

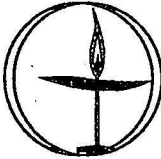
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 30, No. 20, 11-24-92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, December 6. Submit items for December 10-24, 1992.

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 26
7:00 PM

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

Friday, November 27
7:30 PM

Al & Aileen Nettleton invite all Prairie friends and members to join them for a nostalgic photographic trip through Prairie history at their home, 645 Sheldon Street. Please bring a snack or drink to share.

Sunday, November 29
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00
"BREAD" an intergenerational service led by Mike Briggs. *Those who choose to do so should fast for the preceding 24 hours.*

Sunday, December 6
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00
Children's Service downstairs.
"WE ARE THE WORLD" presented by Metje and Geoff Butler.
12:15 PM
UU GOVERNANCE DISCUSSION

Monday, December 7
7:00 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
at Mike Briggs house. Everyone invited!

Thursday, December 10
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, December 13
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00
NIFTY GIFTY DAY in the RE program!
"EPITHETS: PUTTING DOWN AND LIFTING UP"

Sunday, December 20
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00
"SOLSTICE SERVICE AND SYMBOL TREE" an Intergenerational Service.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH at the Meetinghouse.
4:00 PM
HANUKKAH CELEBRATION at the

Meetinghouse with Shaarei Shamayim, the Jewish Reconstructionist group that meets at Prairie. This will be a short child friendly evening service. Bring a Menorah, candles, dreidels, songs and stories.

Thursday, December 24
7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP will not meet tonight. Next meeting will be Jan. 7th.

Sunday, December 27
9:00 AM

Band Practice
10:00
Wild Wintering Party for RE students!
"ENDINGS, BEGINNINGS, AND RESOLUTIONS"

Today's Quote

"The only man who is really free is the one who can turn down an invitation to dinner without giving any excuse."
-JULES RENARD

NEWS & VIEWS

Nostalgia Trip

The Nettletons invite all Prairie Members for a nostalgic photographic trip of Prairie at their home, 645 Sheldon Street, on Friday, November 27, at 7:30 PM. Bring your slides and movies and a snack or drink to share.

...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

Prairie Patter

One of my missions for the year as your President is to figure out how Prairie functions. I'm learning every week about the members who do so much to help make attending Prairie a satisfactory experience for us all. Most of the work I was oblivious to until serving on the board, but as well as I thought I knew the way things worked or weren't working I was surprised. I learned something last week that shouldn't have been a surprise however it was a reminder that I don't read minds as much as I would like to be able to. We do not operate very well on automatic pilot, people are needed to take care of the details and not every detail has someone in charge. I need you to let me know if there are items that need attention. If you have a question about who is responsible for an activity or function at Prairie please ask me. The Prairie board discussed what we and committees need to do to make your volunteer experience at Prairie satisfactory. We will be developing and posting clearer guidelines about cleaning up the kitchen, making coffee, greeting visitor and improving the environmental recycling containers so you know which is trash, recyclable or compost.

We have again experienced the democratic process at work by voting in the budget for 1993. The discussion about a Church administrator was very helpful for the Society and Board. We eliminated the position for this budget with the understanding that we would provide a position description and rationale for another paid position at Prairie. This report is to be available for the spring business meeting. The Society voted to eliminate \$3,200 from the dues to UUA and CMD leaving \$1240 to be distributed to the UUA, CMD and North Central Area Council.

The society affirmed that completing work on gutters is a priority by leaving the item in the budget. The amount to be distributing to the Capital Reserve fund was left in the expense budget with the understanding that any moneys left after we have provided for the other authorized expenses would be held in reserve.

The joyful news of the day is the total amount of pledges to date is the best Prairie has done, the sorrow is we need more money to keep Prairie maintained.

I understand plans are being made to see that we get the windows we need!

Donna Murdoch was elected as the new Denomination Affairs Chair—welcome to the Prairie Board, Donna. We look forward to having you meet with us.

The Committee on Committee completed its fall agenda and shared the results with us Sunday. This spring the lay ministers will be Dick Bonser, then Terry Krause, with an introductory service Jan. 3 by Rosemarie Lester. Next fall the lay ministers will be Judy Skog followed by Anne Urbanski, then a return appearance by Barbara Park the spring of 1994. The COC arranged people to provide one or two services during the next year. Thank you for all the time and effort Rosemary Dorney, Judy Skog, Anne Urbanski and Barbara Rames invested in bringing quality service to Prairie. This will help the Program Committee support the lay minister during their time of service.

Prairie voted to support the establishment of a new congregation planning committee to develop a new UUA congregation on Madison's east side. The committee will consist of interested members of First Society and Prairie Society as well as new people interested in starting the new congregation.

Prairie clarified its Marriage Policy by affirming our policy on the celebration of marriage to make it clear that 'marriage' means a ceremony of commitment to a shared life, celebrated in the presence of witnesses, by any couple regardless of their genders. This passed unanimously.

Julie Bonser
President

Fifty Years!

The Bullens would like to invite their Prairie friends to help them celebrate their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on Saturday, December 19, at the Meetinghouse, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. They will provide a cake, finger foods, coffee, tea and so forth—other light refreshments will be welcomed but are not necessary. Plans are being made for music furnished by the Ethnic Connection and possibly some folk dancing.

Alice and Lee will have a story to tell about their frantic and suspenseful

efforts to get together for their wedding and others may have reminiscences to share about important days in their lives. The Bullens urgently request NO PRESENTS! After fifty years of marriage their lives are cluttered enough with material things.

