Vol. 29, No. 10, 5-14-91


To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor 271-3248

Thursday, May 23
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE TALE SPINNERS will meet at the Meetinghouse. If you like to listen to or tell stories, come out and join us! (See related story)

7:45 PM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal, usually at Prairie. Call 271-5192 to confirm meeting place.

Sunday, May 26
10:00 AM
NO SUNDAY SERVICE. A camping and canoe trip has been organized by Peg Stevenson. (See related story.)

Thursday, May 30
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, June 2
10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 4
6:30 PM
FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Rosemary Dorney, 4205 Odana Road, 238-4382.

Friday, June 7
7:00 PM
OPEN HOUSE at Al & Aileen Nettleton's. Why? See related story!

Today's Quote:
“Television—a medium. So called because it is neither rare nor well done.”
- ERNIE KOVACS

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

May 19 ??
May 26 No Service
June 2 ??
June 9 ??
June 16 ??

The following have volunteered to WASH DISHES after Sunday services.

May 19 Alice & Lee Bullen
May 26 No Service
June 2 Ruth & George Calden
June 9 Pat Watkins, Randy Hill
June 16 ??

...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.

"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 mid-town Sacramento, have two dogs and enjoy hot Mexican food!

Storytellers to Meet

On May 23 at 7:30 PM, Prairie's storytelling group, (arbitrarily and temporarily dubbed the Tale-Spinners by the editor) will meet at the Meetinghouse for an evening of storytelling.

Come prepared with a story or two to tell. Our teacher, Mark Wagler, will also be present as participant and guide. Novice and experienced storytellers are all welcome. If you don't know any stories, come anyway—you may be surprised at what you'll remember! If you have any questions, call Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

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 (see map and directions elsewhere in this issue). On Saturday and Sunday we will canoe on the Sugar River. 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. She will have detailed canoeing maps available.

Reproductive Health...

Prairie's June 2nd service will feature guest speakers Beth Kaplan and Karen Timberlake, whose topic is "Reproductive Health Issues—What can be done at the Capitol." They will tell us the current status of reproductive health legislation, such as the Parental Consent Bill, and what we can do about it.

Open House at Nettleton's!

All of our Prairie Friends are invited to help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary during an open house at our home, 645 Sheldon Street, on Friday, June 7, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

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, practices, 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.

Summer Camp-out Planned!

The UU Fellowship of Dubuque, IA invites Prairie UU members to join us camping out Friday and Saturday, July 19 & 20, at Blue Mound State Park (off US 151 near Barneveld). On Sunday morning, July 21, we will attend the Unity Chapel UU Service at Taliesin. Make your own campsite reservation by calling Blue Mound at 608/437-5711. Ask for a site near the Vinks. If you can't spend the night, come up for the day. For more information, call Deb Vink at 608/348-4868.

Invisible Friends—Come Out!

Prairie apparently has developed a contingent of people I'm calling "Invisible Friends"—people who get the Prairie Fire and are involved in activities such as Playreaders, Spanish and/or French Speakers Potluck, etc., but who are not listed in the Prairie Directory because I don't know who they are! Everyone who regularly participates in Prairie activities (even if you don't attend services) is welcome to be listed as a Friend of Prairie (ergo, you get listed in the Directory). If you are unsure whether you are listed as a Friend or if your are fairly sure you are not and you would like to be, please call me at 258-8269 so I can add you to our list.

- Anne Urbanski, Membership Chair

Prairie Hosts Neighborhood Conference

Last Friday, Prairie was the site of a day-long conference featuring the Dunns Marsh Neighborhood and Allied
Drive in particular. As part of its exchange with the Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association (DMNA), which shovels our sidewalks, Prairie offered its facilities free to the Wisconsin Community Development Society's Southwest Regional Conference. The conference focused on the success stories of the Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association and the Allied Community Association, and featured a presentation on the past of the area by Prairie Member Mary Mullen, who is also a co-founder of the Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association. Another focus of the conference was the efforts of the City of Madison and other social service agencies to concentrate their services on the Allied Drive area of the neighborhood during the past 3 years. Prairie is a regular contributor to the Allied Community Food Pantry with its gifts of food and money.

Salute to the Teachers

Very warm and sincere appreciation is extended to the adults who devoted so much of the past year to that all important resource and treasure, our children. Without their creativity, joy, sense of adventure, and willingness to give of themselves, the Religious Education program could not have happened.

Anna Nettleton was the primary person who was with our very youngest children. Her warmth, caring and experience (this is her fourth year with the nursery/preschool) was able to transform a potentially scary place for newcomers into one that is enjoyed. Anna is graduating from high school this June and will be a Rotary exchange student in France next year. We wish her the best on her new and exciting adventures and will miss her presence in Prairie's RE program.

Emilie Dickson has been Anna's very able assistant and alternate during the past year. A second person in the nursery was needed after the size of the group steadily grew during the fall. We were thrilled that Emilie was able to assume the responsibility and have been very impressed at her caring ability with the preschoolers. We hope that she will be able to continue in the nursery in the future.

Dana Dopp, another high school senior, was co-leader for the kindergarten, first and second graders this year. Her creativity and expertise with crafts were great gifts to the program. Her warm and engaging personality was one reason why she was so appreciated by the children. Our best wishes go with her as she begins her college career at UW-Madison.

