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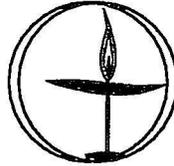
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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

Vol. 32, No. 15, 9-13-94

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, September 25. Submit items for September 29—October 13, 1994.

CALENDAR

Wednesday September 14, 6 PM through Thursday, Sept 15, 10 PM

"YOM KIPPUR"—Shaarei Shamayim will be conducting holiday services from 6 PM Wednesday until 10 PM on Thursday. DO NOT SCHEDULE PRAIRIE ACTIVITIES NOR PLAN TO USE THE BUILDING DURING THIS PERIOD.

Friday September 16

6:00 PM

ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE meets at the Russian House, 320 W. Johnson. Leave a message on the Prairie phone BEFORE 1 PM on Thursday September 15, if you wish to reserve a place.

Sunday September 18

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"EVERYDAY MORALITY: Embarrassment and Tact" led by Lay Minister Warren Hagstrom.

11:30 - 1:30 PM

Parent-Teacher Coffee for *Timeless Themes* (Gr. 3-4-5)

Prairie Women's Group meets (at Prairie)

Saturday, September 24

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS MEET at Susan Hagstrom's home, 916 Shorewood Blvd. (See related story)

Sunday September 25

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice (See related story)

10:00 AM

"CYBERSPACE MORALITY AND TERRORS OF DIRECT EXPERIENCE" led by Lay Minister Doleta Chapru.

11:30 - 1:30 PM

Parent-Teacher Coffee for *In Our Hands* (Gr. 6-7-8)

Sunday, October 2

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ART" led by Lay Minister Cinda LaMar.

Sunday, October 9

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

10:00 AM

To Be Announced

Sunday October 16

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice (See related story)

10:00 AM

"WHAT'S FAIR IN WELFARE REFORM?" led by State Representative Rebecca Young. (See related story)

11:30 - 1:30 PM

Parent-Teacher Coffee for *Preschool/Nursery group*

Saturday, October 22

R.E. Fall Frolic

Sunday October 23

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice (See related story)

10:00 AM

"DIMENSIONS OF A PEACE ECONOMY" led by Bob Reuschlein.

11:30 - 1:30 PM

Parent-Teacher Coffee for *Caring Hands* (Gr. K-1-2)

Today's Quote

"Not one man in a thousand had the strength of mind or the goodness of heart to be an atheist."

-SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

NEWS & VIEWS

Morality and Music...

Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom about Everyday Morality and Music—

...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

We are, among other things, a marriage of music and sociology. Our lay ministry reflects this.

Warren: The social sciences stand between the natural sciences and the humanities—until the mid-19th century thinkers like Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill called themselves “moral philosophers.” I see this duality very clearly in my research and teaching. There are areas in sociology like much natural science, with a research front and a continuing development of new problems and discoveries (example, the study of social mobility). There are other areas in sociology that are more like moral philosophy and aesthetics, where thinkers provide us with ways of interpretations of our experiences, of providing moral sense of them—and where it may be as valuable to consult the classics—people like Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim—as well as more recent thinkers. In my three services this autumn, I will provide a very small sample of this kind of moral philosophy.

Doleta: There is no law of cyberspace. Although some regulations are beginning to emerge, there is not social consensus about acceptable behavior in the world of electronic communication. What we don't know and don't protect now can affect our lives and the well-being of future generations in profound and serious ways.

In my September 25 service *Cyberspace Morality and the Terrors of Direct Experience* I will draw on the expertise of contemporary authors to raise cybercommunications issues of our day. Also, Prairie Thespians will bring you excerpts from E. M. Forster's 1928 short story *The Machine Stops*.

Meanwhile—who owns your telephone number? Who controls the information on your CDROM? How will succeeding generations be taught to think? Will they know how to converse face to face? Are your investments in the “real economy” or floating in cyberspace? Will the plug be pulled on your job a la Wisconsin Power and Light? Who has your medical record? What if you called 911, couldn't talk and didn't have caller ID? Can we control malicious hackers and retain democratic information sharing? How does our nation decide to go to war? Will Internet librarians salvage our cultural heritage? What exciting good-for-you tech stuff is on the horizon? Think, ask, converse, come, contribute to the answers.

Prairie Patter

I goofed. My sincere apologies to the congregation. I messed up our reservation at Upham Woods for our annual fall retreat. So the date and place that have been announced

in the newsletter are wrong. *We will still have a Prairie Retreat*, however as of today we have no place or time set. Several people have made recommendations for locations. We are also asking if people would prefer a winter retreat with cross country skiing or one in the spring with hopefully some canoeing.

The Prairie Board is meeting this evening. We will be submitting the initial budget requests for the 1995 fiscal year. This past year we accomplished a great number of improvements to our facility. Many people have commented on how nice the windows are and how the ventilation is improved. In the next few editions of the Prairie Fire we will be giving you a preview of what we believe Prairie needs for the coming year.

Take a couple of minutes this week and ask your friends to join you at Prairie UU on Sunday for an interesting program.

