

Return to:

Editor

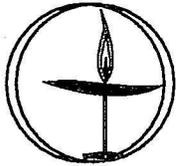
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Robert & Barbara Park
5610 Hammersley Rd
Madison, WI 53711

Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1604

Address Correction Requested

Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

Julia Bonser, President 274-3248

Anne Pryor, R. E. Director 244-7099

Susan Hagstrom, Treasurer 238-4970

Meeting House 271-8218

To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248

⁴Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 31, No. 15, 8-31-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, September 12. Submit items for September 16-30, 1993.



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

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

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

R.E. REGISTRATION. Classes begin for all ages today.

Monday, September 13

6:45 PM

HISPANIC POTLUCK group meets at the home of Kate Tucker, 4504 Camden Street. (See related story)

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Thursday, September 16

6:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. This meeting will be a POTLUCK DINNER. All persons of the male persuasion are invited to attend.

Sunday, September 19

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"THE GOD AS ARCHETYPE-PART I: The Great Goddess and the Supreme Being" presented by Anne Urbanski.

Friday, September 24

thru Sunday, September 26

"UPHAM WOODS RETREAT" at Camp Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells.

Thursday, September 30

6:00 PM

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

Sunday, October 3

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"THE GOD AS ARCHETYPE-PART II: The Dying God" presented by Anne Urbanski.

Sunday, October 10

9:00 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE AT PRAIRIE

10:00 AM

"THE HERO'S JOURNEY" presented by Anne Urbanski.

Today's Quote

"What others think of me is none of my business."

-AL-ANON SAYING



A Challenge to Prairie

We would like to challenge the members of Prairie to help equip our meetinghouse with enough copies of the new songbook that every two people will have a copy to share. We need about 18 more copies, and have a challenge grant that if Prairie members buy 12, the other 6 will be donated.

We are creating a special bookplate for this project, to go in the front of each purchased and/or donated copy.

...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

We would like to see many families, individuals, and perhaps even Sunday School classes, donate a copy in honor or memory of someone or something. The cost per book is \$28 (which groups could easily raise by holding a bake sale or other small fundraising project.)

Here are some suggestions for dedications:

Donated in honor of [parents, children, a favorite teacher]

Donated in memory of [friends, family, mentors]

Dedicated to the spirit of [music, equality, fellowship]

Contributed to Prairie by [a family, a class, a Prairie group]

To remind us all of [quote, saying, cause]

In appreciation of [Prairie fellowship, a lay ministry, our musicians]

or that old favorite "anonymous"

Please send the form below, together with your check made out to Prairie U. U. Society, to: Dean & Orange Schroeder, 1909 West Lawn Avenue, Madison, WI 53711. (If you've just donated towards the piano and would like to wait a few months, don't worry—the challenge grant runs until December 1, 1993)

The World of Myth

"The English word "MYTH" is derived from the Greek MYTHOS, meaning word or story. Human beings have traditionally used stories to describe or explain things they could not explain otherwise. Ancient myths were stories by means of which our forebears were able to assimilate the mysteries that occurred around and within them. In this sense, myth is related to metaphor..."

"When we study the world's mythologies and discover the archetypal patterns (also common to our individual dreams) that essentially unite those mythologies, we study what we might reasonably call the dreams of humankind, in which we find information about the nature of humanity itself. In a real

sense, the world reveals its inner self through its common myths..."

"Just as dreams help us to determine our identity as individuals and tribal myths help to establish a tribe's identity, so world mythology, considered as a whole, is the eternal story of humanity's quest for self-fulfillment in the face of entropy, the universal tendency toward disorder... A universal human quest for identity and individualism... This is a quest we all understand, as only humans are endowed with the ability to be conscious, at any given time, of the universal scheme of things, of MYTHOS, of the beginning, middle and end of a given process."

- From "The World of Myth" by David Adams Leeming ...

