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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Vol. 32, No. 12, 6-22-94

The deadline for the next issue of *Prairie Fire* will be Sunday, July 24. Submit items for July 28—September 1, 1994.

CALENDAR

Sunday, June 26

10:00 AM

"PLANNING FOR THE LAND" presented by Caryl Terrell. (See related story)

Sunday, July 3

10:00 AM

NO SERVICE TODAY

3:00 PM

ANNUAL PICNIC/WATER PARTY at the Grindrods, 5235 Harbor Court. (See related story)

Sunday, July 10

10:00 AM

"AT ONE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD" presented by Molly Murray. (See related story)

Tuesday, July 12

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Nettletons, 645 Sheldon Street.

Sunday, July 17

10:00 AM

"ARELIGIOUS LIBERAL VIEWS THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT" presented by Lee Baleck. (See related story)

Sunday, July 24

10:00 AM

"UUA YOUTH AND THE UN" presented by Krin Haglund. (See related story)

Sunday, July 31

11:00 AM

"THE ELEMENTS: Joint Service With Prairie, James Reeb And First Unitarian Society At Sauk City Free Congregation Unitarian Fellowship". To be followed by a Potluck Picnic. (See related story)

Today's Quote

"I do not like work even when someone else does it."

-MARK TWAIN

NEWS & VIEWS

More Diverse Than We Think

Excerpts from the UUA President's Letter. Most of our UU communities are small (an average of 145 adult members; the average for congregations of all faiths in North America—Catholic parishes excepted—is 275).

The test of our faith, however, will be how well we use the limited time, resources, and wisdom we have. Despite our relatively high levels of education and income, it may be time that is in shortest supply. Recent studies show that the average college educated American now spends nearly 60 hours each week *at work*.

One of my favorite prayers these days is:
May those who hunger find bread. May those who have bread find a hunger for justice.

Recently I traveled to India and took part in evaluating the social change programs that the UUA sponsors through the Holdeen India Fund. In particular, the programs focus on the empowerment of women. I've recommended that the Holdeen India Program become a joint program of the UUA and the UUSC.

I came back impressed with the growth of our movement in South Asia. Did you know that for over a century there have been Unitarians in India? Among the tribal people of the Khasi Hills there are more than 7,000 Unitarians in 30 churches, each with a free, non-sectarian school to serve the whole village.

There are also new UU groups in Lahore, Pakistan, and in Sri Lanka. We are more diverse than we sometimes think.

The same is true here in America. A generation ago we came in only three flavors; humanist, theist, and liberal Christian. Now our varieties of diverse personal spirituality include Jewish, Buddhist, and earth centered traditions, among others. Yet we are remarkably united in our common values.

Hospitality on Beacon Hill is real! This April we held our first ever Open House on a Sunday afternoon and we welcomed over 400 visitors. Let us know if you are coming our way. There are tours every Friday at 3 PM from April through October, and other times by prearrangement. Pickett and Eliot House, our B & B, often has room and is reasonably priced.

Treasurers, please note: Starting in 1994, the IRS requires a written acknowledgment for charitable contributions totaling over \$250.

Yours faithfully
John Buchrens
President, UUA

...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

Prairie Patter

This week Cinda and I are attending General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas. I presume the weather this past week has been preparing us for Texas. This will be the fourth General Assembly I have attended. It will be the first with Rev. John Buehrens as President of the UUA. I am curious if there will be detectable differences from the other GA's. I try and take in as many performances as are offered. These are programs put on by congregations, some of which have been used for fund raising. Each time I attend I have to get used to references to 'our movement.'

There are words I've been hearing since I became a Unitarian that I now realize I don't quite know the unique meaning for us. Phrases such as; Liberal Religion, Free Church, Covenanting relationship. In one of the UUA publications, UU Views of Church, there is a statement by The Rev. Dr. James Luther Adams, Professor Emeritus, Harvard Divinity School:

...But the church is never wholly free. It tolerates injustice, special privilege and indifference to suffering—as though it were not accountable to a tribunal higher than the world's. It passes by on the other side, thus breaking the covenant. In the midst of this unfreedom, the congregation comes together to adore that which is holy, to confess its own brokenness and to renew the covenant.

I call that church free which does not cringe in despair, but by casting off fear is lured by the divine persuasion to respond in hope to the light that has shone and still shine in the darkness.

Blessed be—
—Julie Bousser
President

Do You Know What To Say?