Beth Lovern, a UW student and mother of Meredith Thompson, a kindergartener, was Dana's co-leader. Beth was also well loved by the children in the group, a feeling that she shared freely with them. She showed them her love of literature and brought a great spirit of adventure to the activities she led. The time and energy she dedicated to RE, not only through teaching this year, but also in her former position as RE committee member, is sincerely appreciated.

Mike Sheehy, father of Brooke Sheehy, a third grader, was one of the leaders for the third, fourth and fifth graders. His easy-going manner was enjoyed by the children and helped a diverse group to get along well. His scientific background and love of music were boons to the program. We're looking forward to having Mike teach again next year and are grateful that he's willing to devote next year again to RE.

Dean Schroeder, Mike's co-leader and father of Erik Schroeder, a fourth grader, completed his second year of teaching RE this spring. His friendly ease worked well in directing the children, resulting in a seemingly effortless leadership style. His obvious enjoyment and respect for children was evident throughout the year, as was his creativity in designing engaging sessions. Dean will be moving from RE teacher to member of the RE committee and we are pleased to have his talents continue to be dedicated to Prairie's Religious Education program.

Karen Gross, one of the leaders of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade group, was instrumental in incorporating video recording into the curriculum this year. Due to her connection with public access television, Karen was able to arrange for training, borrowing equipment, editing and showing of the videotapes featured in the youth-led services this year. Our deep appreciation is extended to Karen, especially for maintaining her role as group co-leader even after she moved to Milwaukee to teach and for having been involved in RE as leader for two consecutive years.

Andrea Lawrence was co-leader with Karen and Marty Drapkin. Andrea brought a vitality and interest in youth to the group that was deeply appreciated. Her skills in group building were important assets and resulted in a very
diverse group working very well together. Her presence all year with the middle schoolers was a joy for them and a joy for the RE program.

Marty Drapkin, the third co-leader of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade group, is well loved by the young people. They were thrilled that he again devoted his time and talents to them. Marty’s creativity was the spark in originally designing this group’s curriculum with the emphasis on the youth making most of the operational decisions. His presence throughout the year with the young people is well loved. Marty Drapkin, the third co-leader of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade group, is well loved by the young people. They were thrilled that he again devoted his time and talents to them. Marty’s creativity was the spark in originally designing this group’s curriculum with the emphasis on the youth making most of the operational decisions. His presence throughout the year with the young people is well loved. Marty Drapkin.

RE will begin again next fall. We will be offering different curricula for the children, and the groups will be led by other adults. A detailed description of the new RE program will be available when the final details are arranged. If anyone has any questions regarding next year, please contact either Anne Pryor or Linda Sheehy.

During the summer, childcare for all ages will be provided during services by adult volunteers. Please contact Linda Sheehy if you would be willing to spend a summer Sunday morning enjoying the pleasure of some of Prairie’s children.

Madison UU Middle School Youth Group

Two weeks ago, 16 sixth, seventh and eighth graders from the joint First and Prairie Societies youth group enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled sleepover party. The evening began with swimming in Arthur Thexton’s apartment building pool (Arthur is a member of First Society and is an advisor for the Madison YRUU). Relay races and squeezing 14 people into the hot tub were part of the fun. Pizza back at First Society followed swimming. Various games, including Wink and Balloon Basketball filled the evening, which was topped off by a video and then finally bed. Morning was taken up with breakfast and cleaning up before departure. The leaders of this group are Arnie Clay and Erin Bosch, both of whom are not continuing in the position next year, so we are looking for new advisors. The sleepover was the last event until next fall.

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.

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

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. During the summer while I am out of town, please make your donations to Sharon Scrattish.

-Fredericka Schilling

Donation Needed!

I have been helping a young Cambodian woman who lives at Wexford Ridge Apt’s. Chantha is 18, has a 1 ½ year old son, and attends West High School. The management recently told her that she has to remove the sheet covering her patio doors and put up curtains. If you have an unneeded set of curtains that would fit patio doors, please call me at 238-6285. Chantha will be very grateful.

-Erin Bosch

Looking Ahead—


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 SE, Edmonds, WA 98026. 778-0373.

August 19-25: Ocean Park Camp, WA “Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) Continental Conference (Con-Con).” Contact the

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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.

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).

Wanted to Buy

I want to get a good used piano. I will hire the movers and the truck to deliver it to my house. Please contact Kate afternoons (1—5:30 PM) at 251-2255 or 251-1955 and evenings at 221-2168.
Directions: Leave town going south on Midvale to Verona, then take Highway 69 South through New Glarus. The State Park is 2 - 3 miles past town on the right.

Friday -- Pot Luck Dinner at New Glarus Woods State Park 6:30 p.m.
Group Campsites 51 & 52

Saturday -- Put In at Attica at 10:00 a.m. Where County Trunk C spans the Sugar River. Take out at Albany; Potluck dinner at campground.

Sunday -- Put In at Albany at 10:00 a.m. In town about two blocks upstream from where Highway 59 crosses the Sugar River. Take out at Brodhead; Potluck dinner at campground.

If anyone is interested in staying in a platform tent with cots, please let Peg know. The canoe trip is a leisurely 7 miles per day.