairie. If you plan to attend, please call me at 258–8269 or complete the registration form in this issue and mail it to me so I know how many people to expect. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

- Anne Urbanski

Coffee Service Volunteers

The following persons have volunteered to set up the coffee service on Sunday mornings. Additional volunteers are needed to fill in!

- Feb. 10 Jim Harvey
- Feb. 17 Paul Adams
- Feb. 24 Heidi Oliversen
- Mar. 3 Dick & Julie Bonser

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

- Feb. 10 Kathy Converse & Greg & Jackie Pavon
- Feb. 17 Randy Converse & Al Nettleton
- Feb. 24 Rachel Siegfried & Metje Butler
- Mar. 3 Mary Mullen & ??

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

- Feb. 10 Jaen Andrews
- Feb. 17 Barbara Rames
- Feb. 24 ??
- Mar. 3 Dick & Julie Bonser

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

Sidewalk Safety Check Volunteers:

- Feb. 10 Frank Ilitis
- Feb. 17 Warren Hagstrom
- Feb. 24 Mike Briggs
- Mar. 2 Mary Mullen
- Mar. 10 Paul Adams & Elizabeth Alexander
- Mar. 17 ??
- Mar. 24 Randy Converse

High Schoolers!

Would you like to get together with other Prairie teens on a more regular basis? Would you like to meet some interesting Prairie adults?

Then come to lunch!

Starting on Feb. 17th, high school students and an adult will lunch together at a nearby restaurant after the Prairie service. This will occur every first and third Sunday of each month. The first get-together will be at Marc’s Big Boy on Verona Road by the new Sentry. Either meet there between 11:30 and 11:45 or meet at Prairie and car pool from there. This time together will be an opportunity for good conversation, food and fun. Hope you can make it!

1990 General Assembly Study Resolutions

On February 24, following the 10:00 service, members and friends are invited to a discussion of the 1990 General Assembly Study Resolutions. The three topics to be covered include: 1) Gun Control; 2) A balanced approach to the drug abuse problem; and 3) Redirecting economic resources to alleviate poverty. If you cannot be present and wish to have your opinion registered, please call Carol Fishbaugh at 845–5615.

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Members and Friends

You are invited to a “Pizza Potluck” on Friday, March 8, at 7:00 PM at the home of Carol Fishbaugh and Andrea Lawrence. We will share information and news gathered at the UULGC Convocation 91, held on Feb. 15, 16 and 17 in San Francisco. We will also discuss possibilities for starting some kind of group “at home.” Please call Carol or Andrea at 845–5615 for details.

Hemlock Society of Wisconsin

At a meeting held on January 19, those present decided to organize a chapter of the National Hemlock Society in Wisconsin. There is a steering committee at work to create a proposed slate of officers and interim bylaws, etc. A formal organizing meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday February 23rd, at the First Unitarian Society Meetinghouse to adopt bylaws, elect officers, and provide an opportunity for those interested to join the chapter.

The Hemlock Society is a nonprofit
national organization supporting the option of active voluntary euthanasia for the terminally ill. It does NOT encourage suicide for any reason in the absence of terminal illness and approves of the work of those involved in suicide prevention.

For more information, please call Lori Pederson at 833-3139 or Linné Cain at 233-7949.

**Best of the Board Minutes**

- Pat Cautley reports that 91.48% of the 1990 pledges were paid by 12/31/90. (Even the IRS doesn't do much better than that!)
- Anne Urbanski reports that we certified (and will be paying for) 117 members to the UUA. She also reported that our brochure "ABOUT PRAIRIE SOCIETY: A GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS" has been revised and updated and will be available soon.
- President Jack Jallings has appointed an ad hoc 'off the wall' committee to make suggestions for making Prairie Society even better.
- The spring parish meeting will be held on April 21st.
- The R.E. committee has prepared a very comprehensive "Plan For Youth" including youth orientation sessions, spiritual/religious growth, transition to Prairie adult society, circle dinners, 'secret friends', and a 'youth page' in the Prairie Fire.
- Fourteen plus people showed up for the Dec. 19th work day to clean the building—our thanks to everyone!
- A committee chair (or co-chairs) is needed for the 1991 Upham Woods Retreat committee.

**The Widening Web**

The Central Midwest District Worship and Spiritual Values Committee announces the first issue of its three times a year newsletter, *The Widening Web*. Copies of the small newsletter are posted on the bulletin board at Prairie. The purpose of the newsletter is to enhance and deepen spiritual reflection. Subscription information is available from the District Committee c/o Robert V. Johnson, 5648 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago IL 60637-1751.