Leeming points to four main typologies of myths: about the cosmos, about gods and goddesses, about heroes, and about places and objects. In our series on mythology, we will look at myths concerning some of the major subtypes within the first three typologies: namely, "The Creation"; the Great Goddess and Her later (usually male) counterpart, the Supreme Being; the Dying God; and the Hero's Journey. We'll also (I hope!) look at some examples of the influence of mythology on literature, especially drama and poetry, and we'll conclude with a look at mythology in the mid-to-late 20th century (more on that later...) Finally, to end on another note... once again, from Joseph Campbell: "Myths can provide answers [to the great questions of life] only insofar as they point to certain commonalities. The main drift of mythology, in a nutshell, is that the separateness that is apparent in the phenomenal world is secondary. Beyond, and behind, and within, and supporting that world is an unseen but experienced unity and identity in us all... The great realization of mythology is the immanence of the divine—here and now—you don't have to go anywhere else to find it. THIS is the holy land, the holy moment."

- Anne Urbanski

PLEA FOR PATIENCE

...AND PUNCTUALITY! (NOT an oxymoron)

A couple of words of warning concerning my lay ministry that begins September 12: I am NOT a skilled public speaker. In fact, in the last 25 years I've given exactly one speech, totaling 5 minutes, before an audience of more than 5 people. So I'd like the congregation to do one simple thing to help me: Please hold your questions until I've completed my presentation at each service. I plan to have 15-20 minutes for questions and discussion at the end of each service, and except for possibly September 19, I plan to be available afterwards for more discussion.

Also, I'd appreciate it if everyone would BE ON TIME! I plan to "ring the bell" at 10:00 a.m. sharp, because I'd like to have as much time as possible for the total service. When we don't start till 10:05 or 10:10, it not only detracts from the adults' service but also throws the children's R.E. program off schedule. So let's turn over a new leaf with the beginning of a new church year. If you come after 10:00 a.m. you'll find the coffee doors closed and the service already started. Don't miss out! Be on time! Thank you for your support.

- Anne Urbanski

Hispanic Potluck

The Hispanic Potluckers are a group of people who speak Spanish to one degree or another and who meet monthly to share a meal. Sometimes we meet at Prairie, sometimes in a member's home. Usually we bring a dish to pass (not necessarily ethnically Latino), but there's always plenty of food, so don't stay away because you can't bring something. We have met pretty regularly for five out of the past six years and really feel good about having maintained the group for so long. There have been as few as three and as many as ten at our monthly meetings. We even have two occasional attendees under age 3! Generally we manage to speak Spanish

Prairie Challenge Grant Response Form

Name/s _____ Phone _____
Number of songbooks @ \$28.00 each _____ Amount enclosed _____
Please list below exactly what you would like the bookplate/s to say (please include how you want us to word who the book is donated by):

Note: if you've already ordered a copy of the songbook to donate to Prairie, and would like a bookplate for it, please let us know. Please send the form below, together with your check made out to Prairie U. U. Society, to: Dean & Orange Schroeder, 1909 West Lawn Avenue, Madison, WI 53711

(mas o menos) for two hours, though some topics have proved a challenge! A number of our "regulars" have lived in Spanish-speaking countries as Cuerpo de Paz volunteers. Others learned all their Spanish in school, from libros de texto.

Whatever your level, if you have an interest in maintaining, and maybe even improving, your Spanish-speaking ability, please check us out. If you need a ride or more information, call Rosemary at 238-4382 or Orton at 273-4041.

Prairie Patter

It's official—this is Madison's wettest summer on record. Prairie UU Society did not let rain interfere with any of our tasks this summer. Fran Remeika organized an outstanding yard sale at Prairie last weekend. This event raised over \$500 and 29 friends and members helped put on the sale. Thank you: Alice and Lee Bullen, Metje Butler, Pat Cautley, Doleta Chapru, Randy Converse, Mary Lou Diehl, Rosemary Dorney, Orton Gray, John and Shirley Grindrod, Susan Hagstrom, Warren Hagstrom, Betty Jallings, Marcia and David Johnson, Terry Krause, Bonnie and Larry Murdock, Al Nettleton, Barbara Park, Jennifer Parker, Marilyn Peters, Barbara Rames, Rick Ruecking, Rachel Siegfried, Judy Skog, Marian Thompson, Pat Watkins and all of you who contributed articles to sell.

We regard our church year as starting in September, even though our fiscal year is the same as the calendar year and new officers start in May. Is this leftover from our school days? I feel that my life gets busier in the fall. We are off to an exciting time with Anne Urbanski's Lay Ministry about myths. We have our annual intergenerational family retreat at Upham Woods the end of September. I look forward to learning about how you spent your summer this year.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Upham Woods Retreat

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. 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 is the Registrar. Erin Bosch is organizing 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.

