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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Vol. 31, No. 18, 10-12-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, October 24. Submit items for October 28—November 11, 1993.

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 14
6:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All men are invited to attend.

Sunday, October 17
10:00 AM

"MYTHS IN MODERN DRAMA" by Anne Urbanski, featuring the PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS.

Tuesday, October 19
7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.

Sunday, October 24
10:00 AM

"MYTHS IN MODERN LIFE: Bring Your Examples" by Anne Urbanski.

Thursday, October 28
6:00 PM

PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All men are invited to attend.

Sunday, October 31
10:00 AM

"THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: UN SUNDAY," led by Pat Cautley.

R.E.—Fall Frolic. This will be a special event to celebrate the season. It will be held during regular RE time but will replace regular RE sessions for the day.

Sunday November 7
1:00 PM

FALL PARISH MEETING. Child care provided.

Monday, November 8
6:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK meets at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 S. Syene Road, in Fitchburg. All levels of skill are represented and new people are always welcome. For further information, call Amy at 273-2639, Orton at 273-4041 or Rosemary at 238-4382. ¡Hasta la Próxima Reunion!

Friday, November 19
6:00 PM

THE FISH DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at the Avenue Bar, 1128 E. Washington Avenue. Everyone is welcome, but MUST phone Pat Watkins for reservations by Wednesday, November 17 at 4:30 PM.

Today's Quote

"All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income."

-SAMUEL BUTLER



Closing the Loop...

...on the World of Myth. The last two services in my series on "The World of Myth" will take place on Sunday, October 17 and Sunday, October 24. The October 17th service is called "Myths in Modern Drama." Mythology has influenced all of the arts since people first began telling myths, and drama is one art form that has dealt with mythological themes for more than 2,000 years. This service, conducted mainly by the Prairie Playreaders, will feature excerpts from several interesting 20th century plays that have been influenced by mythology in some way or other.

Our final service on October 24 is called "Myths in Modern Life." The poet Archibald Macleish wrote:

*A world ends when its metaphor has died;
It perishes when those images, though seen,
No longer mean.*

For many of us in the late 20th century, the mythological metaphors of our childhoods are no longer meaningful. For some of us this applies only to religious myths, but it might also apply to political, social and/or economic myths as well. On October 24, I will briefly discuss some of the myths that have dominated the United States in the last 100 years. Then, we'll break into small groups do discuss those myths and perhaps other that you might think of. Be prepared for some lively discussion.

I've enjoyed my lay ministry very much so far, and hope that those of you who have attended the previous services have found

...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

some "food for thought." I hope I'll see many of you at Prairie on October 17th and 24th.

-Anne Urbanski

Prairie Patter

Almost 20 years ago I started attending Prairie UU Society. I had no idea what UU's thought or believed. My feedback came from friends and members at Prairie who reflected back to me that my statements and opinions were Unitarian. After a year I signed the membership book. I thought I had some understanding of what it meant to be a UU. These past five years I have attended 3 General Assemblies, 1 North Central Area Council Meeting, 1 Womenquest, 2 Womenspirit Gatherings, 1 Philosofest and 2 coordinating councils of the Greater Madison Area UU's.

My test of reality at most of these events is "How would this play at Prairie." When I started at Prairie I was told that as a society we were on the outside looking out in regard to the denomination. Looking inward at UU I find that we are also in the midst of the circle. Most UU society's regard themselves as unique. What we have in common is our diversity. We all say, "I can only speak for myself." The struggles and the issues of each congregation sound familiar. How much diversity can we accommodate? We need to respect our tradition! Who has all the keys to the building? We need to have an active social action program! We need lay people to lead programs! We need volunteers to serve coffee. We need more teachers for RE.

