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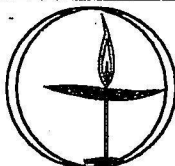
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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Vol. 32, No. 6, 3-15-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, March 27. Submit items for March 31-April 14, 1994.

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 17

7:00 PM

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

Sunday March 20

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9:40 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"THE RANKING GAME" led by Pat Watkins. (See related story)

Monday, March 21

6:00 PM

Spanish-speaking Potluckers will meet at Prairie at 6 pm to carpool to Audrey Shomos' in Evansville. Please call Audrey (882-4070) or Rosemary (238-4382) for a ride or information.

Sunday March 27

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE" led by Judy Skog and Nancy Graham.

NO R.E. Classes today.
RE Baking service project.

Thursday, March 31

7:00 PM

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

Sunday, April 3

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9:40 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"THE RITES OF SPRING" an Intergenerational Service led by Anne Pryor.

11:30 AM

POTLUCKLUNCH—please bring a dish to share.

Monday, April 4

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the Nettletons.

Friday, April 8

7:00 PM

NEWCOMERS' DESSERT with the Prairie Board.

Saturday, April 9

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Tim Fast and Rosemary Dorney, 4205 Odana Road. (See related story)

Sunday, April 10

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9:40 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"SINGING AND SHOUTING: the First 100 Years of Universalist History" the first in Barb Park's lay ministry series.

R.E. Children's Spirit Circle, downstairs.

Today's Quote

"Perhaps I know best why it is man alone who laughs; he alone suffers so deeply that he had to invent laughter."

-FRIEDRICH WILHELM NIETZSCHE

NEWS & VIEWS

The Ranking Game

This final program in the racial just series will explore, accept or refute, and rank by degree of perniciousness the privileges of the dominant society which are denied to minorities, as given in the 1993 GA monograph on "White Privilege." This topic was dealt with in part in Nancy Graham's earlier February program. We will explore the topic in greater depth, using small group discussions, followed by open discussion and sharing of conclusions.

Prairie Patter

The days imperceptibly grow longer. Now it is light before I wake up in the morning. I arrive home from work while it is still light out. Just 3 months ago light was a scarce commodity. Next week many people will celebrate the spring equinox.

...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

Thinking about the balance of light and dark and working to achieve balance in my life, I was reminded of Rev. Robert Fulgum's essay—*Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

Remember the line about play some, work some...and when we go out into the world hold hands and look both ways. Balance is important in our lives. In the cycles of nature we have equal light and dark twice a year so we may take another lesson that a lot of something is necessary also. The generation of seeds is important in the spring however we need the long days of summer to be able to harvest. We are learning more about why we need the dark days of winter. Some speculate that this is our time to reflect on the rest of the year and what we learned.

Every year in the spring I find the quality of light enchanting. I want to go out in the country, find wild flowers and see the new green growth in the fields. Celebrate!

Blessed be—
Julie Bouser

President

Full Moon Ritual

Saturday March 26th @ 7:30 pm, Women's Full Moon Ritual Circle will be held at First Unitarian Society 900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI Check the front door for listing of location.

Prairie Writer and Composers

To celebrate Earth Day, May 1, we are asking you to use your creativity to help celebrate our goal "to be one with the natural world." Write a poem, a memory or, a piece of music, to honor "Mother Earth." We will share original pieces in this service of celebration together. Contact Fran Zell, who will coordinate this service, or Aileen Nettleton about your contribution. Thanks.

New: Children's Choir

Thanks to the success of the adult choir, we've been inspired to get together all the children in grades 3-8 who would like to sing. Eight singers came last Sunday and made a good start trying out the music.

We'll be rehearsing right after the adult choir at 9:40 every Sunday except March 27. On Sunday May 22 we will sing for the Transitions Intergenerational Service.

Parents—we need all the voices we can muster, so please encourage your child to join us! Thanks.

Dean S., Paula P., Carl W.

General Assembly Resolutions

*Be An Informed Voter
Vote Early, Vote Often*

There will be 3 meetings at Prairie on GA Resolutions for 1994:

- Wed. March 16, 7:30 PM—Stop Arms Sales led by Bob Reuschlein
- Sunday March 27, 10:00 AM Service—Environmental Justice led by Judy Skog and Nancy Graham.
- Wed April 13, 7:30 PM—A Healthy Start in Life led by Peg Barratt

Environmental Justice—What the heck is it and what does it have to do with People of Color and UU's? There is a resolution before the UU General Assembly supporting Environmental Justice. Come learn more, so that we can instruct delegates to GA on our views.

Prairie Playreaders

This informal group is open to all who think they might enjoy reading a play aloud without having rehearsed it beforehand. The host/hostess chooses the play, usually reading it through in order to be able to assign roles. Some people are new at this, some have been doing it for years, so skill levels vary. If you're exceptionally timid, you can just sit and listen. The more people we have attending, the greater the variety of plays we can read.

Some plays are strictly for fun, some have a "message," and occasionally—if the play hasn't been too long!—we get into discussions about what we've read. The group usually meets once monthly from September through May or June. In late August or early September, there is a meeting to set dates for the year (so they won't) conflict with your circle dinners, concert or play tickets, etc.) and mention plays we might like to read. But as often as not, the play is no decided on till nearer the date of reading. (We have not yet chosen ours, but it will probably be a serious one, since the March play was pretty funny.)

In another year or two, Playreaders will celebrate their 25th anniversary!

If you have any questions, or need a ride, please call us.

