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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 31, No. 10, 5-11-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, May 23. Submit items for May 27-June 30, 1993. REMINDER: Prairie Fire comes out only once per month during the summer!

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 13
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Friday May 14
5:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS ANNUAL FISH FRY. Please call Al or Aileen Nettleton at 238-6053 by Wednesday evening, May 12, to make a reservation or for more information.

Sunday May 16
10:00 AM

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

11:30 AM

R.E. PICNIC at the Park near Prairie. All Prairie folk are invited! (See related story)

Sunday May 23
10:00 AM

TRANSITION SUNDAY, including a Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser.

Thursday, May 27
7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets tonight at the Meetinghouse.

Friday, May 28 through
Monday, May 31

PRAIRIE CAMPOUT/CANOE TRIP at Rick Ruecking's farm. (See related story).

Sunday, June 6
10:00 AM

To be announced

Monday, June 8
7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Nettletons, 645 Sheldon Street.

Today's Quote

"The mind, once expanded to the dimensions of larger ideas, never returns to its original size."

-OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



Surprise Wedding Stuns Prairie!

†Joyfully we welcome you to celebrate our wedding day

And share a happiness far greater than a poet's words convey.

Long time friends will be our treasure
Three grown children our delight.
Life has blessed us without measure
As our families unite.

Music brought our souls together, so did Renoir and Chagall.

Camping in the wettest weather proved affection conquers all.

Crossword puzzles, games of Scrabble
Jousting for the New York Times,
Gourmet food at Warren's table,
Nietzsche, Weber, German rhymes.

Warren's cats, Doleta's doggy, lifetime memories fill our homes

Two pianos, one Ford Bronco, walls of shelving lined with tomes.

Merging two estates is awesome
Somehow all will be combined
Now that we've become a twosome
Humor helps us stay entwined.

We invite you to a party, later, in the month of June

Watch the Prairie Fire to find out when the time is opportune.

Dancing, singing, games and laughter
Puppets, cookies, cake and tea
Chocolate mild and red sangria
Come, enjoy our shivaree*

-Warren & Doleta
May 9, 1993

* A noisy mock serenade to a newly married couple. French "Charivari." From Late Latin "caribaria" = headache. From Greek "karebaria" ("kara, kare" + head; "barys" = heavy).

†Sung, to the tune of "Ode to Joy", to the happy couple by the entire congregation.

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

...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

newspapers, this service is especially for you. If possible, please bring a copy of Sunday's paper or a current magazine to the program.

Memorial Day Weekend...

...Camp-Out and Canoe Trip. Prairie is returning to Rick Ruecking's farm near Wyalusing State Park for the Memorial Day Weekend—Friday, May 28 through Monday May 31st.

There is limitless camping space on the farm, and a few beds are available in the farmhouse for those who may not want to camp. The beds are available on a reservation basis—please call Rick at 238-2924 to reserve a bed. We will have Saturday and Sunday evening potlucks to accommodate day-trippers.

The farm is 85 miles west of Madison with possibilities of canoeing the Kickapoo, the Wisconsin, and the Mississippi Rivers. Maps and additional information will be available at Prairie and will also be printed in the next Prairie Fire.

Whether you want an inside bed or not, please call Rick (238-2924) and let him know how many are coming, so he can arrange for the necessary number of porta-potties.

Prairie Patter

I was recently given an occasion to examine my credentials. The State of Wisconsin passed a law enabling Social Work Licensing and Regulation. I sent for my application, since to be able to use the title *Social Worker* after May 1, I would need to be licensed. These occasions when we place our life on paper can be enlightening. I can clearly meet the criteria but I wondered—what else I would want to call myself? Are there other accomplishment that don't fit on paper when I try and describe my self and my values? 'Mom' doesn't convey more than a role. 'Social Worker' is a role. 'Lay Minister' is another. Then I thought about hobbies. I usually put down reading and camping when asked about hobbies. In some aspects, my time and attention to Prairie is like a hobby that is engrossing and fulfilling. Prairie has given me many opportunities to explore new roles and refine old ones. Thanks to the Prairie Auction I exercised my love of cooking and nourishing to serve a Paella Dinner to 10 Prairie members Saturday. I had as good a time as anyone there.

