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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Vol. 31, No. 14, 8-3-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, August 29. Submit items for September 2-16, 1993. REMINDER: Prairie Fire comes out only once per month during the summer!



Thursday, August 5

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All persons of the male persuasion are invited to attend.

Sunday, August 8

10:00 AM

ANNUAL JOINT SERVICE AND POTLUCK with the Free Congregation Unitarian Fellowship in Sauk City at 307 Polk street. Please bring a dish to share. The service will be UU Principles presented by Al Nettleton. (See related story)

Monday, August 9

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Thursday, August 12

7:00 PM

The SPANISH SPEAKING POTLUCKERS will meet at the home of Prudencia Barber, 1050 Jenifer St., phone 251-0852. For a ride or further information, call Orton at 273-4041 or Rosemary at 238-4382.

Sunday, August 15

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"A VIEW FROM THE LAKE: UU History From Lake Geneva Summer Assembly" presented by Anne Pryor. (See related story)

Thursday, August 19

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All persons of the male persuasion are invited to attend.

Sunday, August 22

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"GROWING THROUGH WRITING" presented by Fran Zell. (See related story)

Sunday, August 29

10:00 AM

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"INTRODUCING—SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION," the new UU hymnbook, led by Doleta Chapru and the Prairie Choir.

Thursday, September 2

7:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All persons of the male persuasion are invited to attend.

Saturday, September 4

1:00 PM

PLAYREADERS POTLUCK LUNCH and organizational meeting at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 Meadow Lane. Call her at 233-5795 for more information.

Sunday, September 5

10:00 AM

"A PRAIRIE WALK IN THE ARBORETUM," coordinated by Marian Thompson, led by Prairie "naturalists." Meet promptly at 10:00 at the UW Arboretum Administration Building. (In case of rain, bring your slides of prairie plants and other flowers to Prairie and join us at Prairie.)

Sunday, September 12

10:00 AM

"IN THE BEGINNING: A Look At Creation Myths" presented by Anne Urbanski. (See related story)

Today's Quote

"All my life, affection has been showered upon me, and every forward step I have made has been taken in spite of it."

-GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



Joint Meeting

The Sauk City UU Society has again invited us to join them for what has become a traditional joint service. Car pool with other Prairie friends for a chance to meet neighbor UUs in Sauk City. This group, which began in the 1800s as a German "Freethinkers' Society," has recently become revitalized and joined the UUA and now includes a number of families. The beautiful building is a historic landmark set in a lovely grove of oaks. Please bring a dish to share for the POTLUCK DINNER follow-

...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

ing the service. Al Nettleton will present a condensed "rerun" of his past series, UUPRINCIPLES for the service and the Sauk City group will coordinate the music.

We hope to have a good representation from Prairie.

Prairie Family Album

There will be a large red scrapbook on the welcome table. Choose a page for your family to decorate or add a photo. It will be fun to see who our Prairie family are!

Attention Prairie Singers!

If you enjoy singing, come join the Prairie "choir." We will rehearse for the first time on Sunday, August 15th at 9:00 AM and will be singing a couple of selections from "Singing the Living Tradition," the new UU song book, for the program on August 29th. All are welcome to sing. No previous experience necessary. Last year, we were woefully short of men, so we are hoping for tenors and basses to fill out 4 part harmony.

- Barb Park

Prairie Patter

Prairie UU Society's Community Spirit is in excellent condition. Witness the evidence from the performance Saturday, July 31. We were entertained in professional manner by many of the talented members of our Society. The event generated \$770 towards the purchase of a piano for Prairie. I understand that if there is sufficient enthusiasm another concert would be arranged.

The Prairie Board and the Ad Hoc Piano Committee want to raise \$1,500 to purchase a used piano in good condition with excellent tone that we would use for many years. With the generous response thus far it is certain that we will meet our goal in time to have a piano for the start of the fall meetings.

Cinda, Dick and I conducted the service on August 1 about the UUA General Assembly. We selected six songs to sing to give a flavor of many of the exciting events at GA. The congregation became so involved in a discussion about Racial Justice within the UUA and our Society that we had to leave out one of the songs. The discussion stimulated several members to ask if we could address these issues in depth. If you have any recommendations of someone who could provide Prairie with a series of programs about Racial Justice please let me know. I am also looking at an Adult Curriculum called "How Open the Door."

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Here's How...

...to feel good about yourself.

