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Prairie Fire

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

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Special editor–Geoffrey Bonser

Vol. 30, No. 12, 6–23–92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, July 19. Submit items for July 23—August 27, 1992.

Please Note: Prairie Fire will be published only once per month during June, July, and August!

CALENDAR

Thursday, June 25
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday June 28
9:00 AM
Band Practice at the Meetinghouse
10:00 AM
To be announced

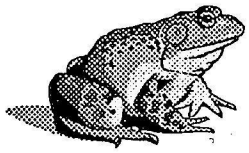
Wednesday, July 1
6:30 PM
East-Siders interested in forming a 3rd UU Society meet at the First Society meetinghouse.
8:30 PM
West-Siders interested in forming a 3rd UU Society meet at the First Society meetinghouse.
(See related story)

Sunday, July 5
9:00 AM
Band Practice at the Meetinghouse
10:00 AM
"PATRIOTS AND SCOUNDRELS" presented by guest speaker Erwin Knoll.
4:00 PM
FRIENDLY SUPPER CLUB POTLUCK at the Olin Park Shelter.

Thursday, July 9
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, July 12
9:00 AM
Band Practice at the Meetinghouse
10:00 AM
"NOT JUST A WAY TO MAKE A LIVING: WHY I LIKE MY JOB" presented by guest speaker Jean Feraca.
11:30 AM
Discussion at Prairie about Prairie's role re: "New UU Society" with Art Hackett and Aileen Nettleton. (See related story)

Monday, July 13
7:00 PM
HISPANIC POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)



Sunday, July 19
9:00 AM
Band Practice at the Meetinghouse
10:00 AM
"BUILDING THE GLOBAL VILLAGE: A REPORT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY" presented by Julie Bonser and friends.

Monday, July 20
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Thursday, July 23
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Sunday, July 26
10:00 AM
NO PROGRAM AT PRAIRIE! Joint meeting with the Freethinkers at Sauk City. Topic to be announced.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH with the Sauk City group. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday, August 2
10:00 AM
"WHO NEEDS CONGRESS?" presented by guest speaker David Clarenbach.

Today's Quote:

"Understand that happiness is not based on possessions, power, or prestige, but on relationships with people you love and respect."
–H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
"Life's Little Instruction Book"

...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

The Oldest and Largest Lay-Led Society in the UUA

NEWS & VIEWS

Band to Practice Sunday's at 9:00

Due to a reduced summer schedule and a change in the coordinator's work schedule, band practice will now be held each Sunday at 9:00 unless there's no service at Prairie or a pre-service potluck is scheduled. Right now we'll be practicing for a couple away from Prairie events. No matter what you play—including the spoons—you're welcome in the Prairie Band.

Third Society Planning!

Wednesday, July 1, the Ad Hoc Committee on a third society will meet with members/friends of First Society and Prairie at the First Unitarian Meeting House to ascertain the nature of interest expressed in the questionnaires returned and to discuss early stages of planning. Since one of the questions being investigated is the location for a third society and respondents indicated East Madison or West Madison, there will be two forums—one at 6:30 PM for those interested in an East-side church and one at 8:30 PM for those interested in a West-side church. The committee members will be there to listen. Any others who are interested are also welcome.

On Sunday, July 12, Prairie members will have an opportunity to discuss the question of whether Prairie is interested in becoming part of the new , expanded ministerial society. This will be a follow-up to the vote at the Spring Parish Meeting. Art Hackett, member of First Society and committee chair, and Aileen Nettleton, Prairie's representative to the committee, will share the early steps on planning, answer questions and listen to comments.

You are encouraged to attend to explore Prairie's future in regard to this question. If you cannot attend and would like further information or share your point of view, please call Aileen Nettleton at 238–6053.

Grass Mower/Trimmers Needed NOW!

Again the grasses reach even taller during our Wisconsin green growing season. Your volunteer energy is needed NOW! The Hooks are what you wish them to be—you can be on the Housing and Property Committee, learn a new skill or practice an old one, develop self confidence and responsibility or just do a good deed with little fan fare, knowing you helped other folks. If you are young or old, middle aged, girl or boy, rich or not so rich, and if you have a little time on a weekday once or twice or more this summer. We need your help to MOW/TRIM the lawn. I'll help you get started. Please call Karen at 259-0556.

Parent-Led Activities for Summer

During the summer, beginning May 31, we will have no formal RE program. Instead, we are asking all parents to develop (with their kids' help!) one simple hour-long activity. When you come to Prairie, parents will decide who will take charge of the "little ones" (through age 6) and the "big kids" (7 and up) that day. Leaders will change every week, so everyone shares the responsibility. Our goal is to continue the sense of belonging to the Prairie community that we have tried to foster during the year... and to have fun! So parents, come prepared... we're counting on you!

