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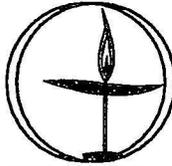
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# Prairie Fire



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

Julia Bonser, President .....	274-3248	Anne Pryor, R. E. Director .....	244-7099
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To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248			

Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

**Vol. 32, No. 16, 9-27-94**

The deadline for the next issue of the Prairie Fire will be Sunday, October 9. Submit items for October 13-27, 1994.

## CALENDAR

### 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.

### Monday, October 3

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at Laura Riggs home, 4449 Doncaster Drive.

### Saturday, October 8

WALKING OUR TALK: Increasing Diversity in U.U. Congregations. Hinsdale, IL U.U. Society. (See related story)

### Sunday, October 9

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"EVERYDAY MORALITY: VICIOUS CIRCLES OF DEVIATION" led by lay minister Warren Hagstrom. (See related story)

### Monday, October 10

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

### Saturday, October 15

PHILOSOFEST 1994: "The Vision Awaits: A New Spirituality of Politics. North Shore U.U. Church. (See related story)

7:30 pm

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Karen Gross, 843 Williamson St., Phone: 259-0556

### Sunday October 16

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

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*  
Prairie Women's Group meeting

### Friday, October 21

6:00 PM

FISH DINNER CIRCLE meets at Quivey's Grove Restaurant.

### Saturday, October 22

R.E. Fall Frolic

### Sunday October 23

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"THE MILITARY ECONOMY AND US: The society shaped by the military economy," led by Bob Reuschlein.

11:30 - 1:30 PM

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

### October 27-30

CMD U.U. WOMEN'S FEDERATION FALL RETREAT. George Williams College, Lake Geneva (See related story)

### November 4, 5, 6

UPHAM WOODS RETREAT

### Today's Quote

"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."

-OSCAR WILDE

## NEWS & VIEWS

### A REMINDER

We will start the Sunday programs promptly at 10:00. Coffee will be ready by 9:40. The pass through from the kitchen will be closed at the start of the prelude to reduce the noise in the meeting room. We allow an hour and fifteen minutes for our complete service to include time for some discussion. We need to end promptly at 11:15 as a courtesy to our children and teachers in R.E.

...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

## Upham Woods is Back!

Hooray! We have a date for Upham Woods. We will have our retreat November 4, 5, and 6. As usual we will have a potluck Friday evening. The registration form is in the newsletter this edition. Please fill it out and sent it to Prairie UU Society ATTN: Pat Watkins 2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI 53711. She will be pre registering everyone. We need to give Upham Woods an accurate count by October 25. Judy Skog will be the on site registrar. Please help make this easy by sending in your registration early.

Rick Ruecking is in charge of the program. He is interested in volunteers to help with programs for adults and children. He is thinking about a theme for this year. The board decided to go with Upham Woods as they offer the most reasonable prices for meals and beds. We want this to be affordable for all. *There is some financial assistance available for those who would like to attend.*

## Vicious Circles of Deviation

...or "If you don't stop whimpering, I'll give you something to really cry about." For our service on October 9, I would like members to report on their experiences where one family member attempted to teach another how to drive a car (or some similar complex skill).

## Prairie Patter

How did you feel Sunday morning, the 25th, at Prairie? Was the silence *a stillness, serene, tranquil*? Or did it feel *dormant, passive, quiescent, aloof, or threatening*? I was musing about what to discuss in the Prairie Patter this week. The phrase "to keep silent" occurred to me. To be silent together means to be quiet, to have the absence of noise. Most of the synonyms such as *tranquil, stillness, serenity and hush* seem positive. We are a busy, noisy, active, interested, group. We speak up, we discuss, we share our opinions, we ask questions, we take political action individually and collectively. Is there a place for silence at Prairie? When is it appropriate to be silent? Those are the moments when we hear ourselves, when we hear each other, when we listen.

My response to problems is to keep busy, confront, be direct, plan, solve, act. However, when I examine how I have been able to plan, solve, direct, etc., I find that I had a period of stillness, of silence. I gave myself the chance to listen, to reflect, to attend to the silence. To be effective, usually, it was necessary for me to be quiet much longer than I am comfortable with. It is not

useful for me, however, to fill *every* moment with noise and activity that can be distracting and lead me away from what I need.

Let's give each other the gift of silence at Prairie during the preludes, postludes and meditation times.

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

## 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.)

## The Military Economy and Us

How are we affected by the military economy? How does the military affect the broader society—for example, what is its effect on crime? on politics? Bob Reuschlein will lead us in our thinking toward new perspectives on this large issue in two consecutive Sunday services.

