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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  
Susan Hagstrom, Treasurer ..... 238-4970      Meeting House ..... 271-8218  
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Production Assistant - Susan Hagstrom

**Vol. 32, No. 18, 10-25-94**

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, November 6. Submit items for November 11th and later.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, October 30

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"THE SOCIETY SHAPED BY THE MILITARY ECONOMY" led by Bob Reuschlein: The contrasting natures of rising and falling societies among the great powers and why low military economies are better than stagnant high ones.

### November 4, 5, 6

UPHAM WOODS RETREAT  
(no service at Prairie)

### Monday, November 7

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.

### Sunday, November 13

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:40 AM

Children's Choir Practice



10:00 AM

"ARTISTIC BEAUTY" led by lay minister Cinda LaMar with Jean Matos. (see related story)

11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCH

1:00 PM

PRAIRIE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING (See related story)

### Sunday, November 20

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"MUSIC IN THE FAMILY: Johann Sebastian Bach" led by Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom, with Prairie musicians.

### Sunday, November 27

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"THANKSGIVING INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE" led by Orange Schroeder.

11:30 AM

Potluck Lunch

### Friday, December 2

6:00 PM

Ethnic Dinner Circle, Essen Haus. Call Pat Watkins for reservations

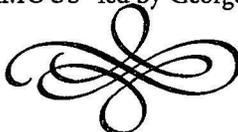
### Sunday, December 4

7:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Pancake Breakfast (see story)

10:00 AM

"LIFESTYLES OF THE NOT SO RICH AND FAMOUS" led by George Calden.



### Sunday, December 11

11:30 AM

PRAIRIE WOMEN'S GROUP will meet in the upstairs meeting room for a potluck lunch (see related story).

### Today's Quote

"So far as I can remember, there is not one word in the Gospels in praise of intelligence."

-BERTRAND RUSSELL

## NEWS & VIEWS

### Upham Woods Update...

Come spend a weekend with us in the Wisconsin Dells, at our annual fall retreat. The setting at Upham Woods is beautiful. The workshops (for young and old) are stimulating and fun. The company is GREAT. The food is good. The price is right! (There is scholarship money available for those who couldn't come otherwise.) Plan to come, even if you didn't send in your registration on time (*shame on you*). If you decide to come at the last minute, call Judy Skog at 273-4813. She has to let the cook know!

We are a do-it-yourself fellowship. Think about a way you can share your talents during part of the weekend (this includes our teenagers). Call Rick Ruecking at 238-2924 to offer your services.

A word about accommodations. In November, it's likely to be cold and it may be rainy. So...dress appropriately. People stay-

...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

ing in the cabins need to bring everything: sleeping bag, towel/washcloth, pillow. It's nice to have a container for your soap & stuff when you go to the (separate) bath house. If you stay in the dorm, linens are provided, but the towels are skimpy and the pillows are weird. People also bring games or puzzles to leave in the lodge for everyone's enjoyment (all age levels are welcome).

If you told us verbally that you were coming, or signed the sheet at Prairie, please send the registration form anyway. We need the paper for our records. We also need your money before the 4th.

There will be the usual potluck dinner Friday night (from about 7-9 PM).

## Calling All Pancake Lovers!

There will be a pancake breakfast at Prairie on Sunday, December 4th, beginning at 7:30 AM and ending before the service. Plan to donate time or food (sausage, bacon (vegetarian or not), syrup, oil, pancake mix, milk, coffee cream, butter, margarine, or orange juice), and bring a big appetite (preferably early). Plan to bring your friends, too. What a great introduction to Prairie!

To volunteer your time or food or just to ask questions, call Judy Skog at 273-4813.

## Prairie Patter

Last week Mike Briggs, our Social Action Chair, and I filled out a questionnaire from the UUA about giving. The UUA is asking all the congregations about their patterns in giving to charities and people in need. We dutifully answered the questions—however some questions set me to thinking about Prairie as an institution.