-Dean Schroeder, RE Chair

Garage Sale

I am interested in holding a Prairie garage sale fundraiser July 25, but need to find out the interest in Prairie. If I receive notice by July 10 that at least 6 families can donate material for a garage sale and that I can get at least 3 people to help staff it, I will hold a garage sale at our house July 25. Other wise, I will not. If you fit any of the two categories, please contact Susan Hagstrom at Sunday programs at the meeting house or cal at 238-4970. If it is to be held, I will put a notice in the July 19 newsletter.

Hispanic Potluck

May's Hispanic Potluck may have been our most successful ever, with eight adults and one baby in attendance! We met at Orton Gray's home, where we feasted gloriously—and, oh yes, also spoke Spanish. As always, our levels of expertise were many and varied. Creative, too. When none of us could recall the proper word, we made one up. (Example: deviled eggs = huevos de Diablo!—Well, why not?)

Audrey had recently been in Mexico again. As a teacher, she frequently accompanies student groups on trips there. She always has funny tales to tell, new idioms to add to our vocabularies—and NEW RECIPES!

Amy's little daughter is now walking. We feel like she's really one of us since we have known her from the beginning and since she first visited a potluck as a newborn. Orton and Rosemary were surprised and pleased to have their May birthdays celebrated. (¡Feliz Compleaños!)

Since we met so late in the month (May 18) we decided to skip June. Our next reunion will be on Monday, July 13, at 7 PM at Prairie. Everyone is welcome—your level of Spanish speaking ability is unimportant. If you can, bring a dish to share. If you can't, not to worry— we always have plenty of food. What you bring does not have to be Hispanic.

If you need more information or a ride, please call Orton at 273–4041 or Rosemary at 238–4382. Also, if you can't join us because that is a bad night for you every month, let us know. We can only base future meeting dates on input from those present. If we don't hear from you that our choice of dates is inconvenient, we don't know to change the day nest time.

¡Ojalá que Uds. puedan reunirse con nosotros la próxima vez!

Update for Play Goers

Susan Hagstrom has already purchased her tickets for the two summer productions suggested in the last Prairie Fire. We hope others would join us who are going. Neither production has sold out yet. If you would like to attend the Plays are:
The Heidi Chronicles July 31, 8 pm purchase tickets at Vilas Hall Box Office, 11:30-5:30 phone 262-1500
Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Shakespeare) July 11, 8 pm - call Susan at 238-4970

for ticket purchase details. This is in Platteville.
If you buy tickets call Susan and she will arrange for a dinner with the group if you like.

Future Seers—This is For You

Later this summer, maybe as late as our Labor Day Retreat to Bethel Horizons, all persons interested in the long range future of Prairie will have a chance to come to the organization meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee. One main concern will be the effects of a new Third Madison UU Society on us. Please let the Committee Chair Mary Mullen (271-5192) know right now if you are interested in becoming a member of this committee.

Ray Munts Remembered

Most of us living the Madison were aware of Ray Munt's death on April 26 of congestive heart failure, but recently I have become aware that the many friends of Prairie outside Madison have not. Ray and Mary Lou were active, involved friends of Prairie in the 70's, and we remember with great affection their perceptive comments, delightful humor, and wisdom.

The Memorial service for Ray was the most beautiful I have ever attended. The First Society was full to overflowing and many, many family members and friends spoke of the wonderful memories they had of Ray's adventurous spirit and refusal to be downed by his increasing physical limitations and frustrations. He was truly a remarkable person.

-Pat Cautley

Change of Address!

Prairie member Fredericka Schilling has moved, and become a solid, home-owning citizen in the process. Her new home is located at:

4330 Sheffield Road,
Madison, WI 53711
Ph: 277–9218

Pledges

Susan Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705 is now the new Treasurer. It would be appreciated if all bills, pledges, and contributions were sent to her or to Prairie UU Society. 2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI. 53711. If you send them to the former treasurer, Julie Bonser, they won't be dealt with until mid July.

The recordings of the Sunday Programs are getting so numerous they could really use a tape deck holder. Is anyone could donate such an item please contact Susan Hagstrom at Sunday programs at the meeting house or call at 238-4970.

What's Going On In The Central Midwest District

July	5-11	Lake Geneva Summer Assembly Williams Bay, WI
	6-10	Meadville Summer Course II Chicago, IL
	18-25	Midwest Leadership School Beloit, WI
	19-25	Bayside Camp Williams Bay, WI

Remarks from The Prairie

The behind the scenes work that keeps Prairie functioning is going well this summer. Thanks to the Program Chair we have a full schedule for Prairie Programs and activities on Sunday until our retreat. Our Labor Day weekend, I hope, will see you all at Bethel Horizons for a new venture for Prairie. We will be able to have many outdoor activities and even camp for you hardy outdoor folks. The Retreat Committee is working now on programming for the weekend and arranging for the registration forms which you will be receiving with the July 19 newsletter.