Blessed be—
—Julie Bonser
President

KEYS!

If you have a key for Prairie which does not have a number on it, please give it to me, to Julie Bonser or to Pat Watkins. For security reasons, only a limited number of keys have been made and distributed. I gave away one which has a black leather strap on it, and I have to have it back.

—Rachel Siegfried

Children's Choir

The Prairie Children's Choir will meet for the first time this fall on Sunday, September 25, upstairs. Practice will begin promptly at 9:40 AM. We will also discuss renaming the choir, so please come with ideas ready! Dean Schroeder (256-8813) or Paula Pachciarz (273-4806) may be contacted for further information. Adults interested in helping out with the choir are also welcome!

What's Fair...

...in Welfare Reform? State Representative Rebecca Young currently chairs the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Children and Human Services. She has a long record as an advocate for children and families. As UU's, we have a vital interest in the shape of Wisconsin welfare reform. Take this chance to share ideas with one of our representatives who is influencing Wisconsin's future for families. (P.S.— This is the United Nations Year of the Family.)

Playreaders

The first Playreaders meeting of the fall season will be as Susan Hagstrom's home, 916 Shorewood Blvd. Depending on the number of people who come, the group will read either *The Common Pursuit* by Simon Gray, *Arms And the Man* by G. B. Shaw, *The Ruling Class*, by Barnes, or *A Flea in Her Ear* by Feyelears, all of which are excellent comedies, says Susan.

We hope that you found the article about THE PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS in the last (Aug. 23) issue of the newsletter interesting enough to whet your appetite for a more in-depth investigation. Below we have printed the Playreaders' schedule for the entire church year, to enable members to avoid conflicts. Please post it for reference and refer to it when scheduling your circle dinners or other events.

SCHEDULED PLAYREADINGS 1994/95

September 24: at Hagstrom's home.
October 15: at Karen Gross home
November 19: at the Pachciarz/Wacker's
December 17: at the Watkins home.
January 7th: at Rachel Siegfried's
February 18: at the Nettleton's
March 25: at Pat Cautley's
April 22: at the Dorney/Fast's
May 19: at the Bonser's

Fair Warning...

Our Treasurer, Susan Hagstrom, reminds me that she is now completing her third term in office and, under the bylaws, cannot take the job for a fourth term. Anyone who is interested in the job and would like to talk to her about what the job entails is encouraged to call her at home at 238-4970 after 8:00 PM. I might add that this is also true for the President, Julie Bonser. Potential replacements, willing or unwilling, should be girding their loins for the task.

Coming Events...

Walking Our Talk: Increasing diversity in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Hinsdale Unitarian Church, Hinsdale, IL. October 8, 1994.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Sharon Welch, Director, Women's Studies, University of Missouri Columbia, and Associate Professor, Women's Studies and Religious Studies. Dr. Welch presents widely on celebrating diversity, dismantling racism and sexism, and empowerment.

Workshops: There will be a chance to attend at least two workshops. Some of the workshops are Care and Nurturing of Volunteers, Accessibility in UU Churches, Effective Men's Groups, Conflict Management, Canvass/Fundraising, Diversity in Religious Education and more.

If we have 5 people attend and register before September 24 the cost is only \$20 for registration and lunch. Individuals are \$25 each prior to September 24. *Let Pat Watkins know if you are interested in attending by phoning Prairie at 271-8218. Her office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 to 2:30 or you may leave a message on the answering machine.*

Philosofest 1994: THE VISION AWAITS; A New Spirituality of Politics, 9:00 - 4:00, October 15, 1994, 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.

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

Attention Prairie Musicians

We plan to have a service on November 6 in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach, with the music provided by members of the congregation. If you can perform (remember, Bach wrote for inexperienced as well as experienced musicians" contact Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970. If necessary, Doleta and Warren can suggest pieces for you to perform and even provide musical scores.

Are You Responsible/Reliable?

Prairie needs someone to assume responsibility for recording the Sunday programs in the coming year. If providing this important service is of interest to you, or one which you would be willing to share, please call Rick Ruecking at 238-2524.

Missing Items

Prairie is missing the following items which must be returned: microphone, tele-

phone, and several song books. If you are the borrower or know where they are, please ensure that they are returned to Prairie ASAP.

Volunteers Always 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 Mike Briggs and Betty Jallings who worked the evening shift in August and George and Ruth Calden who worked the morning shift in August.

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

Building And Property Co-Chair

Facilitate a fabulous committee of volunteers to do their thing with the building and property. For more information call Julie Bonser at 274-3248 or Karen Gross at 259-0556.

Sudden And Violent Death

Seminar on *Sudden And Violent Death And Helping Responses*—Mothers Against Drunk Driving is sponsoring this free 5 hour seminar at the Appleton Holiday Inn on September 22nd to aid clergy and funeral directors to understand the unique grief response to sudden death and to suggest methods of appropriate intervention. This would perhaps be an appropriate and beneficial program for Prairie to attend. Please see Julie Bonser if you would be interested in representing Prairie.

