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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 30, No. 15, 9-15-92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, September 27. Submit items for October 1-15, 1992.

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 17
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.

Friday, September 18
5:30 PM

The Ethnic Dinner Circle meets at the Vientiane Palace, 1124 Park St. Call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 by Wednesday evening, Sept. 16, for a reservation.

Saturday, September 19
9:00 AM

WORK PARTY & POTLUCK painting the eaves and soffit. (See related story)

Sunday, September 20
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00 AM

"OLD TESTAMENT WOMAN: A NEW VIEW" presented by Professor Michael Fox.

Monday, September 21
7:30 PM

Prairie Board meets at the Meetinghouse.

Saturday, September 26
9:00 AM

WORK PARTY & POTLUCK painting the eaves and soffit. (See related story)

Sunday, September 27
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00 AM

"THE STATE OF THE UNIONS: What they have fought for and given to today's modern world economy." Presented by Jim Cavanaugh, president of the South Central Federation of Labor.

Monday, September 28
7:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)

Thursday, October 1
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, October 4
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00 AM

To be announced

Sunday, October 11
9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00 AM

To be announced

Saturday November 7

"THE ANCIENT AMERICAS: Art From Sacred Landscapes." A fundraising bus trip to the Chicago Art Institute. (See related story)

Today's Quote:

"The optimist thinks that this is the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist knows it."

-J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER



Painting and Potluck!

Mark your calendar now for one of these SATURDAY MORNINGS in September—the 19th, or the 26th—to volunteer your good energy to beautify our building by joining Prairie members to paint the soffit. We will be working on each of these Saturdays, but give me a jingle so I will know which Saturday morning to count you in on this worth while endeavor. We need ladders, paint brushes and rollers for this project, but most of all WE NEED YOU!

-Karen Gross—259-0556

Chair, Building & Property Comm.

Spanish Speakers' Potluck

We are delighted to report that even during the summer we were able to draw at least seven people for each

...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

meeting! For those new to Prairie and those wishing to try out a new group this year, we suggest the Hispanic Potluck. We meet monthly, usually at the Meetinghouse but occasionally at someone's home, for about two hours to share a meal and speak Spanish.

We represent many skill levels, but in common we have a desire to enhance what we know—improve our Spanish, share information about Spanish-speaking countries and friends, prepare a dish of Hispanic origin. This last is not a 'must'; anything you bring will be much enjoyed and enthusiastically devoured. We have great meals—and all without planning!

None of us is perfect in his/her speaking ability. We are all a bit shy the first time or two. But there's much support from the group to make a stab at it, and always someone to help if you draw a blank. In a pinch, we can become quite inventive—'huevos diablados,' por ejemplo.

It is amazing how many different experiences of using Spanish we bring to the potluck: ex-Cuerpo de Paz, testigos de la situación política, estudiantes de la escuela secundaria o de la universidad, personas con parientes que viven o han vivido en un país hispano-parlante, and people who are simply learning Spanish on their own. Maybe they feel that, after English, it's the most relevant and important language of this country or maybe they just love the language.

We would like to play more Latino music, so if you have favorite tapes bring them. Also, we are trying to put together a schedule of Hispanic events around the state (and maybe in Chicago, where there is a large Spanish-speaking population). If we plan ahead, we could attend a Cinco de Mayo fest in another city or go as a group to Madison's own Fiesta Hispana. For further information, a ride, or whatever, call Orton at 2734041 or Rosemary at 238-4382.

We Need Your Input!

The Committee on Committees is planning programs for January thru August 1993. If you would like to do a service or series of services, alone or with another person; if you have ideas for topics you would like to see ad-

dressed or speakers you would like to hear, please let one of the following people know by October 1:

Anne Urbanski	258-8269
Rosemary Dorney	238-4382
Judy Skog	273-4813
Barbara Rames	231-1871
Mike Briggs	238-1227

Prairie Patter

A very big thank you to all the people who helped make our Bethel Horizons retreat a terrific weekend, Norma Briggs, Anne Urbanski, Heidi Oliverson, and Mary Mullen organized the program and coordination with Bethel Horizons. Judy Skog was the Registrar. The overall attendance was 55 with about 50 spending the nights. Many remarked on the beauty of the Prairie there and the numerous paths, with blackberries and wild grapes to pick and enjoy.

We need to decide soon where we will go next fall for our retreat. If you have any suggestions or concerns please let me know.

Thanks also to Susan Hagstrom who organized and staffed the Prairie Garage Sale this past weekend. We appreciate your contributions and purchases. Prairie was busy Saturday with Karen Gross, Al Nettleton and myself on ladders painting trim. A brave woman, Jean Matos, was on the roof painting also. Barbara Rames was chasing spiders and cleaning corners and windows. Diane Derouen was tending the prairie. We had a delicious potluck with green beans from the Prairie garden. Several people have volunteered for this coming Saturday. I hope to see you there. We need people Sept. 26 also to finish painting the trim.

Prairie needs someone who loves teenagers to be our adult representative to the High School YRUU Sunday evenings. If two people want to share the pleasure that would work also. Please let me know if you are willing.

The Prairie Board will be having its second working retreat this Saturday and Sunday at Bethel Horizons. I am impressed with the amount of time people donate to help Prairie function smoothly. It makes being President of your society enjoyable. Thank you!