I will no longer be keeping the building schedule for Prairie. If you want to reserve time at Prairie please contact Fredericka Schilling (277-9218). There is a calendar next to the microwave at Prairie, that is the OFFICIAL calendar you may schedule events there if there is time and space available. The Board will continue to meet the third Monday of the Month—our next meeting is July 20 at 7:30.

I was pleased to turn over the books to Susan this past week. Due to family responsibilities and pleasure (Lucian Harper Bonser, new grandchild) there was a delay in deposits. Our Pledges are coming in on time—please keep the pledges flowing to Prairie over the summer as our mortgage and utility bill keep on coming in to be paid.

R.E. is well organized for the next year with teachers and programs and some new ideas to keep children active and interested. We also have a volunteer to put together Circle Dinner groups for the upcoming year. Please feel welcome to start new groups or activities at Prairie.

Dick and I will be attending General Assembly in Calgary, Alberta the end of June. We are also taking some time to see Banff, Jasper, Edmonton and Wetaskiwin. From 1960 to 1963 Dick and I lived in Wetaskiwin, Alberta so we are going to see the scenes from our early marriage again, we haven't been back since we left for Dick to attend graduate school in Vancouver. I hope to be refreshed and renewed by the combination of GA and vacation—ready to have lots of energy for Prairie. See you in July.

-Julie Bonser

Thank-You!

I would like to thank all of the folks at Prairie for their cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and good wishes during my recent surgery and continuing recovery. Progress is slow, but steady and the pain is diminishing (slowly, I'm sad to say), but I expect to be back at Prairie before you know it. Thanks so much.

-Pat Watkins

Retreat at Bethel Horizons Labor Day Weekend

Each year Prairie Society holds an all-member/friend retreat. It's a great time to get to know people better, to commune with nature, or just to relax with a good book or puzzle. Set aside your Labor Day weekend now—Friday Sept. 4 to Monday Sept 7.

This year we break with a 20+ year tradition. Instead of going to Camp Upham Woods, we'll be heading out toward Dodgeville and the Bethel Horizons Nature Camp. The change means some people will be able to tent or stay in campers and that we won't be subject to such strict mealtime procedures.

Besides marking your calendar, now's the time to brainstorm about the programming you'd like to see offered or

would be willing to provide. Discussions, crafts, nature hikes, and kids activities are always part of the weekend as are dancing and a talent show.

Please volunteer your ideas to Heidi Olivierson (238-2265, night; 255-6824 day) or Mary Mullen (271-5192.

SOCIAL ACTION

Paid Up Policy...

Do you feel a secret pride in the wise way you are caring for your wonderful body? We've put into practice what we've learned about good health habits andwe've been rewarded. Now let's share the wealth: give a pint of blood at the Red Cross Donor Center. Hours at the Red Cross donor center on Sheboygan St. are:

M	9–1 PM	Th	12–6 PM
T	12–6 PM	F	9–1 PM
W	9–1 PM	S	9–12 Noon

Be sure to sign the One-A-Week book as a Unitarian-Universalist!

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.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

June 28	Barbara Rames
July 5	??
July 12	??
July 19	??
July 26	AT FREETHINKERS in Sauk City

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

June 28	Fran Zell & Richard Alderman
July 5	Metje Butler & Rosemary Dorney
July 12	Norma & Mike Briggs
July 19	Sharon Scrattish & ??
July 26	AT FREETHINKERS in Sauk City

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

June 28	Barbara Rames
July 5	??
July 12	??
July 19	??
July 26	AT FREETHINKERS in Sauk City

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

Just a Reminder

If you're going to use the building, check with Fredericka Schilling to be sure the building is available. We need advance notice, preferably two weeks, to schedule the use of the building. Building use rules are posted in the kitchen.

Help Needed!

My roof is 30 years old, buckling, and covered with moss. I have the opportunity to have it replaced at lower than market cost by an organization called Project Home. Project Home does repairs, weatherization and builds ramps etc. for the elderly and disabled. It is a non-profit city sponsored organization.

This will take place the middle of July. I was told that volunteers could be used (you don't have to go on the roof necessarily if heights are a problem—there are many other tasks to be done). It will save me some money and I would be most grateful. I will furnish lunch—my famous bean soup and french bread. Please call if interested.

P.S. Does someone have a child's little red wagon they can loan me this summer?

-Rachel Siegfried 271-2173.

Labor Day Weekend in Chicago

If you want to see Chicago like a local, enjoy a weekend of fabulous jazz, and make a lot of great new UU friends, consider attending the Labor Day JazzFest Weekend sponsored by Second Unitarian Church in Chicago. The weekend includes outdoor jazz concerts in Grant Park along the city's downtown lakefront; homestays and restaurant excursions with church members; and sightseeing opportunities. Three or one-night stays are possible. To find out more about this event talk to Fran Zell (437-8468), who was a member of Second Unitarian for many years. The Chicago contact is Catherine Varnau (312-943-8731).