We give our time to the homeless shelter and we give food to our neighborhood food pantry. Every year we participate in the Guest at Your Table program. The young people in RE have a service project each year. We give money to the UUSC and several members donate privately to many charities.

One of the questions was "do we ask for Social Action contributions as part of our pledge drive." Traditionally the Social Action committee has raised funds through special services and fund raisers, and some members contribute regularly.

Even though we could answer most of the questions affirmatively, our participation seems more by rote than by design and participation. We could use a look at our traditions perhaps we need to update our institution.

We have usually appealed to people to give because they would benefit. But gifts

and giving of time and money also help meet someone else's needs.

I started to write about why we pass the basket at Prairie. The basket symbolizes gifts of labor and love, the mutual receiving and giving in which a community participates. What we put into the basket symbolizes our sacrifice for the good of many. Thank you for your gifts to Prairie.

Blessed be—  
*Julie Bonser*  
President

## Coming Events...

*Please take time to check the Prairie Bulletin Board. You will find many items posted there which may interest you, and which we cannot detail in the newsletter. Often there will be multiple copies of items, and this will be indicated on the bulletin board copy, although the extra "giveaway" copies will probably be found in the corner spinner file. You may wish to check out the following events:*

"RECLAIMING OUR STORIES, RECLAIMING OUR LIVES" a day-long retreat at First Society on November 5th.

"MUSIC FOR SAINT CECILIA'S DAY," the World premier of a composition by our very own Elizabeth Alexander, at the First Congregational Church on November 5th.

## Artistic Beauty...

*U.U. Principles Through The Visual Arts* is the theme of Cinda LaMar's lay ministry. Through provocative searching and creative expression, calling forth U.U. principles, we will discover our potential for creativity, and new patterns for living rich and sensitive lives in our homes, in our communities, in our professions and in our world. Services will include guest speakers and the last service will include the creation of a community sculpture by the congregation.

## DEFCON I:

**Defending Your Faith: Fall CMWD Youth Conference.** A Program for 9th graders through age 20.

**Where:** UUCW; 13001 W. North Ave, Brookfield, WI.

**When:** November 11-13, 1994

**The program:** Explore and define your faith so that you will be able to explain it to yourself and others. Meet and get to know other people who think and feel like you do. Find out traditions that give your faith historical significance. **HAVE FUN WITH OTHER UU'S.**

What you need to bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, any writings you wish to share, cold-weather clothing (for outdoor worship), music.

**New things:** Overnight will be Friday night, home hospitality Saturday night; Sunrise service Saturday morning at 6 AM; An atmosphere more spiritual than previous conferences.

**Registration fee:** \$25.00

To obtain a registration form and map call Anne Pryor: 244-7099. Mail the completed form by **NOVEMBER 1.**

For more information about the content of the conference call Dylan (414) 422-1896 or Lee (414) 282-5763.

## Nifty Gifty Help Needed

This year, we will continue the Prairie tradition of making holiday gifts with the children at Nifty Gifty on December 11th. If you have ideas for making simple gifts, would like to lead a small group or help in any way, please contact Cindy Haq (845-8065), who will be coordinating the event. This is a fun way to get to know the Prairie children, and to share a favorite project. We're looking forward to some creative and beautiful projects this year.

## Fall Frolic Fun

We had a great turnout for the Fall Frolic on Saturday, October 22nd. Eighteen kids came for the party and eleven spent the whole night. First, we divided into two groups. Each group wrote a play based on it's costumes and props, then each group performed for the other. Both plays were "hits"! We painted faces, then sat down to a festive meal of Surprise Soup and Nefarious Noodles. Finally, we played "Hide and Seek" indoors and "Kick the Can" outdoors. After 9 PM, we settled in with some music, reading and storytelling. In the morning, we ate pancakes and cleaned up to get ready for Prairie. I was very proud of our kids - what a SUPER group! And, thanks to the parents who helped: Kerry Beheler-Amass, Kathy Converse, and Randy Converse. Everyone had a great time!