Please apply as soon as possible, no later than September 12, 1993. An application form is attached to this issue of the Prairie Fire.

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.

Studio Tech Needed

We need a skilled recording studio technician to tape record the Sunday services. It's extremely difficult to do and provides no rewards whatever, just the satisfaction of doing the job right. If you're into self effacement and service without recognition, 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.

Fundraising Success!

Prairie's Treasurer is pleased to congratulate recent fundraisers on their successful

efforts: Pat Watkins and Pat Cautley for running a bus trip to Chicago; Pat Cautley as manager of the Betsy Roberts Memorial Fund; Orange Schroeder, Judy Skog and volunteers for the Service Auction; Doleta Chapru, Mike Briggs and all the performers for the Piano Fundraiser (we are very close to getting one); and Fran Remeika and volunteers for a successful Garage Sale. Thanks also to all those who have been paying on their pledges. The following is the income to date from these sources:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Bus Trip | \$450.39 |
| Betsy Roberts | 475.00 |
| Service Auction | 1,705.86 |
| Piano Fund | 842.50 |
| Garage Sale | 529.66 |
| Pledges | 14,397.50 |

RE Teacher Still Needed!

As of Aug. 29 we only have one person who has committed to lead the middle school group for the coming year. WE NEED ONE MORE!!! I'm specifically requesting that parents of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders help us in recruiting another leader, or in teaching themselves. Our fall-back plan if we cannot find another teacher is to have a series of different folks lead the group for two week periods. This will only be second best, as continuity in leadership and strong development of a sense of community will not occur if different adults are always with the group. Please help us out with any ideas for teachers. Call Anne Pryor 244-7099, Dean Schroeder 256-8813, or Kathy Converse 238-1856.

Volunteers Needed!

Less critical than our need for a teacher, but something very significant is the RE program's need for folks who can do occasional jobs or lead short-term projects. Here are the primary needs:

"Service Project Coordinator"

As our RE service project this year, I'm hoping that each month Prairie kids can make baked goods on a Sunday afternoon to send to the homeless shelter with the volunteers on Monday. I haven't finished making arrangements for this yet, but I hope it would work. The coordinator for this project would arrange for adult bakers to work with the kid bakers each month, arranging for materials and supplies also.

"Nifty Gifty Coordinator"

Scheduled for December 19, this is a gift making session for the RE kids held during the morning service time. The gifts are typically constructed out of reusable junk. Coordinator tasks: recruit adults to lead the gift making activities, solicit materials from Prai-

rie members, recruit folks to make snacks for the morning.

"Communications Specialist"

Create mailing labels for the teachers and DRE to use when mailing materials to the children and their families.

"Head Chef"

Make up the juice and snack plates for the different grades each (or an occasional) Sunday.

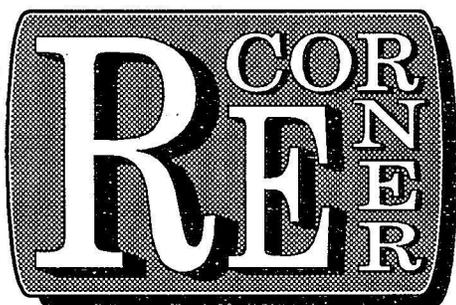
"Children's Spirit Circle Leaders"

Some parents have indicated that they would like to lead a worship service for the children. These occur once a month from 10-10:15 (or so) downstairs.

If you are interested in any of these projects or other projects or want more information contact Anne Pryor (244-7099) or Dean Schroeder (256-8813) or sign up at the RE Volunteer Table on Sept. 12 at Prairie.

Prairie Family Album

There is 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!



RE Begins on Sept. 12

Religious education sessions will begin again on September 12 for Prairie's children. As usual, there will be four groups:

Nursery/Preschool.

The curriculum will be Growing Times, an activity-based introduction to group interactions and very basic UU principles. Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler and Nora Bosch will be leading this group.

Kindergarten/1st grade/2nd grade.

We'll be using a newly purchased and wonderful curriculum, *Treasure Hunting* created by Ellie Schneider of First Society. The focus will be exploring the UU principles and purposes through games, stories, activities and song. Larry Murdock and Shirley Grindrod will be leading this group.

