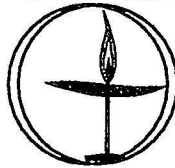


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# Prairie Fire



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Production Assistant—Susan Hagstrom

**Vol. 32, No. 8, 4-12-94**

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire is Sunday, April 24. Submit items for April 28—May 12, 1994.

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, April 14**

**7:00 PM**

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

**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. (See related story)

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

**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.

**11:30 AM**

POTLUCKLUNCH. Please bring a dish to share.

**12:45 PM**

PRAIRIE SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING MEETING and election of officers. (See related story)

**Monday, April 25**

**6:45 PM**

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse.

**Thursday, April 28**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Saturday, April 30**

R.E. SPRING FLING Party and Overnight (See related story)

**Sunday, May 1**

**10:00 AM**

"IN CELEBRATION OF MOTHER EARTH" led by Fran Zell and other Prairie members.

**Monday, May 2**

**7:30 PM**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon Street.

**Saturday, May 7**

**7:30 PM**

Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom's first anniversary bash. Fun for all! Munchies and beverages will be provided.

**Sunday, May 8**

**10:00 AM**

"RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN" led by Peg Barratt. (See related story)

**11:30 AM**

Committee Fair

**Monday, May 9**

**7:30 PM**

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse. This is the joint meeting of the old and new Board Members.

**Sunday, May 15**

**10:00 AM**

"IS THERE STILL MEANING FOR TODAY IN UNIVERSALIST IDEOLOGY?" fourth in Barb Park's lay ministry series on our Universalist heritage.

**Sunday, May 22**

**10:00 AM**

"AGES AND STAGES" A celebration with musical duets, dramatic readings, skits, dancing, etc.

**Memorial Weekend, May 28—30**

CANOE/CAMPING/BICYCLING TRIP on the Mewan River near Montello. (See related story)

**Today's Quote**

"Truth, in matters of religion, is simply the opinion that has survived."

-OSCAR WILDE



## Singing and Shouting

This service will draw from the music and writings of the first 100 years of our Universalist tradition as they were shared in a service at the UUA General Assembly. The choir, led by lay minister/choir director Bar-

...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-Fed Society in the UUA

bara Park, has prepared several pieces for the services in addition to many songs that will be sung by the congregation.

## Prairie Patter

The Prairie Board decided during its retreat to host a dessert reception for new people at Prairie. We felt we get involved in helping make things 'work' and lose contact with connecting with people. We met last Friday evening at the meeting house. The tables were set up and balloons added a festive touch. We had an excellent array of desserts and good company. I enjoyed the chance to meet and talk to newcomers and the other board members.

What a delight to have a choice. How difficult to choose. Last Sunday after the service I could attend the start up of a new women's group at Prairie or participate in the parish poll. Both activities are important to Prairie. I hope we can have more occasions where Prairie members and friends have a choice of activities.

On April 16 I will be in Deerfield, Illinois for the annual Central Midwest District meeting. Today I bought my plane ticket to Fort Worth for General Assembly in June. I haven't been to Texas since 1981, when we drove through the panhandle on our way back from Carlsbad Caverns. My grandmother was raised in Amarillo Texas. Give me your recommendations about what to do in Fort Worth. I don't know much about the area or know anyone there.

Blessed be-

-Julie Bowser

President

## Prairie UU Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Prairie UU Society will be held Sunday, April 24, at 12:45 PM. The agenda will be committee reports, election of officers, election of Committee on Committee members, and election of delegates to General Assembly. Nominee's for office are Vice President—Bob Park, Treasurer—Susan Hagstrom, Secretary—Sharon Scratish, Long Range Planning—Ken Skog, Membership—Phoebe Rosebear, RE—Dean Schroeder and co-chair, Program—Aileen Nettleton, Housing and Property—Karin Gross, Social Action—Mike Briggs.

## Mothers' Day Service

Peg Barratt will lead the May 8 Mothers' Day service "Raising Our Voices For Children." She will focus on issues of advocacy

for children and related issues raised in the questionnaire published in the last issue of the *Prairie Fire*.

## Treasurer's Notes

Prairie is a tax exempt organization. If you are making purchases for Prairie on a regular basis, or making one large purchase, please contact me to get the tax exempt number. I would also appreciate it if people would mark their checks to Prairie in some way so that I know what they are for (i.e. Pledge '94, proceeds, service auction purchase, donation for Prairie Fire, etc.). This makes it a lot easier for me to keep the records straight. If anyone has any questions about Prairie finances generally or their pledge/donation records, please feel free to contact me at any time.

