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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

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|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
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| 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. 7, 3-29-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, April 10. Submit items for April 14-28, 1994.

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 31

7:00 PM

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

Sunday, April 3

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

7:30 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

"ROOTS: Our Personal Religious Heritage" the first in Barb Park's lay ministry series.

Dedication of Oliver Alexander-Adams (See related story)

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

Monday, April 11

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, April 17

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9:40 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"SINGING AND SHOUTING: Universalist History" the second in Barb Park's lay ministry series.

Sunday, April 24

9:00 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9:40 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 AM

"THE EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSALIST IDEAS: How Did We Get From There To Here?" the third in Barb Park's lay ministry series.

Saturday, April 30

R.E. SPRING FLING Party and Overnight

Today's Quote

"There was no respect for youth when I was young, and now that I am old, there is no respect for age. I missed it coming and going."

-J. B. PRIESTLEY



Intergenerational Service

Join us for a celebration of the end of winter, the start of that wonderful season of life and rebirth—Spring, and the holiday of Easter. There will be lots of music, some games and a dance or two. Everyone who comes to the service should bring two decorated eggs with them (hard boiled, please!).

Prairie Patter

I started writing Prairie Patter as a way of having personal contact with members and friends of Prairie; and to inform you about what helps keep the Society functioning. I found that as our Bond of Union states, "we need one another and our futures are inescapably bound together." For us to have a religious community that affirms our common humanity takes all of us doing our part to make it happen. When we have a Sunday Service, the Program Committee has coordinated with: the speaker and/or the lay minister; the newsletter editor; the person who sends announcements to the newspaper; the musicians; R.E.; the person who sets up the chairs and the greeters and has produced the order of service. For us to have our coffee, a

...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

welcome volunteer arrives early to make coffee and set out the cups, several other folks graciously clean up the kitchen. These are some of the most visible examples of how we pull together to provide a worship service on Sunday mornings. Almost weekly I learn another piece of the mystery of how we thrive.

At the last board meeting we looked at the year end statement for 1993. Together, we contributed more than 100% for pledges. This is in addition to the auction and yard sale, the concert to raise funds for music. This year we will be getting the new windows for the upstairs. The Board discussed how the meeting room would look with new window trim, as a result the Housing and Property Committee met several times to plan some refurbishing in the main room. Thank you for all the work and dedication to our Society.

Blessed be-

-Julie Bouser
President

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.

Myths Of Time And History...

What do Moses in the Promised Land and Dorothy in the Land of Oz have in common? Come to our study group on myths and find out!

Moses, Dorothy and who-knows-who-else will pop up in a five-week study group I'll be facilitating in April and May. The study group discussion will be based on a short book called *Myths of Time and History* by Alice Blair Wesley, a UU Minister. I will facilitate the group using a UU study guide written by Rev. Denise Tracy.

The group will run for five consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., beginning on April 20 and ending on May 18. We will meet in one of the RE classrooms downstairs at Prairie. There will be a fee of \$10.00 per person, which includes the cost of the Wesley book and photocopying for the classes.

I would like to have between 5 and 12 people in this class; I will probably cancel it if fewer than five people register. If you are

interested in participating in what promises to be a very interesting group, please contact me at 267-0573 days or 258-8269 evenings BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, so that I can order copies of the book in time for everyone to get their own copy a few days before the class starts. I look forward to seeing many of you in this group.

-Anne Urbanski

Dedication...

Paul Adams and Elizabeth Alexander's son Oliver will be dedicated at the service on April 10. In keeping with Prairie tradition, members and friends of Prairie are asked to bring an 8 1/2 x 11 page to put into a looseleaf book for Oliver. In the past these pages have consisted of poetry, artwork, letters, songs, collages, recipes, ever feathers and birchbark! On April 3, Paul and Elizabeth will bring brother Simon's book if you would like ideas for what to give a brand new person!

-Elizabeth Alexander

Prairie UU Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Prairie UU Society will meet Sunday April 24 at 12:45 PM. The agenda will be election of officers, election of Committee on Committee members, and delegates to General Assembly.

Parents' Group

The group for parents of young children will continue to meet the first Wednesday (9:30-11:30 AM) and third Thursday (3:30-5:30 PM) of each month, with the sponsorship of the Alliance. Wednesdays, we'll have a play group focus. Thursday meetings will have an adult focus with changing programs based on group interests and child care will be provided. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 6, at First Unitarian Society. We'll be in the infant room and adjoining classroom area. Feel free to come and be part of our evolution. We all have schedules to juggle but it feels great to connect with some other parents. If you'd like more information, call Sandy Miskelly at 238-3992 or Elizabeth Keating at 836-3987.