First: Volunteer to help with Prairie's YARD SALE on Saturday and Sunday, August 21st and 22nd.

Second: *Lighten up*—Unclutter your life by donating your unwanted books, jewelry, gadgets, household items, etc. to the YARD SALE.

Third: Attend the sale and *snap up the bargains* donated by others!

You can bring donations anytime now, the sooner the better, as storage space is being provided in the basement. Pickup can be arranged for some oversized items. Call Fran at 845-7292 with questions about volunteering and or donating.

Please help—it can be fun! We want to say "HUGE YARD SALE"—so we need a HUGE response.

Retreat Date Set

Reserve September 24, 25, and 26 for our annual family retreat. This year we will return to Upham Woods for the weekend. Enjoy canoeing, nature walks on the island, the birds, fall color, companionship of family and friends. Bring your talents for the talent show. Limber up your voice for the sing along, plan to feel refreshed and renewed. There will be activities for adults and children. The registration form will be available the end of August in the next Prairie Fire. There will be some scholarship money available to help defray expenses for those people who want to attend who live on limited funds. Judy Skog will be the Registrar. Erin Bosch has agreed to organize the program for Upham Woods. Please let Erin know if you will do a program for the retreat or lead an activity for the children.

UU History—From The Lake

This is a chance to hear from Anne Pryor, our Religious Education Director, about some of the fascinating background and stories of our denomination. Anne attended the UU Lake Geneva Summer Assembly session for RE Directors at which this was the topic of study and came back a UU history enthusiast.

Growing With Writing

This program will focus on creative writing as an opportunity for personal growth. Fran Zell is a writer of fiction and non-fiction and conducts writing workshops.

Piano Fundraising

Fundraising for the piano replacement is off to a good start and will continue for another

month. The Prairie Board set a goal of raising \$1,500 or more for the purchase of a high quality, used piano. Contributions and pledges totaling \$1,025 were received at our first successful fundraiser, "A Little Prairie Night Music"! Our thanks to the generosity of those who have contributed.

If you have yet to make your contribution, please consider doing so by September 1. Donations from \$20 to \$200 are needed! Send your check to Prairie, Attention Susan Hagstrom, with a note indicating the check is for the PRAIRIE PIANO FUND. Or send the pledge form to Aileen Nettleton, 645 Sheldon St., Madison, 53711. Maybe we will have a piano for fall services!

Prairie Playreaders Meet...

...to organize their 1993-94 schedule. The Playreaders is one of several Prairie social groups. It meets at different members homes each month to read a play aloud. It's a lot of fun, and we hope many of you will come and join us. You don't have to commit to coming every meeting, or even to being a reader. If you enjoy a good story, do come and check us out!

The organizational Potluck Lunch will be held on Saturday, September 4, at 1:00 PM at Pat Watkins' home, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your social calendar and a copy of the old playreading catalog if you have one. Call Pat at 233-5795 for more information.

CMD Calendar: 1993

October 2: PHILOSOFEST 1993 at North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield, IL. "Reclaiming the old ways of knowing: Responding to the Pagans in our Churches."

November 12-14: "Growing into the 21st Century" the CMD annual meeting and U-U Convention, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church West, Brookfield, WI.

MYTHing Links...

Beginning on September 12, we will spend six Sundays exploring "The World of Myth." I first became interested in mythology through my exposure to "The Power of Myth" and "Transformations of Myths Through Time" by the late Joseph Campbell. The more I've read about mythology, the more I've realized that many myths strike a responsive chord in me, even when I don't "understand the symbolism." Also, I've often felt that while Prairie is good at being topical and intellectual, we often give short shrift to people's needs for discussing spiritual issues which may or may not deal with "God" or gods.

Campbell provided a good explanation of why myths developed among all peoples of the world:

"Humans, unlike other animals, know that they and all they care for, will one day die. This recognition of mortality and the requirement to transcend mortality is the first great impulse to mythology. In every one of the mythological systems of the earth, two fundamental realizations—of the inevitability of individual death and the endurance of the social order—have been combined symbolically and constitute the main structuring force of the rites, and thereby, the society..."

"A third factor has pervasively influenced the shaping of mythologies... namely the spectacle of the universe, the natural world, and the enigma of its relationship to the person's own existence..."

Wendy D. O'Flaherty, a leading scholar, offers this definition of what constitutes a myth:

"A myth is a story that is sacred to and shared by a group of people who find their most important meanings in it... a story believed to have been composed in the past about an event in the past, or more rarely, in the future [e.g. The End of the World]; an event that continues to have meaning in the present because it is remembered; a story that is part of a large group of stories."

