

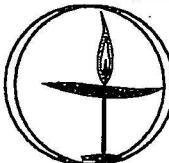
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 31, No. 23, 12-21-93

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, January 2. Submit items for January 6—20, 1994.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 26

10:00 AM

"YULETIDE FESTIVAL OF HOPE," An intergenerational service (including our traditional symbol tree). (See related story)

11:30 AM

HOLIDAY TREAT POTLUCK—bring your favorite holiday breads, fruit, cookies, and other treats to share along with our coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

12:30 PM

RE Service Project—Baking for the homeless shelter—after the service.

Sunday, January 2

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00

"WILD WINTERING." No regular RE sessions. We'll celebrate winter with cookies, hot chocolate and board games.

"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. (See related story)



...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

Tuesday, January 4

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Nettletons, 645 Sheldon Street.

Thursday, January 6

7:00 PM

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

Saturday, January 8

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace. Call Rachel at 271-2173 for more information or to let her know you are coming.

Sunday, January 9

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM

RE sessions begin again.

"EVOLVING RELIGIONS: Reconstructionist Jews And UU" presented by members of Shaarei Shamayim and Prairie. (See related story)

Sunday, January 16

10:00 AM

"HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING," led by Bob Reuschlein.

Thursday, January 20

7:00 PM

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

Monday, January 24

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK meets. Time and place will be announced in the next issue of Prairie Fire.

Today's Quote

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

-MARK TWAIN



Handmade And Handsome

Many creative and patient adults were needed to make this year's Nifty Gifty a happy and productive session, and it was that! Parents and children are grateful to these volunteers who gave their time and enthusiasm on Sunday morning, December 19: Alice and Lee Bullen, Dick Bonser, Metje Butler, Betty Jallings, Marcia Johnson, Mary Mullen, Heidi Oliversen, Bob Park, Melissa Pokorney, Anne Pryor, Barbara Rames, and Dean Schroeder. Nine different possibilities were offered to participants, including one that was very popular last year. Thanks to Lili Sandler, Emilie Dickson and Nora Bosch, our "regulars" in the smallest children's room, who assisted toddlers with their creations.

A suggestion about next year's traditional gift making day—all of us can be alert to ideas we see or hear for nature gifts of items made from recyclables. In early fall, households can begin to gather the materials needed for the new projects.

Symbol Tree/Yuletide Service

A Prairie tradition as part of our "Christmas" service is the Symbol Tree. You are

invited to bring something to hang on the tree that symbolizes a friendship, a special event, a passage, or something else of meaning in your life during the past year. Our trees have held a driver's license, handmade ornaments, and letters from a friend along with many other diverse but meaningful "symbols." Children and adults alike are welcome to tell us what their symbols mean to them. The service, entitled "Yuletide Festival of Hope," will include music, readings and dramatizations from our various holiday traditions associated with this time of year. Please also bring holiday breads, fresh fruit and other favorite holiday treats to share after the service. Come early for a harp prelude!

Newspapers and Croissants

The New Year will begin with a repeat of the popular "reading room" atmosphere of last summer's similar Sunday. Bring newspapers to share, especially unusual editions, or rolls, croissants or oranges to share. You'll get a chance to do quiet reading followed by discussion. Join us to welcome the New Year!

Evolving Religions

On Sunday, January 9, we will have an opportunity to learn about the Reconstruction Jewish movement and comparisons with the UU movement. We are delighted that two members of the Shaarei Shamayim congregation, which rents our building for services, will join Barb Park and Dick Bonser for a panel discussion.

Prairie Patter

Many thanks to the hard work of Norma Briggs and the committee appointed at the Fall Parish meeting. The recommendation of the committee to the Prairie Board's December meeting is to refinance the loan at M & I Bank. This will allow us to reduce the interest and afford the windows. The Board authorized the Officers to proceed with refinancing and to obtain bids for the windows.

Imperceptibly, day by day, the darkness expands into the light. We get up in darkness, go to work in darkness and drive home in darkness. Last week I thought—"only a few more days and the darkness will start to diminish." Thanks to electricity, the only time I'm aware of how little daylight there is this time of year is when I commute to work. This is the season to hibernate, contemplate one's navel, count one's blessings or (for some) to become depressed: Once the day's grow longer we can wake up, stretch and

expand our horizons. Join with your family and friends this season to celebrate the return of the sun.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Be a Talent Scout...

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

Fun Facts on Growth

Unitarian Universalism while a relatively small denomination, has grown steadily in recent years. In the past decade:

Total membership has increased by 15%.
The number of congregations has increased by 3%.
RE enrollment has increased by 31%.
The number of ministers in fellowship has increased by 17%.

The number of divinity school students preparing for the UU ministry has increased by 40% (with a 44% increase in women).

(from "Connections: News From The UUA," January 1994)

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.



RE SERVICE PROJECT

On Sunday, Dec. 26, we will be baking corn bread and muffins to send to the homeless shelter when Prairie volunteers go there on Tuesday morning. The food we bake will be part of the men's breakfast that morning. All RE children, Kindergarten age and older, are invited to participate. We'll begin as soon as everyone has finished eating at the pot-luck.

Go West, Young Woman!

Carolyn Briggs has up and moved—to Portland, Oregon. Visits and calls and correspondence are welcome at: 2520 SE 33rd Place, Portland, OR 97202, phone 503/232-6810.

