

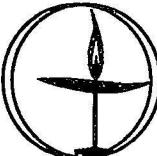
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Prairie Fire



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

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To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248

Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 31, No. 2, 1-19-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, January 31. Submit items for February 4-18, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 21

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, January 24

10:00

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE #1"-the first of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series.

Sunday, January 31

10:00 AM

"THE FUTURE OF UNIONISM" presented by David Newby, Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

Monday, February 1

6:30 PM

FRIENDLY SUPPER CLUB meets for a Potluck Dinner at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share. Call Shirley Grindrod at 238-4422 if you have any questions.

7:00 PM

Program Committee Meets at the home of Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Ave. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Thursday, February 4

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, February 7

10:00 AM

"Taking Chances: Contraceptive Risk Taking," presented by Judy Skog.

Sunday, February 14

10:00 AM

VALENTINE'S DAY Intergenerational Service.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH: Please bring a dish to share.

Monday, February 15

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Thursday, February 18

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, February 21

10:00 AM

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE #2"-the second of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series.

Sunday, February 28

10:00 AM

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE #3"-the third of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series.

Thursday, March 4

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Today's Quote

"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."

-OSCAR WILDE

NEWS & VIEWS

Rites of Passage...

Life is change, the philosophers tell us. Some of them are smooth and easy, some are not. Some last for only a little while and some are forever. Some of these changes are observed in almost every culture and some in a few or none. Some are celebrated once and some many times. We all celebrate or have celebrated birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, bar mitzvahs, retirements, and the like. These events mark a transition from one stage of life to another and are traditional *rites of passage*. There are other transitions that have not usually been celebrated yet they represent changes just as significant and enduring. I propose to explore several of these major life changes, their effects on our lives, and some ways that we do, or could, celebrate these non-traditional rites of passage. It will not, I promise

...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 —————

you, be all dry and scientific discussion nor all moving explorations of the emotional depths and heights. It will be a celebration of life.

-Dick Bonser

Treasurer's Notice:

I will be going into the hospital for an operation on February 12 and I will need help in two areas. First, as Treasurer of Prairie, I would like all bills and pledges to be sent to me either before the 12th or after the 22nd. Anything sent between those dates will be held until the 22nd anyway, and could get lost. Second, I will need someone to do the collating and preparation for the February 16 Prairie Fire mailing. If a volunteer is concerned about the details of what I do, (s)he can participate in the February 2nd mailing for some on the job training. If you can help, please call me at 238-4970 between 12 and 1 PM or evenings after 8 PM.

-Susan Hagstrom

Prairie Patter

Unitarian Universalists share a living tradition that draws from many sources:

"Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;"

I was reminded of these words from our Principles and Purposes during the service this past Sunday. We heard Cheryl and Isadore Knox speak about "The Message of Martin Luther King." We were reminded that Martin Luther King Jr. was an ordained minister. His message was truly one of the transforming power of love. We UU's at Prairie struggle with how to speak about and demonstrate love without tying it to the Jewish and Christian religious traditions. Yet we are asked to honor Jewish and Christian teachings, wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

When we hear the language of several religious traditions in our past, many of us feel uncomfortable. Most of the time at Prairie we don't talk about Jesus, God's love, or people's love for the Lord. Occasionally we will sing about these concepts. Is there a way we can translate these terms for our use so we can take in the spirit of the message and still hold

firm to our humanist traditions?

In our Bond of Union we affirm that we share a common humanity and that we need one another. We share many beliefs and traditions that we speak openly about. This week I started thinking about Prairie traditions. Some we affirm over and over; others seem to be hidden traditions. We use religious or spiritual terms sparingly. Several members of our community have expressed interest in claiming spiritual language for our needs and beliefs at Prairie. These past several years I have been learning more about UU's and Prairie. Many of the services I have been to at General Assembly are about defining UU traditions and beliefs. We are a people in process.

Blessed Be..

-Julie Bonser
President

New Address for Parks

Bob and Barb Park have moved into Madison. Their new address is:

5610 Hammersley Road
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: 273-8775

Please write the change in your Prairie directory.

Convo-93

Growing in a community of Love,
February 12 - 14, Columbus, Ohio.

Highlights of Convo-93 include a keynote address by Mark Bellentini, services by Reverend Meg Riley and Frank Rivas: a special AIDS/Loss Service conducted by Kay Greenleaf; workshops, discussion and sharing opportunities. Prairie received a brochure about this Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian/Gay Convocation sponsored event. Copies will be in the display rack at Prairie.