*-Dean Schroeder*

## Green Thumb, Anyone?

Fran Remeika is still looking for a volunteer horticulturist or "wannabe" to take over the joys of caring for the Prairie plants. If interested, give Fran a call at 845-7292 (work) during the day. You're less likely to reach her at home, but that phone is 845-7299.

## 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. You may choose a small group (6-8) or a large one (9-12), a vegetarian or non-vegetarian, children invited or adults only, smokers or non-smokers. Just indicate your preference at the bottom of the circle dinner sign up sheet, to be found in the 9/27/94 newsletter (#16). Let's get those forms in to Prairie, so we can get our groups started. So far, there are only enough signups for three groups. We wanted to begin the year with one big potluck at Prairie, but Saturday evenings are scarce, and we will soon run into Holidays. So let's make the Pancake Breakfast the all-Prairie meal. I will bring extra signup sheets, and we can meet and finalize the Circle Dinners at breakfast. Also, we have our Ethnic and Fish Dinner Circle, which is open to anyone who has the whim to join us or not at any of our dinners, which alternate between a Friday Fish Dinner or an Ethnic Dinner at a local restaurant. Watch for notices of these in the Prairie Fire. The next Dinner Circle will be a German ethnic dinner at the Essen Haus on December 2nd at 6 PM.

## Stanfield Scholarship Programs

Mrs. Marion Barr Stanfield has created a trust from which two scholarships for U.U. students are available. One is for a student already in or about to enter law school; the second is for a graduate or undergraduate student preparing for a career in the fine arts, but limited to painting, drawing, and/or sculpture. Award requires active involvement in U.U. affairs, financial need, and enrollment in an accredited institution. See Pat Watkins for more information.

## Prairie Women's Group

The group began last spring to provide a forum for women to just get to know one another better. The plan was to meet at Prairie once a month, but because of some scheduling problems, the meeting dates were shifted. The meeting originally scheduled for November 20th had to be changed because the building had been leased to Shaarei Shamayim. The November meeting will be held, instead, at Upham Woods as part of the programming for the retreat, and we hope that Prairie women will elect that as

part of their planning. Due to the conflict with holidays and (again) the use of the building by Shaarei Shamayim, the December meeting will be held on December 11th, when the group will meet in the upstairs meeting room for a potluck lunch at 11:30 AM. If you're interested in getting to know other Prairie women on a more personal level, please join us for this informal, supportive group conversation. Don't hesitate because the group is ongoing. New participants are easily integrated into it, and you are welcome even if you only want to listen.

## A Big Thank You:

Aileen Nettleton and the other members of the Program Committee offer their sincere thanks to everyone who has cooperated in bringing all parts of each Sunday service together. Special thanks to Anne Pryor and Barbara Rames for sharing children's stories and to Emma Giorgi, Mike Briggs, Doleta Chapru, Metje Butler, Mary Mullen, Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker for special music.

## 1995 PLEDGE DRIVE...

*or...we need your money!* We are proposing to add a part-time Administrator to handle the day-to-day details that drive the rest of us nuts. This will cost about \$5000. The Finance Committee figures that each pledging unit will need to increase their yearly pledge by \$10 per month per unit to accomplish this.

Members of the Finance Committee are still calling to determine your 1995 pledge. Please consider our needs carefully, and be as generous as possible.

*Jack Gallings, Rick Ruecking, Judy Skog, Pat Cautley, Susan Hagstrom, Jim Harvey*

## Prairie UU Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is set for Sunday November 13 at 12:45 p.m. This is traditionally the meeting at which we vote on the budget for the next year.

The agenda for our annual budget meeting is as follows:

- Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Report from Voluntary Administrator, Pat Watkins
- Committee Reports
- Adoption of Proposed Budget

- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjourn.