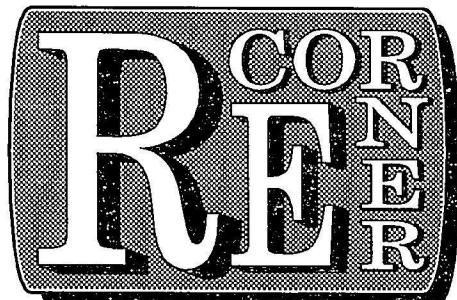
She will be working at the Oregon Commission for the Blind, teaching independent living skills and mobility to older (over 55) blind persons in the Portland tri-county area. Carolyn has been attending U-U services in DeKalb, IL and Milwaukee, WI over the last 18 months. She's discovered that there are seven U-U societies and churches in the Portland area and she's hoping that there will be one with that "Prairie Feeling" and a good choir!

Milestones

Congratulations to Peg Barratt and Will Hayes on their marriage, November 26.

Welcome to Oliver Alexander Adams, born on November 24 to Elizabeth Alexander and Paul Adams (and brother Simon).

Our sympathy to Mike and Linda Sheehy and family on the recent death of Mike's mother.



Treasure Hunting (Pre-K-I-2)

Last week this group, under the leadership of Larry Murdock, focused on UU identity. To get across the idea of individuality, the group first made robot masks from plain brown paper bags. They then acted the

same, all answered questions with the same answers, and sang "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt." Then they decorated the robot masks and answered questions individually.

A Stepping Stone Year (3-4-5)

Pursuing the theme of scientific explanations of origins, the group talked about how fossils are formed and what they can tell us about the past. They made fossils then in plaster of paris molds, a very fun project. That week was led by Paula and Rick.

The next week Jan Howe led the group in looking at how animals adapt to their environment. The story, about Charles Darwin and his studies that led to the theory of evolution, was especially meaningful to the children because he was able to take his passion and make it his vocation. To parallel Darwin's collections of biological species, children brought in their own collections to show the others.

We Believe (6-7-8)

Randy Converse led the group in exploring the importance of asking questions, seeking answers for yourself and not relying totally on the ideas of other people. They played "20 Questions," sang "How Do You Know?," made "I Wonder" poems where four questions each one wanted answers to became the basis of the poem. Randy asked a series of \$64,000 ecology questions. Each person who answered correctly (and they all did!) got a prize.

Nifty Gifty

On Dec. 19 we held our annual gift-making event. Many, many thanks to Barbara Rames for organizing the event this year, and to all those who led an activity: Melissa Porkorny, Bob Park, Dick Bonser, Marsha Johnson, Betty Jallings, Alice Bullen, Lee Bullen, Mary Mullen, Metje Butler and Dean Schroeder. Thank you all for a very fun, creative and productive morning!

Service Project

Dec. 26 is the fourth Sunday of the month, so that is the day that we will bake for the homeless shelter. After the service gather downstairs to bake some breads to send with our volunteers on Monday.

Wild Wintering

Make plans to come to Prairie on January 2! Our seasonal celebration of winter will be indoors this year (we don't think the ponds will be frozen for skating by then!). Come to Prairie that morning and we'll bake goodies to eat and play games while they bake. Bring a favorite board game to play with others. All ages of RE kids are invited.



Recycling News

Madison Recycling now pays for magazines and newspaper (1/4¢ per pound each). Even when they weren't paying for magazines (and catalogues) they would accept them—so keep on recycling. They currently pay 2¢ a pound for white paper (like all the letters that come in your junk mail) but not for anything with sticky labels or window envelopes (good only for garbage!)

Join the Crowd!

Give blood. Because the Donor Center will be closed for three days in a row at both Christmas and New Years, there will be a Holiday Blood Drive Thursday, December 23rd from 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM 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!

In early December, Kathy Borkowski and Geoff Bonser each gave a pint. Bravo! As of December 1, the three UU Societies had given a total of 107 pints of blood. At least three of these came from the new James Reeb Society.

Unlearning Oppression

A workshop with this title is being sponsored by James Reeb Unitarian-Universalist Church on January 8, 1984 at the Tenney Lapham Nursery Center, 1321 Mifflin Street, Madison. The Workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Mary Smith Arnold, Asst. Professor, and Dr. Beth Blue Swadener, Assoc. Professor, both of Kent State University. For more information, contact either Jonalu Johnstone (242-8887) or Elizabeth Green (255-5816). The suggested donation for the workshop is \$10 to \$15 per person.

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Dec. 26 ??
Jan. 2 ??
Jan. 9 Pat Cautley
Jan. 16 Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Dec. 26 ??
Jan. 2 Alice & Lee Bullen
Jan. 9 Al Nettleton
& Marian Thompson
Jan. 16 Kay Frazier & José Rodriguez

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

Dec. 26 Rachel Siegfried
Jan. 2 ??
Jan. 9 Pat Cautley
Jan. 16 ??

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 Oliversen know so she can locate a substitute.

Found:

An orthotic ankle brace. If it is yours, please hobble in and collect it from the lost and found cupboard, just inside of the kitchen at Prairie.

Room for Rent

Furnished room to rent to a female non-smoker. Huge walk-in closet, share bath and kitchen with one other woman. This room is in a sunny, quiet new home close to a woods with a walking/ski trail. All utilities, phone and laundry facilities are included. The rent is \$300 per month (negotiable).

Interested? Call Rebecca Jallings at 267-1619 days, 233-7854 after 5 PM.

