

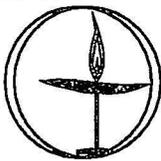
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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 31, No. 8, 4-13-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, April 25. Submit items for April 29—May 13, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 15

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Saturday April 17

2:00 PM

MEMORIAL SERVICE for Betsy Roberts at the Meetinghouse. (See related story)

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast, 4205 Odana Road.

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 SPEAKERS 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

5:00 to 8:30 PM

SPRING FLING PARTY for the R.E. students.

Sunday, April 25

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS WALKING WITH CONFUCIANISM AND TAOISM" presented by Jackie Ziegler, ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society.

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH—please bring a dish to share.

1:00 PM

SPRING GENERAL MEETING (See related story)

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.

Sunday May 9

10:00 AM

To Be Announced

Thursday, May 13

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday May 16

10:00 AM

"NEWSPAPERS AND MUSIC: A Prairie Experience" presented by Donna Murdoch, Bob Purvis, and Rick Ruecking. (See related story)

Sunday May 23

10:00 AM

TRANSITION SUNDAY, including a Pancake Breakfast.

Thursday, May 27

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Today's Quote

"How is the world ruled and how do wars start? Diplomats tell lies to journalists and then believe what they read."

-KARL KRAUS



Memorial Service

Betsy Roberts, a Prairie member from 1969 to 1974, died at Hospice in Buffalo, New York, after a long heroic struggle with bone cancer. Her warm, vibrant personality will be greatly missed by her many friends. Betsy started a weekly women's book group among Prairie women in 1969 and the group is still meeting. She is survived by her three children, Caton, Cheralyn, and Clark, and three grandchildren.

...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

A memorial service for Betsy will be held on Saturday, April 17 at 2:00 PM at the Prairie Meetinghouse. Betsy's family has suggested that memorial contributions be made to Prairie UU Society, marked for the Betsy Roberts Memorial Fund or to Hospice.

Spring Parish Meeting Agenda

- I. Minutes of Fall Meeting
- II. President and Committee Reports
- III. Election of Officers
- IV. Election of four Committee on Committee members.
- V. Election of Delegates to General Assembly
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Adjourn

Nominees:

President:	Julia Bonser
Vice Pres.:	Dave Johnson
Treasurer:	Susan Hagstrom
Secretary:	Jennifer Parker
Finance:	Jim Harvey
Rel. Ed.:	Dean Schroeder
Membership:	Heidi Oliverson
Hsg. & Prop.:	Karen Gross
Long Range Plng.:	Peg Barratt
Denom. Aff.:	Rachel Siegfried
Social Action:	Mike Briggs

Prairie Patter

Last week at Prairie a self selected group of members met to conduct the Parish Poll. We examined the proposed Resolutions to be submitted to the 1993 General Assembly of the UUA. We then discussed their relative merits and decided to recommend three to the General Assembly for consideration. Thanks to the interested and dedicated Prairie members who participated in the process. We accomplished a lot in a short time and were finished by 12:30. The three we recommend consideration of are:

- 1) Stop Arms Sales
- 2) Cultural Pluralism and Religious Freedom
- 3) Bill of Economic Rights and Responsibilities.

In two weeks we can practice local congregational democracy in action by attending the Spring Parish meeting. We will elect officers for the coming year, elect members of the Committee on Committees and elect our delegates to the General Assembly. We need at least 30 members of Prairie to attend the meeting April 25. We hope to be efficient and thorough.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Newspapers and Music

On May 16, Donna Murdoch, Bob Purvis, and Rick Ruecking will host an experimental Sunday service. If you have been missing Prairie because of your love affair with morning newspapers, this service is especially for you. If possible, please bring a copy of Sunday's paper or a current magazine to the program.

CMD Calendar: 1993

- Apr. 23-25: Mad-Con III, a YRUU District Conference, Madison, WI.
 May 1: Vision and Values, Hinsdale, IL.
 May 2-4: 17th Annual UUNational 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.

The Editor Speaks...

We announce with pride that we are the oldest and largest *lay-led* Society in the UUA. At General Assembly, it has been pointed out to me that *all* UU Societies are *lay-led* and what distinguishes us is that we are *non-ministerial*.

Indeed, this is what we meant when we made the above mentioned claim. This has certain necessary implications for us all, among them that *we take care of (i.e. minister to) ourselves*. One of the ways we do this is through our volunteer efforts as (among other things) greeters, coffee makers, and dish-washers.

These responsibilities seem to fall on the same people, time after time after time until at last they stop to take a well earned rest. Take a look at the lists on the last page. Note the large number of empty spaces and missing volunteers.

