

Return to:

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

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

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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

To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Richard Bonser, Editor.....274-3248

Production Assistants - Susan Hagstrom and Pat Watkins

**Vol. 32, No. 21, 12-6-94**

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, December 18. Submit items for December 26 and later.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM

Adult choir rehearsal

9:30 AM

Our annual and traditional gift making session for all RE kids. Bring \$1 and a photo of yourself.

10:00 AM

"CHALLENGES OF MULTIPLE MEDICAL THERAPIES" led by Dr. Michael Schinitsky

11:30 AM

PRAIRIE WOMEN'S GROUP will meet in the upstairs meeting room for a potluck lunch

### Monday, December 12

7:30 PM

Prairie Board Meeting at Meeting House

### Friday, December 16

6:30 PM

CUUPS YULE FESTIVAL at First Unitarian Society in the West Living Room (See related story).



### Friday, December 16

7:00 PM

CONTRADANCING (for information, contact Mike or Norma Briggs)

### Saturday, December 17

8:30 AM - 12:45 PM

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM services

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS meet at Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane.

### Sunday, December 18

9:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

9:30 AM

"Holiday Breads" and Coffee

10:00 AM

'WINTER INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE (with Symbol Tree), led by Mike and Norma Briggs (see story)

11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

Middle School Youth Group (downstairs).

12:45 - 4:45 PM

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM meeting

### Sunday, December 25

MERRY XMAS

No service this morning

5:00 PM

CAROLS AND CANDLES (See related story).

### Sunday, January 1

11:00 AM (note time change)

NEWSPAPERS AND HOLIDAY FOOD, coordinated by Mary Mullen.

### Tuesday, January 3

7:30 PM

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

### Sunday, January 8

10:00 AM

"SEEING THE AESTHETIC: Can it be religious?" led by Ellsworth Snyder.

### Monday, January 9

6:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKING POTLUCK at Prairie.

### Today's Quote

(One) "who can interpret what can be seen is a greater prophet than... (one) who has simply seen it."

SAINT AUGUSTINE



## Pancake Breakfast Report

Thanks to all who donated food or time for the Pancake Breakfast. Special thanks to Norma Briggs for the beautiful flowers on the tables, and to Pat Cautley, Barbara Rames, and Ken Skog for helping to set up Saturday night. We cleared \$336.22!

The donor list includes Glenn Chambliss, Diane Derouen, Pat Watkins, Rick Ruecking, Metje Butler, Marilyn Peters, Jennifer Parker, Anne Urbanski, Kate Skog, Erica Skog, Barb Park, Fran Remeika, Dick & Julie Bonser, Lee Bullen, Alice Bullen, Amy Owens, Kathy Helm, Nancy Graham, Mary Mullen, Chris Cowles, Dave Johnson, Marcia Johnson, Emma Giorgi, Al Nettleton, Eleanor Owens, Emily Owens, Alison

...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

Owens, Kate Tucker, Kathy Converse, and Randy Converse.

What a committed group we are!

*-Judy Skog*

## Prairie Patter

Last week in the Science Section of the New York Times the headline announced a crisis for astronomers. Upon further reading I discovered the crisis is the astronomers can't find 90% of the universe. When I told Dick he said, "I didn't take it!" He however did describe this as a crisis of theory. The astronomers and physicist theorize that 90% of the mass of the universe is composed of dark matter—and they can't see it.

"As long as dark matter eludes astronomers and particle physicists, they cannot be comfortably sure of the validity of their most cherished theories." I submit that this is not a crisis for Unitarian Universalists. We are challenged regularly to examine our cherished theories and revise them accordingly. We ask that we not become comfortable with our cherished notions and hold to them firmly in spite of all evidence. Sometimes I suspect that we still get caught up in our habits and become convinced that it is a crisis when we are faced with events and theories that contradict our deeply felt convictions. It would be very comfortable to hold on to certainty about the universe in this turbulent age. We choose to take the uncomfortable route and be open to the possibility we could be wrong.

That's one reason I'm thankful to be a Unitarian-Universalist.

Blessed be

*-Julie Bonser*

President

## Seeing the Aesthetic

While Ellsworth Snyder is best known to Madison UU's as the Music Director of First Society, he is also a nationally recognized "minimalist" artist. Most of his work in this contemporary art form is in oils. Locally his work has been shown at the Grace Chosy Gallery. This service is part of the series addressing U.U. principles through the visual arts.

## CUUPS YULE RITUAL

Phoenix Arcana, a local pagan group, and CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) are hosting a Yule ritual at First Unitarian Society, December 16, at 6:30 pm. All interested in participating in this celebration of the winter solstice are invited to attend. Please bring a

candle and holder, and a dish or drink to pass for the potluck after the ritual. Questions? Contact Dick or Julie Bonser at 274-3248.

## Intergenerational Service

As part of our Winter (Christmas/Winter Solstice) Intergenerational Service, we will include our traditional "Symbol Tree." All who wish may hang a special item on our tree and tell about its significance. It may relate to an important event in your life during the past year, a memory of the season or something else of importance to you. Bring holiday breads or fruit to share at 9:30 AM before the service.