Would you like to be a lay minister but don't know what to talk about? The UUA has many good services or series already developed for you to look over. The Committee on Committees is looking for lay ministers for fall and winter of 1994-1995. Send your ideas, nominations and self-nominations to the Committee on Committees, 2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI 53711.

Planning For The Land

How do we apply an ethic of the land in an area of growing population? How do we exhibit our love for the land in our urban lives? Caryl Terrell, a Dane County activist,

will share some of her insights and help us explore these issues.

Picnic At Grindrod's

John and Shirley Grindrod are once again graciously inviting us for an afternoon of swimming at the nearby city beach (1/2 block away) and picnicking at their home on Lake Mendota at Spring Harbor. Bring your own meat to grill (about 5:00 PM and a dish to share. Come enjoy the Grindrod's new screened-in porch and the chance to socialize together on July 3rd.

At One With...

...*The Natural World*. Molly Murray, outreach coordinator with the U. W. Arboretum, will share her perspectives on our role in the web of life. This is the second in a series of summer services that focus on this part of our *Bond of Union*.

A Religious Liberal...

...*Views The Religious Right*. Lee Baleck is a member of First Unitarian Society who has studied the Religious Right and their involvement with the political system. This is a timely issue that may affect many of our religious and personal rights.

UUA Youth And The UN

Krin Haglund, a senior active with the Madison YRUU and a former Prairie church school member, was selected to participate in the UUA-UN Youth Conference earlier this year. She will report on her experiences and the role of the UUA UN office in international affairs.

Joint Service at Sauk City

Prairie and the Sauk City Free Congregation have had an annual joint summer service tradition for many years. This year, all three Madison UUA societies will join together to visit the Sauk City group for a service and potluck. Each society will conduct part of the service.

Please bring a dish to share for the **Potluck Dinner** following the service. Blankets or chairs to sit on and lemonade to share would also be helpful.

Walking Our Talk

Walking Our Talk: Increasing diversity in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Keynote speaker: Dr. Sharon Welch Director, Women's Studies, University of Mis-

souri Columbia, and Associate Professor, Women's Studies and Religious Studies. Dr. Welch presents widely on celebrating diversity, dismantling racism and sexism, and empowerment.

Workshops: Diversity and religious education; Church based community organizing; Volunteer management; Growth and assimilation; Conflict Management; Young Adult Ministries; Long range planning for diversity; Establishing new congregations; Interweave/diversity in sexual orientation; Multicultural issues in running effective meetings.

Hinsdale Unitarian Church, Hinsdale, IL. October 8, 1994 **SAVE THIS DATE!**

Women's Opportunities

The **Summer Womanspirit Gathering** will be held August 5-7, 1994 at Camp Ronora, near Watervliet, Michigan. This is the first gathering of its kind held in the summer. The program includes yoga, t'ai chi, workshops and teaching lodges, and a wide variety of recreational activities. The retreat is sponsored by the CMD Women and Religion Committee. Tent camping, bunkhouse, or shared cabins are available. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals are included. Children are welcome. Fees range from \$100 to \$120 for the weekend.

Flyers in rack or call Helen Hughes 708-481-6461 or Melinda Perrin 708-579-5695. **Registration closes July 1.**

Central Midwest District, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Fall Retreat **We Laugh, We Cry, We Live, We Die, We Dance, We Sing Our Song*** Keynote Speaker: Shelley Jackson Denham October 27-30, 1994 Please save these dates! George Williams College, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Chicago Baseball Retreat

Second Unitarian Church of Chicago is hosting a baseball retreat on August 6 & 7, 1994. The overnight event includes home hospitality, tickets to the CUBS game against the San Diego Padres on Sunday, dinner on Saturday night, brunch on Sunday and a special Sunday service on the spirituality of baseball. Cost is \$50 per person, \$75 per couple, \$100 per family. For more information see flyers in brochure rack or call Tome Hartman 312-404-5320.

UU SINGLZ

Summer Events

First Friday of each month we meet at a restaurant for dinner. The schedule is as follows; July 8—Botticelli's at 6 pm with

dessert and coffee at Cafe Europa at 7:30 pm. Botticelli's is at 107 King Street (near the Majestic Theater) and Cafe Europa is at the corner where King Street meets the square. August 5— The Game Preserve 6 pm, at North Midvale (in the Hilldale Shopping Center) September 2—Kabul, 6 pm, 541 State Street.

