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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 31, No. 3, 2-2-93

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, February 14. Submit items for February 18—April 1, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 4
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, February 7
10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S RE SERVICE downstairs.
"TAKING CHANCES: Contraceptive Risk Taking," presented by Judy Skog. (See related story)

Tuesday, February 9
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE ORIENTATION at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)

Sunday, February 14
10:00 AM

VALENTINE'S DAY Intergenerational Service. Please bring a "Heart" thought or saying to share!
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH: Please bring a dish to share.
SECRET FRIENDS letter exchange begins for RE students.

Monday, February 15
7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Tuesday, February 16
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE ORIENTATION at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)

Wednesday, February 17
6:45 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share. Call Orton (273-4041) or Rosemary (238-4382) for more information or a ride. (See related story)

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: Coming Out"—the second of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series.

Tuesday, February 23
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE ORIENTATION at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)

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.

Sunday, March 7
10:00 AM

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE #4"
11:30 AM

SECRET FRIENDS RE program ends with a potluck and party after the service for the (no longer) secret friends.

Today's Quote

"The power of imagination makes us infinite."

—JOHN MUIR

NEWS & VIEWS

Contraceptive Risk-Taking...

Did you ever take a contraceptive risk, courting pregnancy? Bring your stories or reflections. Learn about the cost-accounting of taking risks—and its implications for pregnancy, abortion, and AIDS. I'm especially interested in the experiences of people in their 20s because my thoughts reflect experiences just before and just after the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (in 1973)—that information is now 20 years old. Have things changed much?

...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 —

Valentines Service

Parents: Please encourage your kids to come and participate upstairs in our intergenerational services. We'd like to see all the kids wearing their name tags so we can get to know them better.

Child care will be provided downstairs for pre-school children only.

Other Prairie Adults: Please come to our intergenerational services ready to interact with our Prairie children. Go ahead... speak to them, engage them, get to know them. All generations will appreciate and benefit from your initiative. Thank You!

Questions? Call Dean S. at 256-8813.

News From Cinda

Prairie member Cinda LaMar recently flew to California to have surgery. We learned today that she had her surgery today (2-1-93) and that it went well. She is at her son Troy's apartment for recuperation and expects to return to Madison shortly. Cinda will need some assistance from us when she returns. I understand she will need rides to appointments. She will probably also need some meals and shopping done for her.

More important, she may need some help with living and medical costs. If you would like to help with these expenses, donate some money to the special collection at Prairie and it will be matched from a small emergency fund we have. Just mark the donation for Cinda and mail it to Prairie Society.

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.

-Susan Hagstrom

Prairie Patter

UUs for a Just Economic Community have expanded on the Principles and Purposes of the UUA. I will be sharing these with you in the next few columns.

We members of congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, having covenanted

to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Therefore: We recognize that the current economic order is unjust and does not accord full worth and dignity to all. We will stand with women, men and children of diverse class and race, and orientation, particularly the exploited and dispossessed, in our common struggle for dignity and equality.

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations:

We recognize our fears and resistance to crossing the barriers that separate people, barriers which undermine justice, equity and compassion. We commit ourselves to the personal and communal work necessary to overcome our resistance.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

We recognize that growth and celebration of the spirit include political analysis, theological reflection, and just action. We commit ourselves to that work.

Thank you, Karen Gross, for bringing us your fine lay ministry on Labor, which certainly touched on many of the issues mentioned in the additions to our principles.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Spanish Speakers Brave the Ice Storm!

Three hardy souls actually made it to Prairie, with casseroles (!), on Wednesday evening, Jan. 20th. You remember trying to get to work/school the next morning, when both Monroe St. and the Beltline had to be closed down? Well, we discovered that "accessible" (as in our front ramp) is strictly a matter of interpretation. Every inch of Prairie's, and the city's, sidewalk was glass-like, as was the stair railing. We finally got up to our front entrance by walking through the prairie (sorry, Diane!).

With glass dishes in hand, no less. Once we scaled the heights, we had an excellent time. As always, food was good and, also as always, we were treated to an Orton Gray *chiste*.

A letter from Faye Glessner, now living in Bakersfield, CA, tells us she spent New Year's Eve with Prairie's Jean Matos. Faye went on to describe the rest of her Caribbean vacation in terms we won't repeat: they were just too mouth-watering! Especially for those resigned to another month or more of a Madison winter.

Help! Last fall, one time only, a young woman came to our potluck. As best we can recall, she was, or had been, a teacher and had also lived in a Spanish speaking country. We think she may live in Middleton. Does "Nelly" or "Ellie" ring a bell with anyone? We don't know whether she sees the newsletter or if she just came to Prairie once and perhaps heard our Potluck announced. In any case, if you know who we mean, please let Orton or Rosemary know.

All are welcome at our monthly meeting. Food and several levels of Spanish conversation abound. We have no agenda, and our meal/meetings generally last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. They are scheduled each time in terms of the convenience of the people attending—so if you'd like to come and don't like the scheduled time, please give us your input. The potlucks are a really nice way to interact with a smaller group than the Sunday morning crowd and, of course, to help keep your Spanish from getting rusty. No expertise is required and the dish you bring to share does not have to be Hispanic. ¡Los vemos!

