

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. 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

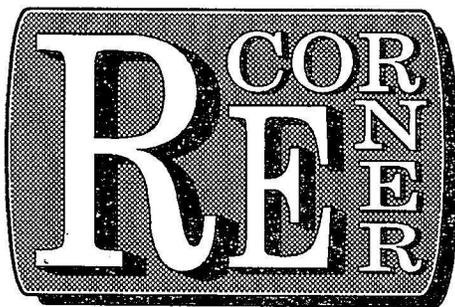
Answers:

- 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

# MISCELLANY

## Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Mar. 20	Barbara Rames
Mar. 27	Nancy Graham
Apr. 3	??
Apr. 10	??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Mar. 20	Kathy Converse & Marian Thompson
Mar. 27	??
Apr. 3	Heidi Oliverson & Kerry Bauer
Apr. 10	Marilyn Peters & Rosemary Dorney

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

Mar. 20	Barbara Rames
Mar. 27	Richard Bonser
Apr. 3	Rachel Siegfried
Apr. 10	??

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.

## Building Use

Prairie members who are affiliated with groups who rent Prairie should take responsibility for payment to Prairie. If you're going to use the building, call Rachel Siegfried 271-2173 for rates and reservations. We need advance notice, preferably two weeks, to schedule the use of the building. *Please note that Prairie members also must pay for private use of Prairie's facilities.* Building use rules are posted in the kitchen.

## A Question of Balance

What is darkness to you? What is light? Come explore both at **BALANCING DARK AND LIGHT**, a day-long retreat at the First Unitarian Society on April 9th with Nancy Vedder-Shults (a recent UUWF Feminist Theology Award winner). We will look inward for our own fertile darkness and the light which illuminates it, using guided visualizations, ritual, stories and songs (including several from Nancy's recent recording Chants for the Queen of Heaven). \$55 for the day/\$40 for UUWF or Alliance members. Send your name and address with check (payable to Nancy Vedder-Shults) to 2810 Gregory Street, Madison, WI 53711. For more info, call Nancy at 231-3362.

## Piano Tuning!

Does your piano need tuning? Warren Park, Bob Park's brother, will be visiting Madison from March 30 to April 3. He has tuned pianos at Prairie and at Prairie member's homes on a number of previous visits and is available for more tuning and repair jobs on this visit. Call Bob or Barb at 273-8775 to arrange a visit.

## For Sale

(new)  
1 486SX 25mh IBM Clone PC - 40 MB Hard Drive Mini Tower, 3 1/2 Disk Drive, w/monitor: \$625.95

1 486DX 33mh IBM Clone with Super Work Station 210 MB Hard Drive, SVGA Monitor (Color), 2VLB upgradeable - more! DOS 6.2 Windows 3.1—\$1,495

Call Jose at Bit By Bit PC Sales—414/648-8190

## Used Book Sale

The Westside Coalition for the Aging Segoe Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace, annual used book sale will be held June 4 thru June 8. Donations of books can be dropped off at the Center Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM or call 238-0196 for pick-up or special time.



## Registration Form for Shaarei Shamayim/Prairie UU Passover Seder

There is a \$6 per non-member \$4 per member fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of adults attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ # and ages of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_ I/We will volunteer for set-up before Seder

*Make checks payable to Shaarei Shamayim* I/We will volunteer for cleanup after Seder

Mail to Dotty Lieber by 3-20-94  
534 Lakeside  
Madison, WI 53715