

Return to:

Editor

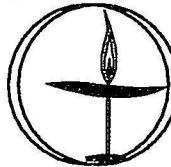
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Address Correction Requested

Jack Jallings, Archivist
4761 Schneider Dr.
Oregon, WI 53575

Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1604

Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whonona 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. 10, 5-10-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, May 22. Submit items for May 26—June 9, 1994.

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 12

7:00 PM

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

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

9:15 AM

The Children's Choir meets upstairs for practice.

10:00 AM

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

Tuesday, May 17

7:30 PM

HOUSING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE meets at the Meetinghouse. Everyone welcome.

Sunday, May 22

9:15 AM

The Children's Choir meets upstairs for practice.

10:00 AM

"AGES AND STAGES" A celebration with musical duets, dramatic readings, skits, dancing, etc., including the Children's Choir.

Thursday, May 26

7:00 PM

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

Memorial Weekend, May 28—30

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

Sunday, June 5

10:00 AM

"A HISTORY OF UNIVERSALIST WOMEN" presented by lay minister Barb Park.

Thursday, June 9

7:00 PM

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

Sunday, June 12

10:00 AM

"SINGING AND SHOUTING: Celebrating the Second 100 Years of Universalism" presented by lay minister Barb Park.

Today's Quote

"It takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you: the one to slander you, and the other to bring the news to you."

-MARK TWAIN



R.E. Super-Training Day

The Central Midwest District's annual training day for RE leaders is going to be held this year on Saturday, May 14, in Madison at First Society! This is a great opportunity for anyone in Prairie who may teach an RE class at some point in their membership (which is most of us!). Here's the schedule:

8:30-9:00	Gathering, registration
9:00-9:30	Announcements, welcome
9:30-12:00	Morning workshops
12:00-1:00	Lunch (included in cost)
1:00-3:30	Afternoon workshops
3:30-3:45	Closing worship

Morning workshops are:

- "How Do We Help Children to Grow in Self-Discipline?"
- "CMD and District Youth Programming: What You Need to Know"
- "Incorporating the Arts into RE" (on preschool and primary levels)
- "How Do You Build a Program for Junior High?"

Afternoon workshops are:

- "Sharing Resources and Ideas on Constructing Successful Intergenerational Worship"
- "Ten Things Every Youth Advisor Should Know"
- "Incorporating the Arts into RE" (on

...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

intermediate through senior high levels)

- "Secrets of Our Success" (on junior high programs)
- "Are Good Children Part of Your Congregation?" (on intergenerational activities)

Registration is \$30, \$10 for students. Call Mary Hamilton at First Society to register (233-9774). Call Anne Pryor for more information or if you'd like to attend but need financial assistance to attend. The RE program has some money for conferences and trainings that can be used for events like this. Anne's number is 244-7099.

Prairie Patter

This month of May we celebrate transition. Some the bright happy changes in our lives, like graduation, a new job, a new child. Some transitions we fight, resist and ignore. Into each life some change must fall.

This week a new Prairie Board will meet and take hold of its duties for the next year. The former board will retire. Some members are continuing their service to Prairie. I look forward to working with a new board, and regret and will miss working with the dedicated Prairie members who are stepping down. Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to Prairie's well being.

Personally for Dick and I this has been a heart wrenching spring. Our daughter Joella is a single parent. Her son Lucian Harper Bonser has significant developmental problems. Joella believes it is best for Lucian to be taken care of in a two parent family with community support. Therefore she is relinquishing her parental rights to Lucian so he can be adopted. This will happen May 19, 6 days before his second birthday. Our family is supporting her in this decision and have also decided that we cannot meet Lucian's needs. Many of you are aware of our pain. Thank you for your concern and hugs.

Blessed be
-Julie Bonser
President

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 services in a series. The current Committee on Committee is selecting lay ministers for fall and winter of 1994-1995. We are interested in some one who would like to present several programs on what the Unitarians' ideas and

thoughts were over the last 200 years, similar to Barb Park's series on Universalism. Some other suggestions are programs about music, painting or 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.

Green, and...

