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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Vol. 31, No. 7, 3-30-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, April 11. Submit items for April 15—29, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 1

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 4

10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICE downstairs.

"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

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

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

Tuesday, April 20

7:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKES POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share but come even if you can't. For more information call Orton Gray at 273-4041 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

Saturday, April 24

SPRING FLING PARTY for the R.E. students.

Sunday, April 25

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

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

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

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

Today's Quote

"For myth changes while custom remains constant; men continue to do what their fathers did before them, though the reasons on which their father acted have been long forgotten. The history of religion is a long attempt to reconcile old custom with new reason, to find a sound theory for an absurd practice."

-SIR JAMES G. FRAZIER

NEWS & VIEWS

Officers Wanted

The Committee on Committees is continuing to work on putting together a slate of officers and committee chairs to be elected at the Spring Parish Meeting on April 25th.

We are still looking for Prairie members for several positions including Vice President, Program Chair, Denominational Affairs Chair, Long Range Planning Chair and Social Action Chair.

If you are interested in taking on one of these positions, or if you would like to nominate someone else, please contact anyone on the Committee on Committees by April 8th.

- Rosemary Dorney 238-4382
- Barbara Rames 231-1871
- Judy Skog 273-4813
- Anne Urbanski 258-8269
- Mike Briggs 238-1227

Prairie Patter

This is the time for my bi-weekly struggle with what to write in the Prairie Fire. Some

...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

weeks I have known for several days what I want to tell the members of Prairie. Some weeks I brood for several days about how to say what I believe needs to be said. Some weeks I have a hard time being a reporter. This week it is a pleasure to thank the Finance Committee and its helpers for organizing the Prairie Auction. I know you put in long hours so we could have a delightful time spending our money on the gifts that members offered to sell at the Auction. Orange announced at the beginning that the goal was to make at least \$1500, at last count the auction had raised over \$1600. These contributions will help our Society a great deal. Thank you!

Welcome Sunshine. I heard two reports of sighting Sandhill Cranes, my coworker tells me she saw many red winged blackbirds this morning. I'm looking forward to the spring flowers. Unfortunately the March snows are melting and flooding the basement at Prairie. The water is coming in through the walls faster than we can mop it up. This too will pass... then we will need to extract the water from the carpets and air things out to prevent mildew. Thanks to all the volunteers who spent Sunday mopping up the water.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

We're Off To The 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.

Prairie Choir Debuts

Prairie's rejuvenated choir performed for the Society at the March 28 service and was very

well received. There is a need for more voices to swell the chorus, especially in the tenor, baritone, and bass ranges. If you are interested in singing, this is your chance! Please call Aileen Nettleton at 238-6053 if you would like to join, have requests for specific music, or questions about the choir. The choir will practice at 9:00 AM on April 18, April 25, May 2, and May 9.

Can You Help?

Needed: a rocking chair for the nursery. If you have one to donate or lend, please contact Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

Host Families Needed...

...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 whom 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; phone 258-8781.

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)

This is an active group of infants, toddlers, and youngsters up to age five. They receive lots of loving care from Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler, and Nora Bosch. Some of their favorite activities are painting, putting together puzzles, playing with toys, hearing stories, and eating snacks.

A rocking chair would be well used by this group. If anyone has one that they would be willing and able to either donate or lend, please contact either Anne Pryor or one of the girls listed above.

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

The theme this group has been pursuing is "The Earth As Our Home" and they've done this in lots of different ways. They read The Lorax and practiced it as a play. They made posters about the earth as our home that they then put on the walls upstairs. To help birds make nests, they made pine cone hangers with year that birds could use. Carol Wilson, who led these sessions, brought in Harvest Time, a cooperative board game about taking care of the earth. They also played a Woodland Walk game.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Islam has been the topic of investigation for this group, led by Norma Briggs. They heard the story of Mohammed's life and discussed some of the beliefs of the religion. They looked at photos of pilgrimage to Mecca, prayed toward Mecca on prayer mats and in the four positions, and discussed how firmly one would believe the basics of Islam if repeated five times every day throughout one's life.

They ate some Arabic food, trying to use only their right hands. The girls especially had a hard time since they were trying to keep their head coverings on at the same time!

Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

The group spent the last two weeks focusing on Christian Science. The first was in preparation, discussing some of the basic beliefs and practices of Christian Scientists. The next week they visited the First Church of Christ Scientist, meeting with a member and attending the service.

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, please see the brochure 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

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



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

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.

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.

April 4 Dave & Marcia Johnson
April 11 Jennifer Parker
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.