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

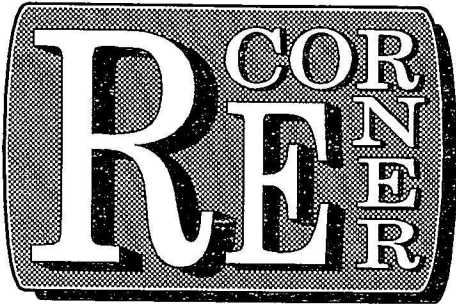
you have questions, contact Kathy Converse at 238-1856, Jennifer Parker at 246-4304, or Cindy Haq at 845-8065.

Quiz: Test Yourself

1. It is estimated that between 2 million and _____ American children receive inadequate nutrition.
 - a. 2.5 million
 - b. 3 million
 - c. 4.7 million
 - d. 5.5 million
2. What percentage of food stamp households contain children?
 - a. 33%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 58%
 - d. 66%
3. The US had done a worse job of reducing child poverty than any other wealthy industrialized democracy. From 1979 to 1989, the US Gross National Product grew more than one-fifth while child poverty increased by what percent?
 - a. 10%
 - b. 17%
 - c. 21%
 - d. 30%
4. According to the US Census Bureau, what percentage of the poor received no government assistance in 1990?
 - a. 12%
 - b. 18%
 - c. 21%
 - d. 28%
5. Iron deficiency often leads to anemia and behavioural and intellectual performance problems. What percentage of children of low income have iron deficiency?
 - a. 5%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 15%
 - d. 20%
6. For every dollar spent on pregnant women in the WIC program, the average savings in Medicaid costs for both mother and newborn is about _____.
 - a. \$0.50
 - b. \$1.50
 - c. \$3.00
 - d. \$5.50

Answers:

- 00¢\$ 9
- %07 5
- %87 4
- %17 3
- %99 2
- 1. 5.5 million



Treasure Hunting; Grades K-1-2

Based on a story about how everyday can be Valentine's Day, this group reminisced about how they celebrated Valentine's Day in Feb. and made Valentines to share. Larry Miller Murdock and Shirley Grinrod led the session.

A Stepping Stone Year; Grades 3-4-5

Jan Howe led this group in an exploration of the Wintuk Indians' beliefs about death. While Jan read a story about the Wintuks, the children made people and animals out of pipe cleaners. They then glued them to a cardboard circle world. There was a lot of sharing of feelings about death and the Wintuks' beliefs as represented in the story.

We Believe; Grades 6-7-8

In a session on working out problems together, Bob Purvis had these kids list things that make them angry and brainstormed ways they can share limited resources. They also read about Emily Greene Balch, one of the founders of WILPF.

Secret Friends

This year's Secret Friends letter writing program ended with a very fun party on March 13. Many, many thanks to all the wonderfully generous people who helped wash all those dishes, and clean up after the event!

Conference Opportunities

The RE program at Prairie has some funds available to help support youth who would like to attend larger UU events. If you are interested in attending any of the conferences listed below, or a UU camp that you

know about and would like to get some financial assistance from Prairie, please contact either Dean Schroeder (256-8813) or Anne Pryor (244-7099).

Youth Caucus at General Assembly

This summer at General Assembly (June 23-28 in Fort Worth, Texas) UU youth from ages 14 to 20 will again have the opportunity of participating in the Youth Caucus. This is a tradition since 1974, where young UU's attend General Assembly and also meet with other youth from the denomination.

Housing will be at the Remington Hotel, three blocks from the convention center. Three UUA staff members and an adult advisor will also be in the youth housing. Members in the youth caucus do not have to stay at the Remington. Youth who are under age 18, regardless of where they stay, must have an adult sponsor who is attending GA.

In addition to Prairie's limited funding, scholarships of up to \$100 are available through the Unitarian Sunday School Society. Applications for the USSS scholarship, as well as to register to stay at the Remington, are due May 20. Ask Anne Pryor for an application form if you're interested. If you want more info on the Youth Caucus, contact the Youth Office at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, 617-742-2100 ext. 350, 351 or 352.

Continental Conference 1994

This year's Con Con will be held at Camp Emery in Muskegon, MI from August 1-7. Con Con, the annual continental conference of about 150 Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, is a week of sharing, learning, exchanging ideas, giving support and having fun. To register or to get more information about Con Con and the planned workshops, contact the Youth Office at the above address.

Peace It Together; The 15th Annual YRUU/UU-UNO Youth Conference

This conference is for 15-17 year olds and will be held at the United Nations in New York on November 17-20. Participants will meet UN representatives, learn about peace making on a global level, work with like-minded young people, share techniques and ideas for effective action on social justice issues, and tour New York City. The cost is \$330, which includes registration, travel, room and board. It's co-sponsored by the UU-United Nations Office and the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.

