Vol. 29, No. 9, 4–30–91


Thursday, May 9
7:45 PM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal, usually at Prairie. Call 271–5192 to confirm meeting place.

Friday, May 10
5:30 PM
The Fish Dinner Circle will meet at Monte's Blue Plate Diner, 2089 Atwood Avenue.

Saturday, May 11
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Margaret Lawrence, 7438 Old Sauk Road. (See related story.)

Sunday, May 12
10:00 AM
TRANSITIONS SUNDAY. An honoring of the 8th graders as they leave the R.E. program. Erin Bosch will lead this program. 
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH. Please bring a dish to share.

Thursday, May 16
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse. 
7:45 PM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal, usually at Prairie. Call 271–5192 to confirm meeting place.

Sunday, May 19
10:00 AM
"FOR MY EYES ONLY: on Censorship"

...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

Today's Quote:
"If other people are going to talk, conversation becomes impossible."

- James McNeill Whistler
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 (6"x9", 60¢ postage) and $5.00 to cover the cost of printing, etc., to the Editor, Prairie Fire, 5213 Millward Drive, Madison, WI 53711. and we’ll send your copy by return mail.

Prairie Men’s Group

Prairie’s Men’s Group will meet on Thursday, May 2 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We are reading from New Men, Deeper Hungers, by Tom Owen-Towle (a UU minister from San Diego), with time for exploration of personal and contemporary issues. All men are welcome to join our two hour discussions. For more information, call Dick Bonser at 274-3248 or Rick Ruecking at 246-4304.

Cinco de Mayo—Not This Year!

Attention, Hispanic Potlucks and would-be potluckers! It’s a case of whoops, not this year, where the Fiesta del Cinco de Mayo is concerned. Would you believe, the Latino community in Chicago that we had planned to visit to celebrate that occasion is having its 5 de Mayo on the 28 de Abril? Unfortunately for our hopes (but, fortunately, before we went down there in vain) Audrey, by dint of many phone calls, found out just in time that the fiesta was scheduled for a week earlier than we had thought. This was a bit sooner than we could make it. We’ve decided, for the time being, to have our usual potluck the first Monday of May, that’s the 6th, at 7 PM at Prairie, and to see how we can get information a little more in advance for future out-of-town and local Hispanic activities. So, come prepared to discuss any event you know of that happens each year, when it happens, what it includes, etc. We can put together our own calendar for the coming year, as well as exchange info about towns in which events occur. Probably many of us are real mines of information just waiting to be tapped! Bring a dish to share, and come to plan future activities—films, celebrations, ethnic food/cultural fiestas, religious ceremonies, whatever. For a ride, or more details on Hispanic Potlucks, call Orton (273-4041), Jean (255-2209), or Rosemary (238-4382).

An Invitation...

To all Prairie members and friends, to come to Pat Cautley’s house, 4805 Regent Street, on May 8 to listen to the tape recording of William Sloan Coffin’s lecture in March on “What a Post-Cold War Foreign Policy Ought to Be.”

This was an inspiring lecture by an outstanding civic and religious leader. You probably know that Mr. Coffin was head of SANE/FREEZE for several years besides being the minister at the Riverside Church in New York City.

We will start at 7:30 PM and have time to talk after the 50 minute tape. There’s plenty of room, and we can sit on the rug if need be, so come!

The Fish Dinner Circle Rides Again.

After a long hiatus, the Fish Dinner Circle will meet at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, May 10th at Monte’s Blue Plate Diner, 2089 Atwood Avenue. You know what to do: Pat Watkins will be waiting for your reservation at 262-7960 on weekdays between 10:30-6:00 before Wednesday, May 8th.

Coffee Service Volunteers

The following persons have volunteered to SET UP THE COFFEE service on Sunday mornings.

May 5  ??
May 12 Linda Sheehy
May 19  ??
May 26  No Service

The following have volunteered to WASH DISHES after Sunday services.

May 5 Greg & Jackie Pavek

The following have signed up to GREET VISITORS on Sunday mornings.

May 5  Frank Iltis
May 12  ??
May 19  ??
May 26  No Service

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

Playreaders to Read “Da”

The Prairie Playreaders will meet on Saturday, May 11, at 7:30 PM at the home of Margaret Lawrence, 7438 Old Sauk Road (Wexford Crossing Condominiums). Margaret and Aileen Nettleton will be co-hostesses for this event. We will read the prize-winning play “Da”, by Hugh Leonard. This two act play was named the best of the year in its time, and said to be “entertaining, endearing, and gently moving.”