The lawn will need regular cutting this summer and there is only us to do it. We will be passing a lawn care signup sheet around at Sunday services. Please volunteer for a specific two week period 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 Trip Update

Put-in time will be 10:00 AM on both Saturday and Sunday. There may still be canoes available from the livery. We only need 2 more canoes to be able to reserve them. To reserve one, or for more information, call Judy Skog at 273-4813 and leave a message on the machine. An area map and a river map are included in this issue of *Prairie Fire*.

Kitchen Painting

Thanks to Lee Bullen and Rosemary Dorney, who have volunteered to head up a kitchen painting crew. Work will probably be done in early June. Contact Lee if you are interested in helping out on this project.

Absent Friends...

Hello. Well—I've found my own apartment, 709 SE 33rd Ave #4, Portland, OR 97214. I love it. Portland is in bloom. Weather varies from damp to sopping. At home

you can reach me at (503) 236-7702. Calls and visits welcome!

-Carolyn Briggs

Spanish Speakers' Potluck

The lure of the great outdoors as well as a crisis of too many competing activities, seems to have struck our group. Result: our Hispanic Potluckers have decided to take a break till fall.

So enjoy your freedom, all you amigos, estudiantes, y otros out there! And watch for our announcement in the first September *Prairie Fire*. In the meantime, we hope you will be collecting recipes, travel experiences in Spanish-speaking countries, and news of regional Latino activities to share. Remember, too, that Sept. 16 is a big day for Spanish speakers. This year there were a number of Cinco de Mayo activities locally, and even more of them in nearby large cities. There will surely be a Fiesta Hispana in Madison, and perhaps other area celebrations.

Watch for them! Spanish is on the map these days—in your supermarket, restaurants, theaters ("Como Aqua Para el Chocolate"), schools. Opportunities for speaking the language and becoming involved with Latino activities can only continue to increase!

Environmental Justice

A follow-up on the special service.

As I look over the 8 large sheets of paper that we completely filled with all the things we at Prairie do related to the environment and environmental justice, I am profoundly struck by the depth of our commitment as



Campground Location Map

individuals to "living lightly on the earth." Each sheet, looked a lot like the others in both the topics covered and their broad range. Whatever is personally possible to do for the environment, we're doing it. Because we have our fingers in so many pots (women's issues, gay and native American rights, population control, the list is endless), we are essentially environmental justice activists. All that is needed is a slight shift of mind-set to remove the compartments between each of our issues and meld them together. The other essential component is that solutions must come from within the minority communities (like UUSC's model of funding programs that are proposed by the community, not from outsiders).

We recycle bags, use cloth bags, use high MPG cars kept in tune, share newspapers, magazines, books, plan and consolidate driving, use high efficiency bulbs and other home conservation methods, repair and recycle stuff, lower heat in home, use programmable thermostats, dry clothes on lines, compost, source separation, make purchases based on packaging, use buses, bicycles, walk, bring and use our own mug or glass, practice socially responsible investing, support environmental political candidates, donate to UU and American Friends Service Committees, treat others with respect, restoration work with Nature Conservancy, attend hearings on environmental bills and other issues, write letters, make phone calls about issues, reduce consumption, people powered recreation, plant trees, teach humane capture/handling/release of wild animal species, work with NAACP, Urban League.

As a group at Prairie we: help with food pantries, compost, recycle, including scrap metal and aluminum, provide a Prairie (no mowing, raise consciousness), smoke free building, handicap accessible, fuel efficient small cars, casseroles to potlucks, sing environmental songs, and staff and bake for homeless shelter.

-Judy Skog



Treasure Hunting; Grades K-1-2

Led by Larry Murdock and Shirley Grindrod, this group read a story about spaceship earth and worked on their projects

for Mothers' Day some more. The following week, Anne Pryor led the group in finishing their projects and drawing celebrations of spring on the sidewalk outside.

A Stepping Stone Year; Grades 3-4-5

Jan Howe led this group on the topic of the Good Samaritan. The story was divided into parts which the children acted out. They liked it so much that they're hoping to perform the play for the middle schoolers.

