The deadline for the next issue of PRAIRIE FIRE will be Sunday, May 10. Submit items for May 14—28, 1992.

Tuesday, May 12
4:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Thursday, May 14
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 17
10:00
TRANSITION SUNDAY, Erin Bosch, Coordinator

Monday May 18
7:30 PM
JOINT PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the Meeting House. Both the 91 and 92 Boards meet. The 92 Board members will assume the duties of office at this meeting.

Tuesday, May 19
4:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Friday, May 22
7:30 PM
ORTON GRAY’S BIRTHDAY PARTY! (See story)

Friday, May 22—Sunday May 24
Memorial Day Canoe Trip and Campout at Wildcat Mountain State Park Group Camp.

Tuesday, May 26
4:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the meetinghouse.

Thursday, May 28
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 31
10:00
To be announced.

Sunday June 7
10:00 AM
"THE UN CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT," coordinated by Pat Cautley

Today’s Quote:
“If you talk to God, you are praying; if God talks to you, you have schizophrenia.”
—THOMAS SZASZ

One Smart Guy
Congratulations to Prairie Member David Stevenson for his selection as a Wisconsin All State Academic Scholar. David is one of 117 Wisconsin high school seniors who were selected for this...
Teacher Recruitment and Super-Training

The RE Committee is currently in the process of recruiting leaders for the RE sessions next year. The curricula will be: "A Place of One’s Own" ("Haunted House") for the primary grades, "Holidays and Holy Days" for the intermediate grades, and "The Church Across the Street" for the middle school. If anyone has an interest in leading an RE section next year or in being an advisor for either the junior or senior high youth groups and would like to find out more of what’s involved, please contact either Linda Sheehy or Dean Schroeder.

For those who will be working in the RE program as leaders or advisors next year, there is a district-wide training that will take place on May 16 in Naperville, IL. I will be contacting you with specific information, but until then, try to keep that date open! Prairie has received funding from the district to send people to this training, so a sincere thank-you to them!

Parish Meeting Acts on 3rd UU Society

At the Spring Parish meeting, Prairie members voted both to further explore the potential for Prairie itself becoming part of an expanded ministerial society and to support in whatever way possible the creation by Madison Unitarian Universalists of a third congregation in Madison.

Although the vote on the first item was very close (16 to 13) it means that Prairie members want to keep options open and further explore the questions associated with the efforts to expand UU congregations in the Madison area. This includes looking at the type of group(s) which might be formed, considering active involvement or association with a new society, discussion of sharing staff or facilities, and looking at leadership options for Prairie. It does not mean that any specific decision has been made, only that more study is needed.

Mary Mullen, newly elected Long-range Planning Committee Chair, and Aileen Nettleton will be analyzing the results of the survey published in this issue of the Prairie Fire and scheduling a series of meetings on this issue. They will be meeting with the First Society Committee and bringing further information back to our members. Much soul-searching will need to take place over the next few months to determine the actual course that Prairie will take.

Central Midwest District UUA News

The District Board met in Rockford March 6-7. They voted to hire Ms. Helen Bishop at the District Administrator. She officially begins work in early July, but she will attend General Assembly as our District Administrator. Ms. Bishop currently lives in Poway, California. She has a B.A. in Zoology from the University of Missouri, Master’s Degrees from San Diego State University in Baroque, Renaissance and Medieval Music and in Educational Technology, and will soon defend her dissertation in educational leadership at the University of San Diego. She has worked as a management consultant, Director of Operations, Director of Training, and training specialist in the past twelve years. In addition she has served as a director of religious education for five years: has been a Renaissance Module Leader; and has written RE curriculum as well as the Common Vision survey on attitudes toward gay, lesbian, and bisexual members and leaders within the UUA.

Once upon a Time—Theology and Storytelling, Visions and Values Convocation, Saturday, May 9, 1992, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1220 Ridge Avenue.

