Saturday, February 12
7:00 PM
ORIENTATION MEETING at the Meetinghouse. Child care provided.

Sunday, February 13
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM
VALENTINE’S DAY INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE led by Prairie High Schoolers.

Secret Friends letter exchange begins.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH. Please bring a dish to share.

Thursday, February 17
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse. All men are invited to attend.

Saturday, February 19
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Everyone is welcome. The play will be announced later. Call Pat at 233-5795 for more information.

Sunday, February 20
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM
“PERSONAL STORIES: Encounters with Racism” led by Carolyn Dejoie with a panel of members of the community.

Secret Friends letter exchange continues.

Monday, February 21
6:30 PM
SPANISH SPEAKERS’ POTLUCK meets at the Meetinghouse. Call Rosemary at 238-4382 for a ride or for more information. (See related story)

Sunday, February 27
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM
To be announced.
Secret Friends letter exchange continues.

Today's Quote
“A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.”
-ROBERT FROST

Upham Woods Shirts...

There are 2 shirts with leaf prints left over from Upham Woods downstairs in Anne Pryor’s office. Are they yours?

Prairie Patter

I have just returned from the Sixth Annual Womanspirit gathering. This one was at First Unitarian Universalist Church in St. Louis. Women from all over the Central Midwest District met the last weekend in January for the Womanspirit Conference. It is exciting and challenging to be with 300 women who are exploring, creating, confiding and sometimes scared.

I was reminded again that some of the most exciting and challenging ideas are being shaped...
Meet each other on March 13.

Valentine’s Day Service

On February 5th, Gary Georgi and Cindy Haq, both family physicians, will present a service on the problems of access to health care and basic principles important in health care reform. Please bring your ideas about essential elements of a new health care system.

Secret Friends

This is a yearly pairing of an adult with a child for the purpose of exchanging letters. The child knows who the adult Friend is, but the adult doesn’t know who their child Friend is. Letters are exchanged for four weeks and then we’ll have a party for the Friends to meet each other on March 13.

Health for All?

On February 5th, Gary Georgi and Cindy Haq, both family physicians, will present a service on the problems of access to health care and basic principles important in health care reform. Please bring your ideas about essential elements of a new health care system.

Valentine’s Day Service

Our creative and talented high schoolers will be organizing and leading the February 13th Valentine’s Day Intergenerational Service. Emily Dickson has agreed to “get the ball rolling” and set up a planning time to get together to plan this service. Please call Emily, 246-4304, or Anne Pryor, 244-7099, if you are a high schooler to find out how you can help. (This can save her making a call to you).

Spanish Speakers’ Potluck

Kate, Bill Audrey and Rosemary braved winter’s doldrums and enjoyed a terrific meal, as well as some Spanish conversation, at the January meeting of the Spanish Speakers’ Potluck. Visitors Barb Park and son Ian, dropping in for other reasons, stayed to check out the edibles. Ask Barb, if you want to know whether we eat well! Our February reunion will also be held at the Prairie Meetinghouse. Please join us and bring a dish to pass if that’s convenient. If you need further information or a ride, call Rosemary at 238-4382.

Personal Stories...

...Encounters with Racism. One way to better understand racism and work toward eliminating it is to hear the stories of individuals who have faced racism. Carolyn Dejoie will lead the discussion for this service on February 20th and is inviting several African-American members of the Madison community to share their experiences. We hope this will enable each of us to be more aware of racism wherever it occurs, be it in our social contacts, our jobs, or our schools.

WHALECOAST 94

Three UU churches invite you to explore California’s spectacular ‘WHALECOAST’ from the Channel Islands National Park to Carmel’s Pt. Lobos sealife preserve and everything in between: a whale watch boat trip, shops and galleries in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Cambria, Hearst’s San Simeon castle, Rick Masten at home in Big Sur, the aquarium at Monterey.

Travel by train and tour bus, parties and accommodations with local UU’s.

March 19-26. Also Whale Watch Weekend, March 19-21
Write ‘WHALECOAST’ UU church, 4949 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003; or call (805) 485-7695 or (805) 644-3898 for a brochure.

