

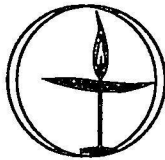
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Prairie Fire



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

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Vol. 30, No. 18, 10-27-92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, November 8. Submit items for November 12-26, 1992.

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 29

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, November 1

9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00 AM

"OUR HONORED DEAD" presented by Jackie Ziegler, ministerial intern at First Society. This is an intergenerational service.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share.

Monday, November 2

6:30 PM

HISPANIC POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Please note change of TIME. If you have questions or need a ride, call Orton at 273-4041 or Rosemary at 238-4382.

Saturday November 7

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

Sunday, November 8

9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00 AM

"TRADESWOMEN: Making Progress in Employment And in Their Unions" presented by guest speaker Kim Spear, President of Milwaukee Women in the Trades.

Thursday, November 12

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, November 15

9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00 AM

"HUMOR AND EDUCATION" presented by guest speaker Ann Crump, President of CWA Local 4600 and chair of the AFL-CIO Women's Committee in Milwaukee.

Monday, November 16

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE EXECUTIVE BOARD meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, November 22

9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00 AM

To be announced

12:30 PM

PRAIRIE SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP will NOT meet tonight. Next meeting will be Dec. 10.

Sunday, November 29

9:00 AM

Band Practice

10:00

To be announced

Today's Quote

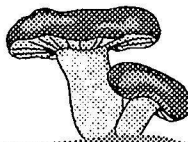
"Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon."

-SUSAN ERIZ



Get On the Bandwagon!

YES, YOU TOO MAY JOIN THE BAND! The Prairie band, which includes anyone of any age who plays any kind of instrument, welcomes new members at any time. Come every Sunday at 9:00 AM



...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

for practice. If you are new, please let Mary Mullen know your name and phone number, just in case practice should be changed. Call 271-5192 to get on the BANDWAGON!

1992 CMD Conference

It's still not too late to make plans to attend the annual Central Midwest District conference. The event will be November 6-8 at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood (a suburb of St. Louis known as "The Green Tree City"—come and see the leaves).

More than a dozen workshops will be offered, ranging from personal enrichment to expanding the ministry. Presentations by both candidates for the UUA presidency, a bus tour of St. Louis, two dinners and musical entertainment are scheduled.

Join with other UUs from the Midwest for a weekend of education and enjoyment.

More information about the conference, registration, housing, transportation and child care is available from Prairie's president, Julie Bonser. Plan to attend!

"Rites of Passage"

The Committee on Committees has come up with an idea for what could be a very interesting series of services—"Rites of Passage" as related to major life events. These could be traditional life events—birth, adolescence, marriage, major anniversaries, retirement, death—or they could be less traditional rites of passage such as adoption, same sex marriages, divorce (parties, etc.), or entering a nursing home. You might think of other possibilities.

If you would be interested in coordinating a series on these topics, or even a single service, or if you would be willing to be on a panel or otherwise participate on any of these topics, please contact one of the committee members below.

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

Prairie Patter

Happy Birthday Prairie! This past weekend we celebrated Prairie's 25th year. We had a great party Saturday

evening with music, dancing, conversation and pictures. Warren Hagstrom was dubbed Mr. Dance near evenings end by a visitor. Thanks to Warren, Pat Cautley, George Calden and Jack Jallings for organizing our celebration. They collected letters from former members and put together a capsule view of Prairie's History. We learned more at the Service on Sunday. Did you know that we had an extension Minister for 6 weeks who started the newsletter (then titled *Newsletter*)?

I was asked to say a few words about "The Future of Prairie." Not being a fortune teller, I confined my remarks to the challenges that face us in the next few years. The next two years promise to be exciting. The Ad Hoc Committee on a Third Society has recommended starting a new UU Society on the East Side of Madison. This will challenge us to provide a stimulating and welcoming environment for ourselves and visitors. We need to maintain at least our current numbers to have the programs we now provide. Fortunately we have assets: a R.E. program that has room for children, a dedicated set of teachers and a terrific R.E. director. We have well established groups for adults, such as Prairie Play Readers, the Spanish Speakers potluck, Circle Dinners, and the Men's group. The Program Committee and Lay Minister provide a rich diversity of Sunday programs. This will be a time to evaluate our strengths and needs so we can continue to grow and have many more happy returns.

You may notice a few changes in the meeting hall the next few weeks. We have checked with our janitor about the necessity of stacking chairs. He says that having chairs left out will not interfere with his work and that it would be better for the floors not to stack the chairs. Also, due to popular demand to reduce the amount of time the program runs over on Sunday morning, the Board agreed to experiment with ways of reducing the number of announcements. We will provide an Information Exchange Table in the corner of the meeting room for community announcements, petitions and letter writing projects. I will remind the congregation to check the table for information. Also the Board suggests giving the President your announcement in writing prior to the start of the meeting. We may do some at the

beginning so R.E. teachers can hear the Prairie announcements. Please give us feedback on how well this works.

-Julie Bonser
President

Fall Meeting Agenda

The Fall Parish meeting will be Nov. 22 at 12:30 p.m. The Agenda is:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Spring Meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Committee Reports.
4. Adoption of Operating Budget for 1993.
5. Election of Denominational Affairs Chair.
6. Resolution re New Congregation Planning Committee.
7. Clarification of Prairie's Marriage Policy.
8. Old Business.
- 9 Adjourn.

Letters from Near & Far

We received many letters from former Prairie Members. They will be displayed at Prairie for the next month. We plan to put the letters and pictures together for a book about our 25th year. If you have a picture or note from a former friend or member of Prairie please give it to Julie Bonser. The following is just a sample:

Gene Wilkening sent best wishes for our 25th Anniversary. He says he remembers particularly the presentations on the environment.