**Pass the Word...**

If you have UU friends living in the central Wisconsin area (Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Ripon, Berlin, Oshkosh, Princeton, Montello, Waupun, and neighboring communities), please let them know that the UU fellowship in Oshkosh, along with folk in the Ripon area, is reorganizing to serve a broader area with both adult and children's activities (children in the group range from infants to early teen years). Interested people should contact:

Marjorie Kenyon-Cler
404 Grace Street
Ripon, WI 54971-1845
phone: 414/748-2553

Channing-Murray, the University of Wisconsin Unitarian-Universalist Student group, meets every Wednesday at noon, every Thursday at 6:00 PM, and once a month on Sunday at 6:00 PM for a dinner and program evening.

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 discussions led by one of the students, with each one who wishes taking a turn. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community. Check 'Today In The Union' for the Unitarian Student Group room location.

Informal Thursday evening dinner meetings are held at the International Food Court next to Kinko's on University Avenue at 6:00 PM. Fifteen to twenty people usually attend. There's plenty of room and they have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. They're usually done by 7:00 PM.

Don't forget the February dinner and program meeting on Sunday, February 24th, at 6:00 PM at the First Unitarian Society Meetinghouse. The guest for the evening will be Robert, one of Madison's homeless people.

**Program News**

The weeks of January 6 and 13 were the traditional Interim Session for Prairie's R.E. Program. This is a time that adults other that the year-long leaders spend a morning with the children, sharing an interest or skill. On Jan. 13, Rick Ruecking took several adventurous youngsters to a nearby hill for a great morning of sledding. Anne Pryor stayed behind with the other children and taught them string figures from around the world.

The following week, Rachel Siegfried led a crew in making powdermilk biscuits, enjoyed later by all with butter and homemade jam. Linda Sheehy taught other children several popular origami designs while Aileen Nettleton and Jean Matos facilitated the creation of children's own books, complete with the use of Jean's computer. Many thanks to all those who made this year's Interim session enjoyable and meaningful for our young people.

After the Intergenerational Service on Jan. 20, the regular R.E. sessions began again on January 27. Beth Lovern began the semester for the K-1-2 group with the welcomed assistance of Linda Sheehy. To provide an opportunity for the group to reestablish contacts and friendships, the morning was centered on making pretzels, an activity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dean Schroeder led the 3-4-5 group, with the focus on the topic of death. The objective was to help the children understand death a little more, and this was attempted through discussing people that they knew who had died and listening to writings by the Dalai Lama about inner peace (with the idea that if one is at peace with oneself then one's fear of death is assuaged). The morning also included a structured debate on the war in the Persian Gulf area with many arguments both pro and con being raised.

**Channing Murray**

```
For the terminally ill. It does NOT encourage suicide for any reason in the absence of terminal illness and approves of the work of those involved in suicide prevention.

For more information, please call Lori Pederson at 833-3139 or Linné Cain at 233-7949.

**Best of the Board Minutes**

- Pat Cautley reports that 91.48% of the 1990 pledges were paid by 12/31/90. (Even the IRS doesn't do much better than that!)
- Anne Urbanski reports that we certified (and will be paying for) 117 members to the UUA. She also reported that our brochure "ABOUT PRAIRIE SOCIETY: A GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS" has been revised and updated and will be available soon.
- President Jack Jallings has appointed an ad hoc 'off the wall' committee to make suggestions for making Prairie Society even better.
- The spring parish meeting will be held on April 21st.
- The R.E. committee has prepared a very comprehensive "Plan For Youth" including youth orientation sessions, spiritual/religious growth, transition to Prairie adult society, circle dinners, 'secret friends', and a 'youth page' in the Prairie Fire.
- Fourteen plus people showed up for the Dec. 19th work day to clean the building—our thanks to everyone!
- A committee chair (or co-chairs) is needed for the 1991 Upham Woods Retreat committee.

**The Widening Web**

The Central Midwest District Worship and Spiritual Values Committee announces the first issue of its three times a year newsletter, *The Widening Web*. Copies of the small newsletter are posted on the bulletin board at Prairie. The purpose of the newsletter is to enhance and deepen spiritual reflection. Subscription information is available from the District Committee c/o Robert V. Johnson, 5648 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago IL 60637-1751.

**Pass the Word...**

If you have UU friends living in the central Wisconsin area (Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Ripon, Berlin, Oshkosh, Princeton, Montello, Waupun, and neighboring communities), please let them know that the UU fellowship in Oshkosh, along with folk in the Ripon area, is reorganizing to serve a broader area with both adult and children's activities (children in the group range from infants to early teen years). Interested people should contact:

Marjorie Kenyon-Cler
404 Grace Street
Ripon, WI 54971-1845
phone: 414/748-2553

Channing-Murray, the University of Wisconsin Unitarian-Universalist Student group, meets every Wednesday at noon, every Thursday at 6:00 PM, and once a month on Sunday at 6:00 PM for a dinner and program evening.

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 discussions led by one of the students, with each one who wishes taking a turn. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community. Check 'Today In The Union' for the Unitarian Student Group room location.

Informal Thursday evening dinner meetings are held at the International Food Court next to Kinko's on University Avenue at 6:00 PM. Fifteen to twenty people usually attend. There's plenty of room and they have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. They're usually done by 7:00 PM.

Don't forget the February dinner and program meeting on Sunday, February 24th, at 6:00 PM at the First Unitarian Society Meetinghouse. The guest for the evening will be Robert, one of Madison's homeless people.

**Program News**

The weeks of January 6 and 13 were the traditional Interim Session for Prairie's R.E. Program. This is a time that adults other that the year-long leaders spend a morning with the children, sharing an interest or skill. On Jan. 13, Rick Ruecking took several adventurous youngsters to a nearby hill for a great morning of sledding. Anne Pryor stayed behind with the other children and taught them string figures from around the world.

The following week, Rachel Siegfried led a crew in making powdermilk biscuits, enjoyed later by all with butter and homemade jam. Linda Sheehy taught other children several popular origami designs while Aileen Nettleton and Jean Matos facilitated the creation of children's own books, complete with the use of Jean's computer. Many thanks to all those who made this year's Interim session enjoyable and meaningful for our young people.

After the Intergenerational Service on Jan. 20, the regular R.E. sessions began again on January 27. Beth Lovern began the semester for the K-1-2 group with the welcomed assistance of Linda Sheehy. To provide an opportunity for the group to reestablish contacts and friendships, the morning was centered on making pretzels, an activity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dean Schroeder led the 3-4-5 group, with the focus on the topic of death. The objective was to help the children understand death a little more, and this was attempted through discussing people that they knew who had died and listening to writings by the Dalai Lama about inner peace (with the idea that if one is at peace with oneself then one's fear of death is assuaged). The morning also included a structured debate on the war in the Persian Gulf area with many arguments both pro and con being raised.
```
Marty Drapkin and Karen Gross met with the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. With plans to lead another service at Prairie (this one scheduled for March 17), this group has much to discuss. The exact topic for the next videotape, as well as the division of labor for the project and the scheduling of interviews all need to be decided. Because of a lack of a quorum, the group disbanded early and joined the upstairs program on homelessness.

