Return to:
Editor
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Address Correction Requested

Jack Jallings,
4761 Schneider Dr.
Oregon, WI 53575

Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1604

Prairie Fire

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

Julia Bonser, President 274-3248
Susan Hagstrom, Treasurer 238-4970
Anne Pryor, R. E. Director 244-7099
Meeting House 271-8218
To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248

Production Assistant – Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 30, No. 21, 12–8–92

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, December 20. Submit items for December 24—January 7, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 10
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Saturday, December 12
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Dick & Julie Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive. We plan to read Cactus Flower. Come out and give Playreaders a try! Call 274-3248 for directions and/or information.

Sunday, December 13
9:00 AM
Band Practice
9:30 AM
NIFTY GIFTY DAY in the RE program! Children's gift-making from recycled materials. Children please bring $1 and a school picture.
10:00
"EPITHETS: PUTTING DOWN AND LIFTING UP" Bring your favorite epithet in a sealed envelope to trade and share.

Sunday, December 20
9:00 AM
Band Practice
10:00
"SOLSTICE SERVICE AND SYMBOL TREE" an Intergenerational Service. Please bring a personal symbol to add to the tree.
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"

Sunday, January 3
9:00 AM
Band Practice
10:00
To Be Announced

Monday, January 4
7:00 PM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at Mike Briggs house. Everyone invited!

Thursday, January 7
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Friday, January 15
7:30 PM
McDUFF'S CEILIDH BAND plays for contra-dancing at the Meetinghouse.

Today's Quote

"Don't overestimate the decency of the human race."
-H. L. MENCKEN

NEWS & VIEWS

Prairie Patter

Prairie recently received the 1992 Commission on Appraisal Report on the Professional Ministry within the UUA. I was curious how the report would apply to us since we do not choose to have paid clergy minister regularly to our Society. The Chapter on A Vision of Ministry reminds us that, "Ministry is the work of a religious community as it seeks through faith to transform its members lives and the world around it." (Shipley)

...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

Unitarian Universalism affirms the 'priesthood of all believers' thus we are all lay ministers. Any member of the congregation who has a sense of calling and acts in response to that calling, is engaged in ministry and is hence a minister. Guided by our Bond of Union and the UU principles which we covenant to affirm and promote, we minister to each other, to the larger community and to the world.

The Commission on Appraisals assessment is that this demonstrates the need for well-trained professional ministers with intelligence, commitment and strong interpersonal skills to "minister to ministers." Their vision of ministry is that of a cooperative enterprise, engaging lay ministers and professional clergy together, seeking through faith to transform not only the lives of members of our congregation, but also the lives of the larger communities in which they exist, and the life of the world around us.

We, the members of Prairie, believe we can accomplish this mission by our cooperative efforts. We are putting our faith into action each time we meet together, each time we listen to each other, each time we devote ourselves to teaching R.E., cleaning up after coffee, greeting guests to our services, attending Board meetings, Circle dinners, Spanish Speakers Potlucks, shoveling snow from our sidewalks. Last Sunday the congregation donated $50 in the free will offering to the local Food Pantry. I'm sure you can add to the list the many things you do ministering to Prairie, Madison, and the World.

***

Reminder: Please help us start the Sunday morning meeting by getting your coffee, tea, or hot chocolate **BEFORE** 10:00. We will be closing the pass through doors before 10 in order to help us start our program promptly.

-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. (*Ed. Note—you may wish to make a donation to the UUSC or UNICEF on their behalf as a token of your regard, though!*)

Nifty Gifty

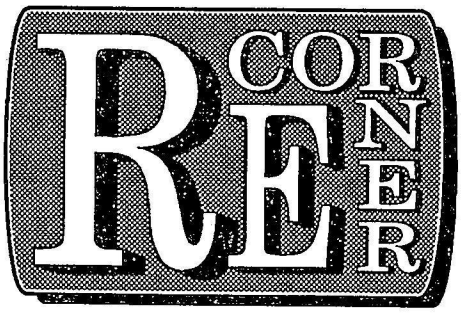
This annual gift making event will be held on Dec. 13th this year. The children should come early, at 9:30 AM, and bring $1.00 and a school picture.

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.

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.



Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

Nora, Lili and Emilie miss having babies to care for! Now that there's three of them providing care and supervision, they can easily adjust to a baby's special needs. So, any parent of our youngest members, if you bring your child to Prairie, you'll make these three teens happy.

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

This group has made a wonderful creche, complete with clay animals, that will be a part of the Winter Holidays Intergenerational service. They acted out portions of the Christmas story and sang "The Friendly Beasts" with the help of Ruth Calden and Doleta Chapru. This group is led by Barbara Rames and Carol Wilson.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Bob Lawrence led this group in a discussion of the Solstice and the return of light. They made a seasonal wreath and decorated the room with wonderfully fragrant pine boughs.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

This group visited the Buddhist service at Deer Park on December 6. The group is led by Warren Hagstrom and Erin Bosch. Orange Schroeder also accompanied them.

