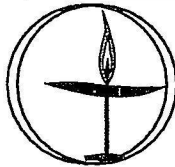


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# Prairie Fire



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

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

Production Assistants - Susan Hagstrom and Pat Watkins  
**Vol. 32, No. 22, 12-20-94**

The deadline for the next issue of  
Prairie Fire will be Sunday, January 1.  
Submit items for January 7 and later.

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 25**  
**MERRY XMAS**

No service this morning

**5:00 PM**  
CAROLS AND CANDLES and DEDI-  
CATION (See related story)

**Sunday, January 1**  
**11:00 AM (note time change)**  
NEWSPAPERS AND HOLIDAY  
FOOD, coordinated by Mary Mullen.  
**7:30 PM (or later ?)**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER (See re-  
lated story)

**Tuesday, January 3**  
**7:30 PM**  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at  
the Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.

**Saturday, January 7**  
**EVENING**  
WILD WINTERING GATHERING  
(See related story)  
**7:30 PM**  
PLAYREADERS meet at Rachel  
Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman Terrace. Mona  
Birong will co-host with Rachel. Phone 271-  
2173 for information.

**Sunday, January 8**  
**10:00 AM**  
"SEEING THE AESTHETIC: Can It  
Be Religious?" led by Ellsworth Snyder.

**Monday, January 9**  
**6:00 PM**  
SPANISH SPEAKERS POTLUCK at  
Prairie (upstairs)  
**7:30 PM**  
PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at  
Prairie (downstairs)

**Friday, January 13**  
**6:30 - 10:30**  
SHAAREI SHAMAYIM meeting

**Saturday, January 14**  
**4:30 - 9:00 PM**  
SHAAREI SHAMAYIM meeting

**Sunday, January 15**  
**10:00 AM**  
"FREDERICK DOUGLAS" led by Bob  
Reuschlein  
**12:45 - 4:45 PM**  
SHAAREI SHAMAYIM meeting

**Today's Quote**  
"Cynicism is an unpleasant way of saying  
the truth."  
-LILLIAN HELLMAN



**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 Cer-  
emony 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.  
We will also be dedicating Will Hayes' and  
Peg Barratt's new son, Nicholas, and all of  
his brothers will be attending the dedication.

### Celebrate New Year's Eve

Fran Zell (233-0213) would like to hear  
from anyone who would like to go out to  
dinner on New Year's eve, followed by ad-  
journing to someone's home to welcome in  
the New Year. Rosemarie Lester has orga-  
nized this rather successful gathering in  
former years, and Fran has volunteered this  
year. The time and location have not yet  
been decided upon, but call Fran to sign up,  
and you will be informed of the details  
before the event.

### Celebrate New Year's Day

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

### Prairie Patter

At the fall parish meeting the members  
of Prairie passed the budget as recommended  
with the directive that the Board make the  
decisions about which expenses to defer or  
eliminate. Thanks to the dedication and  
hard work of the finance committee—*Judy  
Skog, Pat Cautley, Rick Ruecking, Jim Harvey  
and Jack Jallings*—and the generosity of Prai-

...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

ric Members and friends, the pledges now exceed \$31,000.

The Prairie Board met December 12 for its regularly scheduled meeting. Our work was made easier by having the pledges come within \$3,000 of projected income. We reviewed the statements made by the membership about what is important to have in our Society's budget. Pat Watkins gave a report to the Board about her volunteer work as church administrator. She and the board concluded it is important to have a presence at the Society during the week to arrange for building rental, take care of the mail, program the heat, let in the utility reader, type, edit, layout and mail the Prairie Fire. Pat also recommended that the name be changed as the duties are not consistent with the title of Administrator. We approved cutting the projected hours per week in half to an average of 5 hours a week to start. The Board also moved to have the President appoint a hiring committee and start the process of selecting a person to be an assistant to Prairie. The committee will begin in January.

One of our UU principles is to "...affirm and promote the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;" Thank you for your consideration of the budget for Prairie for 1995 and participation in our democratic process.

We have filled a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, Kerry Beheler-Amass (Bauer) is the new membership chair. We have members who have agreed to be on the membership committee however more are needed. The membership committee works with Denomination Affairs to introduce UU to newcomers. They also maintain the list of members, certify our numbers to the UUA and the UU World. They put out a directory of friends and members, and have the responsibility for securing volunteers to greet, make coffee and clean up the kitchen. Any one of these tasks you could do would help Prairie thrive.

**REMINDER!** *The last one to leave the building should make sure all the lights are off (except for exit lights which are always on), the doors locked, and the answering machine turned on!*

Blessed be-

-Julie Bouser, 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.

## Prairie Finances

Thank you for your support! Your pledges have now exceeded \$31,000.

## Congratulations

It was a beautiful baby girl for Dawn Ace and Phoebe Rosebear. Annie Morag Rosebear-Ace arrived on December 8th, weighing in at 7lb, 4oz. Mother and daughter are doing well, and we hope to see them soon at Prairie.

The Musician  
by Philip Dacey

*In the great nave of the church,  
we eat noodles and throw dice,  
while at lunch in the cafe  
a man sinks to his knees,  
muttering prayers  
and touching the floor with his head.*

*A minister delivers a sermon  
that sounds suspiciously like a recipe  
for coq au vin,  
while someone else has hung  
beautiful laundry out to dry  
on the wide-open arms of a cross.*

*We're confused  
but happy to be so,  
unclear as to whether  
that was God who just walked by  
or a musician  
on her way to a concert,  
the whole next world  
squeezed into her black case.*

(The above was the text for Elizabeth Alexander's "Music for St. Cecilia's Day")

## "Retreat to Simpler Times"

The 1995 Central Midwest District Annual Meeting on March 31-April 2nd, promises to be unique and exciting. Co-hosted by the First Unitarian Church of South Bend and the U.U. Fellowship of Elkhart, it will also be a Spring retreat.