North Central Area Council

The North Central Area Council has been reinstated after a several year hiatus. Now all of the Central Midwest District has area councils organized. The area councils will play a crucial role in fostering communication and sense of the larger UU community. At the July meeting new officers were elected, the By-Laws approved and dues set. The NCAC sponsored a new UU camp at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River. The camp went well and broke even. It will be offered again next year! Prairie Society was represented by Dick and Julie Bonser. Julie served as Acting Treasurer for the first year and Dick served on the committee for the

camp, now he is helping for the second year. The Officers are: Joint Chairs Mary Ann Fields of Northwoods Fellowship Minocqua, and Jan Gjestvang of James Reeb Church Madison; Secretary, Vicki Fresen Northeast UU Fellowship, Green Bay; Treasurer, Alice Boyce Keweenaw UU Fellowship, Houghton, MI

Already? Yes!

Christmas Gift ideas, anyone? As the year 1994 began, Fran Remeika suggested that we think about Nifty Gifty *early* in the fall, when beautiful nature materials are still seen (leaves, small feathers, hemlock cones, etc.). She had in mind a whole afternoon of more leisurely gift making. So, if you see things you know could be converted into a present for someone you love, collect *now!*



Welcome back! Our R.E. program began again on Sunday, September 11 with four different groups:

Nursery-Preschool

This group is led by Lili Sandler, Nora Bosch, Melissa Pokorney and Dan Stevenson. Structured play is offered here.

Caring Hands; Grades K-1-2

Led by Carl Wacker and Kathy Converse, this program will focus on peace and social justice.

Timeless Themes; Grades 3-4-5

Led by Fran Zell, this program will focus on Old and New Testament stories.

In Our Hands; Grades 6-7-8

Led by Randy Converse, Erin Bosch and Bob Purvis, this program will focus on peace and social justice.

Attention K-1-2 parents! The date for the parent teacher coffee has been changed. Originally scheduled for October 2nd, it is now scheduled for October 23rd.



Thank You!

A BIG BUT BELATED THANK YOU to Frank Iltis, who for five years coordinated Prairie's volunteers for Grace Episcopal's Homeless Shelter. Frank's commitment and dedication were and are deeply appreciated, especially by the current homeless shelter volunteer coordinator!

Foster Parents Needed

The Dane County Department of Human Services is seeking foster parents for 16-18 year old teens for a new program entitled "Fostering Independence," whose purpose is to prepare and enable teens who are leaving foster care to live as independent adults. This program grew from the realization that 50% of all teens going out on their own after leaving foster care were ending up homeless, in jail, or on welfare. If you are interested in helping a teen in a program such as this, contact Layli Stanger at 273-6657. In addition to the need for "Fostering Independence" volunteers, the department is also seeking foster parents (preferably people of color) for minority children, under the age of eight. If interested, phone 273-6611 for additional information.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry of the Allied Drive area is open on the fourth Thursday of each month. Non-perishable foods are welcome every week at our meetinghouse entrance. If you add one gift item or more to your weekly food shopping, then bring it in on a Sunday morning, you will be helping ease the end-of-the-month blues for our needy neighbors...

Magazines!

Prairie members with magazine subscriptions needing renewing over the next few months or who want gift/new subscriptions are reminded that the Girl Scouts in our congregation will be selling subscriptions in October. Erik Schroeder will also be selling them for the Velma Hamilton Middle School band that month.



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 Pat Watkins at Prairie on Tuesday or Thursday 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.

Rates for the use of the building have been increased by \$5 for the use of the upstairs and downstairs. The new rates for Prairie member groups are: Upstairs only \$20.00. Downstairs only \$10.00. For non members the rates are Upstairs only \$30.00, Downstairs only \$15.00. There will also be a \$25. damage deposit charge to non member large groups.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found articles soon *to be given away if not claimed:* white woolly shawl, red knit scarf, purple-black nylon zip jacket, red sweatshirt, leopard front with glitter eyes. These items are in the first under the counter cabinet in the kitchen.

Building and Property News

For the next four weeks—until Sept. 23—you can still sign up for a summer work project!

- The Drain Tile Slope Project_____.
- Sanctuary Radiator Project_____.

A male bonding challenge goes out to 3 or 4 people who will serve on a crew of the DRAIN TILE project.

Job Descriptions: PRIORITY PROJECTS Drain Tile Project:

Expose the drain tile to the point of exit from the Prairie Garden on the Whenona Street side from 6 - 10 feet back, dig a new trench for the drain tile which slopes the earth downward away from the building, test for functionality and recover.

Radiator Project:

We need a crew of interior space conscious artists who will paint the radiators to color complement the peaceful, still timbre of our sanctuary. We will help you to get the necessary materials for the project.

Sign the *Summer Project Sign up Sheet* and you will receive a phone call!

UU SINGLZ

Summer Events

First Friday of each month we meet at a restaurant for dinner.

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.

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.