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Prairie Fire



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The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, February 28. Submit items for March 4—March 18, 1993.

CALENDAR

**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. SECRET FRIENDS letter exchange. (See related story)

**Tuesday, February 23
7:00 PM**

PRAIRIE ORIENTATION at the Meetinghouse.

**Sunday, February 28
10:00 AM**

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE: Change of Life"—the third of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series. SECRET FRIENDS letter exchange. (See related story)

**Thursday, March 4
7:00 PM**

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

**Saturday, March 6
5:00PM**

"PURIM SERVICE" by **Shaarei Shamayim**, our Jewish Reconstructionist renters. This is a child-focused service to which **Prairie folk are invited**. Come in costume and bring rattles and noisemakers! The service will be followed by a **VEGETARIAN potluck dinner**.

**Sunday, March 7
10:00 AM**

"MODERN RITES OF PASSAGE: The First Time Ever..."-the fourth of Dick Bonser's Lay Ministry series. **LAST DAY OF SECRET FRIENDS** letter exchange. **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICE** downstairs. **11:30 AM** **SECRET FRIENDS POTLUCK PARTY** after the service for the (no longer) secret friends.

**Sunday, March 14
10:00 AM**

To be announced

Today's Quote

"Societies are renewed—if they are renewed at all—by people who believe in something, care about something, stand for something."

-JOHN W. GARDNER
(contributed by Barbara Rames)



Coming Out!

As we grow up, our families and friends expect that we will, at maturity, assume a heterosexual orientation in society. For most of us, that's just what takes place, so we never notice the weight of expectation or the pressure to conform to the norms of society. Those who do not conform most definitely encounter the weight and feel the pressure, as is so clearly demonstrated in the present controversy over admitting gay and lesbian people in the military forces. What is, for most of us, a straightforward act of growing up becomes, for them, a crisis requiring considerable courage and inner strength. Nor is it a crisis that occurs once and is over, for each group of acquaintances requires a separate decision. Come and find out what it was like for some of Prairie's members—and contribute your ideas for making a ritual that is a positive affirmation of human growth and change.

Dessert Benefit for Cinda!

Sunday, Feb. 28th, at First Unitarian Society Lower Meeting House. Suggested donation—\$10

Channing-Murray is hosting an all-you-can-eat dessert party to help Cinda LaMar with expenses related to her recent surgery. There will be music and a wide selection of confections along with good fellowship. If you have questions or are interested in donating a dessert, please contact Cindi Simpson at 244-1176.

...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 —

Service Auction Time!

Yay—it's Springtime! Please consider, right this minute, what service you will be willing to donate for this important money-raising event, our annual auction of services. The auction will be held at high noon at Prairie on Sunday, March 21st. There will be pizza, sandwiches, salads, brownies, and more for sale at 11:30 and throughout the sale.

But really... please consider your skills, talents, and interests. Something that you do well, and enjoy doing, may well be something that someone else hates doing and is willing to pay to have done. So think of some service and call Jim Harvey (839-5115) or Nancy Graham (244-6595) with what you're willing to do to help Prairie.

Material items can also be donated for the auction, but must be limited to things valued at \$7.00 or higher. Right of refusal belongs to our auctioneer extraordinaire, Orange Schroeder. If you call now, we can advertise your service, along with a nice list of others, in the next Prairie Fire.

Prairie Patter

More from the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community—what our UU principles mean in action.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

We seek to move beyond unexamined assumptions and questionable policies, and to become educated about the increasing inequity, its causes and potential solutions, in this time of global economic crisis.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

We encourage inclusive dialogue and action which advance our quest for the common good. We will promote both the right of all persons to participate in decisions which affect their economic well-being, and the right to full and free access to all relevant information.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

We confess our complicity in, and the benefits we derive from, structures that create violence, oppression, and inequity. We will work to enlarge our

worlds beyond family, workplace, congregation and nation: community is global, citizenship is universal.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We pledge to shape our practices to protect, and not to destroy, the living system that is the earth. We understand that economic justice can be achieved only in the context of ecological integrity.