## 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/Fund-raising,

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.

## Bach Service Relocated!

The service in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach has been moved to November 20. The music will be 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.

## COME ON, FOLKS!!

Prairie STILL needs someone to assume responsibility for recording the Sunday programs in the coming year. If you cannot give in cash, try service. These recordings are a valuable piece of our history and essential for those who cannot attend a service they are keenly interested in. Please call Rick Ruecking at 238-2524 if you will help.

## 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.

## NEW PHONE NUMBER

... for Paul Adams, Elizabeth Alexander, Simon and Oliver is (614) 852-3942. Now, if anyone has their address, please leave it on the Prairie office phone (271-8218).

## Ride Needed

Prairie member Judy Perlman needs a ride to the Upham Woods Retreat. Her oxygen supply will be delivered to Upham Woods directly, so whoever gives her a ride will not have any heavy items or special equipment to deal with. If you can help her, please call Judy at 258-8213.

## Task Accomplished!

We have the drain tile installed. Thanks to Rick Ruecking, who worked all day, the job is done. We all appreciate the members and friends of Prairie Society who help keep our building and grounds maintained and looking nice. Another big thanks to Barbara Rames who has been tending the Prairie Garden and weeding the yard. Also Diane Derouen who planted Prairie Drop Seed, Sunflowers and Mountain Mint in our prairie.

## Proposed '95 Budget

The finance committee has proposed a budget for Prairie of \$41,750 in 1995. This figure includes \$4200 wages and social security for a part time administrator for 1995. For a least a half dozen years we have had a goal of employing an administrator.

The pledge drive, with a goal of \$34,000, will begin October 9 and end October 23—so please be ready! A letter from the committee including the complete budget will be mailed to all during the week of September 26.

Your finance committee: Jack Jallings—Finance Chair, Pat Cautley, Susan Hagstrom, Jim Harvey, Rick Ruecking and Judy Skog.

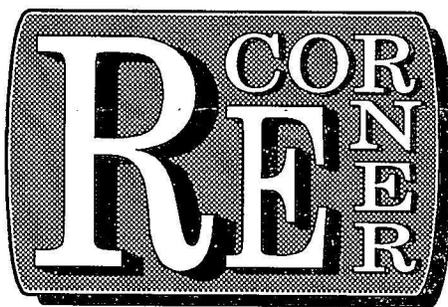


## New Members!

Prairie has two new members. Please welcome Judy Sadowski of Oregon, Wisconsin and Michael Schinitzky of Madison. They signed the membership book on Sunday September 25, 1994. If you are interested in becoming a member of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society please talk to the President, Julie Bonser.

## Circle Dinners are Back

Do you want to spend more time with other members and friends of Prairie than you can on Sunday mornings? Sign up for Circle Dinners. Each year we organize small groups of people who agree to meet once a month for a pot luck meal and good times. The groups are generally 8 to 10 in size. This year we thought we would like to start the Circle dinners off with one big potluck at Prairie. You may sign up by phoning Prairie at 271-8218 or filling out the request in this issue of the newsletter and returning it to Pat Watkins at the meeting house office.



## Nursery-Preschool

Led by Nora Bosch, Lili Sandler and Dan Stevenson, the children have done various activities such as building towers, playing outside at the park and singing. They also lit a chalice and talked about why we do that at Prairie.

## Caring Hands; Grades K-1-2

This group opened the RE year by getting to know each other and understanding about the UU circle. They sang the song, "We're All a Family Under One Sky" and decorated a banner with those words on it. They also lit a chalice and discussed the meaning of the ceremony. This session was led by Kathy Converse and Carl Wacker.

The next week Carl led the group on the topic of helping and sharing. Again singing "We're All a Family" they also read an *Amos and Boris* story. They collected leaves and made leaf rubbings, sang "Down By the Bay," and had a closing ceremony with one

more song ("There's No One in the World Like Me").

## Timeless Themes; Grades 3-4-5

Led by Fran Zell, this group began their exploration of Old and New Testament stories with a discussion of what the Bible is and means to people, and with beginning to learn some of the songs of the curriculum. During their second meeting the theme was the Garden of Eden story, so they appropriately met outside in Prairie's garden, talking about the story and making shoe box dioramas of the Garden with clay figures.

## In Our Hands; Grades 6-7-8

This group was left a message by an alien visitor who informed them of their task: to design ways to make the earth a more peaceful and harmonious place. So, amid lots of games and other fun activities, this group has begun brainstorming peace-inducing techniques. Erin Bosch and Randy Converse are the leaders.