"A myth must have religious meaning though it need not be about gods... Myths are about the sorts of questions religions ask: life after death, divine interventions, transformations, creation of the world, etc... Myths have no meaning per se; instead they provide a context in which meaning occurs. To this degree a myth is not so much a true story as a story on which truth is based, a story which people may infuse with their truth."

As Campbell so aptly put it, "Myths speak not of outside events but of themes of the imagination... The old differences separating one mythic system from another are becoming less and less important, less easy to define. On the contrary, what is becoming more important is that we should learn to see through all the differences to the common themes that have been there all the while, that came into being with the first emergence of ancestral man (sic) from the animal levels of existence, and are with us still."

I hope our brief excursion into "The World of Myth" will help us further our UU quest to honor "the interconnected web of all existence" as well as "the inherent worth and dignity of every person"—and by extension, the kernel of truth to be found in virtually every religious system.

- Anne Urbanski

Learn a New Skill!

We need a volunteer to tape record the Sunday services. It's very easy to do, just requir-

ing a commitment to be there. Call Judy or Ken Skog at 2734813.

Youth Conference Set

A Youth Conference on Disarmament and Development, sponsored by the UU-UNO and Young Religious UUs, has been set for November 18-21, 1993. The conference is open to all high school students. Twenty-six will be selected, on a merit basis, with the object that all UU districts will be represented. The registration receipt deadline is September 25, 1993. Information and application forms are on the bulletin board and additional copies can be secured from RE Director Anne Pryor.

Regular Ride Needed!

Prairie member Judy Perlman needs a ride to Prairie on a regular basis. Her portable oxygen tank is good for only 3 hours—not enough to take the bus to Prairie and get home again after the service safely. Her apartment is at 2485 Perry Street, near the Dep't. of Agriculture offices and the vegetarian restaurant. Please call her at 258-8213 if you can help.

Absent Friends...

We got a postcard from Prairie Member Terri Prudlo last week. She and her husband Tony are now living in Alabama. She writes: "I've been offered a book contract from Greene Bark Press for my story: «GO TO SLEEP, Barbara Jean», to come out in the fall of '94 as a picture book. "Greetings to all—it's too hot here. "We wish we were in Wisconsin!"

We miss you too, Terri. Come by and visit sometime soon!



One-A-Week Club News

Four of our Prairie Society members gave a pint of blood during July: Nancy Graham, Judy Skog, Barbara James, and Aileen Nettleton. That's backing up one's beliefs with action! (So did I, but I forgot to sign the book. Ed.)

Food Pantry Needs

The Allied Drive Food Pantry needs continue in the summer months too. If you enjoy buying food bargains, our food pantry box at

the front hall window is a great place to share your "find".

Flood Relief Needed

The UUA and the UUSC have established an emergency fund for flood relief. Donations are urgently needed to address the needs of the most vulnerable victims of the flooding. Please send your donation checks to UU Flood Relief, c/o UUSC, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. Individuals interested in information about possible volunteer opportunities should contact the UU Service Committee at 617/868-6600.

Eco-Action Exchange

I've recently discovered an old product—an attachment to the faucet (a "water saving aerator") that lets me easily turn the water off and back on while washing hands or brushing teeth which is available at most hardware or plumbing stores. It's also available at EarthWorks (\$5.95 for faucet, \$7.95 for shower) and you can help other Prairie folk by shopping there.

Madison Recycling pays for white paper (office grade). No mailing labels or window envelopes, please. "White paper" includes letters, plain envelopes, computer paper, register receipts. Colored ink is OK as long as the paper it's printed on is white. I separate my junk mail into 3 categories: white, mixed, or throw away. They're currently paying 2¢ a pound. Doesn't sound like much, but remember how heavy paper is. They will also accept, but not pay for, mixed paper, brown grocery bags, cereal box type cardboard, and magazines.

Too many catalogs in your junk mail? If you're a catalog shopper, like me, you're on everybody's mailing list. Writing to "that place" to ask that my name not be used didn't have an appreciable impact on my mail. Every time you order from a catalog, tell them you don't want your name given out. The expensive but effective alternative: for every catalog I received and didn't want, I tore out the order form (with my account number on it) and mailed it back stating I didn't want my name and address sold or given away. I did that for multiple mailings both fall and spring. Now, I only get the catalogs I want. One company wrote back to ask me to be patient because their mailing lists are prepared about 6 months in advance. You could probably also call the toll-free ordering number for the company and ask that your name be taken off their list.