- Susan Hagstrom

Treasurer

## Prairie Women's Group

The next Prairie Women's Group meeting will be on Sunday, May 15, from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Meetinghouse. If it's good weather, we will meet outside on the lawn or at the park nearby. The goal of the group is for women to come together and get to know one another more intimately.

## Canoe/Camping/Bicycling

Tired of the Sugar River, the Wisconsin, or the Kickapoo? Are you ready for someplace new? Ready for some fishing or some birding and wildlife? Want to camp in a place where ours may be the only group? Rather go bicycling than canoeing? Join us for Prairie's annual canoeing and camping trip on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29. Come to camp even if you don't canoe. Come at the last minute. Come just for the day and join us for dinner. JUST COME. It's always a lot of fun. We share potluck meals Saturday and Sunday nights (and some share breakfast). Come for all or any part of the weekend.

Camping is primitive and the fee is \$2 per person per night. This year, we're canoeing the Mekan River near Montello. It's an excellent trout stream with a steady current and exceptionally clearwater, comparable in difficulty to the Kickapoo. It passes through the Germania Marsh Wildlife Area, and it's possible to see ducks, sandhill cranes, muskrat and beaver along the way. The owners of the canoe livery say there are lots of good back roads for bicycling, and they plan to have maps available with mileages, etc. So, if

you don't want to canoe, come bicycling instead.

There is a canoe livery there, but they require a minimum reservation of 6 canoes with a 50% deposit. They *may* have individual canoes available for Memorial Day weekend, but you take your chances. (They only have 40 canoes.) The owner recommended we reserve by April 17 at the latest, because groups are already reserving canoes. Canoe rental rates are \$22 a day "below the dam" and \$24 a day "above the dam." For comparison, Rutabaga (in Madison) charges \$25 the first day, \$20 the second day, and \$15 on the third and later days. **YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AND PAY YOUR DEPOSIT BY THE 17TH IF YOU WANT A CANOE FROM THE MECAN RIVER OUTFITTERS.** For more information or to reserve a canoe, call Judy Skog at 273-4813 and leave a message on the machine.



## Spring Fling

On Saturday, April 30, we will hold the next in our seasonal parties: Spring Fling. This is for all children in the K through 8 section of R.E. We're trying something new this year—a sleepover at Prairie. Children should meet at Prairie at 7 PM, bringing a sleeping bag, pillow, and anything else they'll need for spending the night. Other things to bring include:

- *A flashlight.* Mary Mullen will be leading us on a twilight hike through Dunn's Marsh starting at 8 PM.
- *A favorite filling for a sub.* After the hike we'll return to Prairie and make (and eat!) a pot-luck giant sub from all the ingredients folks have brought.
- *A poem or short story to read out loud.* One of the after snack activities will be a sharing of readings that kids have brought.

Lights out will be at 11:00 PM. All kids who come to Spring Fling must be willing to observe that time limit. Parents of younger children who would have a hard time staying up that late should consider carefully whether

their child should sleep over. They can also talk to Anne Pryor or Ken Skog about a possible earlier bedtime for their children.

In the morning, we'll have breakfast and be here nice and early for the morning service! If anyone wants to bring a breakfast food to share, contributions are welcome. Just let Anne Pryor know in advance if you'll be bringing something. R.E. will provide pancakes, milk and juice.

## Children's Spirit Circle

The Spirit Circle for April was originally planned for last Sunday, April 10, but we switched it because we wanted the children to be at Oliver's dedication. So, April's Spirit Circle will be on April 17, led by Randy Converse. We'll meet downstairs at 10:00.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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

## Another Donor On The List

We learned last week that Prairie Member Kay Frazier donated two pints of blood during 1993. Thanks...and keep up the good work, Kay.



## Coffee Service Volunteers

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

Apr. 17	Barb Park
Apr. 24	??
May 1	??
May 8	??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

Apr. 17	Kathy Helm & Gary Giorgi
Apr. 24	Kerry Bauer & Keith Amass
May 1	Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker
May 8	Al Nettleton & Anne Urbanski

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

Apr. 17	Mike Sheehy
Apr. 24	??
May 1	??
May 8	??

