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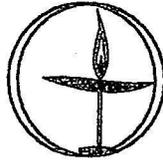
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 31, No. 6, 3-16-93

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, March 28. Submit items for April 1-15, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 18

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Friday, March 19

7:30 PM

CONTRADANCING AT PRAIRIE, featuring McDuff's Ceilidh Band. Norma Briggs calls the dances. All dances will be taught and no partner is required.

Saturday, March 20

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon Street. Donna will introduce a new play written by Alliance for the Mentally Ill member Edith Peterson. of Wausau. The play portrays a family trying to cope with a son with severe schizophrenia. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Sunday, March 21

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE—all welcome.

10:00 AM

"20 YEARS LATER: SMALL IS STILL BEAUTIFUL" presented by Peg Barratt and Dan Stevenson. (See related story)

12:00 Noon

PRAIRIE'S ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION and food sale. (See related story)

Sunday, March 28

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE—all welcome.

10:00 AM

"SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: For Ourselves And For Our Children." Presented by Terry Krause.

Thursday, April 1

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 4

10:00 AM

"TAX RESISTANCE" presented by Mike Briggs
11:45 AM

PARISH POLL on the GA resolutions. See the "UU World" for the full text or contact president Julie Bonser.

Sunday, April 11

10:00 AM

EASTER INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE—join us to celebrate the arrival of Spring!

11:00 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH—please bring a dish to share.

Thursday, April 15

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 18

10:00 AM

"BREAKING OUT OF OUR STOCK-ADE: problem solving techniques." Presented by Terry Krause.

Sunday, April 25

10:00 AM

to be announced.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH—please bring a dish to share.

1:00 PM

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 29

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 2

10:00 AM

"ADVICE TO THE NEEDLORN: words to live by." Presented by Terry Krause.

Today's Quote

"A hundred times every day, I remind myself that my life depends on the efforts of other people, both living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the measure as I have received and am still receiving."

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

...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

NEWS & NEWS

EARS LATER: SMALL WILL BEAUTIFUL

.973, E. F. Schumacher wrote is beautiful: Economics as if mattered. Now, March 21, 1993, Stevenson and Peg Barratt revisit classic work on new age economics. It is definitely as relevant now as it was first published 20 years ago and Peg will use examples of contemporary Japan and America to illustrate Schumacher's ideas. This is a book that is likely to generate a considerable discussion. Please come to the auction to share.

ATTENTION READERS

Change
Due to Donna Murdoch's attendance at the conference in LaCrosse for persons with mental illness and their families on March 13, it will be necessary to postpone the playreading evening to Friday, March 20. Donna will be presenting a new play written by an AMI member for the Mentally III) member Peterson, of Wausau. The play is about a family trying to cope with a son with severe schizophrenia. Donna is very excited about the play and is anxious to discuss it with us.

Ice Auction Donations!

The service auction will take place on the morning service on **March 28**, starting at **12:00 Noon**. Pizza, sandwiches, beverages and other treats will be available for purchase.

- Drapkin— **one portrait** sitting (photograph)
- Riggs— **one simple will**
- Atley— **a spring hike over 5 acres of Trilliums** 67 miles from Madison on May 8 (an all day event—bidding starts at \$10.00)
- Atley— **spring hike through the Arboretum** on May 9 (bidding starts at \$5.00)
- Callings— **a bas-relief in porcelain** done from your photograph