Wild Wintering!

On December 27, come to Prairie earlier than usual, at 9:30 AM. Then, we'll go to Vilas Park to ice skate (if the pond is frozen—if not, we'll do something else). We'll be back to Prairie by 12:00.

Be sure to wear warm clothing, including a hat, gloves and good socks, and ice skates if you have them. If you don't, bring $1.00 to rent skates. Even if you don't like to skate, plan to come along and slide around on the ice with us.

Any questions? Contact Dean Schroeder at 256–8816.

SOCIAL ACTION

Thanks for Food Pantry Donations

We collected $50.00 after the "bread service" which will go to the Allied Drive Community Center food pantry. The food pantry is now open only the third and fourth Fridays of each month, so I'm saving the money to buy fresh fruits and vegetables on those days. Again, many thanks.

-Sharon Scrattish
Social Action Chair

A Gift from the Heart

On the day before Christmas, the Red Cross will collect blood at Dane County Forum building from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This is a special appeal, to supply the needs at holiday time when increased travel makes accidents more likely. What a warm way to express the love that is in our hearts at Christmas time for the whole human race—give a pint of your blood to help a stranger you'll never know! If you have never given and would like someone with you when you make your first donation, call Barbara Rames at 231-1871. The donor center on Sheboygan Avenue will be open at its regular hours (M/W 9-1, T/Th 12-6, Sat 9-12) except for these days: December 24, December 25, and January 1.

When you donate, be sure to sign in as a Unitarian-Universalist!

Guest at Your Table

Please invite a Guest to eat with you at your table this month. Collection Boxes are available during the service, or from Judy Skog (273-4813). The money goes to support the projects of the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). UUSC is our 'missionary' arm. It funds local self-help projects around the world, including the USA, without the religious dogma attached. UUSC doesn't tell them what needs to be done. They come to us with their own proposals, so the solutions are locally generated and locally run. By placing a little money in your 'Guest' box at each meal, you can support projects like these:

$15 buys one week of health care for a community on Nicaragua's isolated Atlantic Coast.
$25 buys food, job training and medical care for two months for a Sudanese street boy.
$50 buys family life education services for 20 Jamaican women.
$100 buys four pigs for a hog-raising cooperative in the Phillipines.
$100 buys a year's worth of education from a literacy teacher working with "haryan" (untouchable) adolescent girls in India.

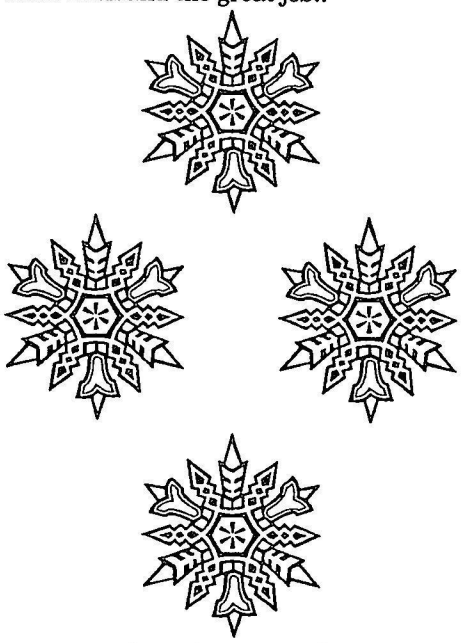
Please return the boxes to Prairie or to Judy Skog on Sunday, January 10.

Social Justice:

The 17th Annual Unitarian Universalist National Workshop on Social Justice will be held May 2-4, 1993 in Washington DC. The theme is "The Nation at Risk: Advocating a New Solidarity." For registration information mail inquiry to UUNWSJ, c/o UUA, 100 Maryland Ave., NE, Suite 106, Washington, DC 20002 or phone 202-547-0254. There are partial subsidies available for travel.

Hey, Kids!

You did a great job! The sale of pumpkins and goodies after the Fall Frolic raised about $50 for UNICEF. And those of you who Trick or Treated for UNICEF raised another $100. Our total donation to UNICEF was $150, enough to buy a hand pump for a well to bring clean water to an entire village. Thanks for the hard work and the great job!!



MISCELLANY

Santa Sale!

Susan Hagstrom will be selling Eric Hagstrom's Santa Claus statuettes at Prairie on Sundays. The price is $35 with $10 being donated to Prairie. These are unique, admirable Christmas presents for the 'hard to shop for' friend or relative, and they're a gift to Prairie at the same time! Either check or cash will be acceptable.

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Dec. 13	Heidi Oliversen
Dec. 20	Rick Ruecking
Dec. 27	Phoebe Rosebear & Dawn Ace
Jan. 3	??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Dec. 13	Al Nettleton & Richard Austin
Dec. 20	Judy Carter & Kathy Converse
Dec. 27	??
Jan. 3	Rick Ruecking & Alice Bullen

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

Dec. 13	Randy Converse
Dec. 20	Rick Ruecking
Dec. 27	??
Jan. 3	??

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 at 277–9218 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.