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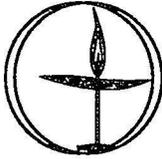
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# Prairie Fire



**Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society**  
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**Vol. 30, No. 5, 3-3-92**

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, March 15. Submit items for March 19-April 2, 1992.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, March 5

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

### Sunday, March 8

10:00 AM

"GUATEMALA: THE BEAUTY AND THE BIBLE, or Paradise Almost Lost." Presented by Dave Zakem.

12:45 PM-3:00 PM

AYS TRAINING BEGINS for Prairie youths at the meetinghouse.

### Tuesday, March 10

7:30 PM

ORIENTATION SESSION for interested members and friends. Third and last in the series.

### Sunday, March 15

10:00 AM

"MAYAN ART AND CULTURE, Past and Present." Presented by Dave Zakem.

### Tuesday, March 17

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Meetinghouse. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you cannot come but have suggestions, please contact Warren Hagstrom or write them on the clipboard at Prairie.

### Friday, March 13

5:30 PM

ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at the Marrakesh Cafe, 121 W. Main St. Call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 for reservations by 4:00 PM on March 11th.

### Sunday, March 22

10:00 AM

"OUR TIES TO NATURE": an intergenerational service including dedication of infants and children. Interested parents should contact Peg Barratt. (See also **Page in His Book...**)

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH AT PRAIRIE after the service. Please bring a dish to share!

### Sunday, March 29

10:00 AM

"LET US REACH OUT TO TOUCH AND BE ONE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD..." presented by Peg Barratt.

### Sunday, May 3

9:00 AM

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT PRAIRIE-a fundraiser coordinated by Bob Nelson. Please call Bob at 255-8630 to volunteer your help!

### Today's Quote:

"Lawyer: One skilled in the circumvention of the law."

-AMBROSE BIERCE



### Guatemala Service

Dave Zakem has just returned from spending four and a half years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize and Guatemala. Through slides and music he will share some reflections and observations on conditions in Guatemala today. Women play a very strong role in the culture. This Prairie service is dedicated to the Guatemalan women. The eighth is International Women's Day.

### Orientation Series Concludes

The Membership and Denominational Affairs Committees' series of orientation meetings will conclude on **March 10th at 7:30 PM**. The meeting will be held at Prairie in the middle school R.E. classroom or, if there's a large group, in the main meeting room. New members, prospective members, frequent visitors, and anyone else interested are welcome to attend. The topic will be the history and structure of Prairie Society.

*...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*

## Mayan Art & Culture

This is a presentation with many examples of Mayan art and culture. Guatemala's population is 60% indigenous. The people have endured through many hardships. The presentation will be a celebration of the creativity, customs and resilience of the Maya people.

## Put a Page in His Book...

Would you like to add a page to the dedication book of Simon Alexander-Adams? On March 22, bring an 8 1/2 X 11 page with a picture, poem, song or other contribution—something you'd like to be part of his new life!

-Elizabeth & Paul

## Story Listeners & Talespinners Alert

If you're like me, you love to hear a good story. What better opportunity than at the regular monthly meeting of the Prairie Talespinners?

This month's meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 PM** at the meetinghouse. The theme is "Unexpected Blessings." The storytelling technique we're concentrating on is voice modulation, that is—giving our story characters different voices and using a variety of voice qualities to enhance the narrative part of the story. Are you welcome if you don't have a story to tell? Well... is there any one of us who has never experienced an unexpected blessing and can't tell how it happened that they needed one? Call Mary Mullen, 271-5192, if you have any questions.

## Dim Sum Lunch?

If anyone is interested in going to a Dim Sum lunch some Sunday after church, please call Susan Hagstrom at 238-4970 so she can organize the trip.

## Are You a Wannabe?

The Committee on Committees is looking for lay ministers for next church year. If you are interested, or if you have a suggestion about someone who might be interested, contact Andrea Lawrence or other members of the Committee—Dick Bonser, Rosemary Dorney, Warren Hagstrom, or Pat Watkins.

## Plan Ahead for Memorial Weekend

Prairie has a group camp site reserved at Wildcat Mountain State Park. Consider joining us for a weekend of canoeing on the Kickapoo river, biking on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail and camping. The Kickapoo flows past sandstone cliffs and is one of Wisconsin's best canoe streams. The Elroy-Sparta State Trail follows an old railroad bed through tunnels including one that is over 1/2 mile long. The state park has hiking trails and trails for horseback riding are nearby. Reservations will not be necessary, but mark your own calendar now. For further information, contact Peg Barratt at 233-5449.

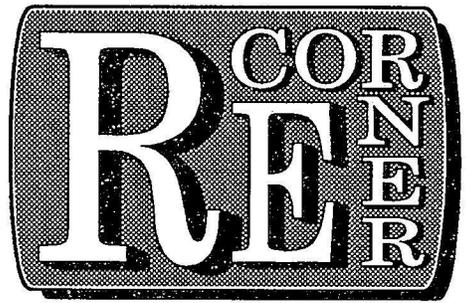
## Welcoming Congregation Workshop

There will be a continental training session for teens and adults for The Welcoming Congregation: Resources for affirming Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Unitarian-Universalists on May 29-31 in Weston, MA. This will be for approximately sixty UU's (six of whom will be youths) who will learn about issues related to homophobia in our churches and society and then take back the information to their own communities to lead workshops. One must have a strong commitment to being an ally to bisexual/lesbian/gay people, but not necessarily be bisexual/lesbian/gay in order to attend. If interested in applying contact Anne Pryor for the application form.