Camp Alexander Mack is a Church of the Brethren retreat center on Lake Waubee near Milford, in Northern Indiana Amish country. Rustic (but winterized) lodgings and a secluded setting create an atmosphere of relaxation and renewal. Camp Mack is handicapped accessible, environmentally responsible and lifestyle conscious. Delicious meals, served buffet style, include vegetarian options and low fat dairy products. Ample space is available for workshops and displays.

Dr. Jean Hardisty will be the keynote presenter on Saturday morning, discussing the "Radical Religious Right." The weekend

will also include an "Introduction to the Amish," by Emeritus Professor Sam Yoder of Goshen College on Saturday evening and a Friday night coffee house/open mike gathering at which anyone who wishes to share a talent is encouraged to do so. If Prairie is interested in conducting a workshop, we must contact Gordon Gibson, U.U. Fellowship of Elkhart, P.O. Box 584, Elkhart, IN 46515, no later than January 6th. Mark your calendars now. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.



## Nifty Gifty

On December 11 we had our annual gift making morning. Special thanks to Cindy Haq for coordinating the event, and arranging for so many and varied items for the children to make. It was a lot of fun, and a very creatively productive morning! Thanks also to all those who either ran a station or created the ideas and collected the materials for them: Barbara Rames, Amy Owens, Judy Skog, Marilyn Peters, Metje Butler, Betty Jallings, Lilly Sandler and Emily Owens. Thanks too to Randy Converse for helping to clean after the event.

## PYGs

(PYG=Prarie Youth Group: grades 6-7-8) Our first monthly social event will be on Saturday, January 7 for an afternoon of broom ball. Meet at Anne Pryor's house at 4717 School Road (School Road is off Northport Ave., up past Warner Park. Carpool if you can). We'll walk down to the Yahara River for the ice. Come at 3 PM, stay til 5:30. Bring a broom! Wear warm clothes! Prepare to have fun! At our last meeting we decided that we'd like to include middle school youths from the other UU societies too, so they are invited to join us for our social events also, starting with broom ball.

## RE Sessions

Regular R.E. sessions (almost) will begin again on January 8. On that morning we will have an opening spirit circle followed by a service project. All the children from R.E. will be together for that morning. On January 15 regular R.E. sessions will begin again

with the children upstairs for the opening part of the service, and then going to their separate classes downstairs afterwards.

### Workshop Wanted!

Is there any Prairie person who works with wood, has tools and other equipment and would be willing to host some Prairie kids for an afternoon of bird house and feeder making? If so, please talk with Anne Pryor and we can discuss details.

### Wild Wintering

With winter officially here, it's time for our annual R.E. Wild Wintering gathering! Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, January 7th. We'll have a grand time with outdoor and indoor fun, and an optional overnight sleep over. All Prairie kids, visiting cousins, friends (and, yes, parents, too) are warmly invited. More details to come. Call Dean Schroeder at 256-8813.

### Tatanka-Kon is Coming

January 20-22 at Eliot Chapel, St. Louis, MO, for 9th graders and up to 20 year olds. Anne Pryor has registration materials or call Rebecca at (314) 968-8841 for information.



### Consider Homeshare

Looking for low rent or free housing, or know someone who is? If you or someone you know would enjoy providing some companionship and household assistance to an older adult, that person could qualify for free or reduced rent. Contact Independent Living at 274-7900.

### UN Population Conference

The UU Service Committee was instrumental in placing women's reproductive health at the forefront of this fall's UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt. Collaborating with several women's health organizations, UUSC sponsored a series of seminars which challenged demographically driven population analyses as the sole factor in the population debate. UUSC sponsored the attendance of several of its project partners and was represented by several staff members. Congregations across the United States

and throughout the world were asked to include the topic of population in their services or programs between October 30-November 6, which had been designated World Population Awareness Week. Unfortunately, Prairie had already planned its program for October 30, and was on retreat on November 6th, and was unable to adjust to accept a volunteered population program. For more information on the UUSC involvement, contact Lou Witherite, UUSC, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845, or phone (617) 868-6600.

### 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. Thanks to Barb Barley and Kate Tucker who worked the evening shift and Pat Cautley and Bob Nelson who worked the morning shift in November. These shifts are extremely hard to fill, so please phone Cinda LaMar at 259-1114 if you can take a turn.

### 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.



### Chants for the Queen

is now available for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling from Nancy Vedder-Shults, 2810 Gregory Street, Madison WI 53711. It is also available at local feminist/spirituality bookstores.

### Thanks a Bundle

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to mow our beautiful Prairie lawn in the summer of 1994. With your gracious help, the lawn really looked nice this year. Thanks go to *Mike Briggs, Randy Converse, Gary Giorgi, Mary Mullen, Al Nettleton, Bob Purvis, Dean Schroeder, Linda Sheehy, Barbara Rames and Karen Gross*. If you have any concerns or suggestions for improvement for the coming year, please call Karen or write a note, or give the information to anyone on the building and Property Committee. We'll take your ideas into consideration for future implementation. We made a beautiful crew!

