Vol. 29, No. 8, 4-16-91

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, April 28. Submit items for May 3-16.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 18
7:00 p.m.
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.
7:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal.

Saturday, April 20
7:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Margaret Lawrence.

Sunday, April 21
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
POTLUCK LUNCH - please bring a dish to share.
1:00 p.m.
ANNUAL SPRING MEETING & ELECTION, child care provided.

Thursday, April 25
7:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal.

Saturday, April 27
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
PRAIRIE WORK DAY (see story).

Sunday, April 28
10:00 a.m.
"THE HEAD START PROGRAM" with Marsha Huemoeller and a Head Start family as guest speakers, arranged by Bill Robbins and Michelle Honore.

11:30 a.m. or so (after service)
LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL POTLUCK (see story).

Tuesday, April 30
7:30 p.m.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE meeting, at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 5
10:00 a.m.
"ROLE MODELS," led by the Prairie Middle Schoolers (last in a series).

Thursday, May 9
7:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal.

Sunday, May 12
10:00 a.m.
TRANSITION SUNDAY for high school students.

Report of the Committee on Committees
The Committee on Committees has carefully reviewed the suggestions and nominations made to it by Prairie members and submits the following for consideration at the spring annual meeting:

President: Jack Jallings
Vice President: Allan Nettleton
Secretary: Norma Briggs
Treasurer: Julia Bonser
Program: Warren Hagstrom
Finance: Linda Nelson
R.E.: Linda Sheehy
Soc. Action: Sharon Scrattish
Hsg. & Prop.: John Grindrod
Long Rg. Ping.: Scott Savage
Denom. Affairs: Rick Ruecking
Membership: Anne Urbanski

Agenda for Spring Meeting
1. Approval of Nov. 11, 1990 minutes.
2. Reports of Officers, Committees, & others.
5. Election of 3 members to the Committee on Committees.

New Directories Available
The latest edition of Prairie’s member/friend Directory is available at last. It’s the product of the labor of many Prairie folk, and we hope you’ll use and appreciate it for the next year or so. Please pick up your copy at Prairie after any service. Our supply is somewhat limited so please take only one copy per family for the time being.

If you live out-of-state and would like a copy to keep track of old friends, please send a SASE (6x9", 60 cents postage) and $5.00 to cover the cost of printing,
to the editor, Prairie Fire, 5243
Midward Dr., Madison, WI 53711, and we'll send your copy by return mail.

Peace/Ecology Festival
"Our Earth Family: A Peace and Ecology Festival" will be held on Sunday, April 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert Rd., Madison, WI. The festival will include storytelling by Rev. Tim Kehl, a songfest by Corinne Rockow, Madison folk singer and storyteller, and three workshop/activity sessions covering a wide variety of subjects suitable for adults and children. Refreshments will be for sale and there will be child care for infants to age three. The Festival is sponsored by (among others) WILPF, the Sierra Club, and by a number of local churches, including First Unitarian Society. This could be a good place to go after the Parish Meeting is over.

Coffee Service Volunteers
The following persons have volunteered to SET UP THE COFFEE SERVICE on Sunday mornings. Additional volunteers are needed to fill in!
April 21 Barbara Rames
April 28 Heidi Oliversen
May 5 ??
May 12 Linda Sheehy

The following have volunteered to WASH DISHES after Sunday services. Volunteers are needed for the open dates!
April 21 Mary Mullen and Laura Riggs (extra help welcome after POTLUCK LUNCH!)
April 28 Bill Shaffer and Rosemary Dorney
May 5 Greg & Jackie Pavek
May 12 Linda Sheehy & ??

The following have signed up to GREET VISITORS on Sunday mornings. More volunteers are needed!
April 21 Barbara Rames
April 28 Recent visitor whose name was illegible on signup sheet (please call Anne Urbanski)
May 5 Frank Itis
May 12 ??

Any volunteers who cannot work on the day they've signed up, please let Anne Urbanski know (258-8269) so she can locate a substitute.

Visions and Values - '91
Marilyn Sewell, a UU minister and author of Beacon Press's Cries of the Spirit: A Celebration of Women's Spirituality, will be the theme speaker at the Central

Midwest District's annual spirituality and worship conference. This year's conference, "Sing Our Joys, Cry Our Woes," will be held on May 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, 102 Second St., Geneva, Illinois. In addition to the theme presentation, there will be four symposia and eight workshops. Registration (including lunch) will be $25 for this all-day conference. Registration materials are available from President Jack Jallings or from the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 17 W. Maple St., Hinsdale, IL 60521, phone 708/579-3712.

GA is On The Way!
The theme of the 1991 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is "Speak to the earth & it shall teach thee," focusing on the environment and our relationship with our home planet. The GA will be held at the Diplomat in Hollywood, FL from June 20 to 25, and will feature daily worship services, plenary sessions at which the business of the Association is done, and a host of lectures, practicums, and presentations. Coinciding with the theme, this year's Ware Lecture will be presented by Elizabeth Dodson Gray, a distinguished feminist theologian and environmentalist, as well as author of several books. If you are interested in attending, please contact President Jallings for more information, if you want to represent Prairie, our delegates will be elected at the Spring Parish Meeting to be held April 21 at 1:00 p.m.

The Social Action Committee has ongoing projects in the following areas:
* The Drop-In Shelter.
* The Once a Week blood donors club.
* Food pantry.
Please note that the Social Action Committee no longer collects recyclables.