I'm fascinated by the cotton-covered wool mattress pad that Randy and Kathy Converse mentioned in their service. It keeps you warm in the winter/cool in the summer. Because the wool still has the natural oils, you only have to hose it down once in a while on the clothes line!

It's available from Cottonwood (the futon people) for \$130 (double bed size).

I've decided not be a purist about recycling (doesn't sound like it though, does it). So...I wash out some of the plastic bags but not all of them, and I usually only re-use them once. I buy ecologically correct cleaning supplies every other time or so instead of every time. When I see litter, I pick up 2-3 pieces instead of all of it. I don't set myself up for failure by insisting on doing the ecologically correct thing every single time. And my efforts still contribute to saving the earth. I've cut an overwhelming problem down to a size that's do-able for me.

- Submitted by Judy Skog.

Gathering of the Peoples

Gathering of the Peoples is a four-day spiritual/cultural event that brings people of all races together with Anishinaabe spiritual teachers and elders from Canada to share spiritual and cultural teachings about the relationship of human beings to our Mother Earth. 1992 marks the fourth year of the Gathering (August 19th through August 22, 1993) This year's event will take place on a farm northwest of Lodi, WI.

The Gathering is run traditionally. Teachings on Anishinaabe values will occur in the traditional long lodge of the Anishinaabe people. Participants will attend a daily feast. Daily sunrise ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodges, and other traditional ceremonies will be observed. Talking circles will also take place on topics to be determined at the Gathering.

The ceremonies and teachings will be shared in the hope of creating a better understanding and respect among all races for the Anishinaabe traditions and the teachings, given to the Anishinaabe by the Creator and passed down from parent to child for many generations. It is hoped that greater understanding and respect will allow all peoples to work together to heal Mother Earth for the generations yet to come.

We encourage you to attend part or all of the Gathering. The Gathering is a drug-free and alcohol-free event. No firearms or pets will be allowed.

Because there is no cost for participation in the Gathering of the Peoples, we have to rely on donations in order to feed the people who attend and to help the teachers and elders with travel costs.

Should you have questions you may contact Bobby Bullet St. Germain, 244-2936; Carol Edgerton, 244-3668; Mary Syverud, 251-0386; Marta Trimble, 277-8633; Mark Tarantino, 257-0224/242-2000. Donations can be sent to the following address:

Gathering of the Peoples
2537 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53704 Telephone 244-3668

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Aug. 8 Sauk City
Aug. 15 Fran Zell
Aug. 22 Mary Mullen
Aug. 29 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Aug. 8 Sauk City
Aug. 15 Jan Howe & the Converse family
Aug. 22 ??
Aug. 29 Barb Park & ??

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

Aug. 8 Sauk City
Aug. 15 ??
Aug. 22 Rachel Siegfried
Aug. 29 ??

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.

Networking Opportunity!

Lee Urbanski is looking for work as a computer programmer/software engineer. He is a graduate of MATC with 8 years programming experience. This has included financial, manufacturing, and communications applications. He has been doing mostly PC work in recent years. C and C++ are his favorite languages but he has experience with COBOL, BASIC, SAS, REXX and 80x86 Assembler Language. He is familiar with various operating systems including DOS, Windows, OS/2, MVS, and HP3000. If you have any leads or suggestions, give him a call at 258-8269.

Once Upon a Mattress...

...features two of Prairie's 'family.' If you're looking for some lighthearted summer entertainment, try Middleton Players Theatre's production of "Once Upon a Mattress." Nora and Erin Bosch are members of the chorus. It will be performed at Middleton High School on August 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 7:30 PM. It's fast moving and funny so it would probably be suitable for kids as young as 5. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and are available at the door or in advance from Nora in the Prairie preschool room.

Housemate Wanted:

Available August 1—Large bedroom with dressing area, shower and half bath in a quiet residential area near Prairie. After July 18, call Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173.

Yes. I want Prairie to have music!
I will donate the following to help buy a piano:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75	Phone No.: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	I agree to pay my pledge by September 1st, 1993.
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify) _____	



Please complete and return this form to Aileen Nettleton.

Thank you—the Ad Hoc Prairie Piano Committee

7/15/93