The following week, Paula Pachciarz led a set of lively discussions on what UU kids can say if they're challenged or questioned about their religious beliefs and practices. One situation discussed, for instance, was if a friend said, "Oh, I heard about Prairie. You guys don't believe in anything." They talked about answers they could give, and each memorized one of the UU principles to possibly use in a future situation.

We Believe; Grades 6-7-8

Led by Randy Converse one week, this group focused on the theme of the interdependence of life. They thought about what they're dependent on and what's dependent on them. They also thought about how human's feelings of superiority cause problems. They discussed what they'd be willing to sacrifice in order to emphasize our interdependence. They had been planning to continue their series of service projects by digging and planting in the garden, but the foot of snow postponed that particular one. Instead, they did more weaving on their community loom.

The following week, Bob Purvis led the group in a biscuit baking session, the proceeds of which will go to the homeless shelter.

RE Picnic

Sunday May 15 is the last day of regular RE sessions for this year. We will have our second annual RE family picnic after the service on Sunday. Please attend if you can; bring a dish to share. We'll picnic at the park, weather permitting. All friends and participants of the RE program, past and present, are welcome.



Renewable Resources

The way the human body can renew itself—from torn fingernails and skinned

knees to broken bones—evokes a wonder and a reverence for life. Human blood, too! When you give a pint 'from the heart' the renewal process begins immediately and is completed in only a few days. The latest donors from Prairie are Bob Purvis and Heidi Oliversen. Please add your gift to theirs!

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.

Emerging Latino Artist II

This exhibit features multimedia works by the Hispanic youth of Milwaukee. Open Monday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm through June 24, At the United Community Center Gallery of the Americas, 1028 S. 9th St. Milwaukee. (414) 384-3100.



Coffee Service Volunteers

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

May 15	Mary Mullen
May 22	??
May 29	Canoe Weekend
June 5	Barbara Rames

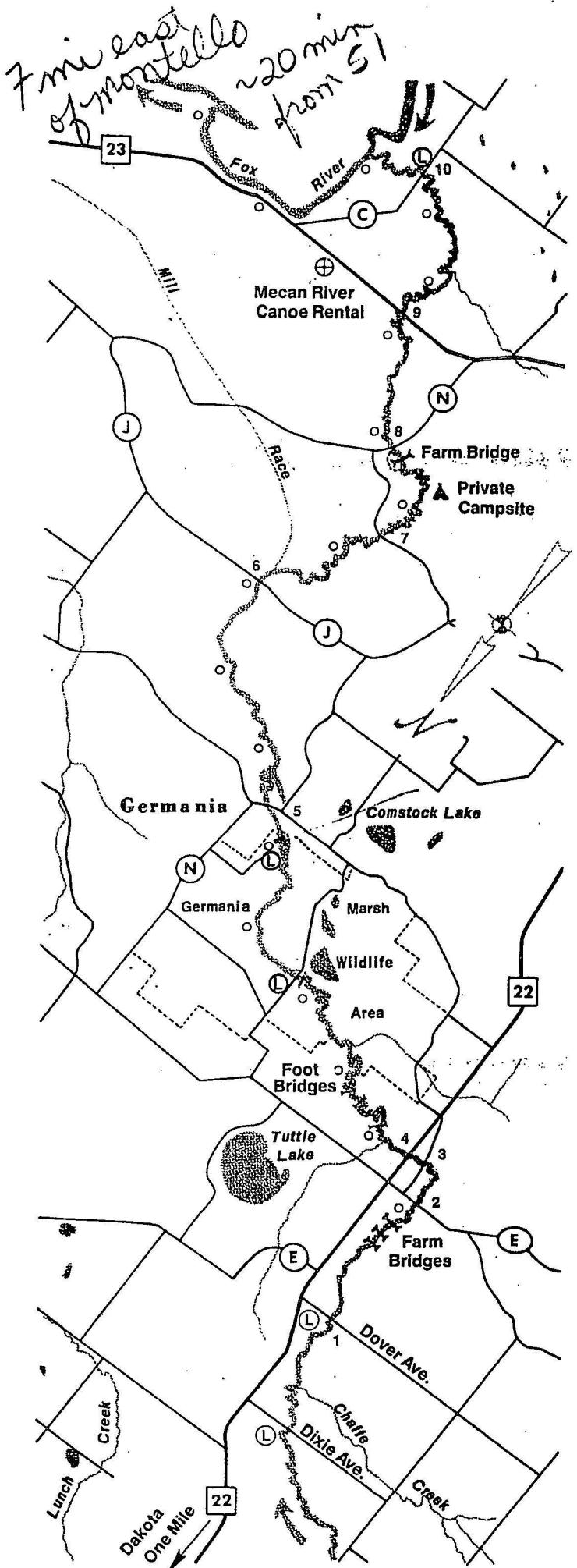
The following have volunteered to wash dishes after Sunday services.