To apply, get a copy of the application form from Anne Pryor. Each applicant must write an essay telling about your personal

experiences in peace and social justice issues, leadership experience in YRUU and other organizations, how you plan to use what you learn after you return home, and personal reflections related to your interest in the conference. The application and essay must be sent to the Youth Office postmarked by Sept. 26.



Your Blood Needed Now!

One of our Prairie Society members is in need of blood in preparation for a major surgical procedure. Can you help? Any type blood is acceptable for this purpose since the Red Cross exchanges it for the proper type if you provide the "gift" for our member. When you donate at the Red Cross Center on Sheboygan Avenue, ask for the form that is used to donate blood for a specific person. Make your gift to Carolyn DeJoice, who will be having a total hip replacement on April 12. All good wishes to you, Carolyn, for a successful operation.

Forum on Madison Schools

James Reeb Unitarian-Universalist Church is sponsoring a forum of African-American employees of the Madison Public Schools to discuss their insights and ideas to work towards improving matters of African-American students in the Madison Public Schools. The Forum will be held on Sunday, April 17, from 1 to 3 PM at the Tenney Nursery and Parent Center, 1321 E. Mifflin St.

You may order a copy of "Dual Education in the Madison Metropolitan School District" from The Wisconsin Policy Research Institute, Inc. 3107 N. Shepard Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211. Phone 414-963-0600. The first copy is FREE.

Used Book Sale

The Westside Coalition for the Aging Segoe Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace, annual used book sale will be held June 4-8. 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.

Health Plan Rally

The Gray Panthers of Wisconsin are working with SPAN (Single Payer Across the Nation) to sponsor a rally on the square on Saturday, May 7, at 2:30 PM. There will be petitions to sign, speakers and a band. We want to invite Prairie members to attend and make your voices heard in favor of a Single Payer Health Plan for all people in the U.S.

-Alice Bullen

Nicaraguan Women

On Monday, April 25th, at 7:00 PM in St. Francis House, 1001 University Avenue, Dorothy Granada, a nurse from the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Cooperative in Mulukuku, Nicaragua, will discuss her work with rural women and the impact of structural adjustment policies in Nicaragua. The presentation is sponsored by the Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua and the Wisconsin Rapids/Rio Blanco Sister City Project.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Apr. 3 ??
Apr. 10 ??
Apr. 17 ??
Apr. 24 ??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Apr. 3 Heidi Oliveren
 & Kerry Bauer
Apr. 10 Marilyn Peters
 & Rosemary Dorney
Apr. 17 ??
Apr. 24 ??

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

Apr. 3 Rachel Siegfried
Apr. 10 ??
Apr. 17 ??
Apr. 24 ??

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 Oliveren 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.

Feedback Wanted

I'd like to hear from anyone who has read and/or experimented with the food plans of *The Biobalance Workbook*. I'm interested in your opinions, failures and/or successes regarding acid/alkaline nutrition.

-Kate Tucker
221-2168

Help Wanted (Briefly)

We will be in New Mexico on vacation from May 21st to 27th. Our next door neighbors are willing to come in daily and feed our two cats while we're away. We do

need, however, someone who knows how to pill cats to come over daily to pill our old cat who needs one small pill each day. We're willing to pay a (small) negotiable sum for this. We live near Tenney Park. If you're interested, call us soon at 258-8269.

-Anne and Lee Urbanski

Child Care Needed!

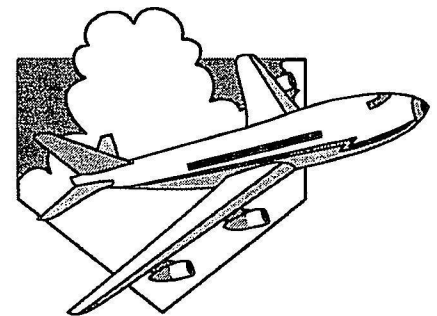
If you are interested in providing paid child care at First Unitarian Society on the third Thursday of each month from 3:30 to 5:30 PM, contact Elizabeth Keating at 836-3987. We need sitters during the monthly parents group meetings. Are there any teens who would like to do this during the summer?

Seeking Work...

Newly wedded West African high school history teacher seeks odd jobs (yard work, cleaning, etc.), and/or French or African language tutoring. Contact Cindy or Komoro at 241-9127. Cindy and Komoro, who met during Cindy's Peace Corps tour in Africa, are friends of Ginny, Ruth and George Calden.

Berlin Revisited—1994

Early this fall, Rosemarie Lester will again lead a study tour to her old home town, Berlin! The tour will include lectures and seminar discussions followed by excursions to Dresden, Potsdam and the Spreewald, a nature preserve called "Venice of the North" where all traffic takes place of flat bottom boats. The tour will run from August 28 to September 10 and is limited to 18 persons. For detailed information, call Rosemarie at 262-2075 days or 255-7039 evenings.



