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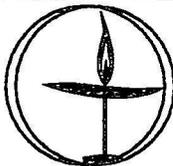
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Prairie Fire



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

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Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 32, No. 9, 4-26-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, May 8. Submit items for May 12-26, 1994.

CALENDAR

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

9:15 AM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets to practice. Call 273-4806 for more information.

10:00 AM

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

R.E. CHILDREN'S SPIRIT CIRCLE meets downstairs at the beginning of the service.

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 (See related story)
BAKE SALE by R.E. 6/7/8 grade students to raise money for Transitional Housing.

Monday, May 9

7:30 PM

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

Saturday, May 14

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Carl Wacker and Paula Pachciarz, 4709 Sherwood Road, Madison. Please call 273-4806 to confirm your attendance.

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 Mecan River near Montello. (See related story)

Today's Quote

"Wishing is OK. Asking is faster."

-JUDITH GALBRAITH



Prairie Patter

Overheard at the CMD meeting. "Love your consonants... seduce your vowels." Nick Page singer, teacher and terrific keynote speaker. We sang, and sang, and sang. The church at Deerfield, Illinois was a wonderful building to sing in with Nick Page introducing us to many different traditions of folk music. Besides the business meeting for the district a large variety of workshops were offered. I attended the one on *Envisioning a Non-Racist Future*. A brief meeting of the North Central Area Council was held. The camp at Trees for Tomorrow will be held, starting July 2. There are still openings if you are thinking about attending. Yours truly was duly elected Secretary of the Central Midwest District Board. Little did I know when I accepted the nomination that in addition to the Board meetings, I would be attending Exec. Board meetings once a month in Oak Park. I expect to meet and get to know many terrific and interesting UU's.

...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

On Sunday April 24 we held our spring parish meeting. The officers elected were:

President: Julia Bonser
Vice President: Bob Park
Treasurer: Susan Hagstrom
Secretary: Sharon Scattish
Finance: Jack Jallings
Religious Education: Dean Schroeder
Membership: Phoebe Rosebear
Housing and Property: Karen Gross
Long Range Planning: Ken Skog
Denominational Affairs: Rachel Siegfried
Social Action: Mike Briggs
Program: Aileen Nettleton

Elected to serve on the Committee on Committees were Marian Thompson, Mary Mullen, and Bob Reuschlein, the carry over member is Doleta Chapru.

The delegates to General Assembly are Cinda LaMar, Julie Bonser and Jack Jallings, alternate.

Blessed be-

-Julie Bonser

President

Committee Fair

A representative from all the committees at Prairie will be available after the service May 8. Members and friends can be members of the standing committees. You will be able to find out what each committee does to help Prairie meet your needs. Several people have said how much fun it is to meet with others at Prairie in smaller groups. We get to know each other better and accomplish some work. Before you go to brunch on Mother's Day, set aside 20 minutes after the service at Prairie and sign up on a committee.

Lay Ministers

Prairie UU tradition is to have a series of lay ministers from Sept. through May. Some previous lay ministers have done eight or nine, some have done four or five in a series. The current Committee on Committees is seeking lay ministers for fall and winter of 1994-1995. We are interested in someone who would like to present several programs on what the Unitarians' ideas and thoughts were over the last 200 years, comparable to Barb Park's series on Universalism. Some other suggestions are programs about music, painting and photography as they relate to our UU principles, environmental issues, children and youth needs, diversity and UU's or whatever you like. Send your ideas, nominations and self nominations to the Committee on Committees, 2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI 53711.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all the wonderful singers who participated in the choir this year and especially to Doleta Chapru who accompanied us and instructed me in directing!

Women's Heritage

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society is always seeking material pertinent to their work of reclaiming the stories of our foremothers. Books, tracts, sermons, and other material of historical significance are welcome additions to their expanding collection. If you have something to share from your collection please call or write with details. The address is 147 High Street, Medford, Mass. 02155 (617) 396-7494. The Society provides resources and networking opportunities for all those who are interested in the history of Universalist and Unitarian women. They also develop worship services, RE materials, biographical listings, occasional papers, etc.—to help individuals, congregations, and women's organizations learn about and honor our UU women's heritage.

CUT!

As we exult in spring days, let's not forget how fast that beautiful green grass grows! It will need regular cutting, and there is only us to do it. Please volunteer for a specific week (or weeks) this summer. Call Karen Gross at 259-0556 and make her happy by saying yes!

