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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 30, No. 1, 1-7-92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, January 19. Submit items for January 23-February 6, 1992.

CALENDAR

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.

Friday, January 10

5:30 PM

ETHNIC/FISH DINNER CIRCLE meets at Sa Bai Thong restaurant in University Station shopping Center on University Drive. (See related story)

Sunday, January 12

10:00 AM

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

Saturday, January 18

6:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Al & Aileen Nettleton

Sunday, January 19

10:00 AM

"CELEBRATING AMERICA'S BLACK HERITAGE IN STORY AND SONG," an intergenerational program celebrating Martin Luther King day.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH following the service.

Monday, January 20

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the meetinghouse.

Thursday, January 23

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 26

10:00 AM

"ABORTION: Is It a Life or a Potential Life?" led by Judy Skog.

Wednesday, January 29

7:00 PM

FRENCH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Nancy Schraufnagel, 501 N. Whitney Way #7. Call 273-3195 for more information.

Thursday, January 30

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE TALESPINNERS MEET at the meetinghouse. (See related story)

Sunday, February 2

10:00 AM

TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Sunday, February 9

10:00 AM

"IT'S LOVE THAT MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND" Valentine's Day intergenerational service led by Pat Watkins.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH following the service.

Today's Quote:

"Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others."

-OSCAR WILDE

NEWS & VIEWS

PLEASE... Increase Your Pledge!

On the last page of this issue is a pledge increase form. Our budget has been cut drastically as a result of a pledge shortfall. If you didn't pledge, please do so! If you did, please increase your pledge. **We need a 25% increase** to meet our conservative budget proposal and any increase in your pledge, however modest, will be a help.

...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

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.

Playreaders to Meet

The Prairie Playreaders will meet at 6:30 PM on January 18th at Al & Aileen Nettleton's home, 645 Sheldon Street. They will read one of the plays from the vast collection of the Madison Public Library. No experience is necessary and everyone is invited! Call 238-6053 for more information.

Prairie TaleSpinners Meet

Prairie TaleSpinners, the storytelling group, will start up again on Thursday, January 30th. We plan to have monthly sessions where folks will come with a story to tell on a particular theme and focusing on the use of a particular technique. January's theme is winter and the technique is use of dialogue, so please come prepared with a five minute or longer winter's tale that utilizes conversation. The evening begins at 7:30 PM at the meetinghouse. This month's coordinator is Mary Mullen—please contact her with questions or comments at 271-5192.

How About... A Pancake Breakfast?

Prairie member Bob Nelson is interested in organizing a Pancake Breakfast at Prairie one Sunday this winter as a fundraiser. The meal would include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee between 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM. Anyone who has suggestions or who wants to volunteer to help, please call Bob Nelson at 255-8630.

Absent Friends...

We learned this past week that Prairie friends Malcolm Williamson (a former member) and Danielle Wellander will marry each other on January 11, 1992 at First Unitarian Church in San Diego,

CA. Our heartiest congratulations to them both, and best wishes for their future together!

Art Show Scheduled

Eric Hagstrom will be having a show of his art work at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters from February 3rd to the 28th. The opening will be held on Friday, February 7th from 5 to 7 PM at 1922 University Avenue in Madison. There will be plenty of new art for all to see!

Coming Events

- Jan. 24-26:** W & R Womanspirit Conference, Evanston, IL.
Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Chicago Area UU Council Winter Retreat, Lake Geneva, WI.



Regular religious education sessions began again on Jan. 5th. A special treat for all was a visit from Marcia Johnson, a former R.E. leader and current Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. Marcia was in Wisconsin visiting her family, so she came to Prairie and brought along several books she has made. These are books in Spanish and the local Indian language used for teaching reading skills to Paraguayan children. The children at Prairie were privileged to have Marcia read the books to them.

Afterwards, the groups began their usual fare. The preschool group had free play with the marble race track, coloring and riding on the car. The "Caring Hands" group, led by Heidi Oliversen, focused on the theme of friends and enemies. All present had definite ideas about what a friend is but had a hard time with "enemy." They really didn't know how to be an enemy, although they knew it didn't feel good to hate someone. (The lyrics "You've got to be taught to hate and fear..." come to

mind. Obviously, and gratefully, these children have not experienced the lessons of hate.)

The "Time Travels" group, led by Aileen Nettleton, began a new section that will focus on Babylonia (ancient Iraq). They were introduced to cuneiform writing and clay tablets, making some of their own which they will use next week in an archeological "dig."

The oldest group, "In Our Hands," led by Jim Harvey and Bob Nelson, had only one person present, so they attended the service upstairs on Japanese-American internment during World War II.



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.

Guest at Your Table

If you have a Guest at Your Table box and it isn't empty, please return it to Prairie on Sunday, January 12. Thanks!

Vigil for Peace

The *Inter-Religious Voice for Peace and Justice* is sponsoring a week-long group of activities oriented around the Gulf War. They will begin with a Vigil at St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave., on January 16th from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. There will be a daily presence in the Capitol from the 17th to the 22nd between noon and 1:00 PM and a Remembering/Rededication Ceremony on the 22nd from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Add your strength to the movement! Call **IRVPJ** at 258-8989 for more details.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Jan. 12 ??
- Jan. 19 ??
- Jan. 26 Jaen Andrews
- Feb. 2 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Jan. 12 Al Nettleton
& Jack Jallings
- Jan. 19 Shirley Grindrod & ??
- Jan. 26 Metje Butler & ??
- Feb. 2 Kathy Converse
& Rosemary Dorney

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

- Jan. 12 Mary Mullen
- Jan. 19 ??
- Jan. 26 ??
- Feb. 2 ??

Any volunteers who cannot work on the day they've signed up, please let Anne

Urbanski know so she can locate a substitute.

A New Business!

We are happy to announce the formation of **Higher Education Assistance Team (HEAT)**. HEAT is a scholarship matching service that provides students with up-to-date listings of **private sector and university funding sources**, based on the student's individual background and educational and career goals. More than \$6.6 billion in private sector aid went unused in 1990 because parents and students did not know where to apply. HEAT can help students or their relatives locate private funding to help with education costs. For more information, contact Higher Education Assistance Team, 33 University Square, Room 127, Madison, WI 53715. A portion of the research fee will be donated to Prairie from all orders placed by Prairie members.
-Anne & Lee Urbanski

Just a Reminder

If you're going to use the building, check with Julie or Dick Bonser to be sure the building is available. They need advance notice, preferably two weeks, to schedule the use of the building. Building use rules are posted in the kitchen.

Pledge Increase Form

Yes, I do want to increase my pledge to Prairie.

My original pledge was \$ _____ per week month year (circle one).

Please increase it to \$ _____ per week month year (circle one).

Signed: _____ (Printed Name) _____

Please mail or deliver to : Linda Nelson, Finance Chair,
1813 Adams Street, Madison, WI 53711