As always, the nursery/preschool has been operating, even during interim and Intergenerational services. Anna Nettleton continues to provide care and activities for these youngsters, often assisted by the very appreciated volunteer efforts of Emile Dickinson. From a numerical low of zero children in this group during last fall, there has been a steady increase throughout the winter months. This is a very welcome development since our R.E. program, and indeed the entire Prairie community, is enriched by the presence of these youngest ones.

Secret Friends

Secret Friends is a four week program that pairs an adult with a youth. The two correspond through letters, with only the child knowing the identity of the other person (the adult doesn't know who (s)he is paired with). This program proved to be a lot of fun for most who participated last year, with the purpose of facilitating the different generations at Prairie getting to know each other being achieved.

This year, Secret Friends will run from Feb. 24th through March 17th. Anne Pryor will be recruiting participants on Feb. 3rd and 10th. Pairings will be made on Feb. 17th and letter exchange will begin on Feb. 24th. Anyone who attends Prairie fairly regularly, is willing to write four letters to their friend, and can stay after the service on Mar. 17th for the “Discover Your Friend” party and potluck is invited to take part. If you don't get the chance to sign up at Prairie, give Anne a call at 244-7099 to put your name on the Secret Friend list.

Food Pantry Items Needed!

Please buy a food item each week when you do your shopping and bring it to Prairie for the food pantry. Here's a list of what's really needed:
- Infant formula (SMA brand)
- String beans
- Soup (all kinds)
- Spam (!?!) 
- Baked beans
- Food items should be things YOU would like to eat! Infant formula is ALWAYS needed. Bring your donations to Prairie and either put them in the box near the men’s room or give them to me. Cash donations are always welcomed—I can buy whatever is most needed that week! Please try to make a weekly donation— I will see that it gets to the Allied Community.

- Fredericka Schilling

Peace & Freedom Dinner

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will have their annual Peace & Freedom Dinner on March 16th at 6:30 PM. There will be a speaker on the people of the Middle East. Call Betty Jallings at 835-3746 for more information on this event.

A War Prayer...

There are, no doubt, many in our land who are praying for success and victory for our troops in Arabia. Let us call the spade a spade, however, not a 'short handled earth moving device.' What they are really asking for is this...

“O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover the smiling fields with the pale forms of patriot dead; help us drown the thunder of guns with shrieks of their wounded; help us wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with grief;... Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives...In the Spirit of Love, Amen.”

The preceding “War Prayer” is attributed to Mark Twain by Sandy Grady, Washington Correspondent for the Philadelphia Daily News, who says it is somewhat condensed.

Looking Ahead–

May 11: Central Midwest District Visions and Values Conference: Sing My Joys, Cry My Woes, at the Unitarian Society of Geneva, IL.