- Peg Barratt— **one of her delicious Japanese dinners** (date of her choosing-bidding starts at \$12.00)
- Julie Bonser— **one of her delightful Spanish paella dinners** (date of her choosing-bidding starts at \$12.00).
- Barbara Rames— **overnight babysitting**
- Orange Schroeder— **3 loaves of bread**
- Orange Schroeder— **1 hour new business consultation**
- Kay Frazier—
- Lilo Koehl—
- Erik Schroeder— **2 hours babysitting**
- Carl Wacker— **string a tennis or racquet ball racket**
- Phoebe Rosebear & Dawn Ace— **one large bag of garden produce**
- Erin Bosch— **all the time needed to organize Prairie's cassette tape library**
- George Calden— **electric typewriter**
- Glenn Chamblis— **five (5) pound cakes** (2# each, minimum bid \$2.50)
- Barbara Carl— **one fruit pie** (your choice of fruit in season)
- Elizabeth Alexander— **chocolate truffles**
- Paul Adams— **one cheesecake**, any flavor
- Heidi Oliverson— **one chocolate almond cheesecake**
- Ethnic Connection— **one concert** for a party or other occasion
- Metje Butler— **a Hoover floor cleaner** (washes and waxes)
- Metje Butler— **a field trip/workshop on insect collecting** (up to 12 persons, minimum bid \$10.00 each)
- Cindy Haq, MD— **a basic physical exam at Bellview Clinic** (minimum \$30)
- Carol Von Ott— **Dutch Oven cooking pot** (minimum bid \$10.00)
- Rosemarie Lester— **a rocking chair**
- Lora Mermin— **10 books "Lyme Disease 1991"**
- Mary Mullen— **washing windows**
- Bob Nelson— **five loaves of Honey whole wheat bread** (minimum bid \$4.00 each)
- Al & Aileen Nettleton— **a two hour sail-boat ride**
- Larry & Bonnie Murdock— **help with moving, or any odd jobs you wouldn't ask a friend to do!**
- Bonnie Murdock— **evening baby sitting at our home** by a city certified daycare provider, lots of toys and two boys!
- Kay Frazier & Jose Rodriguez— **2 movies with snacks for up to 6 people** at our home (minimum bid \$20.00, your choice of genre—50s/60s scifi, old romantic comedies, etc.)
- Kay Frazier— **singing concert: 3 or 4 classical or jazz classics**
- Lilo Koehl— **one-year subscription to Arizona Highways** (minimum bid \$17.00, recommended at least \$24.00)

Wanted to buy:

- Rachel Siegfried— **several hours of odd jobs work wanted**
- Kate Tucker— **help in planning and putting in a garden**

Many more items are needed. 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.

Prairie Patter

Becoming a Unitarian Universalist for many of us means leaving the faith of our growing up years. We look for new ways of being and want to put aside the parts of the past that we were uncomfortable with in our childhood. Recently during a Sunday morning service at Prairie we were asked as a measure of solidarity with our lesbian, gay and bisexual members to the front of the meeting room to take a pink triangle to place on our name tags. I was reminded of my Episcopalian days of going to the altar rail for communion. Someone else said they would wear their pink triangle proudly but would not approach the front of the room because they were reminded of the intense social pressure to come forward to proclaim they were 'saved' they had experience in their childhood. I could understand the connection that was

made, I was subject to that sort of social pressure many times in my childhood, the most intense was at summer church camp when my Aunt and Uncle were there to visit me during the worship service. I could just as easily have been reminded of that moment in time instead of the more positive feelings I have about the communion ritual of the Episcopalians. This past week another member of Prairie told me the words I use to end this column were an uncomfortable reminder of their Catholic childhood and asking the Monsignor for his blessing.

What can we do when we trip over these unexpected flashbacks to the past and some of the reasons we left our religious origins? It felt very positive to affirm my beliefs by standing and moving forward. We are a community with very diverse histories and inadvertently during our worship service may have an activity that hooks our past in negative ways. Many UU congregations are using words like blessing, holy, sacred, worship, prayer. Can we reclaim and reshape these words for a new context for ourselves at Prairie?

The origin of "worship" is the old English *weorthscippen*, meaning to ascribe worth to something, to shape things of worth. Hence we worship whenever we ascribe worth to some value, idea, object, experience or activity or whenever we give shape to that which we have already found to be of worth. We can gather together to create a shared and worthwhile experience, shaping our experience, our individual thoughts in the context of a community sharing common values, ideas and attitudes.

The OED (Oxford English Dictionary) describes bless as having a long and varied association of heathen, Jewish and Christian meanings. Originally the meaning was to make sacred, to render a thing inviolate from harm. A more modern meaning is to protect or guard, or to confer well being upon, to make happy or to call one's self happy, to congratulate one's self. My use of blessed is meant to wish you and myself happiness and good fortune. Perhaps considered a superstitious notion however not meant to evoke discomfort.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser, President

We're Off To The Chicago Art Institute!