In living these principles which form our covenant and govern our priorities, we pledge ourselves to a more inclusive community of mutual trust and support. We commit our resources, our energies, and our will to the creation of a new, powerful coalition for economic justice.

I commented during the service on the 14th about an article I read that listed more than two types of love. I found the article in the February 1993 issue of Psychology Today. The article suggests we may embody more than one of these styles. We may also change style with time and circumstance. The six styles are: *Eros*—passionate and quick to get involved, physical attraction and sexual satisfaction are important. *Storge*—valuing friendship-based love, solid, down to earth, evolutionary, not revolutionary, and may take time to develop. *Ludus*—game players, love as an interaction to be played out with diverse partners. *Mania*—experiences great emotional highs and lows, can be possessive and dependent, associated with high expressiveness and disclosure. *Pragma*—reflects logical consideration of the desired attributes of a lover. *Agape*—reflects all-giving, selfless, nondemanding love, associated with altruistic, committed, sexually idealistic love.

Prairie is starting to receive information about UU summer camps. The flyers will be posted in the back of the meeting room.

We had a busy, dynamic time after the program on the 14th—music and singing, letter writing to President Clinton, a delicious potluck. Thank you for making Prairie a lively and friendly meeting house. Thanks to the volunteers who set up and took down the tables, and cleaned up the kitchen.

Blessed be—
-Julie Bonser, President

Secret Friends

The letter exchange between children and adults began on Valentine's Day, and will continue until March 7th. All those who are secret friends should bring a letter each Sunday. If you will not be at Prairie, send your letter with someone else or mail it early in the week.

Plan to attend the party and potluck on March 7th. That's when the adult and child secret friends will finally meet each other! We'll play some games and eat good food, and become friends in person.

CMD Calendar: 1993

February

21 SEWUUS Choralfest, Mukwonago, WI
27 Leadership Conference, Chicago, IL



Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

The rooms have been rearranged to better accommodate the children. Plenty of painting and playing go on each week under the loving care of Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler, and Nora Bosch.

A Place of One's Own (K-1-2) and Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

These two groups combined for a special presentation by Kerry Bauer on fur-bearing animals of Wisconsin. Kerry, who works for the DNR, brought in several pelts of different animals, from weasel to coyote. The tactile reality really highlighted the information Kerry related. Our thanks to her for sharing this with the Prairie children. Barbara Rames and Norma Briggs are the conveners of these two groups.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

This group, led by Warren Hagstrom and Erin Bosch, discussed their previous week's visit to the Mormon church which was sparsely attended on our part but warmly received by the Mormons. The

discussion also focused on the beliefs and practices of the Friends (Quakers), in preparation for the group's upcoming visit to that meeting.

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.



'O', How We Need You!

While the Red Cross Blood Donor program needs donors of every type, the gifts of those with type 'O' blood are especially useful, for they can be used for a much larger needy group than any other blood type. Do you know what your blood type is? That information, and a reading of your blood pressure, is given to you each time you visit the donor center on Sheboygan Avenue. If you are a first-time donor and want a companion, ask Barbara Rames, 231-1871, to arrange one for you. You'll feel so good that you gawe!

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



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

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

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Feb. 21 Barbara Park
& Jack Jallings
- Feb. 28 Alice & Lee Bullen
- Mar. 7 Kerry & Rachel Bauer
- Mar. 14 Al Nettleton
& Richard Alderman
- Mar. 21 ??
- Mar. 28 ??

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

- Feb. 21 Rachel Siegfried
- Feb. 28 ??
- Mar. 7 Aileen Nettleton
- Mar. 14 Rick Ruecking
- Mar. 21 Dawn Ace
& Phoebe Rosebear
- Mar. 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 Oliverson know so she can locate a substitute.

Convo-93

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.

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.

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.

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 or Crowind at 833-7786.

