

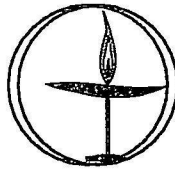
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 31, No. 22, 12-7-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, December 19. Submit items for December 23, 1993—January 6, 1994.

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 9

6:00 PM

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

Saturday, December 11

7:00 PM

Carol Singing at the home of Norma and Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Avenue. (See related story)

Sunday, December 12

10:00 AM

"Children's Spirit Circle" The children will start the morning downstairs with a gathering led by Dean Schroeder.

"PRECIOUS MEMORIES" presented by George Calden. (See related story)

Monday, December 13

6:30 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the home of Rosemary Dorney, 4205 Odana Road, 238-4382. All skill levels are welcome. (See related story)

Sunday, December 19

9:30 AM

"NIFTY GIFTY." No regular RE sessions. Gift making for all children instead.

10:00 AM

"WHY THE PYGMY DANCE" presented by Rick Ruecking. (See related story)

Sunday, December 26

10:00 AM

"YULETIDE CELEBRATION." An intergenerational service (including our traditional symbol tree).

Sunday, January 2

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00

"WILD WINTERING." No regular RE sessions. A special event to celebrate the season instead.

"NEWSPAPERS AND CROISSANTS" presented by Kate Tucker and friends. Bring your newspapers and magazines to read and share for a warm welcome of the New Year.

Sunday, January 9

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM

"EVOLVING RELIGIONS: Reconstructionist Jews And UU" presented by members of Shaarei Shamayim and Prairie.

Today's Quote

"I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them."

-Isaac Asimov



Precious Memories

If you enjoyed George Calden's summer service, "Everyone Should Leave Tracks," you will appreciate the "Precious Memories" service on December 12th. With the assistance of Barbara Rames and Mike Briggs, George will present three dramatic readings of reminiscence stories:

1. "The Psychia Tree"—'Twas the Nightmare Before Christmas.
2. "Soul Food"—about the joys and sorrows of Jewish cooking.
3. "My Brush With Greatness"—how George has hobnobbed with the high muck-a-mucks of the world.

Rosemarie Lester, Ruth Calden, Gary Giorgi and George will embroider the service with their musical talents.

Memorial Dedication Set

A stained glass Memorial Panel in memory of Betsy Roberts will be dedicated on Sunday, December 12th. It is the result of her three children's wishes that their contribution be used to provide an art object—something pleasing—to decorate Prairie's building. It seemed most appropriate to ask Caroline Steva, a dear friend of Betsy's, to create something of stained glass, using these funds and others contributed. Ather much discussion (and discovering that it is very difficult for a committee to create anything artistic) plans were made.

The center of the panel shows a meadow-lark singing in the rain, a wonderful repre-

...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

sentation of Betsy's indomitable spirit. Also shown are prairie flowers—the violet, spiderwort and butterfly weed. For the present, the panel will be hung in the large window in the foyer of our building. We trust that all who see it will enjoy its beauty and realize that it is celebrating a very special person who taught us that the most important aspect of life lies in the friendship and affection of others.

-Pat Cautley

Why The Pygmy Dance

In the Sixth Egyptian Dynasty, an expedition to the source of the Nile discovered a diminutive race of people, the Dancers of God, living in a forest paradise beyond the Mountains of the Moon. Over 4,000 years later, European explorers confirmed the mythical reality of the Mbuti people; those whom we know as the Pygmies.

As a part of the U.N. Year of the Indigenous People, Rick Ruecking will describe these people focusing on their religious beliefs and practices. You may be surprised to learn why the pygmy dance.