Save Saturday, May 1, for a Prairie-sponsored trip to the Chicago Art Institute, where you can see both the small exhibit of some Chagall paintings and the large, very special Magritte exhibit. The total cost for the bus and special admission to both exhibits is \$40.00. This is a relatively pain-free way for Prairie to raise money—if enough people go—so tell all of your friends!

CMD Calendar: 1993

- Apr. 16-17: Adult Religious Educator Facilitator Training, Madison, WI.
- Apr. 23-25: Mad-Con III, a YRUU District Conference, Madison, WI.
- May 1: Vision and Values, Hinsdale, IL.
- May 2-4: 17th Annual UU National Workshop on Social Justice, Washington, DC.
- June 8-10: UUWF Spring Conference, Allerton Park, Monticello, IL.
- June 22-24: UUWF Biennial Convention '93
- June 24-29: UUA General Assembly, Charlotte, NC.

Join the Choir

Come join our 'new' choir! We have had numerous requests from people interested in singing, so this is your chance! Please call Aileen Nettleton at 238-6053 if you have music for us or questions.

A Friend is Moving

The sign "Earthworks" at 1914 Monroe Street had made me visit, for the first time, when I wanted ideas and materials for our children's thinking about the earth as our home. It was a happy surprise to find that the shop is owned by Bill Robbins and his wife, Michelle. Their business enterprise is furthering the very ideals that undergird Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society. Now a moving sale is in progress: on April 1, Earthworks will re-open at the Depot, in car #3 of the golden railroad train we see at 646 W. Washington Avenue. That's right next to the Global Express, that shop of unusual gifts made in developing countries—the shop that Pat Cautley helped into being! Look over Bill Robbins' moving sale bargains during March, then visit both shops in April!
-Barbara Rames

UUA Board Meeting

Jean Kapuscik our CMD trustee to the UUA board sent notes from the January UUA board meeting. President Schulz told of his recent trip to the Middle East. He was accompanied by Rep. Tom Andrews (D) of Maine, a UU, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee. They talked to moderate Muslims, radical Israelis, and Palestinian Children.

They heard about the meeting of the National Council of Churches at which the Metropolitan Community Church, a largely gay/lesbian group, asked for official observer status. This is the status the UUA has at these meetings; it is not membership, does not allow voting, but does confer speaking privileges. The UUA has an official observer who does speak. The request was denied by a very close vote. Some people have asked the UUA to give up observer status in protest. After much discussion, we voted to stay and work with others to overcome the homophobia implicit in the vote. The Board also voted to shorten the April Board meeting so they could fly to Washington DC and reconvene to join the April 25 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington. The Board was told by Beacon Press they have sent its recently published book, Homophobia: We All Pay the Price, to all of Colorado's public libraries as a protest of the recent anti-gay referendum in Colorado.

The UUA Board also discussed alternate delegate status at GA, some congregations send more than their allowed number of delegates and would like an easier process to allow for sharing credentials. The Ware lecture this year will be given by Marion Wright Edelman.

Host Families Need For Exchange Students

Cultural Homestay International, a non-profit educational exchange program, is looking for good host homes in the area for high school exchange students for the 1993-94 school year. Our students need loving, flexible families with who to share the learning experience of a lifetime. It's a great way to promote peace through understanding, to learn about the world, and to share a corner of it. Host families provide room, board, and a caring environment. Interested? Contact Amy Lake, 2326 Badger Pkwy. #14, Madison, WI 53711, 258-8781.

Volunteer Brailleists and Typists, Inc.

Volunteer Brailleists & Typists, Inc. will again be offering a nine-month course in the transcription of print into Braille. We urge you to consider this worth while community service. If you are interested in this or other services for the visually impaired, please contact Gail of Karen at our office, 233-0222 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) or Alberta Hayes, 2381441.