Many words of appreciation to Jackie Ziegler, Ministerial Intern at First Unitarian Society for the Sermon she gave in April about UU and Tao Te Ching. I bought the Stephen Mitchell translation to read. I found many verses that expresses my values and challenges to live up to. I share with you—

Can you coax your mind from its wandering and keep to the original oneness?

Can you let your body become supple as a newborn child's?

Can you cleanse you inner vision until you see nothing but the light?

Can you love people and lead them without imposing your will?

Can you deal with the most vital matters by letting events take their course?

Can you step back from your own mind and thus understand all things?

~~~~~  
Giving birth and nourishing,  
having without possessing,  
acting with no expectations,  
leading and not trying to control:  
this is the supreme virtue.

Blessed be—  
-Julie Bonser  
President

## R. E. Picnic set for May 16!

All children, parents, families, R. E. teachers and friends are invited to a picnic! On Sunday, May 16, after the Prairie service, we will gather at the park across the street. Bring a dish to pass and something to grill if desired; beverages, cups plates, napkins and forks will be provided.

Join us for some fun and fellowship and a chance to tell us what you'd like Prairie R. E. to be!

## Service Auction Update

Way to go, Prairie! Our auctioneer extraordinaire, Orange Schroeder, challenged us to raise 10% of the amount that First Society's 870 members raised at their service auction (\$11,500.00). We smashed that goal with a whopping \$1,720.86.

I want to give an extra big Prairie thank you to some people who really busted their fannies for the auction:

—to Orange, for the wonderfully funny job she did as auctioneer ( and for the fastest auction on record).

—to Susan Hagstrom, who acted as treasurer through the whole auction, even though she'd recently had major surgery.

—to Nancy Graham, for all the phone calls and newsletter articles, and for keeping me sane.

—to Jim Harvey, for all the phone calls and for helping on auction day even though he had the flu.

I also want to thank everyone who helped on the auction, especially Pat Cautley and Warren Hagstrom for cleaning up, and to the unknown (to me) people who washed cups in the middle. The next time you see them, thank one of these people for helping: Orange

Schroeder, Rachel Siegfried, Mike Schinitzky, Anne Urbanski, Phoebe Rosebear, Dawn Ace, Pat Cautley, Warren Hagstrom, Nancy Graham, Jim Harvey, Laura Riggs, Judy Skog, anybody who helped set up, Ken Skog, Susan Hagstrom, Katrina Schroeder, Erik Schroeder, Jack Jallings, Melissa Pokorny, Emilie Dickson, Paula Pachciarz, and Peg Barratt's friend Will.

Special thanks to the people who brought diabetic cookies, and to Erin Pryor for the wonderful hand made cookies (also diabetic). Thanks also for all the services and items that were added at the last minute (including Brooke and Linda Sheehy, Anne Pryor and Rick Ruecking). Thanks to Jack Jallings, Barbara Rames, Pat Watkins, Marion Thompson, and Rick Ruecking for buying the pizza. Please forgive me if I missed anyone who helped or donated.

WOW! What a dedicated bunch. You pitched in and did what you saw needed to be done, even without being asked. THANKS.

-Judy Skog

## CMD Calendar: 1993

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.

## YRUU NEWS

Calendar: Meet Sundays 6:16—8:37 PM in the Lower Meeting House of First Society. Many try to be on time.

May 16: Tie-dying. Refreshments? Opening/Closing?

May 23: Bowling

May 30: Party: hello 8th graders, goodbye seniors (and Arthur). Picnic Point: meet at the Annex at 6:00. Refreshment? Opening/Closing?

Summer Campout?

August 14-21: ConCon, Camp Osceola, San Bernadino, California.

## Can't Go To GA?

Try the Super Summer Weekend. The First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau is sponsoring a UU Bed and Breakfast in conjunction with a super summer weekend in Wausau from June 25th to 27th. Events range from world class kayak racing to an air show, a Log Jam, a major dog show, and a Big Bull Run. Wausau UU hosts will be opening their homes to UUs who plan to attend. Advance registration is required, by June 15, 1993. Brochures describing the events and the B & B arrangements are available at Prairie.

# RECORDER

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