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 Trip

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 *clear* water, 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.

For more information, call Judy Skog at 273-4813 and leave a message on the machine.



Treasure Hunting; Grades K-1-2

The wonderful spring weather has been taking most of the groups outside during R.E. That's where the preschool and K/1/2 groups have been for the past two weeks for the bulk of the time. The older groups have had some discussion and activities inside before heading outdoors.

A Stepping Stone Year; Grades 3-4-5

Following the spirit circle on April 17, this group joined the service upstairs in order to find out more about Universalism. The following week, they focused on the Golden Rule and ways they can apply it. Lots of discussion about decisions and consequences in their lives, and situations in which their decisions affect others. The kids liked reciting the Golden Rule while standing on one foot! This session was led by Paula Pachciarz.

We Believe; Grades 6-7-8

The group brainstormed service projects to do one week, and did the first of them the following week—picking up litter in the park. They unfortunately were successful in finding lots of it.

They also watched the video *Solving Conflicts Peacefully*, which spoke about the need to combine physical self-defense skills with mental self-defense skills to really solve conflicts peacefully.

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.

Youth 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.



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

Emergency? Maybe...

Police sirens and lights do not always signal criminal activity. In our part of the state, they may mean that one of our hospitals does not have enough of a particular type of blood. The Red Cross has scheduled deliveries every day, but when someone, perhaps a premature baby, is in desperate need, the emergency vehicle is bringing life saving blood. Please help keep up the supply of YOUR type of blood! Linda Sheehy is the Prairie member who most recently donated a pint to the Red Cross. The hours at the Sheboygan Donor center are: M, W, F—9 AM to 1 PM; T, Th—12 N to 6 PM; and Saturday, 9 AM to 12 N.

Coming Out—Coming Together

An Interfaith Witness will have an interfaith service at 7 P.M. on May 1 at the First Congregational Society.

7th Annual Job Fair

The Job Network will host a Job Fair on Tuesday, May 3, 1994, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Dane County Forum (next to the Coliseum).

The Job Network is an association of thirty community service and public agencies active in job development and corporate sponsors interested in preserving Dane County's low unemployment rates. Job Fair seeks to breakdown the barriers between job seekers and the employing community.

If you are unemployed or under employed, you will have the opportunity to personally contact many of Dane County's largest employers under one roof with hundreds of job opportunities. Admission is free, there is free parking at the Forum lot,

and free van service provided by Union Transit from neighborhood community centers. For more information call 267-1133.

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers

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

May 1	Barbara Rames
May 8	??
May 15	??
May 22	??

The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

May 1	Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker
May 8	Al Nettleton & Anne Urbanski
May 15	Betty & Jack Jallings
May 22	??

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

May 1	Barbara Rames
May 8	??
May 15	??
May 22	??

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.

Wanted, A Home

...for the Summer. Friendly 55-year-old Unitarian teacher couple from Seattle area, non-smokers and flexible seek a place to stay for the summer. We'll arrive in Madison on June 12, and leave on August 12. In between, we'll be students of the Lao language at the Southeast Asia Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

We will be happy with one room and bath plus some kitchen privileges. We can also house sit. We're glad to discuss any suggested arrangements anyone wants to offer us. We think we're congenial and adaptable, and would love to talk it over with any Madison U-U's who might like to help us out.

Please address responses to: Dan Lindsay & Susan Brooks O'Neill, 13245 Bellefield Pk. Ln. S.E., Bellevue, WA 98004, or call us at (206) 455-5782.

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

Recipes/Exercise Companion

I would like to collect low fat, low calorie fresh fruit and/or vegetarian recipes, in particular vegetarian stews, casseroles, and similar dishes. Easy to cook dishes would be appreciated since I'm not a superb chef. A few Prairie members have expressed willingness to accompany me across Lake Mendota in a canoe while I am swimming. I have the canoe and paddles, so all I would need is someone to show up at Willows Beach for roughly 1 1/2 hours of exercise, preferably on Saturday mornings this summer. If you're interested, please leave a message with some indication of when you're available on our answering machine at 238-4970. I will get back to you and give you 1 or 2 weeks of notice when I will be going.

- Susan Hagstrom

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.

**Come to the
Northwoods
U-Uni Camp!
July 2-8, 1994
Trees for Tomorrow
Eagle River, WI**