Shaarei Shamayim

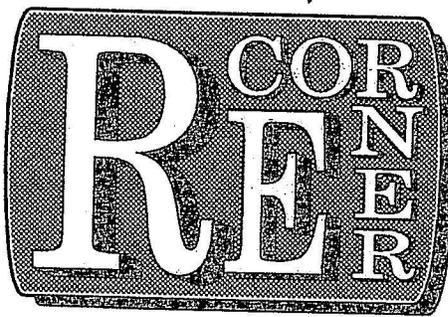
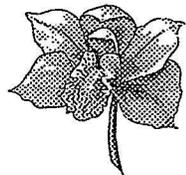
Dear Friends from Prairie, We are pleased to share our Passover (Pesah) Seder (storytelling and festive meal) this year with members of Prairie. We thought it might be helpful to provide some basic information about Pesah and its symbols of birth, renewal, liberation, redemption, freedom and Springtime. We want to share some recipes for our vegetarian, kosher for Passover potluck meal with you.

Much of the meaning and significance of Pesah comes from eating symbolic foods such as matzah and charoset which you will learn about during the seder—and not from consuming many foods that we eat during all of the rest of the year.

The rest of the letter and recipes are on the table in the meeting room at Prairie. The Seder is Saturday evening April 10. I hope many of us will be able to attend.

General Assembly

This is a special year for Universalism—the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Universalist organization which endured until the Universalist Church of America merged with the American Unitarian Association to form the UUA in 1961. The Opening Celebration of General Assembly on Thursday, June 24, will offer special programming in honor of our Universalist heritage. Look for our congregation's banner in the traditional banner parade, always a beautiful and moving segment of the Opening. Everyone who attended the Universalist program "Singing, Shouting and Celebrating" at last year's GA is looking forward to singing and shouting again at Part II of this program. For more information, call Julie Bonser 274-3248.



Growing Times (Pre-school & Nursery)

Led by Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler, and Nora Bosch, this group is filled with wonderful young children who share very well and like to paint, dress up, put together puzzles and eat snacks!

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

For the past few weeks, this group has been focusing on the earth as our home. Some questions they discussed: What creatures are we glad are here with us on earth? What is something beautiful in our earth home that we've felt, seen, heard or smelled?

They learned about the ozone layer and the food chain. They listened to taped wolf calls and sang the song "A Hundred Million Miracles." They finished the morning by making pine cone bird feeders with peanut butter and bird seed.

The following week they talked about energy, their own (that comes from food) and electric energy (that comes from the earth's resources). They talked about how they can conserve electricity at school and at home. They also talked about conserving trees by using paper wisely. They made paper bag vests decorated with paper leaves and slogans about trees, recycling, etc. These sessions were led by Barbara Rames.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Focusing on spring, this group looked at pictures of earth as seen from the sun to see how the seasons change. They talked about signs of spring and went for a walk outside to find some. They talked about how each season had seeds of the next season in it, and ended by making spring pictures for their secret friends.

The next week, after discussing watching the sky and the earth for signs of spring, they read the story of Demeter and Persephone. They then talked about the Pawnee ritual to awaken the earth and recreate it with song and dance, which also let the Pawnee be harmonious with the

transformation of the seasons. They also discussed how scientific explanations of spring are a model or myth. These sessions were led by Bob Lawrence.

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

During the past two weeks, this group has attended services first at the Friends Meeting and then at First Unitarian Universalist Society. They'll be discussing these visits in their next meeting. These sessions were led by Erin Bosch and Warren Hagstrom.

Secret Friends

Many thanks to all who participated in Secret Friends this year—we're glad you were a part of it and hope your friendships continue throughout the year and even beyond. Special thanks go to those who were so generous with their time and efforts at the party, especially those who helped to clean up—Kerry Bauer, Paula Pachciarz, Ed Jilbert and Orange Schroeder.

We're Doing Something New!

R.E. is sponsoring a collection of the following items: toys, games, books, clothing and sports equipment (but **ONLY** if they're in very good condition).

Which R.E. class can bring in the most? We're having a contest to find out. Each class's collection will be weighed at Spring Fling on April 24th and the group with the heaviest collection wins! Weights will be adjusted to compensate for differences in the size of the classes to make it fairer.



Just One More Time...

Though it was Pearl Bailey that made those words familiar, they are appropriate for the Red Cross blood donor program theme for this year. What if each of the Prairie Society's blood donors gave just one more time this year than he or she did in 1992? Eight weeks is the minimum interval between donations. Linda Sheehy gave

"a gift from the heart" in February; Fredericka Schilling and Barbara James gave in early March. Won't you join them?