3rd grade/4th grade/5th grade.

The curriculum used will be *A Stepping Stone Year*, a favorite throughout the denomination, one which draws from myths and tales from across time and relates them to Unitarian Universalism. The leaders will be Rick Ruecking, Jan Howe, and Paula Pachciarz.

6th grade/7th grade/8th grade.

We will be mixing two curricula for this group this year. *Great Encounters*, a brand new curriculum that encourages self-discovery of religious and spiritual beliefs will be used along with *We Believe*, a curriculum recently purchased as a gift to Prairie by Barbara Rames. *We Believe* focuses on learning and living the UU principles. The leaders are Randy Converse and ???

Registration forms will be sent to each family along with a description of the curricula to be used. Please return the registrations as soon as possible, completing a separate one for each child attending.

RE Youth Programs

Teen Lunches: Once again the RE program will be sponsoring monthly teen lunches, where Prairie high schoolers are invited to go out to lunch with an adult member of the society. Discussions have been lively and interesting in the past, and we hope to continue the same this year. Watch for announcements of upcoming lunches.

YRUU: This year the Prairie senior high youth group will combine with the James Reeb UU Society on the east side rather than First Society. This is due primarily because of the very large size of the First/Prairie YRUU. Meetings will probably be on Sunday afternoon or early evening. The adult advisor is Arthur Thexton. (We plan to recruit an additional advisor from Prairie.)

If a Prairie teen has been attending YRUU at First, s/he are free to continue attending at First. Or, it may be possible to attend both, if the meeting times are not identical. But beginning this year and continuing into the future, we will be coordinating primarily with James Reeb Society for the senior high YRUU. High school students will be receiving a letter from Arthur soon about the first meeting.

Middle School Youth Group: There will again be a social youth group for 7th and 8th grade UU youth. At this time, I'm not sure how it will be configured between the three societies, but my guess is that all three societies will merge for one group. I'll pass along more definite information as soon as it's available.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Sept. 5 No service at Prairie
- Sept. 12 Barb Park
- Sept. 19 Barbara Rames
- Sept. 26 Upham Woods Retreat

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Sept. 5 No service at Prairie
- Sept. 12 Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker
- Sept. 19 Kathy Helm & Gary Giorgi
- Sept. 26 Upham Woods Retreat

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

- Sept. 5 No service at Prairie
- Sept. 12 ??
- Sept. 19 Barbara Rames
- Sept. 26 Upham Woods Retreat

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.

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.

New Phone Number!

Laura Riggs and Melissa Pokorny have a new phone number. It is 274-0464. Please change your Prairie Directory to the new number.

Circle Dinner Signup Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Number of persons participating at this address: _____

Mail to: Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Avenue, Madison, WI 53711

Upham Woods Registration Form

If you are attending for only part of the weekend, use the prices below

| <u>Youth costs:</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Adult costs:</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Breakfast Sat.: | 3.00 | _____ | | Breakfast Sat.: | 4.50 | _____ | |
| Lunch Sat.: | 3.50 | _____ | | Lunch Sat.: | 6.00 | _____ | |
| Dinner Sat.: | 4.75 | _____ | | Dinner Sat.: | 7.00 | _____ | |
| Brunch Sun.: | 4.25 | _____ | | Brunch Sun.: | 5.00 | _____ | |
| Cabin cost: | 7.00 | _____ | | Cabin cost: | 7.00 | _____ | |
| Dorm cost: | 9.00 | _____ | | Dorm cost: | 9.00 | _____ | |

If you are attending for the entire weekend, use the prices below:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|--|----------------|-------|-------|--|
| Cabin & Meals: | 22.50 | _____ | | Cabin & Meals: | 29.50 | _____ | |
| Dorm & Meals: | 24.50 | _____ | | Dorm & Meals: | 32.00 | _____ | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Number of Adults attending: _____

Number of Children attending: _____

Number of persons desiring VEGETARIAN MEALS: _____

Total Registration Fee Enclosed: _____

I need financial assistance to attend the Retreat.

I need a ride to attend the Retreat.

Please apply as soon as possible, no later than September 12, 1993. Mail your registration to:
Judy Skog, 626 Orchard Drive, Madison, WI 53711