Vol. 30, No. 16, 10-1-92

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, October 11. Submit items for October 16-30, 1992.

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
“COLUMBUS – MYTH AND REALITY”
–Hugh Danforth
CHILDREN’S WORSHIP SERVICE
Instead of being a part of the upstairs service for the first few minutes, the children will meet downstairs for a worship service. This will be a monthly event.
11:30 AM
PARENT TEACHER COFFEE in preschool room.
All interested in finding out more about the “A Place of One’s Own” curriculum are invited to attend.

Saturday, October 10
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Phone 233-5795. We will read Tom Stoppard’s After Magritte, or Sam Shepard’s A Lie of the Mind.

Sunday, October 11
9:00 AM
Band Practice
10:00 AM
GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE SUNDAY

Sunday, October 18
9:00 AM
Band Practice
10:00 AM
“THE CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE: THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT.”
–Jim Cobb, Chair of the American Disabilities Act Transportation Oversight Committee.
11:30 AM
PARENT TEACHER COFFEE in preschool room.
All interested in finding out more about the “Growing Times” curriculum are invited to attend.

Saturday, October 24
FALL FROLIC
Fun at Prairie for all RE children! Decorating pumpkins to sell the next day at Prairie will be a central activity,

Sunday, October 25
9:00 AM
Band Practice
10:00 AM
PRAIRIE’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY DECORATED PUMPKIN SALE
Purchase decorated pumpkins from the RE children! Proceeds will go to Prairie and/or UNICEF.

Saturday, November 7
“THE ANCIENT AMERICAS: Art From Sacred Landscapes.” A fundraising bus trip to the Chicago Art Institute. (See related story)

Prairie’s 25th Anniversary
Photos and other memorabilia wanted for 25th anniversary celebration, October 25th. If you have anything to lend or contribute, please let a committee member know. — George Calden, Pat Cautley, Warren Hagstrom, Jack Jallings.

Hymnbooks
The new UUA hymnbook, “Singing in the Living Tradition”, will be published in 1993 at $30.00 a copy.

You can buy one for yourself, or for Prairie, for $25.00 if you put $12.50 down by December 1, 1992. Balance of $12.50 will be due by May 1, 1993. See Mike Briggs if you have any questions.

Volunteers Needed
Do you like to sew, are you interested in making a little money for your time? Can you volunteer to disassemble the meeting house chairs so we can get

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
started reupholstering? Please call Barbara Rames by October 4th at 231-1871 to let her know you are ready, willing and able.

**Meeting House Spruce-Up Day**

Spruce-up day is on Saturday, October 4th at 231-1871. Sign up for small repair jobs, painting, varnishing and more. Please call Karen Gross at 259-0556 to RSVP and we will plan on putting you to work.

**Yet Another Plus**

Last week US News & World Report told of new research linking heart disease to high levels of iron in blood; one of the ways this can be prevented is by regular blood donations! That’s a “side benefit”, for donors can give every eight weeks. Hours: M, W, F 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; T, Th, Noon to 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to noon.

**1992 Central Midwest District Conference**

A great lineup of speakers, workshops, activities and entertainment is in store for the 1992 Central Midwest District conference in St. Louis November 6-8.

The host congregation, Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood (St. Louis suburb), is making arrangements for everything from a Unitarian-focused bus tour of the city to workshops dealing with feminist theology, men’s spirituality and couples enrichment.

“Gateway to Our Faith” is the theme for the weekend and the keynote speaker on Saturday morning will be Harriet Woods, former lieutenant governor of Missouri who currently heads the National Women’s Political Caucus.

Conference registration fee is $30.00 through Oct. 23 and $40.00 after Oct. 23. Brochures with more information about the conference and housing, transportation and child care are available in the church office.

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

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

**‘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.

**Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)**

As last year, this group is ably and creatively led by Emilie Dickson, Nora Bosch and Lili Sandler. The children have made nametags and placemats for snacks. They’re trying to learn each others names, helped along by name games.

**A Place of One’s Own (K-1-2)**

This year’s group has been focusing on the idea of home. They have nametags in the shape of houses, have walked through the Prairie neighborhood looking at all different types of homes for all different types of beings, and heard the story, “A House Is a House for Me.” They also made fantastic homes for personal treasures out of recyclable kitchen containers. This group is led by Carol Wilson and Barbara Rames.

**Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)**

Norma Briggs and Bob Laurence are leading this group, which will focus its attention on different religious and secular celebrations throughout the world. They’ve spent their first few Sundays together getting to know each other and understanding about the holidays in general. They’ve been sharing their personal stories with each other, one week aided by an African talking drum.

**Church Across the Street (6-7-8)**

This group created a list of 11 different religions and denominations that they will visit this year. They began to focus on the first faith they’ll observe in ritual: Roman Catholic. This group is led by Erin Bosch and Warren Hagstrom.

**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:

- 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 two 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.
ber 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.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

**Get Out Your Pens, Pencils And Word Processors**

There are a few issues which are expected to be decided before Congress adjourns on October 5th, so it is a good time for letter writing.

Some of the issues are:

- **Foreign Aid Appropriations.** The Foreign Aid Bill is expected to be a $10 billion loan guarantee to Israel. The SAC recommends you write asking for a freeze on all money going to the creation and maintenance of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories.

  Write to:
  - The Honorable Senator Leahy
  - US Senate
  - Washington, DC 20510

- **Religious Freedom**
  If passed the Religious Freedom Bill would repair damage done to the Free Exercise Clause of the Constitution by the Supreme Courts 1990 Smith decision.

  Write to:
  - Thomas S. Foley
  - Richard Gephardt
  - David E. Bonior
  - US House of Representatives
  - Washington, DC 20515

- **Freedom of Choice**
  An issue we are familiar with, this bill of a woman's right to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy. This is expected to be voted on this October.

  Write to:
  - Senator Charles J. Chvala
  - Room 40 South
  - State Capitol
  - Madison, WI 53702

  - Senator Robert Kasten
  - US Senate
  - Washington, DC 20510

  - Senator Russel D. Feingold
  - Room 28 South
  - State Capitol
  - Madison, WI 53702

  - Senator Fred A. Risser
  - Room 235 South
  - State Capitol
  - Madison, WI 53702

  - Representative Scott Klug
  - US House of Representatives
  - Washington, DC 20515

  - Senator Herb Kohl
  - US Senate
  - Washington, DC 20510

**Spot Job Market Project**

The Community Ministry Corporation is pleased the announce that it has received a Whitney Young Jr. Urban Ministry grant as "seed monies" for it’s Spot Job Market Project. This project empowers the homeless by creating "spot job" opportunities in Madison, Wisconsin. Individual Unitarian-Universalists may employ homeless men and women with spot jobs which pay at least $5.00 an hour for a minimum of 4 hours and pay in cash at the end of each work day. Think of the many odd jobs you have around your home, office or business which would provide this kind of employment opportunity and call us with your job orders at (608) 258-4315 number which has a 24-hour answering machine.

- Project Co-ordinator.

**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 5845, 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.

Oct. 4 ??
Oct. 11 ??
Oct. 18 ??
Oct. 25 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Oct. 4 ??
Oct. 11 ??
Oct. 18 ??
Oct. 25 ??

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

Oct. 4 Jaen Andrews
Oct. 11 ??
Oct. 18 ??
Oct. 25 ??

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