Social Justice Workshop

Just a reminder that the 12th annual Unitarian-Universalist National Workshop on Social Justice will be held in Washington, D.C. this year on May 2-4. The theme is "The Nation at Risk: Advocating a New Solidarity." The emphasis of the workshop will be on *overcoming the attitudes, stereotypes, and behaviours which divide and isolate us from others*. For more information, the brochure is in Prairie's information area. You can also call Social Action Chair Sharon Scratish at 233-1118.

Gay/Lesbian Issues

Thanks to all of you who sent the letter which advocated repealing the ban against gays and lesbians in the military. The UUA is concerned about the passage of the anti-civil rights initiative last November in Colorado. The UUA has withdrawn its tentative reservations to hold the 1997 General Assembly Planning Committee in Colorado. Beacon Press has also mailed out complimentary copies of its book Homophobia: How We All Pay to 150 public libraries in Colorado. Please consider writing to the Colorado legislature to state your concern. There are also various organizations opposing this legislation which would welcome your support. One is:

Boycott Colorado
PO Box 300158
Denver CO 80203-0158
phone: 800/426-9268
or 303/777-0560

Middle East Peace...

In conjunction with *Churches for Middle East Peace*, The UUA feels it can have more influence than in the past in helping to form the US policy in the Middle East. With a new administration and 121 new members of Congress, information is now being gathered and the US policy in the Middle East is being formulated. This is an important time for those interested in this area to express their views. If you would like to know more about the UUA's stand on Middle East policy and what you can do to help, write for the booklet "Churches for Middle East

Peace" from the UUA Washington Office, 100 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002. Please include \$1.00 to cover the cost of the booklet and mailing.

Walk This Way...

The annual March of Dimes "Walk America for Healthier Babies" will take place Saturday, May 1st, in Madison. Last year, Kate Tucker and I walked 15 kilometers (out of a possible 20) and had a great time. This year I plan to walk again and would love to have company, either as an ad-hoc (non-fundraising) basis or as part of a walking team. [Walk America takes pledges to raise money for research on birth defects.] If you would like to walk with me as part of a fundraising team (representing Prairie?) please call me at 258-8269 before March 30. I'll also be happy to accept pledges.

-Anne Urbanski

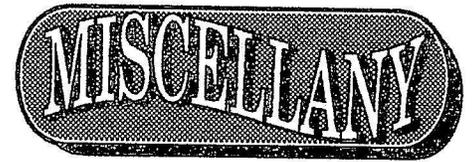
Disability & Film

Channing-Murray member Carrie Sandahl is coordinating a film series which focuses on the portrayal of people with disabilities.

Two films remain to be shown-- '*Being There*', where Chance, a simple gardener, becomes a national celebrity, will be shown **April 2**, and '*Rain Man*', Dustin Hoffman's superb portrayal of an autistic man, will be shown on **May 7**.

The films are shown at **7:00 PM** at the **Waisman Center Auditorium**, 1500 Highland Avenue, on the above dates. **Admission is free**. Complimentary refreshments and discussion will be held immediately following the films.

To get to the center, take Campus Drive and exit at Highland Avenue. The Waisman Center is an eight story building across from the UW Hospital and Clinics. You can park for free in the lot adjacent to the Waisman Center. Enter the building at the far (west) end of the parking lot.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Mar. 21 Dawn Ace & Phoebe Rosebear
- Mar. 28 Anne Urbanski
- April 4 Nancy Graham
- April 11 Dawn Ace & Phoebe Rosebear
- April 18 Larry & Bonnie Miller-Murdock
- April 25 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Mar. 21 Bob Steinhof & ??
- Mar. 28 Richard Austin & Judy Carter
- April 4 Kay Frazier & José Rodriguez
- April 11 Pat Cautley & Kerry Bauer
- April 18 Jan Howe & ??
- April 25 Lee & Alice Bullen

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

- Mar. 21 Dawn Ace & Phoebe Rosebear
- Mar. 28 Dick Bonser
- April 4 ??
- April 11 ??
- April 18 ??
- April 25 ??

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.

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.