What helps us answer these questions and others, is what we covenant to one another in our Bond of Union. ...*Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility.*

We are at the time of year when we examine our commitment to each other and to Prairie UU Society. We need one another, as family, friends, mourners, lovers, adversaries, conscience, and guide. We also support each other by our financial gifts to Prairie Society. Please pledge for 1994.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Prairie Directory Corrections

Because of numerous errors on the part of the printer, we were not charged for the printing and collating of the recently issued

Prairie Directory. Because of the numerous address and telephone number corrections needed (my error-*Heidi O.*), we will be redoing the Prairie Directory. Please check your name and address and, if a correction is needed, fill out the slip at the end of the **Prairie Fire OR** call Heidi Oliverson at 608/284-2140 (days) or 608/238-2265 (evenings).

Reaching out in Partnership

Whether or not we have a sister church in Transylvania we can help the Unitarian's there. Under the dictatorship, the Unitarian church was strictly limited in the number of seminarians allowed to be trained in the ministry. Now there is no restriction from the government, but the rising prices for food and heat make the cost of living for students prohibitive. Financial assistance will help ensure religious leadership for the next generation of Transylvanian Unitarians. Under the dictatorship the government paid the minister's salaries, told them what and how to preach, and installed spies in the pews to let the government know which ministers ought to be transferred or jailed. Now there is free speech in Romania and the government no longer controls the churches—or pays the minister's salaries. Many congregations have no financial resources with which to pay their ministers, nor any tradition of doing so. There are many other areas of need.

It's not easy to get money into Transylvania; their banks don't function. Money has to be hand-delivered in cash. A delegation from our district is going over in November and can make a delivery in person to the Bishop's financial assistant. If you wish to send money please send a check to Reverend Ruth Ellen Gibson, First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr. Madison WI 53705. Indicate the fund on the check. Your choice is: Replace the mini-van; Financial assistance to ministerial students; or Funds for Transylvanian Ministers.

CMD Annual Meeting

The theme of this meeting is "Growing into the 21st Century: Building UUnity in CommUUnity". The CMD Annual Meeting begins on Friday night, Nov. 12, with a keynote address—"To Gaze Upon the World with Sacred Eyes: The Role of Our Religious Faith"—by the Rev. Makanah Morris, UUA Director of Religious Education. Saturday the Rev. David Bumbaugh, minister at the UU Church, Summit, NJ, will speak on "The heart of a Faith for the 21st Century" There will be Workshops (11 each in the

morning and afternoon) covering growth, denominational governance, families, diversity in worship, fund raising, spirituality, software, feminist theology, and Racial Justice among others.

We will meet at the UU Church West, Brookfield, WI a short drive away for us Madisonians. Registration is \$25 before Oct. 18, after Oct. 18 \$35 each and \$40 for walk ins. Meals are extra. Julie Bonser has the registration forms if you are interested in attending.

Did You Buy This?

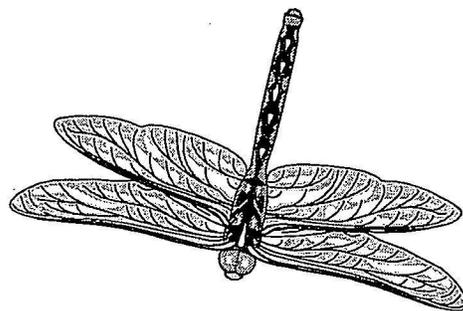
Someone bought a "Movie Night" from Kay Frazier and José Rodriguez at the service auction several months ago. Kay and José have lost the name of the buyer(s) and cannot deliver the service. If you bought their service, please give them a call at 414/648-2330—they'd love to "put on a show" for you.

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.

Does Anyone Know?

Does anyone know what happened to the T-shirts that were decorated at the Upham Woods Retreat? If so, Please call Erin Bosch at 238-6285.



RECORNER

Growing Times: Nursery/Preschool

Leaders: Emilie Dickson, Nora Bosch, Lili Sandler

Building with blocks and playing with play-dough have been two favorite activities of the past few weeks. The children have a chalice lighting ceremony each week now. Next Sunday, on the 17th, Metje Butler is going to lead a painting-on-the-walls session with the children.