Park on Old Sauk Road just west of the second entrance to Wexford Crossing. After you get out of the car, my condo will be the first one you come to as you walk across the grass. Everyone is welcome, so please come!

The last meeting of the year will be in June—a one-act play followed by a fish dinner. Pat Watkins has offered to make the arrangements.

- Margaret Lawrence

“For My Eyes Only”

The Reverend Douglas Morgan Strong will be presenting the Sunday service on May 19. About his service, he says:

“Recently, there has been a lot of hoopla about censorship—from Robert Mapplethorpe’s art work and 2 Live Crew to the NC-17 movie rating which went into effect last fall. From time eternal, people have felt called to restrict, edit and censor—always, of course, for the good of humanity. On Sunday, I want to look at censorship and those who censor.”

The Reverend Morgan Douglas Strong, a sixth generation UU, was raised here in Madison. After some years in the
settled ministry (serving churches in Maine), he began a new career as an Accredited Interim Minister, ministering to the congregations at the First Parish in Bedford, MA, Unitarian Church of Norfolk, VA and currently serves the UU Society of Sacramento, CA. He has been very active in UU denominational activities, serving for eight years on the General Assembly planning committee (program chair for two years and overall chair for another two); works with the UU Service Committee; was a member of the Common Vision Commission; serves on the board of the Society for the Larger Ministry, UU; is a member of the UU for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (was the co-coordinator for two years). Doug and his life-partner John Picot, live in midtown Sacramento, have two dogs and enjoy hot Mexican food!

Memorial Weekend Canoe/Camp/Bike Trip

We have a group camp site reserved at New Glarus Woods State Park for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is only 1/2 hour from Prairie, making it easy for you to join us for any or all of the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday we will canoe on the Sugar River—Saturday putting in at Attica at 10:00 A.M., Sunday putting in at Albany at 10:00 A.M. We will share potluck dinners each evening. If you wish to bike, the campground connects to the 23 mile Sugar River Trail. Reservations are not necessary, please feel free to join us at any time. You will only need to pay for the nights you camp, at $2.00 per adult, 75¢ per child, and to have a State Park admissions sticker (daily or annual). For more information, contact Peg Stevenson at 233-6449.

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 CMD’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 AM to 4:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, 102 Second Street, 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 Jallings or from the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 17 W Maple St., Hinsdale, IL 60521, phone# 708/579-3712.

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

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 June 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, 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 on April 21 at 1:00 PM.

New Officers Elected

At the April 21 Parish Meeting, the following persons were elected to the Board for 1991-92. Please correct the listing in the front of your Prairie Directory accordingly.

President: Jack Jallings
Vice President: Allan Nettleton
Secretary: Norma Briggs
Treasurer: Julie Bonser
Program: Warren Hagstrom
Finance: Linda Nelson
R.E.: Linda Sheehy
Soc. Action: Sharon Scrattish
Hsg. & Prop.: John Grindrod
Long Rg. Plg.: Scott Savage

Y.R.U.U.

On April 12, 13, and 14, Northshore U.U. Church in Deerfield, IL was host to the Spring Central Midwest District conference for U.U. youth. Thirteen high schoolers from the joint First Society and Prairie Y.R.U.U. group attended, four of whom are Prairie teens: Dana Dopp, Erin Dopp, Anna Nettleton, and Brian Sheehy.

The report from the attendees is that the conference was, as usual, great; definitely worth attending. Friday night was devoted to arriving and some serious games of “Wink,” which continued. There was home hospitality offered at the homes of Northshore members.

On Saturday a number of workshops were offered in the morning and afternoon, some of which were tie-dying, making baklava, a session on self-esteem, and one on trust. The last one was challenging in that teams had to negotiate an obstacle course, relying on and trusting each other to get through it. Saturday evening began with a youth-planned worship service, followed by a dance. Sunday was devoted to cleaning and saying good-byes.

The most outstanding part of this, and other Y.R.U.U. conferences, seems to be the atmosphere of love and acceptance in which they occur. “We’re all like family,” explained Erin Dopp.

The Madison area Y.R.U.U. group meets every Sunday from 6:30-8:30 in the Annex of First Society. All teens are welcome.

T.L.C.