Tim and Rosemary

(238-4382)



Attention Prairie Women

Please join us for our first Prairie Women's Group on April 10, 1994, from 11:30 to 1:30 PM in the downstairs lounge. Bring a light lunch item to share (beverage, cheese, bread, fruit, etc.). Our initial goal is to get to know each other better followed in the future by any number of enjoyable activities. If you have questions, contact Kathy Converse at 238-1856, Jennifer Parker at 246-4304, or Cindy Haq at 845-8065.

Quiz: Test Yourself

1. The developing world continues to shell out, on average, nearly _____ million dollars daily for arms, ammunition, and military hardware.

- a. 20
- b. 35
- c. 62
- d. 70

2. How many major weapons have been terminated in the first Clinton budget?

- a. none
- b. 5
- c. 8
- d. 11

3. Between 1980 and 1989, the United States provided Somalia with \$600 million in military aid and cash sales. In an impoverished country of six million people, this equals _____ per person in military aid and sales for the decade.

- a. \$30
- b. \$75
- c. \$100
- d. \$150

4. In almost _____ percent of all Third World countries, military spending surpasses the combined public expenditures on health and education.

- a. 8
- b. 12
- c. 16
- d. 20

5. The US currently provides weapons to how many countries with authoritarian governments?

- a. none
- b. no one really knows
- c. 34
- d. 59

6. The average American family has spent over \$20,000 on the military since 1975.

- a. False; each family has spent over \$50,000
- b. True

Answers:

- 6. (False)
- 5. (59)
- 4. (27)
- 3. (001\$)
- 2. (none)
- 1. (7)



Passover Seder

On Sunday, March 27th at 5:00 PM at Prairie, there will be a community Passover Seder for Shaarei Shamayim, our tenants, and for Prairie members and friends. We are invited to join with them to celebrate Pesah, the Feast of Freedom. Please mail the registration form in this issue if you plan to attend. The meal will be a potluck dinner. If you are not an experienced Kosher cook, please see the attached guide for instructions. The small fee requested will cover the costs of ritual foods, flowers, and printed materials. Please note that the registration forms must be mailed to Dotty Lieber no later than March 20th.



Treasure Hunting (Grades K-1-2)

There are some good readers in this group! Each week the children take turns reading a story. Last week, Rachael Baure and Judy Wacker read a story about relatives who came to visit. After that, the group turned again to their Mother's Day project. They all learned a chemistry lesson in the process, that colored glue, if left outside in a car in sub-freezing temperatures, will freeze. When it thaws out its texture changes completely, from a liquid to a pliable solid akin to play-dough! Shirley Grindrod and Larry Miller-Murdock are the leaders for this group.

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

Paula Pachciarz led a session about the life and ideas of Angus Mac Lean, a UU with strong beliefs about the value of working with one's own hands. Paula brought in the needed materials for the kids to have a wood-working session, something which they children really enjoyed. The group also had a fascinating discussion about their opinions on hunting and eating meat.

The following week, Rick Ruecking introduced what will be a series of sessions on the topic of death. This first one focused on helping the children to understand the universality of death and that sorrow is necessary and ok. After starting off with their own Joys and Sorrows sharing, they read the story of Buddha's advise to a woman whose young son had died. They made masks and acted out the "Mustard Seed Medicine" during a second reading. The following discussion was animated and thoughtful.

We Believe (Grades 6-7-8)

The freedom to search for truth was the theme of a session led by Bob Purvis. They discussed Darwin, the collections that he made and the way he studied plants and animals. They discussed the similarities between plants and animals and drew pictures of trees and flowers. After reading the analogous story of Jumping Frog, they discussed Darwin's conflict with established theories and religious beliefs of creation. They made masks and acted out the "Mustard Seed Medicine" during a second reading. The following discussion was animated and thoughtful.

Randy Converse led the following week's session, focusing on the importance of the democratic process by enacting a voting session of the United Nations. Each person first created a nation that wanted to be a part of the Security Council. Then, each tried to convince the other nations that they were worthy of being on the Security Council by talking about the cultures each had and what they would do to foster world peace if they were on the Security Council. Then they all voted for which nation should fill the vacancy on the Council, and not all voted for themselves! The exercise proved to evoke thoughtful and creative responses as to how nations could promote peace.



Free Clinic

The South Side Medic Clinic is available for people who need primary health care services and who do not have a doctor or health insurance. This clinic is run by volunteer faculty, residents and medical students from the UW Medical School and provides care on Saturday mornings. Care for acute illnesses, physical exams and medication management is available. The clinic offers only simple, on-site lab tests. Cindy Haq, the medical director (and a member of Prairie) says the Clinic has served over 400 patients since opening in November, 1992. The clinic is trying to provide quality primary health care to those in need, to teach medical students the principles of equity in access to care, and to illustrate problems with our current health care system.

The clinic is located at 825 Hughes Place (behind McDonald's on South Park St.) in the City of Madison's Health and Family Center. Please encourage eligible people in need of care to call 277-3338 Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.

Housing Discrimination

Housing discrimination is illegal in Madison. For example, did you know that it is illegal to deny housing because you have children?

Also, the owner must allow changes to be made to an apartment necessary because of your disability.

It is also illegal to deny housing because you receive assistance.

These are only a few examples of how you are protected. If you would like more information about other illegal forms of discrimination, or if you believe you have been discriminated against, call the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission at 266-4910.

Madison Equal Opportunities
Commission
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Room 500
Madison, WI 53710