Treasure Hunting: grades K-1-2

Leaders: Larry Murdock, Shirley Grindrod

Each week this group explores something that is of value, a "treasure" to UU's. Last week Larry led the session on treasuring the power of our minds and hearts. The children voted for their favorite wish from a selection of four; to have an ear that lets you understand animal talk was the big favorite. They heard a story about how with our minds we can make ordinary things very special. They ended the morning using fall nature objects (leaves, sunflower heads, etc.) in a collage.

In September this group had a potluck party at Cindy Haq's home after Prairie, the goal of which was to let everyone get to know each other a little more. Thanks to Cindy for hosting and organizing the event.

The Stepping Stone Year: grades 3-4-5

Leaders: Jan Howe, Paula Pachciarz, Rick Ruecking

Nicely in line with Anne Urbanski's lay ministry upstairs, this group has been studying different creation myths for the past few weeks, from the Bushmen of the Kalahari, to the Miwok Indians of California, to stories of female creators: Gaia, Pandora and Athena. Activities related to the Bushmen myths were making animal tags and animals for the Tree of Life. For the Miwok stories, the group made clay animals. For the female creators the children wove yarn on card looms and danced an improvised creation dance.

This group also had a gathering after Prairie at Pizza Hut to let parents, leaders and children get to know each other a little better. Thanks to Ken Skog for organizing it.

We Believe: grades 6-7-8

Leaders: Bob Purvis and Randy Converse

This group is focusing on what UU's believe. One week they focused on fairness, reading a story of Antoinette and Olympia Brown about women's struggles to become ministers and also have the right to vote. They also read a play about Whitney Young.

The next week they explored the idea of inner peace. They read a story about a land where inner feelings were revealed by small clouds under the people's feet. The clouds changed colors depending on the feelings of the person. The kids drew pictures and discussed whether they would want their inner feelings to always be known.

Last week they talked about teaching and learning. They talked about their favorite teachers and some famous teachers and students, such as Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller. They listened to a song about teaching and learning and broadened the discussion to the current teacher slowdown and possible strike in Madison. They also talked about informal learning.

YRUU Notes

YRUU will meet regularly from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society and at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Society. Prairie youth are welcome to attend either group, but are requested to choose one and stick with it thereafter.

The Fall conference (PumpKon!) will be hosted by the Evanston IL church over Halloween weekend. Attendees will be back in Madison in plenty of time to participate in trick-or-treating.



Food Pantry Needs

It's the end of the month that is a time when our neighbors on Allied Drive need help. The food pantry in the community center is open second and fourth Fridays, so it would be GREAT if Prairie people brought food on Sunday, October 17th, to help them.

Friendly Supper Club

The Friendly Supper Club celebrates its 7th anniversary! This interracial dinner group

will meet at the International Food Court (on University Avenue near the Lake Street intersection) on November 1, 1993 from 6:30 PM to about 7:30 PM. The Friendly Supper Club meets on the first Monday of each month. For more information, contact Barb or Lance at 249-5979.

Global Civilization

A very special opportunity exists for all who can get themselves to the State Historical Society Auditorium by 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 23rd. Dr. Robert Muller will describe his proposals for a new economic and political system for Planet Earth, titled "The Birth of a Global Civilization." Often called the philosopher and prophet of hope for the United Nations, Dr. Muller's devotion to the UN, which he served for 38 years, has inspired people world-wide. He is currently Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Peace in Costa Rica.

Born in Alsace-Lorraine, Dr. Muller watched as his country was ruled by Germany and France during WWII, and committed himself to work for world peace. He spent time in prison for refusing to serve in the German army. Author of numerous books and articles, he was awarded the 1989 UNESCO Peace Education Prize for his World Care Curriculum for Education, and the 1993 Albert Schweitzer International Prize for the Humanities for years of commitment to world understanding and peace.