Prairie Orientation

The Membership Committee and the Denominational Affairs Committee are hosting a series of orientation meetings at Prairie for new members, new friends, and any other people interested. Rick Ruecking will be our orientor/facilitator. We will meet Tuesdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM on February 9, February 16, and February 23 at Prairie for our sessions. Our topics will be:

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 9 | What road led us to Prairie? |
| Feb. 16 | The UUA: its organization |
| Feb 23 | Prairie and its organization |

Anyone interested in attending please

contact Heidi Oliverson, Rick Ruecking, or Donna Murdoch.

Secret Friends

Our annual letter exchange between paired adult and child friends will be starting soon, on Feb. 14th. Secret Friends is 4 weeks of getting to know someone of another generation through letters. The children know who their adult friend is, the adults do not know who their child friend is until the last day when they meet at the party. I will be collecting names of adults who want to be a secret friend on the Sundays preceding Feb. 14th.

Please—sign up only if you will be at Prairie for most of those Sundays and are able to attend the party. The letter exchange really only works if you are there.

CMD Calendar: 1993

February

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



Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

Lili Sandler, Nora Bosch and Emilie Dickson lead this group in lots of fun and age-appropriate activities, such as painting, reading, puzzles, drawing, dress-up, and free play.

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

Continuing with the theme of homes, the group made turtle and snail shells to wear. They learned the song "I wish I was a Turtle in a Shell" and also examined a series of sea shells.

The next week they focused on being "at home in our bodies." They talked about their bodies being houses for the different organs and senses. They read "My Five Senses" and "It's My Body," and drew pictures of things they like to do with their bodies.

The following week's focus was on egg-born creatures and mammals. The children brought in photos of themselves as babies and then, with guided instruction, acted out being born from an egg. It was an exciting morning!

This group is led by Barbara Rames and Carol Wilson.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Bob Lawrence led this group in an insightful discussion of Martin Luther King's practice of nonviolence. They talked about prejudice and the power of nonviolence, especially in a politically powerless situation.

The following week, Norma Briggs had the group focus on family celebrations. They began with looking at the multiple generations in their families and their heritage in general. A realization was that many did not know about members in their non-nuclear family.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

This group led by Warren Hagstrom and Erin Bosch, talked about churches they had most recently visited, especially the Buddhist temple. They also learned about the beliefs and practices of the Mormons, in preparation for their visit there.

Junior High YRUU

This is a joint Prairie and First Society youth group for the 7th and 8th graders that gets together to have fun. They meet every other Saturday from 7 PM to 9 PM and YOU'RE INVITED! The meeting will be at the Annex of First Society. Contact Anne Pryor if you have any questions.

Senior High YRUU

Also a combined group between the two societies, this is for students in 9th through 12th grades. They meet every Sunday evening at the Annex of First Society. If you'd like more information, you can contact K. K. Anderson at 255-3596.



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 Scattish 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 Scattish
Social Action Chair



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.

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Feb. 7 Anne Urbanski
- Feb. 14 Dawn Ace
& Phoebe Rosebear
- Feb. 21 Bonnie & Larry Murdock
- Feb. 28 ??
- Mar. 7 Aileen Nettleton
- Mar. 14 Rick Ruecking
- Mar. 21 Dawn Ace
& Phoebe Rosebear

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Feb. 7 Betty Jallings
& Marion Thompson
- Feb. 14 Rosemary Dorney
& Pat Cautley
- Feb. 21 Barbara Park
& Jack Jallings
- Feb. 28 Alice & Lee Bullen
- Mar. 7 ??
- Mar. 14 ??
- Mar. 21 ??

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

- Feb. 7 Kerry & Rachel Bauer
- Feb. 14 Jennifer Parker
- Feb. 21 ??
- Feb. 28 ??
- Mar. 7 Aileen Nettleton
- Mar. 14 Rick Ruecking
- Mar. 21 Dawn Ace
& Phoebe Rosebear

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 Oliverson know so she can locate a substitute.

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 Huckel Kuhnel 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.

Drum Making Workshop

Crowind Drums, a business operated by Prairie's newest member, will be holding a drum making workshop at Atwood Community Center from 9 AM to 1 PM on Sunday, March 14th. The registration fee of \$150 includes all supplies needed to make your own 14" drum plus a drum birthing ritual. Registration is required in advance by February 20th to ensure an adequate supply of materials for the drums. For further information, please call the business manager at 608/523-1921.

Building Something?

If so, give some serious thought to having it done by Robinson Construction. Tom and Cheryl Robinson are Prairie members of many years standing, and their company is the one that built the new roof on the older part of our building (the auditorium). I'm sure they'd be pleased to give you an estimate and I think their prices are competitive with any other company in the area. Their phone no. is 256-4224 and their fax no. is 608/256-8833.

