

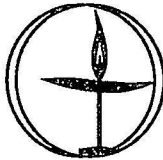
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 30, No. 7, 3-31-92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, April 12. Submit items for April 17-April 30, 1992.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 2

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Saturday, April 4

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE R.E. SPRING FLING at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 5

10:00 AM

"HOPE, THE BELOVED COUNTRY" presented by Carol Huston, ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society. (Developments in South Africa)

11:30 AM

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS FOR 1992, a discussion and vote on the proposed resolutions by the congregation following the service.

Tuesday, April 7

4:30 PM

PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Saturday, April 11

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at Pat Watkins home, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Call 233-5795 for more information.

Sunday, April 12

10:00 AM

"UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER," presented by Rev. Michael A. Schuler, minister at First Unitarian Society.

Monday, April 13

6:30 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the meetinghouse.

Tuesday, April 14

4:30 PM

PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Thursday, April 16

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 19

10:00 AM

EASTER INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE.

Tuesday, April 21

4:30 PM

PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

meets at the meetinghouse. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Friday, April 24

5:30 PM

FISH DINNER CIRCLE MEETS. Location and other details to be announced in the next issue of Prairie Fire.

Sunday, April 26

10:00 AM

To Be Announced

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH at the meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share!

12:30 PM

ANNUAL SPRING PARISH MEETING at the meetinghouse. (See related stories)

Tuesday, April 28

4:30 PM

PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Thursday, April 30

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

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!

10:00 AM

"ON THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING OUT," led by George Calden.

...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

Today's Quote:

"One occasionally embraces some one or other, out of love for humankind (because one cannot embrace all); but this is what one must never confess to the individual."

—FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE



Tales From South Asia

The 3-4-5 grade group in RE has been studying Hinduism and the caste system in India. This month, there will be a play called "Tales From South Asia" at the University Theatre. The play will combine acting, music, dance and puppetry to tell the Hindu myth of the Ramayana. The RE group will be going to the play on Saturday, April 4th, meeting at Prairie at 2:20 PM. Any interested in joining the group should call Cindy Haq at 845-8065. If you can't attend next Saturday but would like to go at another time in April, tickets can be ordered from the Vilas Hall Box Office at 262-1500.

Vote on the Resolutions!

The following are the proposed General Assembly resolutions to be voted on at **11:30 AM** following the **April 5th** service. The full text of the resolutions is printed in the current issue of the UU World.

- G-1 Federal Legislation for Choice
- G-2 Hidden Costs of Free Trade
- G-3 Human Rights in the Middle East
- G-4 Justice for Indigenous Peoples
- G-5 Popular Control of the United Nations
- G-6 Resources and Rights: Hydro Power and Native People
- G-7 Reverence for Life: Expanding Our Concern for Animals
- G-8 Violence Against Women
- G-9 Voter's Peace Pledge

Spring Parish Meeting!

Prairie's annual spring parish meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 26, at 12:30 PM**. The meeting follows the morning service and a **POTLUCK LUNCH at 11:30**. The agenda includes the report of the Committee on Committees; election of the Executive Board,

three members of the Committee on Committees, and two delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly this summer; officers and standing committee reports; and consideration of two resolutions concerning the possible founding of a third U.U. society in Madison (see article below).

Nominations Report

The following is a list of nominations for each office on the Prairie Board as proposed by the Committee on Committees. This slate will be voted on by the Parish as a whole at the coming Spring Parish Meeting.

- President: Julie Bonser
- Vice President: Al Nettleton
- Secretary: Jennifer Parker
- Treasurer: Susan Hagstrom
- Finance Chair: Jim Harvey
- R.E. Chair: Dean Schroeder
- Program Chair: Mike Briggs
- Soc. Action Chair: Sharon Scratish
- Housing & Prop. Chair: Karen Gross
- Long Range Plan. Chair: Mary Mullen
- Denom. Affairs Chair: Beth Lovern
- Membership Chair: Heidi Oliveresen

A Third Society?

A committee of members of First Unitarian Society and myself as a representative of Prairie is exploring founding a third U.U. congregation in Madison. With the current growth at First Society, it seems this is the time to plan for future UU growth in this area. The denomination, through its offices in Boston, is supportive of expanding and developing new congregations interested in employing a minister.

Before proceeding further, however, the committee asked whether Prairie Society might be interested in significantly expanding and becoming a ministerial congregation as a way to serve more people in the community. This was discussed with the Prairie Board and it was decided to give Prairie members the opportunity to explore this option and vote on it at the April Annual Meeting of the membership.

The Board was clear in its support for the growth of Unitarian Universalism. The question is whether the members of Prairie as a society wish to continue as a lay-led "fellowship" as it has for most of the twenty-five years of its existence

or become a larger, ministerial "church." If Prairie decided to continue as a fellowship, the committee will proceed to begin planning for another U.U. congregation in Madison. We hope all members will give this question their serious consideration. Talk about it with other members, especially in circle dinner groups, ask questions, and come to the Annual Meeting to give your input and vote.

The membership will be asked to vote for one of two options as a referendum. The first states that Prairie supports the creation of a third U.U. society. This implies Prairie would maintain its present organization. The second states that Prairie would be interested in becoming a part of an expanded ministerial society. The preamble to each resolution would be the same. The texts of the resolutions are:

Whereas Madison Unitarian Universalists have identified potential for growth in the community, and whereas First Unitarian Society has established a committee and invited Prairie's participation to explore the creation of an additional Unitarian Universalist congregation in Madison, and whereas there is potential for support of a "ministerial" congregation,

- A. Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society supports in whatever way possible the creation by Madison Unitarian Universalists of a third congregation in Madison. OR
- B. Prairie wishes to further explore the potential for Prairie itself becoming part of an expanded ministerial society.