'Furniture' Needed

The RE program would like to have the use of a step stool in the downstairs bathroom to make it easier for the shortest among us to wash their hands. If someone has one that they could either loan or donate to the RE program, Please let Anne Pryor know.

New Address

Laura Riggs and daughter Melissa Pokorney have moved. Their new address is:

4449 Doncaster Drive
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: 274-3175



Registration

Sunday, September 13 was the first day of regular Religious Education sessions for the "new year." All families with children should have received a brochure about the RE program and registration forms. If you didn't, please contact Anne in order to get those. Please bring the completed registration forms in as soon as possible.

Parent-Teacher Coffees

There will be a series of receptions during which parents and other interested folk can meet with the leaders of each of our four RE groups to find out about the curriculum plans for the year. Each meeting will take place at 11:30 AM, following the Sunday service, and will be held downstairs in the group's room. The schedule is:

Sept. 20—*Church Across the Street*, grades 6,7 and 8, Warren Hagstrom and Erin Bosch, leaders.

Sept. 27—*Holidays and Holy Days*, grades 3, 4 and 5, Norma Briggs and Bob Lawrence, leaders.

Oct. 4—*A Place of One's Own*, grades K, 1 and 2, Barbara Rames and Carol Wilson, leaders.

Oct. 18—*Growing Times*, preschool and nursery, Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler and Nora Bosch, leaders.

Children's Worship Service

The RE program is instituting something new this year. Once a month*, on the first Sunday of the month, instead of meeting with the adults upstairs for the opening of the service to children and RE leaders will meet downstairs for a worship service. The purpose is to provide more spiritual opportunities for the children. The first of these services will be on October 4.

*There will not be a service in November because the first Sunday is an intergenerational service.

Fall Frolic

This year we will again hold a series of seasonal celebrations with the children, beginning with "Fall Frolic" on Saturday, October 24. The festivities will begin at 10 AM and will center on creating decorated pumpkins that we will sell at Prairie the following day. Plan now to join us on this day.



Habitat

This spring construction of 3 special houses began in Dane County. These houses are being built by Habitat for Humanity, which depends largely on volunteers and donations of money and materials to keep the homes affordable.

Families who buy these homes are expected to put 500 hours of labor into their homes and other habitat homes. They then pay a no interest mortgage and their payments go toward construction of other homes in the Madison area. One family who is buying a Habitat home is Laurie Mickelson. She is a single parent with 11 children who had been living in a 3 bedroom apartment. Her habitat home will be a 5 bedroom house, much better suited to her needs.

Prairie member Lee Bullen is a volunteer construction worker for Habitat. For more information, contact Habitat for Humanity of Dane County, P.O. Box 5545, 2001 Taft St., Madison, WI 53716. Their phone no. is 255-1549.

Hurricane Andrew

Hurricane Andrew is the largest natural disaster in American history. 63,000 homes were destroyed. 250,000 are homeless. Many more are without telephones, electricity, drinkable water, and food.

UU's in Florida are mobilizing to help people affected by the damage of Hurricane Andrew. It is called the Florida District Disaster Service. Ed Cossum is the coordinator. He is the UUSC Florida coordinator. He and his wife Arlene have extensive experience in disaster work.

The UU volunteers will clean up debris, help people repair their homes and assist those who apply for services. Ed encourages people from any part of the country who would like to help with this work to contact him in Miami at 305-274-2353 or 305-667-3697. He hopes there may be individuals who will come and help for a week or so. This effort will go on for several months.

The UUA and UUSC urge members of UU congregations and supporters of UUSC programs to provide funds for this effort. Money is need for equipment and supplies for the volunteers to use. It will also provide additional assistance as FEMA and the Red Cross can't cover all the losses.

To make a donation make your check payable to: "Florida District, UUA", earmark it "Hurricane Andrew Disaster Relief" and mail it to Margaret Evans, Treasurer, Florida District, 7326 4th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

Sunday Treats

Many thanks to Shirley Grindrod who has been buying and serving treats for us to enjoy with our coffee after Sunday services. The proceeds from the sale of these snacks go to the Allied Drive food pantry. After I got back from vacation in August, Shirley had \$40 in profits for the food pantry. I was able to buy a lot of groceries! We will continue these sales throughout the year. If you have

suggestions on what snacks you'd like, let Shirley know.

Food Pantry

We continue to welcome grocery donations which can be put in a box near the men's restroom. Maybe you can barter your grocery donations for a free donut from Shirley!

Peace on the Air

Listen to *New Angles from the Left*, sponsored by the Madison Peace CoOp, on WORT radio at 6:30 PM Wednesdays.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Sept. 20 Dick Bonser
Sept. 27 Paula Pachclarz
Oct. 4 ??
Oct. 11 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Sept. 20 Ruth & George Calden
Sept. 27 Paula Pachclarz & Carl Wacker
Oct. 4 ??
Oct. 11 ??

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

Sept. 20 Mike Briggs
Sept. 27 ??
Oct. 4 Jaen Andrews
Oct. 11 ??

Any volunteers who cannot work on the day they've signed up, please let Heidi Oliveren 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.

Building Sign

Our talented and artistic Prairie Member Eric Hagstrom has agreed to build our Society a Building Sign. This is the first draft of the design. A full sized mockup of the sign with some letters and shapes is on display in the meeting room. What do you think of this design? Please give all your comments and critiques to Diane Derouen at 238-3766 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM or on her answering machine during the day.