There is no charge for this lecture or the reception that will follow. It is sponsored by the Dane County Chapters of World Federalists and the United Nations Association, in cooperation with the Milwaukee Peace Education Center and the Governor's Commission on the United Nations. It is an opportunity not to be missed!

Prayer Vigil

There will be a prayer vigil in the Capitol on Monday, October 18, from 12 Noon to 1:00 PM against the proposed death penalty bill. Many will also be present in the Senate balcony on Tuesday, October 19, with the intention of influencing the vote of the Senate on that issue.

WILPF Meets

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will meet at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 20, at 731 State Street. The topic for the meeting will be the Women Vs. Violence Program.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

- Oct. 17 Barbara Park
- Oct. 24 Nancy Graham
- Oct. 31 Mary Mullen
- Nov. 7 Kerry Bauer

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

- Oct. 17 Jack & Betty Jallings
- Oct. 24 Rosemary Dorney & Pat Cautley
- Oct. 31 Randy & Kathy Converse
- Nov. 7 Al Nettleton & Kerry Bauer

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

- Oct. 17 ??
- Oct. 24 Fran Zell
- Oct. 31 Richard Bonser
- Nov. 7 ??

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 Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173 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.

Proposed 1994 Budget

The Prairie Board met October 11. All the committee chairs had submitted their proposed budget items for 1994. The Board proposed that these requests be the foundation for the annual finance campaign. You will be receiving a letter from the Finance Committee about the budget and finance campaign. Meanwhile we would be glad to answer questions about the proposed expenditures.

Proposed Budget Expenses for 1994

Operating	Requested
<u>Program</u>	
Lay Ministry	1,350
Publicity	775
Program Committee	350
Long Range Plan	200
Ministerial Interns	200
Tape Recorder	150
Subtotal	3,025

Religious Education

Director's Salary	6,450
Preschool Teacher	400
Preschool Aide	350
Social Security	550
Materials & Supplies	550
Conference & Travel	450
Snacks	120
Subtotal	8,870

Denominational Affairs

UUA-APF	3,840
CMD Dues	600
NCAC Dues	40
Pamphlets	100
Delegate Registration	500
Subtotal	5,080

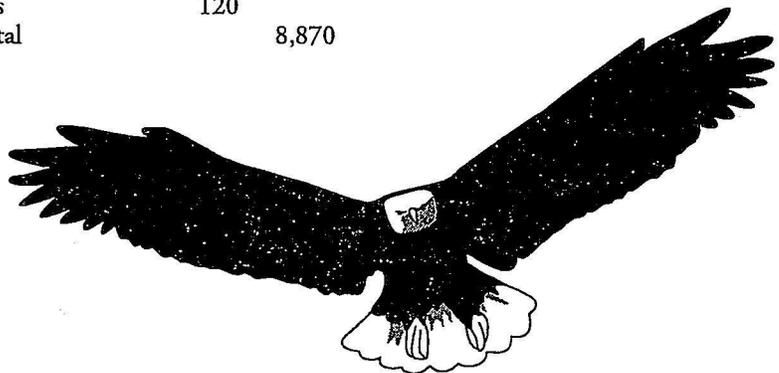
Membership

Prairie Fire	2,900
Directory	200
Finance Committee	300
Other	100
Subtotal	3,500

Housing and Property

Mortgage M & I	7,735
Mortgage Veatch	4,285
Insurance	811
Telephone	586
Utilities	1,800
Janitor	1,350
Maint. & Supplies	1,200
Windows	10,000
Capitol Reserve	3,200
Subtotal	30,967

Total budget 51,442



Prairie Directory Correction Slip

Name(s) _____ Member/Friend _____

Name of Spouse/Partner (if different) _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone Number _____ Office Phone Number (optional) _____

Names/Birthdays of Children _____