## Proposed 1995 Budget Prairie UU Society

<b>Program</b>	
Lay Ministry	1,350
Publicity	775
Program Committee	350
Long Range Planning	200
Ministerial	200
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>2,875</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	
Director's Salary	6,600
Pre School Teacher	450
Pre School Aides	375
Social Security	502
Materials & Supplies	550
Conference & Travel	450
Snacks,	120
<b>Total R. E.</b>	<b>9,047</b>
<b>Denominational Affairs</b>	
UUA APF	3,552
CMD	600
NCAC	111
Pamphlets	100
Delegate Registration	500
<b>Total Den. Affairs</b>	<b>4,863</b>
<b>Housing &amp; Property</b>	
Mortgage M & I	7,735
Mortgage Veatch	4,285
Insurance	811
Utilities	2,000
Janitor	1,350
Maintenance &	
Supplies	1,200
Landscaping	200
<b>Total Hsg. &amp; Prop.</b>	<b>17,581</b>
<b>Membership</b>	
Prairie Fire	1940
Directory	200
Finance Committee	300
Other	100
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>2,540</b>
<b>Administrator &amp; Office</b>	
Salary	3,900

Social Security	228
Telephone	615
Desk & Chair	300
Office Expenses	150
<b>Total Admin. &amp; Office</b>	<b>5,193</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>42,099</b>



<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Pledges	34,699
Contributions	3,200
Prairie Fire	100
Building Rent	1,000
Auction	1,650
Interest	100
Fundraisers	600
Garage Sales	450
Coffee Sales	100
Proseeds	75
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>42,099</b>

*Handwritten notes:*  
 +125 = 34,824  
 34,699  
 7275  
 41,974  
 42099  
 41914  
 125  
 34,824  
 42,099

<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	
Outdoor Lighting	1,000
Window Darkeners	200
<b>Total Cap. Expenditures</b>	<b>1,200</b>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Homeless Shelter needs you! 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 AM to 8 AM. The evening shift includes serving dinner and the second shift includes serving breakfast. A big thank you to Fran Zell and Sharon Scratish who worked the evening shift in September and Bob Nelson and Lee Bullen who worked the morning shift in September. We are all extremely busy and these shifts are difficult to fill. Please phone Cinda LaMar at 259-1114 if you can take a turn staffing a shift.



### Caring Hands; Grades K-1-2

Paula Pachciarz joined the class session in order to teach the group signs to accompany the song, "I'm Gonna Mail Myself to You," which Carl Wacker taught to the group. Following the singing and signing, they all made NIP BUGS (ask a kid in the class what they are!). A game, their sharing circle and hanging their "We're All a Family" banner were all part of the morning too.

A special welcome to Michelle McGraw, a high school student and former attender of RE at Prairie, who will be part of the teaching team in *Caring Hands* now. Thanks for volunteering, Michelle

### Timeless Themes; Grades 3-4-5

The story of Noah was the topic one week. Mary Mullen was a special guest who brought her guitar and taught "Who Built the Ark?" Fran Zell, who led the session, read the story of Noah to the children and then they discussed the themes of obedience, faith and trust. They also focused on rainbows. They blew up balloons for rainbows and danced them up in the air to the beat of the Noah song. They also role played, trying to convince someone else to get on the ark.

The following week, Mike Collentine led the group's session on the tower of Babel story. After reading and discussing the tale, the kids spoke in pig latin and other invented languages to simulate babbling. They also completed the task of cooperatively building towers together but without being able to speak English with each other. They succeeded by using sign language, body language, pig latin and sounds.

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

Randy Converse led a session on prejudices and stereotypes and how they affect creation of a utopia. To do this, the group first discussed what groups of kids there are in schools, such as "populars," "mixers," "nerds," etc. Are we in one of those groups? Do we want to be? They then played a cooperative game called STAND UP in which pairs took hands back to back and then tried to stand up. Lastly they created a large banner of pictures and thoughts generated by their discussion of stereotypes and prejudices.