## Christmas Day

Another reminder that there will be no morning service nor religious education classes on Christmas Day. Please plan to attend the 5 PM Candle and Carol Ceremony and participate in the candle lighting and the singing of traditional Christmas carols. Bring your candle (plus a holder for it) and finger foods to share after the singing.

## Celebrate New Year's Day

Bring your newspapers and magazines to read, share and discuss current issues informally at 11:00 AM, on Sunday, January 1st (which allows you to still sleep in!). Please bring finger foods to share.

## Prairie Finances

It would be lovely if, when we close the books at the end of December, all bills were paid and all pledges for 1994 had been received. While you are preparing for Christmas, remember to put a present under Prairie's Christmas tree. Prairie CANNOT afford to begin the new year with a deficit.

## Note from the Editor

I took over production of the *Prairie Fire* with the November 4 issue in 1986. The *Prairie Fire* has been issued bi-weekly since then with the exception that since 1990, there has been only one issue per month in the summer. That is a total of 193 issues. I have personally typed and laid out nearly all of those issues although Anne Urbanski, Lee Bullen, George Calden and others have pitched in when I was ill or out of town and Julie has contributed typing help when the workload was heavy. Some years ago, she also took responsibility for the address list, for which I have been very grateful. This past summer, Pat Watkins has been doing most

of the typing, which has also made my job a little easier. I particularly want to acknowledge the able assistance of Lynda Dale and Susan Hagstrom, whose labor at folding, stapling, labeling and preparation for mailing was so essential to the timely delivery of the newsletter.

This has been a lot of fun, and very educational for me as well. I learned a lot about graphic arts and computer programs that do drawing and typesetting and page layout. I'm ready to move on to other things, though, and I'm looking for a new editor to take over the *Prairie Fire*. If all goes well, I hope to retire within the next 12 months and begin some extensive travelling. Julie and I have been looking forward to this for quite some time. I don't think it will be a permanent good-bye, but we'll certainly be on the road quite a lot for several months out of the year.

As many of you know, Julie and I donated our old Macintosh computer to *Prairie*. I am willing to train whomever takes over as editor in how to use the programs I have been using or, as an alternative, how to use a simpler program which will do a good, if somewhat less elaborate, job on the newsletter. I anticipate a gradual, easy transition of responsibility. Anyone who is interested should talk to me at any service or call me at home at 274-3248.

*-Richard Bonser, Editor*

## UUA Board Action

The Working Group on RE/Social Justice reported about the UU-UNO relationship. It transpires that the UUA itself is the organization accredited as a NGO to the UN. They recommended and the Board passed an agreement that the UUA will take over responsibility for the UN credentials and will appoint the delegate and alternate to the UN. We also agreed that we will appoint the current holders of credentials for the 1995 year. The delegate, Karen Christiansen, will also serve as the UUA representative on the UU-UNO Board and will report to the UUA Board annually.

(from Jean Kapuscik, UUA Trustee from the Central Midwest District)

## Get Well Wishes

We were sorry to hear that Rosemary Dorney was back in the hospital last week for some repair work on her knee replacement. She is home now and the latest treatment seems to have worked. Best wishes for a speedy recovery! Incidentally, Rosemary mailed some photos to *Prairie* which were taken at the meeting with the Free Church in

Sauk City. They are in an envelope which is tacked to the Bulletin board. Take a look; they are quite good.

## A Big Thank You

Prairie children raised \$75 for UNICEF for needy children around the world when they were out Trick or Treating at Halloween. We, UNICEF and the children of the world thank them, and we hope they are as proud of themselves as we are proud of them.



### In Our Hands, grades 6, 7, 8

Last week Randy Converse led this group in exploring the life and actions of Susan B. Anthony and Henry D. Thoreau, and especially how their actions are tied to UU principles. To do this the group first played "Whip" where they went around in a circle with each person saying in one sentence what they would change in their school and then what they would change in the world. Then they read the plays, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* and *Susan B. Anthony*. The readings were followed by discussions of how the actions of these two UUs were based on UU principles; of decisions to break laws and accepting the consequences of law breaking; of working to change laws; and of how to change things without hurting others.

### Timeless Themes, grades 3, 4, 5

Welcome to Bob Purvis who has joined the teaching team for this group!! Bob led this session on the Old Testament story of Joseph and his brothers. After reading and listening to the story, the kids drew designs for coats for Joseph and talked about relationships with brother and sisters, and how they deal with anger and jealousy.

### Caring Hands, grades K, 1, 2

This was the Converse week to lead RE sessions, with Randy with the oldest group and Kathy leading this younger one. The theme here was caring and uncaring which they explored by trying to understand what the word *caring* really means. Some meanings they derived were helping, nice acts,

sharing feelings. They played three cooperative games to explore the theme: tossing a yarn ball across a circle to make a great spider web that connected everyone and needed everyone's care to keep it intact; "Silly Bones," where each person chose two body parts to connect the circle, such as ear to knee or foot to elbow (gentle care was needed to keep this game fun); and animal drawings, where each person drew just one part of an animal before passing it to the next person to draw the next. The resulting whale/penguin and bunny/person were delightful and fun. They each also made a gift certificate for an act of caring to give to someone they care about.