Please call me at 238-6053 if you have questions or comments.

- Aileen Nettleton

New Member!

Paul Adams, husband of Elizabeth Alexander and father of Simon, recently took the plunge and became a member of Prairie. He is listed in your directory as a "friend of Prairie." Please change his listing to "M" for member.

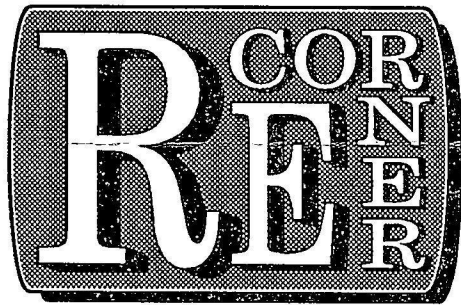
Plan Ahead for Memorial Weekend

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.

More Thanks!

George Calden not only re-did our Song Books, he added a few new songs contributed by Prairie members at the end of the book. He also "straightened out" some tunes to make them easier to sing. Best of all, he contributed all this time and effort—and copying—to Prairie!



Secret Friends

The letter exchange ended last Sunday, March 29th, with a very fun party. The older and younger friends finally met each other with the adults guessing (some more successfully than others) who their younger friend was. Food was shared at a pot luck with friends eating together and searching for people to sign their autograph-category sheet. Then we all said goodbye to the burro piñata before smashing it for the treats inside.

A very big **THANKS** to all who helped with the set-up and clean-up of the potluck.

And to all the secret friends: keep in touch with each other! Your friendship can extend past this letter writing time.

R.E. Spring Fling

On Saturday, April 4, from 7:00 PM to

10:00 PM at Prairie we'll have our spring celebration for all kids in RE from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Bring 3 things: 1) a flashlight, 2) your favorite board game, 3) something (like cheese, meat or veggies) to put in the giant sub we'll make.

Caring Hands

With the leadership of Metje Butler and Heidi Oliverson, this group has been investigating different aspects of nature. One week they had a "nature table" with many different natural objects to examine in many ways, including with a magnifying glass. They also made a poster which folks are invited to view.

Another week, they planted seeds and seedlings (including pumpkin, watermelon, onion, vimca and violets). These have gone home with them to continue growth there.

The following week included the story of Luther Burbank, poems, "The Garden Song" and discussion of how important trees are to humans.

Time Travels

Mike Sheehy completed the section on Vikings by focusing on their religion and values. They reviewed the great Norse myths., They also created a funeral pyre in which they burned the Viking ship they'd made on an earlier Sunday.

The following week began the unit on Hinduism, led by Cindy Haq and Sita Bhaskar. They discussed general aspects of life in India and Hindu beliefs, including reincarnation, karma and vegetarianism. They also mock-celebrated the festival of Holi in which spring is welcomed by creating an effigy of winter and burning it in the back yard.

Last week they focused on the caste system, discussing parallels with racism, prejudice and apartheid. They played a very "unfair" game of dodgeball where half were Brahmans and half (disadvantaged) were untouchables.

In Our Hands

As was explained at the Spring Equinox intergenerational, this group has created a poster to survey the Society on what adoption projects are favored. They've been selling donuts to raise money for the project, and have been

attending some of the adult services on nature. This group is led by Bob Nelson and Kate Tucker.

AYS: About Your Sexuality

Led by Julie Bonser and Dick Bonser, this group has met four times so far. The participants range from 6th to 9th grade and are from both First and Prairie Societies. The youths are good-natured, willing participants in the program and most have not missed any of the sessions. Dick and Julie are learning a lot about contemporary slang terms (not just the naughty ones) used among young people.

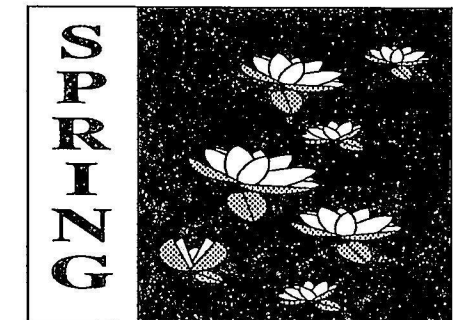


It Worked!

Thanks to all who participated in the letter writing last week! The Social Action Committee delivered about 40 letters opposing the assembly version of the parental rights bill. We think our letters helped because the bill was modified and is now more acceptable.

Food Pantry

Many thanks for the food contributions to the food pantry at Allied Drive. The center could also use snack foods, such as graham crackers, juices, and similar items for their after school child care program. You don't need to contribute special items, however, and many people are donating "special buys" they happen to see at the store. The donation box is located in Prairie's foyer, 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.



MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Apr. 5 Paula Pachciarz
& Carl Wacker
- Apr. 12 Pat Cautley
- Apr. 19 Heidi Oliveresen
- Apr. 26 Barbara Rames

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Apr. 5 Mary Mullen & ??
- Apr. 12 ??
- Apr. 19 Aileen Nettleton & ??
- Apr. 26 Barb Park & ??

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

- Apr. 5 Paula Pachciarz
& Carl Wacker
- Apr. 12 Pat Cautley
- Apr. 19 Jaen Andrews
- Apr. 26 Barbara Rames

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

MATC Supershow!

The Community Swing Choir and the New College Singers will present an All Broadway Program on May 1st and 2nd at MATC. See Barb Park, one of the participants, for tickets—only \$5 each!

Voice Recital

Barb Park will sing at Oakwood Village auditorium on May 20th at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.