On April 19, 20, and 21, Anne Pryor, as Prairie’s Director of Religious Education, attended the annual Central
Midwest District’s T.L.C. Retreat. This is an opportunity for U.U. religious educators to gather and renew themselves. As was the case last year too, this year’s retreat proved to be not only a time of personal “rest, recreation and spiritual nourishment,” but also a great opportunity to learn from other DRE’s and MRE’s.

T.L.C. was held at the Center for Development in Ministry in Mundelein, IL, concurrently with a Renaissance module (the standardized training sessions for DRE’s.) Workshops were offered in sacred dance, ecospirituality, new videos, and stress management. T.L.C. was attended by eight educators from throughout the district. (Nine others were present for the Renaissance module.) I was able to attend thanks to a generous subsidy from the district, and reliance on money devoted to conferences and training in the R.E. budget.

**Donation Needed!**

Spam (!!?) Crackers
String beans Cream corn
Infant formula (SMA brand)

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 Food Pantry.

- Fredericka Schilling

**West High Student Action Committee**

For the second year in a row, the West High Student Action Committee is organizing a benefit for the homeless, entitled “A Roof Over Our Heads.”

Contrary to public opinion, high school students care about more than blue jeans and the newest CD’s. We would like your help in making this year’s benefit every bit as successful as last year. After raising $3,500 last year, our goal is to raise five thousand dollars. All of the proceeds raised will go directly to Transitional Housing Inc., an organization dedicated to providing drop-in shelters for the homeless as well as securing new temporary living spaces for Madison’s homeless families.

The benefit will take place on Friday, May 10, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. in the West High School Auditorium at 30 Ash Street. Speaking will be former State Legislator and Chairperson of the Madison Institute Midge Miller, while entertainment will be provided by Comedy Sportz, Jazz West, the Stacey Andrew Dance Ensemble, and many more. Furthermore, there will be a raffle with prizes supplied by area businesses.

Tickets, which are seven dollars for adults and five dollars for students, will be available beginning April 24th at the Regent Food Market, 2156 Regent Street, and at the West High Ticket Office, 30 Ash Street, before and after school. There will be a special discount of one dollar for bringing two cans of food when purchasing tickets. Raffle tickets are one dollar.

If you cannot attend the event but wish to make a contribution to the cause, checks can be made out to the West High Benefit Fund, in care of Transitional Housing Inc., 116 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53705. We hope that we can count on your support to alleviate the plight of the homeless in Madison. For more information, please call Daniela Thomas at 256-5921 or Josh Perelman at 233-3324.

**Donation Needed!**

*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

**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

For more information on any of this stuff, call Sharon Scrattish at 233-1118.

**The Social Action Committee has ongoing projects in the following areas:**
- The Drop-In Shelter.
- The Once a Week blood donors club.
- Food pantry.

From time to time, we also do letter writing after the service on topics of concern and sometimes pass the hat.

**Looking Ahead—**

May 4: Reception to Honor former Congressman Bob Kastenmeier, 5-7 PM at Owens of Brittany on the Square, 1 S. Pinckney St. (2nd floor of the 'glass bank'). NO CHARGE!

May 11: Central Midwest District Conferences and training in the R.E. module. (R.E. was attended by eight educators to gather and renew themselves. As was the case last year too, this year’s retreat proved to be not only a time of personal “rest, recreation and spiritual nourishment,” but also a great opportunity to learn from other DRE’s and MRE’s.) I was able to attend thanks to a generous subsidy from the district, and reliance on money devoted to conferences and training in the R.E. budget.

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Thee, contact General Assembly Office, 25 Beacon St.,
Boston MA 02108. 617/742–2100.

**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 Street SW,  
Edmonds, WA 98206. 206/778–0373.

**August 19–25:** Ocean Park Camp, WA  
*“Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) Continental Conference  
(Con-Con).”* Contact the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street,  
Boston, MA 02108. 617/742–2100

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**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 who 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 use rules are posted in the kitchen.

**Van Needed for Trip**

Wanted to lease: 7 passenger van or camper for a family reunion trip to California from June 23 to July 21, 1991. Contact Bob or Barb Park at 635–7519.

**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.

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**Free Arborvitae:**

I have a young (about 4 feet tall) tree which has to go! It’s free to Prairie or anyone who will dig it out. Call Pat Watkins, 262–7960 (days) or 233–5795 (catch as catch can).

**Up For Adoption...**

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

- Marty Drapkin