I assume, since you are reading this, that you come to Prairie, that you like it here, and that you share in our refreshments. Here's the bottom line—what are you doing to keep Prairie the way you like it? Are you doing your share? We all need your help, concern, (and, yes, love) to keep Prairie going and growing. There is nobody else to turn to.

Unless we all care for and minister to each other, Prairie will wither away. It's that simple...and that sad.



Growing Times (Preschool and Nursery)

Thanks to Heidi Oliverson for donating a rocking chair! Emilie, Lili and Nora have been wanting one for rocking the babies.

Because of spring flooding in the basement at the end of March, we're going to have to replace the rugs in the two rooms this group uses. They're badly stained and have a strong musty smell.

The children continue to enjoy their time at Prairie, playing with the toys, painting, and making friends with each other.

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

Barbara Rames read the children the story, "The Picture on the Kitchen Wall" which told of a Chinese family who lived together without quarreling, even though there were many people of many generations. The secret, found in one word: KINDNESS.

Then they used blocks to build houses, topping them off with cardboard roofs. They also made drums, which they played along with the song "A Hundred Million Miracles."

The following week, the focus was birds. Barbara and her sole child, David Philbin, looked at the book, "Birdwise" and watched a video of a robin building a nest, fledglings hatching and then learning to fly. They also played the game, "It's a Bird's Life," a board game that explores the helpful and harmful things that humans can bring into a bird's environment.

Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Bob Lawrence led this group in focusing on how the Easter story is a metaphor for spring. As Bob explained, they "discussed how life, retreated into protective enclosures in the winter, rises from these enclosures in the spring; how Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, and the rising Christ are symbols of the resurrection of life in the spring; how celebration of this resurrection is much older than Christianity. We looked outside for emerging life and drew spring and Easter pictures." The discussion was a lively one in which the children eagerly participated.

The following week, continuing on the same theme, they had fun decorating styrofoam eggs. Did you see any at the Intergenerational Service on Easter?

The Church Across the Street (6-7-8)

Led by Erin Bosch and Warren Hagstrom, this group discussed the visit that they'd made to the Christian Scientist service the previous week. Some interesting ideas they'd encountered there were faith healing and that, even though our bodies may die, we in fact never die since we are reflections of God.

They also talked about some of the basic beliefs of the Greek Orthodox religion, in preparation of their following week's visit there. Ten Prairie people visited there that week and they were especially impressed by the icons painted on the walls and ceiling. They were able to speak with artist following the service.

"It was a cool church but we had to stand up a lot," explained Erin Pryor Ackerman. She was also impressed that everybody received communion, even the babies. "Communion was a little bit of wine, crumbs of bread and water, and you got it in a spoon," she reported. "We also saw a baby get church-ed."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fling! It's planned for Saturday, April 24 from 5:00 to 8:30 in the evening. We'll once again be gathering together all the RE kids grades K-8 for food and games. Plan to be there to share in the fun!

At Spring Fling we'll weigh all the items that the different RE classes brought in for our toy/game/clothing drive. The group that brought in the most items will be honored at the morning service the following day, April 25. For those who still have materials to bring in, here is what's especially needed:

- Atwood Community Center needs art supplies, a TV, board games, jump ropes, baseball gloves, basketball nets, or a blackboard.
- Centro Hispano needs boots for children.
- Dane County Advocates for Battered Women need arts and crafts supplies, dolls, family videos, Fisher Price Little People, gender neutral toys, basketballs, soccer balls, sports posters, watches and jewelry for teens.
- Madison Children's Museum needs chalk boards and children's books.
- Neighborhood House needs kick balls, a volleyball net and ball, a badminton set, arts and crafts supplies, and hand-held electronic games.
- Rainbow Project needs sturdy dollhouse furniture and board games.
- YWCA could use educational toys, music tapes for children, board games and puzzles, books and stuffed animals.

If you have any of these items that are in very good condition, bring them with you to Prairie before April 24! Other items are also welcomed!



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.

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 18 Larry & Bonnie Miller-Murdock
April 25 ??
May 2 ??
May 9 ??
May 17 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

April 18 Jan Howe
& Richard Commander

April 25 Lee & Alice Bullen
May 2 ??
May 9 ??
May 17 ??

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

April 18 ??
April 25 ??
May 2 ??
May 9 ??
May 17 ??

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 Oliveresen know so she can locate a substitute.

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!

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.

Apartment to Sublet

A lovely East side CoOp Apartment on the second floor with two sunny bedrooms is available for sublease from Karen Gross from June 8 to August 31. It is furnished, with amenities including off-street parking. The apartment is only 4 blocks from a Grocery CoOp and 6 blocks from the Capitol. For more information call 259-0556.