Carol Wilson delicately led the children in a discussion of how families can change through death. They read the book Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children. They talked about how they feel sad, lonely and scared when a person or animal they love dies.

Carol kept the discussion short so that there would be lots of time for creative play. The children sculpted with play-doh, painted and drew on the sidewalk with chalk. The play provided opportunities for the children to deal in their own ways with their feelings.

The following week, Barbara Rames led a session on remembering and honoring those who have died. The group went to Forest Hills cemetery to visit the different sections and look at the grave markers. They were most impressed by the stone of a family with 5 children, each of whom died in the same year of their birth and the youngest, who lived to be 4.

## Holidays and Holy Days (3-4-5)

Norma Briggs led the group in a discussion that focused on courage, specifically, when to intervene in another person's or group's quarrel. They looked at newspaper and magazine photos of the new Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C. and then role played intervention. The main question of the role play was "When is it appropriate to intervene?"

This was the first time many of the children had heard any summary of the Holocaust or the

Bosnia dilemma. They thought the problem too big for them, but could identify with it when asked if they'd ever, while fighting with a sibling, forgotten entirely the origin of the quarrel but kept at it! The morning culminated on a lighter note with the children and others from the meeting unwrapping the Maypole and figuring out how to wrap it again. It was challenging and fun for all involved!

The following week only one child was in attendance, so the real Maypole celebration they had planned was done after the service with the adults. Instead, Ian Park and Norma read the NY Times together, focusing especially on stories regarding Muslims and Bosnia.

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

Erin Bosch and Warren Hagstrom led the group on a discussion of their previous week's visit to the Earth Day ritual celebration at Circle Sanctuary. The general consensus was that it was different but good.

The group began to work on a play that they would present during a service in May—a play that would pull together the different experiences and ideas they'd encountered in their year of visiting other religious groups.

The following week, only one child was in attendance. With time growing short, the feasibility of putting on a play was questioned.

# MISCELLANY

## Coffee Service Volunteers

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

May 16 Barbara Rames  
May 23 Heidi Oliverson

May 30 No Service—Canoe Trip  
June 6 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

May 16 Paula Pachjciarz  
May 23 John & Shirley Grindrod  
May 30 No Service—Canoe Trip  
June 6 Marian Thompson

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

May 16 ??  
May 23 Rachel Siegfried  
May 30 No Service—Canoe Trip  
June 6 Richard Bonser

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.

## Crash Space Needed!

Help! I've rented my home from June 4th through August 31st. To accommodate the renters, I've agreed to leave 4 days before I must go north to UniStar—that's June 4, 5, 6, and 7. I need a spare room or bedroll space where I can stay for those 4 days. If you can help, please call me at 259-0556.

-Karen Gross

## 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.

## Program Committee Survey

The Program Committee would like you (adults and young people) to consider participating in some aspects of a service this summer or next year. Please check those areas in which you would be interested. A lay minister or person planning the service will then contact you sometime during the year. Thank you!

Light Chalice \_\_\_\_\_ Readings \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Story \_\_\_\_\_ Play piano for singing \_\_\_\_\_

Perform Music \_\_\_\_\_ Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Present a program \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this at the "Welcome Table" or mail it to Aileen Nettleton (Program Committee Chair), 645 Sheldon Street, Madison, WI 53711.