CMD Leadership Conference

The Central Midwest District Leadership Conference will be held on February 27, 1993 at the Second Unitarian Church in Chicago. It will feature one day workshops about Long-Range Planning, Dealing With Difficult People, Religious Education, How to be an Effective board Member, and Racial/Cultural Inclusivity: The Role of the Liberal Church. The theme is "Renewing Our Vision." This is our chance to get hands-on training. Plan to attend with some other Prairie members.

UU Youth Conference

The youth group of First Unitarian and Prairie Societies is hosting a youth conference the week-end of April 23rd-25th. The conference will be held at First Society meetinghouse. We are in need of people willing to host young people and/or advisors on Friday and Saturday nights. If you are willing to host one or more persons, please fill out the form on the back page or call Huckle Kuhnle at 255-9496.

Parliament of the World's Religions

The centenary will be celebrated in Chicago August 28 - September 5, 1993. Plenary speakers will include Mother Theresa, the Dalai Lama, and the next elected President of the UUA. Central Midwest District is a co-sponsor of the Parliament. Call the district office if you want tickets. We will hear soon how our congregation can get involved with workshops, presentations and volunteer opportunities.

CMD Calendar: 1993

January

- 22-24 CMD YRUU Conference, St. Louis, MO
29-31 WomanSpirit '93, Madison, WI

February

- 8-11 Meadville/Lombard Midwinter Institute, Madison, WI
13-15 UULGC Convocation, Columbus, OH
21 SEWUUS Choralfest, Mukwonago, WI
27 Leadership Conference, Chicago, IL



Wisconsin Harvest

Wisconsin Harvest is a new project in which leftover food is taken from restaurants, hospitals, etc. to food pantries in Madison. Prairie is doing the food run from Meriter Hospital to the South Park Community Center every Thursday morning. 'Granny' cooks up the unused food from Meriter Hospital and it is served for lunch at the Community Center.

We would welcome anyone who could take a turn at this 'Prairie Run' on Thursday mornings. Food is of course also delivered on other days and times to different locations. If you can't do it on Thursday morning but would like to help out at another time, please call Social Action Chair Sharon Scrattish at 233-1118.

Drop-In Shelter

It's great that Prairie volunteers monthly to the men's drop-in shelter. Our night is the fourth Monday of every month. The drop-in shelter has a capacity of 55 but as many as 103 have been sheltered in the past few weeks. Thanks also to all of you who sent shampoos, soaps and towels. I was told last week that the men also have a critical shortage of socks and underwear, both regular and long johns. Any of these items would be appreciated. They can be marked and put in the food pantry box and I'll see that they get to the drop-in shelter.

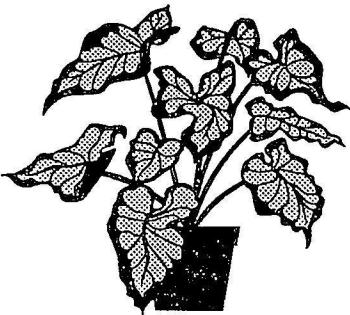
-Sharon Scrattish
Social Action Chair

Somalia Panel Set

A panel discussion and public input on the situation in Somalia has been scheduled for Thursday, January 21, at 7:00 PM in Pres House, 731 State Street. Call Nancy at 244-6595 for further information.

Generous Givers

The Christmas blood drive of the Red Cross was a big success—771 pints were donated! Many thanks to Prairie Society people who gave a pint in December: Dick Bonser, Fredericka Schilling, Linda Sheehy, Nancy Graham, and Barbara Rames. Kathy Borkowski has started off the New Year right with her donation in early January! When you give, be sure to sign on the Unitarian-Universalist page in the One-A-Week book at the refreshments tables.



MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Jan. 24 Richard Austin
Jan. 31 Heidi Oliversen
Feb. 7 Anne Urbanski
Feb. 14 ??
Feb. 21 ??
Feb. 28 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Jan. 24 Kerry & Rachel Bauer
Jan. 31 Al Nettleton
& Heidi Oliversen
Feb. 7 Betty Jallings & ??
Feb. 14 Rosemary Dorney
& Pat Cautley
Feb. 21 ??
Feb. 28 ??



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

Jan. 24 Rachel Siegfried
Jan. 31 Richard Bonser
Feb. 7 ??
Feb. 14 Jennifer Parker
Feb. 21 ??
Feb. 28 ??

Descriptions for each of these volunteer jobs are on the bulletin board over the microwave oven in the kitchen. 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.