## People of Note:

Special thanks to Peg Barratt for leading a training session for the preschool leaders last week.

Cindy Haq will be coordinating Nifty Gifty this year, so if anyone has any ideas for projects or suggestions about the event should contact her (845-8065).

## Parent-Teacher Coffees:

There was a lively and interesting discussion at the *Timeless Themes* (grades 3-4-5) parent-teacher coffee, with the topics such as evolution, creationism, portrayals of women in the Bible, and religious cultural literacy being discussed. Thanks to all who attended and took part.

Upcoming coffees are on Oct. 16 for the nursery/preschool and on Oct. 23 for *Caring Hands* (grades K-1-2).

## Service Project Sundays

Next Sunday, Oct. 2, we will be trying something new in the RE program. On occasional Sundays throughout the year instead of regular RE sessions, all the children from K-8 will meet together to work on a service project of their design. This coming Sunday we'll be choosing the service project and doing an activity also.



## SOCIAL ACTION

### 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.

### Annual Fall Resale

...sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Peace, 405 South Owen Drive, will be held on Saturday, October 1st, from 8am to noon, in the church auditorium. Items for sale will include fall and winter clothing, household items, toys and sporting equipment. Proceeds go to charity.

### Senior Center Drop In

THE WESTSIDE SENIOR CENTER, 602 Sawyer Terrace, INVITES FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO DROP IN on Sundays between 10am and 1pm for unlimited coffee and bagels and sweet rolls from Stella's, Ovens, Bagels Forever, and Cinnabons, and to chat and read the newspapers (New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Milwaukee Journal, and Wisconsin State Journal). Cost is \$2.00. Why don't we try it after Prairie some Sunday? The price is right, and it gives us an opportunity to become acquainted with one of our Senior Centers. The invitation has been extended to everyone, and is not limited to senior citizens.

### Ah, Men!

The list of Prairie Society blood donors has so often named only women that it is good news to see that Bob Purvis and Dick Bonser gave "a gift from the heart" in September also. The need for blood continues always; we can be proud that Unitarian-Universalists give generously and we can join them!

## MISCELLANY

### 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.

### UU SINGLZ

First Friday of each month we meet at a restaurant for dinner. The October 7th location will be at Chautara, 6 University Square (255-3585) at 6:00 PM.

On all other Fridays, we gather at 6:00 PM 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 Rick Ruecking at 238-2924, and let him fill you in.

Upcoming special events include a *CROP Bike/Hike for World Hunger* on October 9th (call Paul Norris for info (277-1851), and a *Potluck Dinner at Libby Hofsteen's*, 5602 Barton Rd. (274-7551) also on October 9th. A *Potluck and Dance at 7:00 PM at Folklore Village* is the special attraction on October 15th.



## Upham Woods Registration 1994



If you are attending for entire weekend, use prices below:

Youth (18 & under)	Number	Total	Adults	Number	Total
Cabin and meals	\$29.50 ea.	_____	Cabin and meals	\$39.00 ea.	_____
Dorm and meals	\$34.50 ea.	_____	Dorm and meals	\$45.00 ea.	_____

If you are attending for only part of the weekend, use the prices below:

Youth (18 & under)	Price	Number	Total	Adults	Price	Number	Total
Breakfast Sat.	3.00	_____	_____	4.00	_____	_____	_____
Lunch Sat.	4.00	_____	_____	5.00	_____	_____	_____
Dinner Sat.	4.50	_____	_____	6.00	_____	_____	_____
Breakfast Sun.	3.00	_____	_____	4.00	_____	_____	_____
Day Use Fee \$5.00 per person (If not staying overnight) _____				Day Use Fee \$5.00 per person _____			
Cabin per day	7.50	Fri. _____ Sat. _____	_____	10.00	Fri. _____ Sat. _____	_____	_____
Dorm per day	10.00	Fri. _____ Sat. _____	_____	13.00	Fri. _____ Sat. _____	_____	_____
Grand Total _____				Grand Total _____			

Number of Youth Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number desiring Vegetarian Meals \_\_\_\_\_

Total Registration Fees enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I Wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

I Need financial assistance to attend the Retreat

I need a ride to attend the Retreat

Send registration by October 25. To Prairie UU Society Attention: Pat Watkins, 2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI 53711

## Circle Dinner Signup Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons participating at this address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Prairie UU Society, Attention: Pat Watkins, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711