### Preschool/Nursery

Attendance for this age group has been low for the past few weeks, with only one child present again last week. But she (Toby Wacker) is very happy about that and says she likes being the only one there. Nora Bosch spent time with Toby last Sunday.

### Spirit Circle

Thank you to Fran Zell for bringing her menorah and leading us in a Hanukkah prayer on this last day of the festival of lights.

### PYGs

Prairie Youth Group (PYG) had its first meeting on 12/4 and it was fun! The initial plan is to meet every other week at Prairie after the morning service, and then to also have an outside social activity once a month (like a Friday or Saturday night bowling or movie adventure). All middle schoolers are invited.



## Food Pantry

Let's not forget to bring those food items for the Food Pantry of the Allied Drive area. Make sure that your contributions are non-perishable and, if you forget the food, money is also useful.

## 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 bringing a gallon of milk, and the second shift includes serving breakfast and bringing a box of cereal. Please phone Cinda LaMar at 259-1114 if you can take a turn.

## The Cuban Connection

Late in October, I made the announcement that the Pastors for Peace Cuban Friendshipment needed medicines, and that I was taking donations to buy some. Within the space of 1/2 hour, I was holding \$72 in cash! Working through WSA Pharmacy, I purchased a case of one-a-day vitamins PLUS a case of childrens/infants pain reliever drops. Gary Giorgi dropped off a separate donation of items at the coordinating point.

I joined the caravan of people and filled vehicles on Nov 7 and we traveled through Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and on into Washington, picking up more goods and people with every stop. In Washington we joined with four similar caravans from other parts of the U.S. in a national march to end the 32-year-old blockade which is damaging and oppressing our neighbor. After days of lobbying our legislators in D.C., we moved on, 60 vehicles & 150 people, to pass through Customs at Buffalo. With several hours of hold-ups, negotiations, protests and chants from caravanistas and the city of Buffalo, all the goods got through and moved on to Montreal where a Cuba-bound ship was loaded up.

After many adventures and newly-made connections, I'm back in Madison to say to Prairie Unitarians: You were all there in spirit with me and you had an important part in this 200 ton shipment of humanitarian aid to a neighbor in need. A BIG THANK YOU, and Blessed Be!

*-Nancy Graham*

## Warm Wishes...

...A Greeting Card Program. WISC-TV3 is appealing to groups all over the city to take part in their "warm-wishes" program, which insures that those without ties and who may be alone and lonely over the holiday season will receive Christmas messages. All it takes is one (or more) Christmas card-either home-made or purchased-and a stamp to mail it to: "WARM WISHES," P.O. Box 2000, Madison, WI 53701-2000. Cards must be received by December 18th. Volunteers will forward these cards to residents of nursing homes and adult day care centers in the WISC viewing area.

# 1st Unitarian Ski Weekends

Dates #1 Jan 20-22, 1995

at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI

#2 Jan 27-29, 1995

## Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe Program Registration - Winter 1994-95

\* Please complete this form in full

We fill fast so don't wait!

Reservations for \_\_\_ adults \_\_\_ children (5-17)  
\_\_\_ children under 5

Name: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

Ski Program dates: \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Choice, \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice

### Rates

Adults \$37<sup>30</sup>  
Children (12-17 yrs) \$60<sup>30</sup>  
Children (5-11 yrs) \$47<sup>00</sup>  
Children (less than 5) Free  
linens/towels for children \$4<sup>00</sup>

\* Please make checks payable to First Unitarian Society

Name	M/F	Ski Rental		Ski Instruction		If Renting Skis Please Complete			If you want Ski Instruction				Snowshoe Rental		linen rentals children only	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Shoe Size	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Experience*	Condition**	Goals***	Yes	No		

### \*SKIING EXPERIENCE

- A) Beginner (never on x-c skis)
- B) Kind of Beginner (skied a few times)
- C) Intermediate (competent with most x-c skills)
- D) Advanced x-c skills/techniques

### \*\*PHYSICAL CONDITION

- A) No consistent physical exercise
- B) Weekend athletic sports
- C) Exercise 3-4 times weekly
- D) Top physical condition
- E) Health/Physical Limitations

### \*\*\*GOALS

- A) Learn the basics of x-c skiing
- B) Brush up on x-c techniques
- C) Learn new x-c techniques
- D) Others...specify

NOTE: Equipment rental and x-c ski instruction are available at additional cost. Rentals \$15/adult, \$13/child, instruction \$13/person  
Those with shoe sizes under adult 4 or over adult 13 must provide their own ski boots to fit 3-pin or Salomon Nordic System bindings.

\* Please mail checks and this registration form to: Dave Welb  
2304 S Syene Rd.  
Madison 53711  
Any Question? please phone 273-2639