On all other Fridays, we gather at Linda's Sunporch Cafe, 2701 University Avenue in the Lakepoint Center. This is for conversation, light snacks, and possibly making plans for later in the evening. We stick around until 7 pm for the sake of late comers. Celebrate July 4 with us! We will meet in the parking lot of the State Office Building at the corner of University Avenue and Segoe Road, where we can watch the Shorewood Hills fireworks display across the avenue, and easily bug out afterward. We'll start gathering at about 8:30 pm July 4. Don't miss it! (Bring a blanket, a jacket, and maybe a folding chair.)

All single adults, of every religious persuasion, are welcome to join the UU Singles Club. Want to talk to a live human being and get the lowdown on what *really* happens at our affairs? Call Barb Nodine 233-7708 or Joyce Petty 833-8050, and let them fill you in.

Philosofest 1994

Philosofest 1994: *THE VISION AWAITS; A New Spirituality of Politics, October 15, 1994 9:00 - 4:00* presented by the North Shore Unitarian Church. Designated speakers are the renowned Dr. Forrester Church, minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City and the award winning African-American journalist Rosemary Bray MacNatt. Respondents will be the Rev. Earl K. Holt III of the First Unitarian Church in St. Louis and the Rev. Teresa Cooley of the First Unitarian Church in Chicago.

Volunteers Needed

This summer, the Building and Property Committee will not schedule a "work day" as such, instead we are extending a challenge to Prairie members and friends to plan, during this vast three months of sunshine and warmth, and carry out one of the following building & grounds projects (or some other one you know a need for):

- Stain & Finish windows - Al Nettleton (he could use help!)
- Paint Kitchen - Lee Bullen & Rosemary Dorney

Reupholster Chairs - Barbara Rames (she needs help!)

Paint Radiators - ??

Clean Blinds - ??

Wash Windows - ??

Repair Tile in Basement - ??

Drain Tile Slope - ??

Stucco Repair - ??

Sign Repair & Refinishing - ??

Instructions for Stove Use -

Shirley Grindrod

Trim Out Meeting Hall - Karen Gross

Replace Kitchen Sink Washers - ??

Repair Closet Door Hinges in Auditorium - ??

Your Special Project - YOU!

Coordinator Needed

Channing-Murray, a university-age UU young adult group, is seeking applicants for the position of Coordinator. The Coordinator maintains membership activities, including a monthly newsletter, plans and facilitates regular meetings, and oversees C-M's expenditures in accordance with C-M's budget. The candidate should have prior involvement with Unitarian Universalism and with young adult or college-age groups. An outgoing, creative person with leadership training and experience is desired. The position is 1/4 time and will begin on or about August 1 (flexible). There is a stipend of \$280-350 per month, depending on experience, for a 12 month period.

To apply, send a letter of interest, resumé, and three references with phone numbers to David Blough, 121 S. Brittingham Pl., Madison, WI 53715. For a more complete job description or answers to questions, call David at 608/251-3228.



One-A-Week Club

The One-A-Week Club is a club existing at Prairie Society without meetings, without officers—and its dues are paid while reclining in comfort! Membership is automatic when dues are paid: a pint of blood donated to the Red Cross, usually at the Sheboygan Avenue center. All three Madison UU Societies take part now, so perhaps we can together donate two-a-week. If everyone who gives in 1994 gives one more time than in 1993, we will be helping to ease the 'summer slump' in blood

donations. The latest donors from Prairie are Dick Bonser and Fredericka Schilling. 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.

Volunteers Needed...

...for the Homeless Shelter. Prairie is responsible for staffing two shifts on the fourth Monday of each month at Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter. The shifts are 7:15 PM to Midnight and 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The evening shift includes serving dinner and the second shift includes serving breakfast.

A big thank you to Fran Zell and Mike Briggs who worked the evening shift in May and Bob Nelson and Carl Wacker who worked the morning shift in May.

We're all extremely busy and these shifts are difficult to fill. Please call Cinda LaMar at 259-1114 if you can staff a shift.

A Quilt To Remember Babies

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. In recognition of this, some Madison-area families are making a memorial quilt to remember their babies who have died. If you have lost a baby, or are close to someone who has, you are invited to make a quilt square sharing your special love for that baby.

Squares should be cut at least 9" by 9" to allow for 1/2" seam allowance on all sides. Your design should be no larger than 7" by 7". You may use any washable fabric (not felt) and various decorative techniques e.g. sewing, cross stitch, quilting, embroidery markers, applique, or washable fabric paint. Include the baby's name, special dates, messages, designs, etc.

Please send your completed square by July 1 or ASAP to

Jean Coons
W7981 Wendlick Road
Pardeeville WI 53954
phone: 608/429-2701

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry of Allied Drive area is open on the fourth Thursday of each month.

