

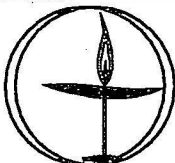
Return to:
Editor
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Jack Jallings, Archivist
4761 Schneider Dr.
Oregon, WI 53575

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			

Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 32, No. 4, 2-15-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, February 27. Submit items for March 3-17, 1994.

CALENDAR

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.

Sunday, February 27

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM

"Impressions of Cuba" presented by Carolyn Dejoie. (See related story)
Secret Friends letter exchange continues.

Thursday, March 3

7:00 PM

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

Sunday March 6

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM

"RACISM: How Responsible Are We?" presented by Bonnie-Jeanne Casey, ministerial intern at First Society.

Today's Quote

"Begin in the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop."

-LEWIS CARROLL



Prairie Patter

Have you been reading our new song book *Singing the Living Tradition*? We have been using it during our morning services along with the Prairie Songbook. I've found it a useful resource for closing words at the end of the Sunday Morning Service.

Last week after Gary Giorgi and Cindy Haq led the service about Health Care I found:

"Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. Those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing." James 1

The spirit of the morning was faithful to our UU tradition. Studying the issues, being informed about the problems, debating our concerns and acting on our beliefs.

It is comforting to find that we are like many other UU societies in North America. It is also startling to discover our differences. We are an association of congregations so we work at reconciling our differences and honoring our uniqueness. Prairie takes pride in being a "do it ourselves" religious community. The next several weeks the Committee on Committee's will be asking you to serve Prairie. Perhaps as a lay minister, a Board Officer, a committee member; help us continue to be an active, vital "do it ourselves" Prairie UU Society.

Blessed be-

Julie Bonser

President

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.

...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

Impressions of Cuba

Carolyn Dejoie, a Prairie member who recently visited Cuba, will share her observations of the current conditions of daily life in Cuba. She will also discuss causes of these difficulties and actions that can be taken to bring about changes.

AYS Training Offered

This is a weekend training session to be held in Ellisville, MO on March 11-13th. AYS is a course on sexuality for teenagers that we offer every three years. If anyone is interested in taking this training in order to lead the sessions with teens, please contact Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

Curriculum Planning

If there are people interested in helping plan future use of curricula in the RE program, they may want to take this training. It will be held on March 17-19th in Crystal Lake, IL. Contact Anne Pryor at 244-7099 if you are interested.

Anniversary Celebration

The weekend of March 5/6 this year, First Society members will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of their minister emeritus, Max Gaebler. The Rev. Mr. Gaebler, who was one of the denomination's most influential voices during his tenure in Madison, is presently serving as interim minister of the Vancouver, B.C., church. He will be attending the celebration with Mrs. Gaebler.

The celebration will be enhanced by the involvement of the Rev. John A. Buehrens, President of the UUA, who will be the speaker for a celebratory dinner on Saturday, March 6th. Prairie members and friends are invited to attend.

The celebration will continue with a free symposium at the Meeting House on Sunday afternoon (1:30-5:00 PM). The subject will be "*Balancing Diversity and Commonality in America*" and Paul Conlin, history professor at Vanderbilt University, will keynote the proceedings.

The Saturday dinner, at the Inntowner Hotel, 2424 University Avenue, will be served at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$20 per person including wine, tax, and tip. For reservations, use the form on page 3 and mail to: First Unitarian Society, Attn. Dinner Committee, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705. The deadline is March 1. For additional information, call Joyce Bartell at 833-6262 or Hatheway Hasler at 238-1993.



Acts of Kindness

Way back in November at the Thanksgiving Intergenerational I put up pieces of paper to collect suggestions from us at Prairie as to what we can do as random, or planned, acts of kindness. Here, at long last, are those suggestions:

- Be kind to those who don't seem to need acts of kindness, like NCO's, police officers, and assistant principals.
- Always try to make parents with young children at ease (they never *feel* at ease unless someone does).
- Say thank you to someone not often thanked, or better yet, send a note expressing your appreciation. It will often be kept and re-read. There is one man who makes it a practice to send a thank you note to someone *every day*. Imagine!
- When driving let the other car go first through the left turn, or the foot traveler cross in front.
- Always welcome food, the universal medication, when someone is down, up, sick or dealing with any major changes.
- Smile at people.

Thank you all for the suggestions. I've had several people tell me that they purchased the book and passed it on to someone else. Kindness is a potentially great form of revolution!

Secret Friends

On Sunday, Feb. 13th, we had our first letter exchange between this year's batch of secret friends. There will be three more weeks of letter exchanges and then on March 13 we'll have a party after the service where the friends can finally meet face to face.

Remember, if you can't be at Prairie on one of the letter exchange days, send your letter along with someone else, or mail it to the building. I'll be sure to pass it along.

If there is anyone who still wants to be a Secret Friend this year, child or adult, please let me know.

Treasure Hunting (Grades K-1-2)

Larry Murdock led a session on free choice, a Unitarian Universalist tradition. First they read a story about a little girl who had to choose between a bossy friend and a cooperative one. This was a story about Ruth Gibson's childhood (Ruth being the Minister of Religious Education at First Society). Then they played "Corners," in which choices are given with corners of the room assigned to each choice. The children then go to the corner they choose. They ended the morning with a "Free Choice Play Day," where the children could choose between playing with blocks, marbles, trains or books.