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 Pantry Items Needed!
When you do your shopping each week, please buy a food item for the food pantry and bring it to Prairie. Here's a list of what's really needed:
* Infant formula (SMA brand)
* String beans
* Cream Corn
* Soup (all kinds)
* Tuna fish
* Spam (!!?)
* Crackers
* Baked beans

Special need: we need to collect $40 per month for the next few months to buy "Similac" for a needy mother whose child is allergic to SMA. She will exchange with us an equivalent amount of SMA to donate to the Allied Community Food Pantry.

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

Preschool
Emilie Dickson has been the main care giver for this group over the past few weeks, as Anna Nettleton has other Sunday morning commitments. The children in this group are delightful and, for the most part, enjoy being at Prairie.

K-1-2
This group, led by Dana Dopp and Beth Lovern, has spent the past two weeks concluding their unit on American
Indians. Stories, such as "How Raven Found Daylight," were a part, as were several projects: making clothespin people, and painting designs, batik-style.

3-4-5
This group, led by Dean Schroeder and Mike Sheehy, is focusing on famous Unitarian Universalists. Beatrix Potter was the subject one week, and the group took advantage of the gorgeous weather to walk in the Arboretum, sketching scenes from nature. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a UU Arctic explorer, was the next week's focus. Creative dramatics were used to think about and understand one's challenging of what is "known."

6-7-8
This group, led by Andrea Lawrence, Karen Gross and Marty Drapkin, is continuing to prepare for its final leading of a Prairie service, scheduled for May 5. Videotaping is again proceeding and will be a part of the service.

**MISCELLANY**

Looking Ahead -
April 19-21: Women's Web: A Weaving of Women's Personal & Spiritual Renewal, will be held at George Williams College near Lake Geneva, WI. Contact registrar Lyn Rund, 117 N. Bridge St., Rockton, IL 61072 (815/624-2003). April 21: Annual Spring Parish Meeting and potluck at the Meetinghouse.

May 4: Reception to honor former Congressman Bob Kastenmeier, 5-7 p.m. at Owens of Brittany on the Square, 1 S. Pinckney St. (2nd floor of the "glass bank"). NO CHARGE! May 11: Central Midwest District Visions and Values Conference: Sing My Joys, Cry My Woes, at the Unitarian Society of Geneva, IL.


July 27-Aug. 2: Port Townsend, WA, Leadership School for UU youth (15-18) and young adults (18-30). Contact Edmonds UU Church, 8109 224th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026. 206/778-0373.


Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Potluck
Any lesbian/gay/bisexual member or friend of Prairie is invited to a potluck lunch following the service on Sunday, April 28. It will be at the home of Fredericks & Mary, just 1/4 block from Prairie. Please call 271-5192 for details. The last get-together was very successful. Come join us for more good discussion.

Cinco de Mayo, anyone?
The Hispanic potluck group is trying to set up a trip to Chicago for the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on Sunday, May 5. If enough people are interested, this trip will replace the group's May potluck. If there isn't enough interest, the potluck will be held on the first or second Monday in May, as usual. For more information, contact Audrey Shomos at 233-3563 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

Dorothy Wetherby Memorial Fund
A committee is establishing guidelines for the use of this fund, based on action by Prairie last year. If you want to have input, please contact one of the committee members listed below before May 15:

Judy Skog 273-4813
Rosemary Dorney 238-4382
Julie Bonser 274-3248
Jack Jallings 835-3746

Prairie Work Day
A work day will be held Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Some of the work needing to be done includes:

- Yard cleanup
- Clean yard storage shed
- Painting touch-up in kitchen and R.F. area
- Seed bare spots on lawns

* Set paving stones at east end of walk
* Weatherstrip outside doors
Bring something to share for a potluck lunch.

Note Re: Building Use
Members wishing to use the Prairie building for activities are reminded to call Rachel Siegfried to reserve the building. Rachel is the person coordinates the use of the building and she needs advance notice, preferably two weeks, to schedule the use of the building. Other groups do use the building, so it is absolutely necessary to schedule with Rachel to avoid conflicts and double booking of the building. Building rules are posted in the kitchen.

Van needed for trip
Wanted to lease - 7 passenger van or camper for family reunion trip to California, June 23 to July 21, 1991. Contact Bob or Barb Park at 635-7519.

We need YOU!
Prairie needs a really active Membership Committee in 1991-92, and now is the time to get involved. There are many activities involved, ranging from greeting guests, making coffee and cleaning up, to organizing potlucks, organizing Circle Dinners, and putting together the calendar directory. Bring your body and your ideas to Prairie on Tuesday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m.!

- Anne Urbanski

Memorial Weekend Outing
Prairie has traditionally had a canoe trip on Memorial Day weekend. This year we will canoe on the Sugar River and camp at New Glarus Woods State Park. This location offers the possibility of some people joining us for camping and then biking on the Sugar River Trail, or just joining us for a camping weekend. For more information contact Peg Stevenson at 233-6449.

Upham Woods Annual Retreat
Each October, Prairie folk gather for a weekend at Upham Woods Environmental Education Center on the Wisconsin River just above Wisconsin Dells. All ages join together for a weekend of activities emphasizing the outdoors, crafts, discussion, and learning.
This year, we have reserved the weekend of Oct. 4-6 for the retreat. Peg Stevenson will be planning the program of activities for the weekend. Contact her at 233-6449 with your ideas and suggestions.

**Up for Adoption...**

I need to find a good home for a small black & white 11 year old Heinz ("57 varieties") dog. His name is Lucky. He's good natured and fine with children. Call me at 256-1239 if you are interested.

- Marty Drapkin

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Today's Quote:

"If one is to be called a liar, one may as well make an effort to deserve the name."

- A. A. Milne

...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