## Special Thanks

We all count on the **Prairie Fire** but often fail to think of the work involved every two weeks. Getting it all typed, arranged, set up, etc. may be something Dick Bonser enjoys, but it is a wonderful help to Prairie. Susan Hagstrom is the person who does the tedious job of folding, labelling, and delivering the edition to the Post Office on time! Thanks to them both from all of us!

-Pat Cautley



## In Our Hands

This middle school group, with the guidance of Bob Nelson and Kate Tucker, is continuing on their project to adopt (financially support) an eagle nest, whale or dolphin. A survey of Prairie members is coming up soon regarding this.

They also took a week off in order for several of the youths to attend Wisconsin-Con, a regional gathering of UU teens organized by the Madison YRUU and held in Wausau. Ask one of them how it was!

## Time Travels

this group, led by Mike Sheehy, has been exploring Viking practices and beliefs. They built a Viking ship from Balsa wood and learned about fiery Viking funerals the first week. The following session focused on the Vikings as fighters and conquerors, which was also related to the warfare conducted in the recent Persian Gulf war. The third session focused on Viking settlements in North America, with appreciated assistance from Helen Barratt, and on Viking food and drink. The children enjoyed the fresh baked bread Mike made and brought, but unanimously found the mead "gross."

## Caring Hands

A long term project this group is pursuing is the creation of a peace quilt. Each child has drawn representations of peace or peaceful experiences on fabric squares which will be pieced together. They've also made wishes for themselves, their family and the world, putting each into wishing wells they constructed. The theme of cooperation was demonstrated by making pretzels with each child having a specific part of the recipe to do. Metje Butler and Heidi Oliverson lead this group.

## Growing Times

The preschoolers continue to enjoy their time at Prairie, making paper snow-

flakes, painting at the easel, shaping clay and playing with the puzzles and toys. Emilie Dickson, Lilli Sandler and Nora Bosch continue to provide great care for these littlest Prairie people.

### Secret Friends

The participating children drew the names of adults for this pairing on March 1. Now, for the next 4 Sundays, letters will be exchanged between the friends. Again, the children know the identity of their adult friend but the adult does not know the identity of her/his child friend. Identities will be revealed at the Secret Friends party on March 29th.

As has been the case in past years, there are more adults than children for this pairing. Two of the children have actually drawn a second adult name this year. If you have received a note from me detailing the program, then your name was drawn and you indeed have a secret friend this year. If not, you may be hearing from me soon as I try to recruit more kids into the program.



### Food Pantry

Doris Brown, who is in charge of the Allied Community food pantry, tells us that the following items are especially needed:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Corn
- Canned Peas
- Canned Green Beans
- Cereal
- Soap
- Washing Powder
- Sugar

Money, too, is always welcome. We'll buy food that is needed, such as ground beef, chicken, pork chops and fresh vegetables. Whatever you donate, though, will be appreciated. If you see special buys at your favorite food store, please consider buying an extra amount for the food pantry. Place your donations in the box just outside the men's bathroom. The food pantry is located in the Allied Community Center and

serves those living in the Dunns Marsh/ Allied Drive neighborhoods.

### Renewable Resource...

Our blood, that is! When you give a pint your wonderful body replaces the plasma in 24 to 48 hours, the white blood cells (that fight infection) in 48 hours, and red blood cells in 6 weeks. Unitarian-Universalists in Dane County have a One-A-Week donor program that in some years has **doubled** that pledge! How about you?

### Peace & Freedom Dinner

The annual Madison Branch WILPF Peace and Freedom Dinner will be held on March 14 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road. Erwin Knoll, Editor of the Progressive will be the featured speaker. Reservations can be made with Betty Jallings at 835-3746 until March 12th.

### Social Justice Workshop

The 16th annual UU National Workshop on Social Justice will be held in Washington, D.C. on May 3-5. The topic is "Democracy in Crisis: Reclaiming Our National Values." Partial subsidies for travel are available. See the bulletin board for a flyer with more information.



### Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Mar. 8 Pat Cautley
- Mar. 15 Barbara Rames
- Mar. 22 ??
- Mar. 29 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Mar. 8 Greg & Jackie Pavek
- Mar. 15 Alice & Lee Bullen
- Mar. 22 Linda Sheehy & Bob & Cindy Haq-Lawrence

Mar. 29 Randy & Kathy Converse

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

- Mar. 8 Pat Cautley
- Mar. 15 Barbara Rames
- Mar. 22 ??
- Mar. 29 ??

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

### An Inside View of Berlin

Due to a cancellation, there is now one space left—two could possibly be arranged—in a travel seminar to the reunited old capital, July 12-25. Well prepared by lecture/discussions on Berlin's political and cultural history, the group will explore the city and its lush surroundings by bus, on foot and by boat. Side trips include Dresden and Potsdam. Seminar leader is Rosemarie K. Lester, a native Berliner, lecturer and coordinator of German cultural programs at UW-Madison, Outreach. Call 262-2075 for more information.

### Foreign Coin Exchange

Those of us who have returned from trips abroad will have learned that U.S. Banks do not exchange foreign coins for U.S. money. I'm sure many, like me, have jars containing shillings, francs, krona, and the like sitting around the house doing nothing. I propose a foreign coin exchange. If you are going overseas, ask me for what I have of coins for the countries you plan to visit. When you return, give your foreign coins to me. When I tire of coordinating this activity, I'll turn over the balance to whoever happens to be treasurer of Prairie at the time.

-Warren Hagstrom

### Information Wanted!

If you, or someone you know, has hiked the Appalachian Trail, I would like to talk to you about your experiences. Please call me at 221-2168 between 4 and 10 PM Monday thru Thursday or between noon and 10 PM Friday thru Sunday.

-Kate Tucker