Thanks...

To Laura Riggs for faithfully calling in our service titles to the newspapers’ Church Directory all fall. Marian Thompson and other members of the Program Committee are taking over this vital link between Prairie and the community.

An Open Letter

Dear Prairie Friends:

With the first anniversary of my cancer diagnosis, I want to say thank you for being there for me. I don’t think I could have gone through the months without you. You gave me the powerful healing tool of caring. You showed me what Unitarian Universalist community is all about. Because of the urgency cancer brought into my life, I was given the gift of knowing I am loved and cared about. Thank you for that. “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all.”

-Best Thoughts
Cinda LaMar.
5. The average penalty for dumping toxic waste in European-American neighborhoods is $355,566 compared to $55,318 in African-American communities.
   a. $355,566
   b. $243,775
   c. $120,493
   d. $76,831

(Source: The Egg, Spring 1993, p. 11.)

6. What estimated percentage of US children are exposed to potentially damaging levels of lead?
   a. 5%
   b. 10%
   c. 15%
   d. 20%

(Source: The Egg, Spring 1993, p. 11.)

Answers:
   96%
   91%
   86%
   81%
   76%
   71%
   66%
   61%
   56%
   51%
   46%
   41%
   36%
   31%
   26%
   21%
   16%
   11%
   6%
   1%

We Believe: grades 6-7-8
One week this group explored the idea of harmony with Randy Converse. First they made water instruments by filling glass jars with differing levels of water. They tried to be harmonious by playing "Hot Cross Buns" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Next, the discussed karate and the civil disobedience of Martin Luther King, Jr, especially with the idea of sending a one-pint anonymous gift to some sick or injured patient in February?

A Stepping Stone Year: grades 3-4-5
Paula Pachciarz and Rick Ruecking led the group one week in exploring the idea of the uniqueness of each individual and how each person is tied to those who came before. They interviewed each other about their favorite things and made a chart about what they found out. They discussed their similarities and differences, and read a story about the place of individuals in evolution.

The next week they talked about the Buddha, his birth and life, what he stands for, his uniqueness and each of theirs. After hearing the story of Buddha’s birth the children told their own birth stories. Then they made small statues of the Buddha from modeling clay. Paula Pachciarz led this session.

Jan Howe led the next week’s session on Emily Jennings Stowe, a Canadian woman suffragist and Unitarian. The children cut out pictures from magazines of people working or kids playing to show that both men and women can do jobs equally well. They read a story about Emily Stowe, voted on which snack and which drink to have, and sang a song about Ms. Stowe. (Since the tune of the song was unknown, the kids had fun improvising their own melody.)

Treasure Hunting (Pre-K-1-2)
Larry Murdock led the group in an exploration of different points of view. First they read the story "Five Silly Fishermen." Then they looked at the picture riddles in the book I Spy, trying to find various items using different points of view. They ended by drawing scribbles and trying to find pictures in the scribbles.

Social Action
Anonymous Valentines?
Among the blood donors of Prairie UU Society’s One-A-Week Club, Judy Skog, Heidi Oliversen, Paula Pachciarz, and Linda Sheehy each gave a pint in January. Will you send a one-pint anonymous gift to some sick or injured patient in February?

Allied Drive Food Pantry
In January, one family made a New Year resolution to bring something to the food pantry basket each week. Please do the same.

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

Feb. 6  Kathy Helm
Feb. 13  Paula Pachciarz
Feb. 20  Mike & Pam Nett
Feb. 27  Mary Mullen

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Feb. 6  ??
Feb. 13  Richard Bonser
Feb. 20  ??
Feb. 27  Anne Urbanski

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.

Telling the Story
Fran Zell will be teaching a writing class called Telling the Story at Prairie this winter. It is a memoir writing class geared for people who wish to reflect on their lives in either fictional or non-fictional forms. The class will meet Thursday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for six weeks, beginning on February 10. Cost is $55.00, which includes the fee for photocopied handouts. Please contact Fran Zell, 233-0213, for more information.