Steve Friedman sends congratulations from Chicago. He was a member from 1970 to 1976. He and Al shared a lay ministry. He reports he has returned to Judaism and joined a reform temple. He has one son, Benjamin. He and Cynthia are divorced. He married Anita in 1986. "Prairie remains a fond memory...I remember a strong moral/political core of concern for the issues of the time—which is after all one of the main reasons to be involved in a religious organization. And we tried to care for each other through marriages, births, accomplishments, illness, deaths and divorces, celebrating, supporting and mourning in our own custom designed ways."

Annis Pratt sent us a copy of Pemmican, poems written to her Prairie

friends. She also included a poem that Prairie wrote during her first lay ministry in 1976.

Arlene Ferguson sent word that she is moving to 19 Back River Rd., Amesbury, MA 01913 the week we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Ben is now a junior in High School and wants to go into mechanical engineering or design. Kerith is in 8th grade, qualified for Junior Honor Society last year and works on a horse farm in exchange for riding lessons. Arlene misses Upham Wood and our lay led congregation. "Everything here is much more formal and religious. Jackets are expected dress code on Sunday and Bible readings are common."

Shawn Pollock writes from Dearborn. He was married to Susan Bloye in December of 1991 at the UU church in Ann Arbor. They are surveying churches in Metro Detroit to find the best fit for them.

Nancy McElreath lives in Fairfax, Virginia. Her oldest Scott (22) in finishing an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland. Amy (21) works in retail. Nancy has gone back to school and is in her second year as a fulltime grad student at the University of Maryland-Baltimore in Social Work. She plans to do individual and group counseling. Nancy plans to marry her best friend, Bob, in May.

Mark McElreath writes from Greenbelt, Maryland. He and his wife Linda have been married 4 years. Mark has a textbook coming out in December. In the past few years his research and professional activities have focused on ethics and communication.

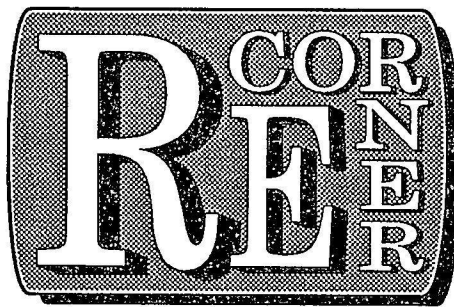
Lilo Koehl belongs now to a Fellowship in Prescott, Arizona which she has seen grow from 18 member to 80. She is please to know Playreaders is still going as she was a founding member.

Linda (Pluim) Schaldach sends warmest congratulations on our 25th Anniversary. She says she has evolved into paid work as a psychiatric nurse, and evolved out of institutionalized religion. "I remain a political activist for women's rights, currently focused on stopping the epidemic violence against women through the Clothesline Project. Our local and national Clothesline Project is a growing display of tee-shirts

bearing personalized stories of violence against women...Wisconsin already has one Clothesline in the Milwaukee area. Contact Jean Woodmansee, 414-377-4710 for more information, or contact me, 503-256-9715."

John Shaffer hopes to pedal his bike to Whenona Drive some Sunday morning to visit Prairie. He specially remembers George's mandolin playing and the Shaker service.

Betsy Roberts writes, "Twenty five years ago Prairie UU came along just when my life was changing- it gave me a home and friends, friends who are still with me. Friends with whom I can share my true liberal thoughts. I can be for Clinton and Gore. I can be a humanist. My life is changing again. Today I registered to vote in New York. I have a beautiful apartment that looks out on woods, no street noise. Two of my sons live here to keep me company. New York is generous helping me to live independently, otherwise I would be in a nursing home. I can keep in touch with you by phone or mail. There is an Unitarian church not far away. I will meet new friends there. I have time now to look at photos and go through old letters and think about how rich my life has been. I can think about how much my Prairie friends have meant to me. I read the Prairie Fire and share your activities. While I lived in Kentucky I taught adults to read. Here insurance laws prevent their coming to my house. But the years I taught gave me an appreciation of the thrill of reading about the world past and present. Prairie, I wish you well on your next twenty five years. Betsy Roberts, 12 Northwood, Williamsville, NY 14221"



Children's Worship Service

We held our first Children's service on October 4, led by Doleta Chapru and Ruth Calden. The focus was on our heartbeats and their rhythms.

Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

The children have spent the past two weeks playing together, both inside and outside, taking advantage of the beautiful weather. They also played their favorite matching card game. This group is led by Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler, and Nora Bosch.

A Place of One's Own (K-1-2)

Working with the seeds they'd collected the week before, this group created seed pictures. They also read the story "A Seed Is A Promise" and did a movement exercise.

The following week, the focus was on apples. The children received in the mail the story "The Little Red House With No Doors and No Windows", which led to exploring apples on Sunday. They made applesauce, heard the song of Johnny Appleseed and briefly talked about mysteries and how people who couldn't explain good things said "God is taking care of us." This group is led by Barbara Rames and Carol Wilson.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

This group, led by Norma Briggs, has been exploring independence celebrations. Music has included marching to "Yankee Doodle" and other songs with the help of Doleta Chapru. They heard the story of Francis David and were dismayed to learn of the privations of slum life outside Lima. Focusing on daily life there helped them understand lives that include no real freedom or few choices.

The following week centered on the Jewish holiday of Passover, looking at it as a celebration of gaining independence. Music was provided by Doleta Chapru and George Calden. Orange Schroeder helped show the elements of a Seder.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

This group has been focusing on Judaism, first discussing the main components of this religion and then attending a Friday night service at Beth Israel (it was held in Hebrew, to their surprise!)