NORTHWOODS U-UNI CAMP

JULY 2 - 8, 1994

"The Interdependent Web...Woods, Water & Wildlife..."

**Trees for Tomorrow
Eagle River, Wisconsin**

The North Central Area Council of the Central Midwest District, Unitarian Universalist Association, invites you to be a part of the *very first Northwoods U-UniCamp!!!* The theme of the camp is based on our Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



LOCATION

The Trees for Tomorrow site is on part of the world's largest freshwater chain of 29 interconnecting lakes. "Trees" is a nonprofit natural resource center and one of the premiere environmental education centers in the country. The 40-acre complex consists of dormitories, education buildings, a dining hall and library. Heavily-wooded grounds contain short, scenic hiking trails.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Preschoolers -- An informal preschool program for four-and-five-year-olds will be running at the same time as the program for children ages six through eleven (see below). The camp will provide child care for children under three during the morning adult programs. No child care is provided at other times, but staff will help campers arrange coop babysitting.

Children from six to eleven years of age -- The main project for this age group will be to construct "totem" masks that depict their life passages. Tools will include music, chanting, drumming, dancing, mime, storytelling and environmental learning. "God Imaging" stories from many faith traditions — Shinto, Taoist, Native American, African, Islam, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian — will be told. Masks will be used at the end of the camp week in a pageant ritual performed for families.

Teens (ages twelve through seventeen) -- Special Northwoods Challenge -- The Trees for Tomorrow staff will lead hands-on outdoor natural resource programs that blend academic challenge with a touch of adventure and a lot of fun. Track fishers and pine martens using high-tech radio telemetry equipment; use map and compass to find your way in the woods; sample northwoods lakes for water critters; and work in teams to complete an obstacle course!

Adult Morning Programs -- Earth Songs -- presented by keynote speaker Philemon Sturges, an architect from New England and developer of three canticles called "Earth Songs" -- explore the relationship between science and religion and between humankind and the natural world -- **Journaling/Photography** -- with Dr. Helen Bishop, District Administrator of the Central Midwest District, and Susan Grider, Associate Director of Development at Meadville/Lombard Theological School and editor and staff photographer for the "Meadville/Lombard News"

-- explore various media for illustration including pastels, watercolor, inks and photography, as well as the art of journaling itself -- **Arts** -- led by Bobbie Groth, a student at Meadville/Lombard, with an undergraduate degree in art -- five sessions focusing on painting, weaving, soft sculpture, clay and soap carving -- Plus **Hands-on, in-depth exploration of a variety of natural resource topics** — beaver ecology, loons, bats, reptiles and amphibians, bog ecology



**PLENTY OF TIME FOR RELAXING,
HIKING, CANOEING, SWIMMING!!**
(see information & registration form on back)

**FUN &
Fellowship**

TWO SPECIAL ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

Alternative Press -- On Sunday, July 3, M.J. Kewley, editor of the "Wausau City Pages" will share her knowledge of alternative press and ways to publicize environmental writings through that medium.



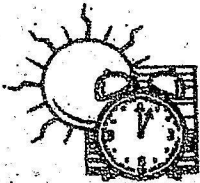
Sunrise Service, Talking Circle, Storytelling on Wednesday, July 6, conducted by Barbara Munson, an Oneida woman with a masters in art and music -- She will lead some exciting sessions in a talking circle and storytelling!

COST

Adults (18 & up): \$290.00; **Youth (10-17):** \$230.00; **Children (5-9):** \$185.00; **Children (under 5):** \$50.00
(covers registration, six nights lodging, all meals, all conference programs, most evening activities)

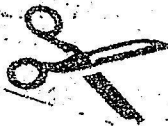
Fifty dollar deposit required with registration; balance by June 1.

Registration due by April 10; late registration will be taken until June 1 (with late fee of \$10.00).



BUT, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY APRIL 1!!!! In order to give Trees for Tomorrow some idea of how many people to expect. If you want to be a "charter camper" in this very first year of a very exciting adventure, please send your registration form in NOW.

(for more information, call First Unitarian Society,
Madison, Wisconsin: 608/233-9774)



REGISTRATION FORM

Please make checks payable to Northwoods U-UniCamp and send, together with this form, to Northwoods U-Uni Camp, Central Midwest District Office, 114 South Marion, Oak Park, Illinois, 60302.



Names (one household only) -- please give gender and age if under 18

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Church _____

I wish to room with _____

Special dorm area required for teens? _____

Special needs? Dietary _____ Mobility Impairment _____

Other _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____