The group was very involved in this topic and made the important distinction that they would not refuse to sit with a person in an unpopular group just because they themselves were not in that group, but they would not sit with that person if they did not enjoy the company of that individual.

The following week Erin Bosch led a session that explored issues of world hunger. The members of the class were divided up as though they were first, second, or third world countries and each got food in proportion, which were not equal proportions. Discussion was a part of the exercise, as was a true/false guessing of whether certain beliefs we tend to hold about world hunger are actually true or not. They also played a fun game called BUTTON, where in a circle the person in the middle had to guess who had the button that was being secretly passed around.

### People of Note:

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).



## Shelter Homes Needed

Briarpatch is seeking short term shelter for teens experiencing personal and family problems. Training will be provided, and either individuals or couples are sought. Call Sandy at 251-6211.

## 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.

## Senior Center Drop In

THE WESTSIDE SENIOR CENTER, 602 Sawyer Terrace, INVITES FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO DROP IN on Sundays between 10 AM and 1 PM 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.



## 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

### Summer Events

First Friday of each month we meet at a restaurant for dinner. The November 4th location will be at Sa Bai Thong, 2840 University Ave., 238-3100, 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 Singles Potluck at Kathy Luker's, 3435 Edgehill Parkway (233-9047) on October 30th and hiking at Camp Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells on Sunday, November 6th. Call Rick Ruecking for information at 238-2924.

## SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES:

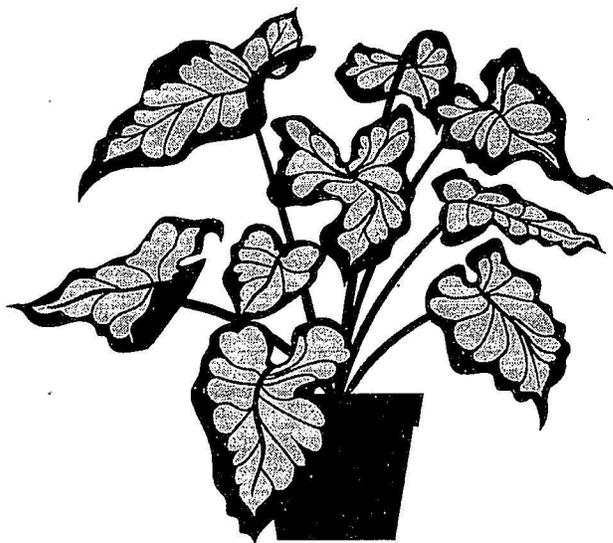
Check our bulletin board for some of the things going on in the community, which may be of interest to you: 1) the post show discussion and the lecture being given on the topic of violence in conjunction with the UW theater production of Stephen Sondheim's THE ASSASSINS. 2) the November 5th Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra (our own Anna Nettleton used to perform with them) featuring Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop as guests. 3) the American Boychoir and Madison Boychoir Concert on November 2nd at Luther Memorial Church. 4) the Father Robert Koopman classical piano concert on October 24 at the St. Benedict Center.

## Football Fans:

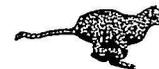
The Neighborhood U.U. Church in Pasadena, Calif. is hosting a Rose Bowl get-away. See Pat Watkins, if interested. The single rate of \$160-280 includes a U.U. home stay with breakfast for 1-4 nights, reserved grandstand seats for the Rose Bowl parade, New Year's buffet and champagne party. Couple rate is \$320-450. Game tickets are not included.

## Research Study

Single male retirees who have retired within the past five years, live alone, are heterosexual, and willing to talk about and describe their feelings about the separation from work are being sought for a research study. Contact David Rachlis at (708) 386-3438 if interested. This notice is a reprint from the CMD Messenger.



## 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