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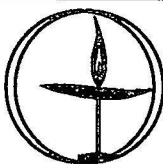
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Prairie Fire



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The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, January 5. Submit items for January 9-23, 1992.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22
10:00 AM

"HOLIDAY INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE" coordinated by the RE Committee and Anne Pryor. The focus will be on the inspiration and beauty provided by Hanukkah, St. Lucia's Day, Winter Solstice, Christmas and Kwanza. Please bring your own personal symbol for our annual Symbol Tree!

Sunday, December 29
10:00 AM

"POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES" presented by Betty Jallings.
NO R.E. SESSIONS TODAY. Child care provided.

Sunday, January 5
10:00 AM

"MEMORIES OF INJUSTICE: The Japanese-American Relocation of WW II" led by Paul Kusoda.
R.E. PROGRAM RESUMES.

Thursday, January 9
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse. All men are invited to this friendly discussion group. Call Dick Bonser at 274-3248 for more information.

Sunday, January 12
10:00 AM

"LOVING LIFE: Ecofeminist and Native American Perspectives" led by Annie Booth.

Sunday, January 19
10:00 AM

TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Today's Quote:

"Idealism is fine, but as it approaches reality the cost becomes prohibitive."
-WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

NEWS & VIEWS

Inflation Hurts Us All!

It hurts Prairie most because it pinches at both ends—higher costs and lower revenues! Our pledge total to date is no

more that it was five years ago, yet our need for funds is greater due to inflation and the cost of deferred maintenance and repairs. It is extremely urgent that we raise the funds necessary to completely implement our budget. We are not lavish spenders, either. Most societies our size are also supporting a full time minister and other paid staff with a budget more than twice as large as ours! So please, re-examine your pledge, grit your teeth, and give 'til it helps! We need an average increase of 25% in each pledge.

-Jack Jallings, president

Budget Drastically Cut!

We hope it is only temporary, though. At the December 8 Parish meeting, the membership adopted a significantly scaled back budget. Because of insufficient pledges, all of the following were removed from the budget: UUA support (fair share) - \$3,160; Central Midwest District and North Central Area Council dues - \$960; Stucco repairs - \$3,160; Rain Gutters - \$1,500; Building Manager - \$900; and Directory publication - \$200; a total of \$9,880.

The adopted budget is:

Program	\$1,725
R.E.	7,550
Denom. Affairs	100
Membership	3,065
Housing & Property	17,400
TOTAL	\$29,840

The Board was instructed by the membership to continue fund raising and to attempt to restore the deleted items.

...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

Prairie Member Issues Challenge

At the December 15th service, member Frank Ittis said that he estimated that if each person present at the parish meeting would increase their pledge by \$100, most of the shortfall would be made up. He added that he had reconsidered his pledge amount and decided to increase it by \$100, and challenged all other Prairie members to do the same.

Member Al Nettleton said he was opposed to the lottery and so was considering donating his lottery-based property tax credit to Prairie instead of keeping it. Hmm... 100 members times an approximate \$150 credit equals \$15,000. With that much, we could even take on the long overdue replacement of all the windows at Prairie! **How about it, folks?**

Auld Lang Syne

15 Years Ago (1976)

Newsletter editors were Vivian Meyer, followed by Barbara Willard (now James), and then Terri Laurence (now Prudlo) with the help of Mills Miracle (lots of turnover that year...). Joe Hoffman was one of our lay ministers, providing wonderful programs on art. On May 2nd, a potluck supper was given for Joe at the David & Barbara Carson farm prior to his leaving for Berkeley to study for the UU Ministry. Annis Pratt's lay ministry followed Joe's. George and Ruth Calden vacationed in Israel. Barbara Willard argued the case of Dorothy Wetherby's right to bury her daughter Jana Osteraas on farm property before then U.S. District Court Judge James Doyle. A special parish meeting was held in May to resolve problems connected with the Prairie Site. Shirley and John Grindrod became grandparents of Elijah Daniel. Lilo Koehl left Madison for points West. Mike & Norma Briggs did the final lay ministry of '76.

10 years ago (1981)

John and Shirley Grindrod began the lay ministries of '81, followed by Peg Stevenson and Dave Zakem. Aileen Nettleton was President of Prairie. David Lisman, Judy Spring and Shirley Lake taught "Why Do Bad Things Happen" to RE grades 3-5. Mike Briggs offered a tax workshop and Doleta

Chapru taught dancing to benefit Prairie. The Briggs also donated a piano to the RE program. Metje Butler and Avis Parrish volunteered to coordinate the first Prairie Cookbook. Alice and Lee Bullen were official delegates to the UU General Assembly in Philadelphia.