What’s Going On In The District

May 9 Visions & Values Convocation Evanston, IL
May 16 R.E. Supertraining Naperville, IL
June 8-11 SEWUUC Summer Institute
June 12-14 Continental UUWF Conf. Allerton, IL
June 13-19 Meadville Summer Course I Beloit, WI
June 25-30 General Assembly Calgary, Canada
July 5-11 Lake Geneva Summer Asy. Williams Bay, WI
July 6-10 Meadville Summer Course II Chicago
July 18-25 Midwest Leadership School Beloit, WI
July 19-25 Bayside Camp Williams Bay, WI
examined casts of some of the Aztec gods and learned about the Aztec calendar. The kids were especially interested in the gods and the various types of human sacrifices.

In Our Hands
This group has continued their focus on environmental issues by one week hiking in the arboretum led by Kate Tucker and the other week celebrating Earth Week under the leadership of Bob Nelson. Specifically, they went to the park and picked up trash and discussed an article from “Thinking Like a Mountain” regarding our relationship to the earth, including how we come from and return to the earth.

May-Basket Cookies
(Sour Cream Sugar Cookies)
1 c. shortening
(You can use 1/2 c plus 1/2 c butter)
2 c. Sugar
2 eggs
3 c sour cream or milk
1 tsp salt (scant)
1 tsp soda
5 c. flour
Mix well and chill dough for a few hours. Roll and cut with flower cookie cutters. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Decorate like flower petals, centers etc. using colored sugar, raisins, etc. Yield: 4 - 5 dozen

Cookie Cutters
Use the cans which Underhill’s Deviled ham comes in. Remove top and bottom, leaving rimmed cylinder. Using 2 pairs of pliers, make bends thus:

Type 1: Make 3 outward bends about 1 1/2" apart, 2 inward bends centered between them.

Type 2: Make 6 inward bends equidistant from each other. Curve arch between each bend.

Please Help...
Why give blood? Each donor has their own reason. When we find it hard to give financially to many helpful causes, it’s great to know we can give blood, the marvelous gift of life—for free. Join our One-A-Week Club—we’re way behind.

Only two donations have been made since January 1. Be sure to sign the Donor Book on the “Unitarians” page at the clinic or blood drive location, so Prairie Society is credited with your donation.

Food Pantry
Many thanks for the food contributions. The center also needs snack foods, such as graham crackers, juices, and similar items for their after school child care program. 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.

Democracy Watch Update
The project of encouraging development of light rail and improved bike path systems in Madison is fading out from this group and a “formal” and more concentrated committee has arisen on this subject, thanks in large part to the work and inspiration begun by Democracy Watch. The committee, which will announce its formation to the press sometime in May, is called MTA (Multimodal Transportation Alliance). We are currently persuading individuals and groups and organizations to sign on, with either money or just moral support, that when we speak to influence Dane County 2020, the City Plan Commission and similar groups, we will have the weight of many people “speaking” through us. We already have the Sierra Club and various “green” groups supporting us and have meetings or phone calls in to senior/aging organizations, low income groups, and others. A newer project that Democracy Watch is working on is the concept of all rent deposits, which are usually
administered by landlords and then paid back with interest to the renter when s/he moves out, going into one big pot administered by the city, the income from which would go into humanitarian city needs. Most small landlords are in favor of this, but it is being strongly opposed by a few powerful property management companies. Democracy Watch’s job right now is attending various city meetings to be sure it is not shot down in some small committee with a technicality.

- Sharon Scrattish
  Social Action Chair

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- May 3  Al Nettleton & ??
- May 10 Alice & Lee Bullen and Julia Riley
- May 17 ??
- May 24 NO SERVICE

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

- May 3 ??
- May 10 Rachel Siegfried
- May 17 ??
- May 24 NO SERVICE

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

The Big Five-Oh!

You are all welcome to my 50th Birthday Party! It will be held on May 22 at 7:30 PM in the Waunakee Village Hall (same building as the fire station) in Waunakee. Please bring a snack (finger food) and your dancing shoes. This promises to be an unusual gathering!

- Orton Gray

Claim Your Own!

I have a few books and tapes, which are not marked, left over from my hospital stay. If you think they belong to you, please call me at 271-2173 and I will be glad to bring them to you at Prairie.

Thanks
-Rachel Siegfried