A Stepping Stone Year (Grades 3-4-5)

Rick Ruecking led the group in a session that focused on the meaning of art. As a focal point, they learned about Arthur Lismer, Unitarian art teacher. They had lots of good discussion and good opportunities to draw too.

The following week, again led by Rick, the focus was the Arctic adventures of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a UU anthropologist and explorer. They enjoyed making more art, drawing their interpretation of winter.

We Believe (Grades 6-7-8)

Randy Converse led a session on the theme "We all deserve respect." First they did an exercise where each individual occupied their own space balloon, and then let others occupy them. Another exercise was making masks and acting out a play from Uganda called *Kumba*. In this play the character Kumba overcame his preoccupation about being different and came to contribute to his community as a potter.

They had an especially interesting discussion about what the world would be like if everyone looked the same. Would there be more or less crime? Would we be more or less empathetic? Everything we see and do would be a reflection of ourselves. Would we need name tags or something similar to create differences?

The following week Bob Purvis led the group on a session that focused on "caring." First they thought about who they each cared for, who cares for them, and then about what it would be like without all the things we each have. They read a story about Buddha and a barking dog and then played the "Safe Day Game," an interesting game that switches from competition to cooperation as its mode of action.

YRUU Conference

"Lepre-Con," a conference for UU Junior High students, will be held on March 18 and 19 at First Society. There will be lots of

fun and interesting activities like beadworking, tie-dying, Wink, and inventing your own religion. If you want to attend, contact Genni at 233-6693 or Andy at 273-1035.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Feb. 20 Mike & Pam Nett
Feb. 27 Mary Mullen

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Feb. 20 Kerry & Rachel Bauer
Feb. 27 Alice & Lee Bullen

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

Feb. 20 ??
Feb. 27 Anne Urbanski

Descriptions for each of these volunteer jobs are on the bulletin board over the mi-

crowave 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. See the attached sheet for building rental rates—please note that Prairie members also must pay for *private* use of Prairie's facilities.

Summer Job Opportunities

Camp UniStar, our Unitarian-Universalist family camp for Prairie Star District, has a variety of summer jobs open. They are looking for cook, waterfront director, children's program coordinator, maintenance, assistant director, and general help. Helpful skills include first aid, cooking, maintenance, lifeguarding, boating, arts/crafts and drama.

Camp UniStar is a beautiful, yet rustic island retreat in the Chippewa National Forest, 15 miles from Bemidji, MN. Staff receive competitive compensation; work six days per week, and have access to sail and motor boats.

For more information and an application form, write Lynda Olson 2530 Upton Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416, or call her at (612) 377-9890.

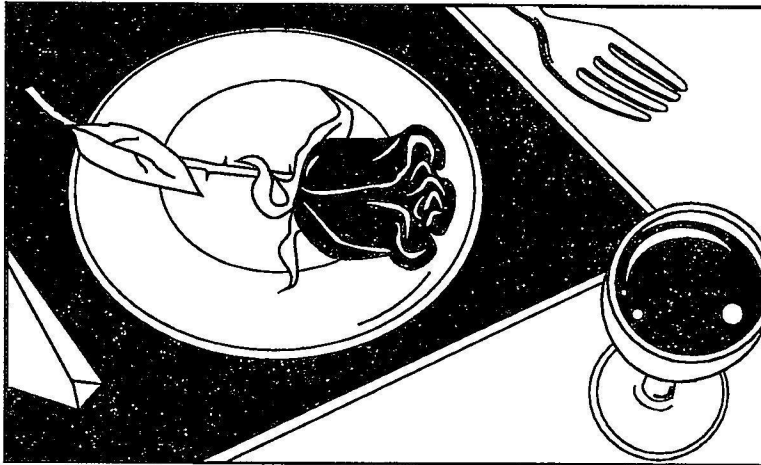
Youth Choir Organizing

The Madison Civic Center will present the 1994 Gospel Celebration on Saturday, May 7, 1994. Part of the celebration will be the All-City Gospel Youth Choir, directed, as in previous years, by Carola Gaines, the director of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Children's Choir. The Civic Center is seeking interested children between the ages of 6 and 12 to participate in the choir. Both Erik and Katrina Schroeder are going to participate this year, and they wonder if any other Prairie kids are interested in coming along. If your children are interested, please let Orange Schroeder know and call Anne Katz, Community Outreach Coordinator, at the Civic Center, phone 266-6550.

Chocolate Festival!

Orange Tree Imports announces the *Chocolate Festival*, Saturday, March 5 at the Brittany Cafe in the Firststar Plaza on the Square. The event is a benefit for the Madison Children's Choir and the Wisconsin Dance Ensemble. There will be two seatings (6:30 & 8:30 PM) for this elegant evening of endless chocolate, wonderful music, dance displays, chocolate vendors, a chocolate raffle, and more... Be sure to ask about the amateur Chocolate Baking Contest, too! Tickets are \$15 at Orange Tree Imports and Valley Bank Shorewood, Downtown, and Mineral Point Road.

Orange & Dean Schroeder



GAEBLER ANNIVERSARY REGISTRATION FORM

We (I) will attend the dinner. A check for \$_____ (\$20 per person) payable to First Unitarian Society is enclosed. Names of persons attending (please print) and choice of meal (roast beef or vegetarian lasagne) are listed below.
