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, hiking 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 WisconCon, 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 Oliversen 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.

**Social Action**

**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 of blood, you make a difference! Here's what happens:

- Your blood is tested for Rh factor, Wassermann, blood type, and for any other conditions.
- Your blood is centrifuged to separate the plasma from the red cells.
- The plasma is discarded and then the red blood cells are incubated to make sure they're still alive.
- The red blood cells are washed with salt solution to remove any extraneous material.
- The red blood cells are packed into a bag and frozen.
- The frozen blood is shipped to a hospital.
- The hospital thaws the frozen blood and infuses it into a patient.

**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.

**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 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