5 years ago (1986)

Rick Ruecking was President of Prairie. Leslie Watkins donated a large stock of Paperteria merchandise for Prairie sale and service auction. Dick Bonser took over the editorship of Prairie Fire from Lee and Alice Bullen. Prairie collected \$227 from our 'Guest at Your Table' program. Prairie's adopted budget for 1986 was \$23,653 (we've come a long way, baby...). Brent and Dayle Haglund hosted a farewell party for Gail Ostler, who left Prairie for a job in Milwaukee, and Mary Mullen and Fredericka hosted a farewell for RE Director Mary Beth O'Halloran and Elizabeth Jones. We lost two beloved members—Lois Hagstrom and Les Lyons. The Play-readers have a theater trip to see Extremities. In Pat Watkins' Sunday service on volunteerism, we learned that Prairie folk spent about 600 hours a month doing volunteer work for more than 53 organizations. We toured the International Crane Foundation followed by a potluck picnic. Metje Butler won "Best of Show" at Madison Art Guild's juried salon. "The Gospel According to Woody Allen" was lay minister George Calden's first program.

May all of you, and Prairie also, prosper in the New Year.

-Pat Watkins

The Case of The Missing Bank

In 1986, Pat Watkins purchased and donated a small bank to be placed on the office desk so that folks making personal calls on the Prairie phone could contribute a coin to pay for their call. Some time ago it was noticed that the bank was no longer there. It was about 3 1/2 inches square at the bottom, about six inches high, bright red and had pictures of a 1920's flapper and gentleman making phone calls from a phone booth. If Prairie no longer wants the bank (there was some heated discussion at the time it was donated about the propriety of expecting people to pay for their phone calls) and has put it away, Pat would appreciate having it

returned. (Does anyone know where it is?)

Another Prairie Fundraiser

Beat the Winter Blah's! Save Saturday, February 29th for another trip to Chicago: Shop or museum hop, or both. More details to come, but mark your calendar now!

Ethnic/Fish Dinner Circle

The Ethnic/Fish Dinner Circle has gotten off to a slow start this year, but we're now in gear and ready to go. Go where? To the delicious Thai food served at the **Sa Bai Thong restaurant** at University Station Mall on University Avenue. When? On **Friday, January 10th, at 5:30 PM**. Call Pat Watkins (262-7960 days) by Wednesday, January 8th, to make a reservation.

New C-M Board Member

Pat Watkins has been designated as Prairie's new representative on the Channing Murray Board of Directors.

Coming Events

Jan. 24-26: W & R Womanspirit Conference, Evanston, IL.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Chicago Area UU Council Winter Retreat, Lake Geneva, WI.



Wild Wintering!

On December 8, the first Wild Wintering was held. Due to a warm rain and mild temperatures, the snow sledding was cancelled, but the taffy making that took place was very popular, even if the candy did harden too soon! We hope to make taffy again so that the children can indeed experience the pulling part of the process.

[The problem with the taffy was an error in the recipe. It called for

cooking the candy "to the brittle stage of 256°" instead of to "the soft ball stage of 234°-238°" as another pulled-candy recipe said. The recommended "heavy pan" meant aluminum or stainless steel, not the cast iron that we used, which kept the candy hotter longer after it was removed from the heat. -Metje Butler]

Nifty Gifty

On December 15, Nifty Gifty was held. This annual gift-making event was coordinated this year by Mary Savage. Many thanks to her and to the many others who helped with the event. Seven different projects were available to the children, and each one was well utilized.

Regular R.E. sessions will begin again on January 5.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

The following persons have volunteered to set up the coffee service on Sunday mornings.

Dec. 22 ??
Dec. 29 Barbara Rames
Jan. 5 Alice Bullen
Jan. 12 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Dec. 22 Mike & Norma Briggs
Dec. 29 ??
Jan. 5 George & Ruth Calden
Jan. 12 ??

The following have signed up to greet visitors on Sunday mornings.

Dec. 22 Jaen Andrews & Kalin
Dec. 29 Barbara Rames
Jan. 5 Mike Sheehy
Jan. 12 Mary Mullen

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

Thanks to All...

Many thanks to all who have helped with hospitality functions this year. Your skills at making coffee, cleaning up, and greeting visitors are much appreciated. Special thanks to those who are frequent helpers, especially Alice & Lee Bullen, Kathy & Randy Converse, Mary Mullen, Barbara Rames, Heidi Oliverson, John & Shirley Grindrod, Al & Aileen Nettleton and anyone I failed to mention (you know who you are!).

-Anne Urbanski

SOCIAL ACTION

Food Pantry

Please continue bringing canned goods and other nonperishable items for the food pantry. Place your donations in the box just outside the men's bathroom. Money, too, is always welcome. We'll buy food that is needed. The food pantry is located in the Allied Community Center and serves those living in the Dunns Marsh/Allied Drive neighborhoods.