Spanish Speakers' Potluck

Spanish speakers will have a little Christmas celebration at Rosemary Dorney's (4205 Odana Road, Madison) in December (Monday, Dec. 15). Unless the weather is really forbidding, we will put out luminarias (you know, the little votive candles in the paper bags half filled with sand) as Mexicans and Mexican-Americans do. (*They look beautiful, but getting them together and out-of-doors involves a lot of bending, which my knees aren't up to these days, so come and help.*) Then we'll have a feast and maybe sing. If you ever learned a carol in Spanish, this is the time to bring and share it! Maybe we'll even have a piñata. Have you ever participated in, or do you know of, any customs from Spanish-speaking countries that you could tell about? We'd love to hear about them, and to have the pleasure of your company. Bring a dish to share, if you can (but come anyway if you can't—we always have lots of food!). It doesn't have to be Latino food, either. For a ride or further information, call me at 238-4382. ¡Por favor, celebremos Uds. la Navidad con nosotros!

-Rosemary

Yuletide Celebration

Calling Children, Youth, and Adults...

Would you like to be a reader, candle-lighter, actor or musician for our December 26th Yuletide service? Could you provide a

tree for our Symbol tree? Do you have suggestions for a reading, song or special tradition? Please contact Aileen Nettleton, 233-6053, by December 12, or come to a brief get-together at 11:30 AM Sunday, December 12, to get your part for the service. Talents of all kinds welcomed!

Attention Prairie Musicians!

Our Sunday service January 23, 1994, will be devoted to the lives and music of Robert and Clara Schumann and their friend Johannes Brahms. Robert Schumann was a manic-depressive, and his story can tell us something about how it is to live with occasional madness in the family. The Schumanns and Brahms wrote a great deal of beautiful music for the piano, strings, chamber groups, songs for solo voice, and choral music. If you can play on the 23rd (all age levels are welcome), please inform Warren Hagstrom, 238-4970. Let him know what you wish to perform, or, if you're uncertain, ask him for suggestions. If you need an accompanist, let Warren know that as well.

Prairie Patter

My special treat for myself is to have a daily subscription to the New York Times. I chose to do this and stop subscribing to weekly news magazines. Many times I find articles I want to share with others. I learn so much from discussing with friends and colleagues ideas and issues that are stimulated by what I'm reading. The following is a previously unpublished letter by C. G. Jung in response to Ruth Topping, a prominent Chicago social worker. She had asked him to explain a comment of his in a Chicago newspaper and to define "religious outlook."

Zurich Nov. 12, 1959

When you study the mental history of the world, you see that people since times immemorial had a general teaching or doctrine about the wholeness of the world. Originally and down to our days, they were considered to be holy traditions taught to the young people as a preparation for their future life. This has been the case in primitive tribes as well as in highly differentiated civilizations. The teaching had always a "philosophical" and "ethical" aspect.

In our civilization this spiritual background has gone astray. Our Christian doctrine has lost its grip to an appalling extent, chiefly because people don't understand it any more. Thus one of the most important instinctual activities of our mind has lost its object.

As these views deal with the world as a whole, they create also a wholeness of the individual, so much so, that for instance a primitive tribe loses its vitality, when it is deprived of its specific religious outlook. People are no more rooted in their world and lose their orientation. They just drift. That is very much our condition, too. The need for a meaning of their lives remains unanswered, because the rational, biological goals are unable to express the irrational wholeness of human life. Thus life loses its meaning. That is the problem of the "religious outlook" in a nutshell.

The problem itself cannot be settled by a few slogans. It demands concentrated attention, much mental work and, above all, patience, the rarest thing in our restless and crazy time.

I was nineteen when this letter was written. The times seem even more restless and crazy now at fifty-three. I appreciate Prairie and Unitarian Universalism as a place to experience the wholeness of the world, to be rooted and to find meaning in my life.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Attention Ye Savers!

The most fun of all our recycling chores is the gathering of materials for Nifty Gifty, to be held December 9th. Children make gifts on that day, starting at 9:30 AM downstairs. We need large spools, small yogurt tubs, styrofoam egg cartons, slender tubes such as candle cases, toilet paper rollers, and small glass jars such as the 3 inch baby food jars or short salsa jars. If your child wants to make for someone else a magnetized photo such as she gave you last year, she/he must bring a school picture.

Perhaps you have a good idea for the use of what you've been saving. If so, talk to Metje Butler or Barbara Rames.