May 15	Betty & Jack Jallings
May 22	Alice & Lee Bullen
May 29	Canoe Weekend
June 5	Cinda LaMar & Metje Butler

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

May 15	??
May 22	Fran Zell
May 29	& Marian Thompson
June 5	Canoe Weekend Barbara Rames

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 Phoebe Rosebear know so she can locate a substitute.



comparable to the Kickapoo

Mecan Me

Dixie Ave. to Germania Dam (8 miles)
Germania Dam to County Trunk C (10 miles)

The Mecan River is one of the smallest streams considered in this guide, but also one of the most pleasant. Well-known locally as an excellent trout stream, the river has a steady current and exceptionally clear water. Streamside scenery consists of wild wetlands, hardwood swamps, and farm pastures. Wild ducks and shorebirds, and even sandhill cranes, are often observed along the Mecan, especially in the Germania Marsh Wildlife Area. Muskrat, beaver, and deer also are common. Several private campgrounds are available in the area. Canoes and car shuttling are available from Mecan River Canoe Trips on Highway 23 and Lake of the Woods Campground near Dakota. The trip from Dixie Avenue to Germania Dam takes about 5 hours. Downstream from Germania Dam to County Trunk C, allow for 5½ hours of pleasant paddling.

Put in on Highway 22 at the Dixie Avenue crossing 11 miles north of **Montello** in Marquette County. The access here is undeveloped, but is adequate for small parties. The Mecan is canoeable for several miles upstream, and several town and county roads provide unimproved access in northern Marquette and southern Waushara counties. Some parties begin at the Highway JJ crossing at Dakota. **Fallen trees and branches** present occasional obstacles in these upper reaches, but the crystal water and wilderness atmosphere make up for the inconvenience.

Birch woods form a canopy for the stream in many spots. Chaffe Creek, an excellent trout stream, soon enters on the right bank. About 1 hour downstream from the put-in, you pass the **Dover Avenue bridge**. A nice canoe landing is on the left bank. Three **farm bridges** cross the stream between Dover Avenue and County Trunk E.

A mile downstream from Highway 22, a low footbridge spans the Mecan. An old farm bridge and a second footbridge follow in short order.

The **Germania Marsh Wildlife Area** is a successful wetlands restoration project undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources. Noted for its excellent waterfowl habitat, the sprawling marsh attracts birds of all kinds. Among the most interesting are the sandhill cranes—large, rare birds with a distinctive tremulous cry. Just downstream, an **electric weir** for carp control stretches across the river. **Portage** around it on the right bank and pass over a gravel road.

A **dam** forms a small lake at **Germania**. Another short **portage** on the right bank is necessary here. County Trunk N spans the Mecan just downriver. The tiny village of Germania is located here on the right bank. Supplies, billiards, and a good glass of beer are available locally. The lower river is known for its smallmouth bass and catfish fishing.

There are several **logjams** in the stretch below County Trunk J, and in the vicinity of the Highway 23 bridge, the Mecan becomes quite swampy.

Take out at a canoe landing on right bank at County Trunk C, 2 miles beyond Highway 23. Downstream ½ mile the Mecan empties into the Fox River.

Mecan River Outfitters
414-295-3439