ATTENTION WOMEN:

WomanSpirit '93 Birthing the Active Spirit Reflection, Reform... Revolution! Will be at First Unitarian Society of Madison January 29 to January 31. We will receive our registration forms within a couple of weeks. Be sure to sign up early to make sure you can attend. First Society expects 300 women from throughout the CMD to this popular event. We can help women attend this invigorating conference by providing home hospitality for participants. Forms for home hospitality providers are at Prairie. Please offer your home and return the form to Julie Bonser.

On being 25!

More congratulations on being 25! Faye Glessner sends greetings from Bakersfield, CA. She says "I'm at a small fellowship here and miss the dynamic spirit of Prairie. We're saving for a minister in hopes that will create growth.

Not surprisingly, I'm Treasurer and Finance Chair. Work is busy, including writing (programming, ugh) interactive computer tutorials complete with color, graphics, animation.

I miss Wisconsin winters NOT but do miss Prairie people. Stop if you're in the LA area or at least call. Hugs, Faye"

Nifty Gifty

This annual gift making event will be held on Dec. 13th this year. If you have any great ideas for items to make, or if you have lots of some item (birch bark, film cannister, whatever) that we can be creative with, please let Aileen Nettleton (238-6053) know.

Ski Weekends...

The First Unitarian Society in Madison is sponsoring two Ski Weekends at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI. They are extending an invitation to Prairie to join them. The weekends reserved are January 22-24 and

January 29-31. This includes Friday evening, eat as you get there Chili Dinner, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, a social hour and evening lecture on Saturday. Reservations are to be in to First Society by December 13 with a \$20 per person deposit. There will be two brochures at the information table at Prairie. If you have any questions you may call David Welo at 273-2639. The cost is Adults \$76.70, children 10-17 \$54.00, Children 5-9 \$42.40, under 5 FREE.

UUA Considers Potential Changes in Governance

Do you know how the UUA is governed?
Do you know what the UUA President does?
Do you know what the UUA Moderator does?
Do you know what powers the UUA Board of Trustees has?

We will examine these and other issues about the current structures and offices that govern our continental association and provide our congregation's input to the UUA Commission on Governance which is finalizing more than two years of work examining various possibilities for UUA governance models.

Please join us for a two hour meeting on Sunday December 6 at 12:15 to learn more about the UUA and its governance structure including such areas as the composition of the UUA Board of Trustees, the role of the UUA President, UUA staff leadership, and terms of office. The meeting will be held at the Prairie Meeting house. We will have a small lunch during the break. Pizza or submarine sandwich.



Children's Worship Service

We will hold our next Children's service on December 3.

Fall Frolic.

This was a well attended and very fun event. Lots of pumpkins were decorated,

goodies baked and pizza eaten. From the sale of the pumpkins and baked goods the following day we netted about \$100 which was shared evenly between Prairie and UNICEF.

Many thanks to those who assisted in making this day so successful: Cathy Converse, Paula Pachciarz, Heidi Oliverson, Metje Butler, Randy Converse and Ken Skog.

Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

Life at Prairie continues happily and well for this growing group. A recent favorite activity has been creating macaroni pictures. The number of children has increased over the past few years, so we have formally hired Lili Sandler and Nora Bosch as assistants to leader Emilie Dickson. The range in ages of the children and their corresponding range in abilities and needs also calls for increased care-giving.

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

Led by Carol Wilson and Barbara Rames, this group continues to explore the theme of homes. Back in October they looked at pumpkins as houses for seeds and then candles, carving pumpkins on their own. They also worked with the interplay of light and dark, doing lots of shadow play. Both activities were thoroughly enjoyed.

On November 8 they watched the fascinating video, "Animal Homes." They then built their own homes from cardboard boxes, small rugs, blankets and sleeping bags. Some of the children then combined their homes into one larger house. This was a lot of fun! They also strummed Barbara's autoharp, sang "Let's Build a House" and "Winter is Coming" and read the book "My House."

On November 15, they read the story "A House for a Hermit" and examined shells brought in by Barbara and feathers brought in by Kerry and Rachel Bauer. The children decorated boxes for their own "shell home."

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

This group's last session in October, led by Norma Briggs, started off with leading an independence march to celebrate Prairie's 25th birthday. The group created a time/generation chart that provided an intriguing contrast

between their own individual life spans and the time of humanity. They also examined the photo-book "In the Beginning" which contains photos of the world with different cultures and celebrations.

The following week, under the leadership of Bob Lawrence, the group went to the annual International Holiday Celebration at the Civic Center, watching and participating in the music, food, costume and dance of many different cultures. Thanks go to Judy Skog, Heidi Oliverson and Dean Schroeder for accompanying them.

Last week, Bob led the group in a celebration of the Day of the Dead. The children drew pictures of skulls, tombstones and coffins; then decorated anise flavored sweetbread (made by Cindy Haq) with the same kinds of images. They discussed how Mexicans observe this holiday and the different role death plays in poorer countries. The idea of confronting death and deriding and making fun of it was also discussed.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

This group, led by Warren Hagstrom and Erin Bosch, most recently visited Mt. Zion Baptist Church. In contrast to Prairie, they especially noted the length and high emotion of the service there. The discussion the following week focused on the sense of community and comfort at the church. Their next visit will be to Deer Park to visit a Buddhist service.

Thanks for the Couch!

A big thank-you to Mary Mullen and Barbara Rames who, respectively, found and brought a new couch to Prairie's basement and recovered it with great, lively fabric. Consequently, we were able to discard a very worn out and raggy couch, improving comfort not only for the back but also the eyes.



No War Toys

The annual days of protest against violent and stereotyping toys will be Nov. 28th and 29th. There are many