Carol Sing

A singing get-together is planned for 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 11, at the home of Norma and Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Avenue, Madison. Bring finger foods to share. We will use the Prairie Song Book and the new UU Hymnal. Bring your new Hymnal if you have one. If you have a favorite carol which is not in one of these books, please bring along multiple copies. Also, if you have a copy of the Oxford Book of Christmas Carols, bring that, too.

UNICEF Report

Thanks to all the children who Trick or Treated for UNICEF this year: Heather Laurence, Isaac Laurence, Heidi Bosch, Mei Lien Converse, Nicolo Giorgi, Rowan Oliverson, Luke Oliverson, and any others we may have missed!

They raised \$56.79 and, with the \$55 that was raised from the decorated gourd sale, a total of \$111.79 was sent to UNICEF. We are proud of the efforts of Prairie children to help children around the world in this way.

Snow Wonder...

Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association is losing some valuable members. These wonderful Prairie Neighbors have kept our sidewalks shoveled for many snowy years (THANK YOU! WE'LL MISS YOU!). Please network with neighbors, Prairie members, guests and friends to find some folks who will be interested in bartering for use of Prairie space in exchange for their high tech snow blowing machinery and physical stamina. Oh yes, and let me know when you've found this wonderful person so I can stop worrying and looking myself!

-Karen Gross
Housing & Property Chair

RE Service Project

On Sunday, Nov. 28, about 10 children gathered to bake corn bread and blueberry muffins to send to the homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal Church when Prairie volunteers went there on Tuesday morning. The food we baked was part of the men's breakfast that morning. Thanks to Judy Skog for helping to lead the baking.

Shaarei Shamayim Invitation

On Dec. 11 at 5 PM there will be a Chanukkah celebration/Havdalan Ritual/vegetarian potluck with our friends of Shaarei Shamayim Community. This is a child-focused event so there will not be child care available. Bring a dish to pass, dreidels, havdalah candles, spice boxes, etc.

She's Movin' On

We received a note from Carolyn Briggs saying she is moving to Portland, Oregon in January. If anyone knows of interesting info about Portland they can reach her until Dec. 20 at (414) 964-6893 in Milwaukee. She will be working for the Oregon Commission for the Blind. Congratulations Carolyn, on

your move to one of the most beautiful areas in North America.



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.

A Gift Without Price

Give blood. There is a Holiday Blood Drive Thursday, December 23rd from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Dane County Forum. Bring a friend or first time donor. There will be free parking, child care is provided and Santa will be there. Last year, over 750 people gave blood for patients at area hospitals. The long holiday weekend in 1993 means we need more on the days before and after both Christmas and New Years Day. Anyone who is 17 years old, weighs at least 110 pounds and is in good health can give!

Through Our Loving Hands

A Celebration of Hope. A holiday worship service, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and area Churches, will be held for those touched by Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias on Sunday, December 12 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Lake Edge Lutheran Church 4032 Monona Drive Madison. Coffee and refreshments to follow service.

Medicines Needed!

Carolyn Dejoie will be going to Cuba soon, and invites you to send vitamins and other medicines such as aspirin, etc. for the relief of Cuban citizens. Vitamin A is especially needed because there has been an onslaught of vision problems due to vitamin deficiencies. She will collect these items at the Sunday service on December 12th at Prairie.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Dec. 12 Heidi Oliverson
Dec. 19 ??
Dec. 26 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Dec. 12 Bob Park & ??
Dec. 19 Kathy and Randy Converse
Dec. 26 ??

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

Dec. 12 Dick Bonser
Dec. 19 ??
Dec. 26 ??

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.

Music at the Sunporch

Join George Calden and Doleta Chapru at the Sunporch Cafe on Sunday, December 19th anytime between 6:00 and 9:00 PM. They will be playing international folk music on mandolin and accordion. The Sunporch is at the corner of University Avenue and Farley Street.

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. See the next page for building rental rates—please note that Prairie members also must pay for private use of Prairie's facilities.

Party Pals Sought!

I would like to find some people who want to go out for a good festive dinner on

