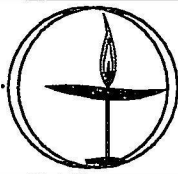


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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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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. 33, No. 1, 1-3-95

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, January 15. Submit items for January 20 and later.

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 7

3:00 PM
PYG Broom Ball. Meet at the Pryor/Ackerman home, 4717 School Road (See related story).

6:00 PM
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 (downstairs).

Friday, January 13

6:30 - 10:30
SHAAREI SHAMAYIM meets.

Saturday, January 14

12:00 Noon
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING with 1st Society Singles at Indian Lake Park. Meet in Parking lot, Hwy 12 West. Turn left on Hwy 19 and park on the left.

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.

Fri.-Sun., Jan 20-22 and 27-29

X-C SKI WEEKEND (See related story).

Sunday, January 22

"COMMUNITARIANS RUS?" (led by Anne Urbanski and Julie Bonser).

Today's Quote

"Religion consists in a set of things which the average man thinks he believes and wishes he was certain of."

- MARK TWAIN



Prairie Patter

This morning the news show interviewed three motivational speakers. It took me a few minutes to understand the connection between motivational speakers and January 2, 1995. Traditionally this is the time we North Americans set aside time to make

resolutions for the coming year. The speakers were discussing how to create resolutions that would be successful for people (success being accomplishing what you want to do). The most difficulty comes in people making resolutions to change what they perceive as weakness. It is more helpful to build on strengths. To resolve what we want to add to our life not what we want to eliminate is a more useful method. Then when we are feeling good about accomplishment and spending time doing what we want to do those behaviors or things in our life that we don't want are more likely to be eliminated.

How we phrase our wants and desires is an important part of accomplishing them. For at least 44 years I have been telling myself "I don't like to write!" Sure enough I would only do the minimum or less than minimum writing that I had to do. I have been writing the Prairie Patter for this newsletter for almost three years. I have been able to do this by rephrasing what I wanted to accomplish. I thought that the Prairie Fire needed a column similar to the ones I saw in other UU newsletters by the minister or officer of the society. I told myself that as your president one of my duties would be to write a column about Prairie for the newsletter. This statement did not remind me of my well-ingrained habit of avoiding putting words on paper. Now if I can find the appropriate language for putting more exercise and less food in my life I will make a New Years Resolution.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Seeing the Aesthetic

While ellsworth snyder is best known to Madison UU's as the Music Director of First

...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

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.

Seeking Ten...

...Good (Wo)Men and True. I wish to bring to the Spring Parish Meeting an amendment to the Bylaws of Prairie. In view of the continued shortage of money, and the awkwardness and difficulty of determining who our members truly are when we are called upon for the church audit, I believe it is time for us to look once again at adding a financial obligation to the definition of membership. This was debated by a Bylaws revision committee a number of years ago, and was turned down by the committee.

Let's reassess the logic of such a change. The present Bylaw requires that members need only to be sixteen years old, and have signed the membership book. I would like to see added to that: "and have paid, by November 1st of each year, the fees required for each member by the national U.U. office (or requested in writing that these be paid for them)." This would mean that every member would have to make a minimum pledge of these fees, which would save us from submitting fees for those who do not wish to assume the obligations of membership, and would give us the added assurance of who our members are and how many of them we have. I would appreciate hearing from those of you who would favor such an amendment to our Bylaws—or, who would strongly oppose it. Please call me at 233-5795.

Thanks: Pat Watkins

Cross-Country Skiing

First Society once again invites Prairie to participate in the X-country skiing weekends to be held at **Trees for Tomorrow** on the weekends of January 20-22 and January 27-29. Contact Dave Welo at 273-2639 for additional information.

Condolences and Deep Sympathy

Our hearts go out to former member Vicki Lord, whose daughter Torry, was killed in an auto accident several weeks ago. If anyone has Vicki's address, please share it with your editor, so that those who knew Vicki can contact her.

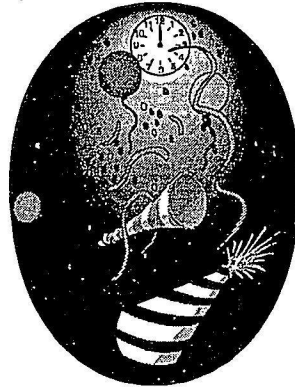
Farewell

This newsletter is the last one that I shall be working on as the Prairie office "administrator," and as I sit at the Prairie Macintosh (so generously donated by the Bonsers) this Monday morning, I am also saying farewell to my volunteer job. I promised to give Prairie ten hours per week for 26 weeks, and that time is up today. I would be less than honest if I did not say that I am breathing a sigh of relief as I depart. But, I do want you to know that my relief is due, not to a reluctance in serving Prairie, but rather to my having over-committed myself during this same period to 27 other groups, in addition to the house, the yard, the cats, the family and my swimming. My house has never been so dirty, nor the yard, the family and the pool so neglected. I am glad to have been of help to Prairie, and I hope that after I end some of my other obligations, I will be able to serve Prairie again in some other capacity. In the meantime, as program chair of the League of Women Voters, I hope to see some of you at the League's Lively Issues Luncheon on Saturday, January 7th, where I have arranged for Tammy Baldwin and Judith Klusman to discuss what the legislature will be up to in the next two years. On Monday, January 9th, I will be making a presentation at the Madison Senior Center at noon on the Dane County jury system, and the changes which will be taking place in jury selection. The latter program is free and open to the public. Hope to see some of you there.

(Ed. Note: Pat's assistance to me with the *Prairie Fire* has been welcome and deeply appreciated. I will miss her help very much and I look forward to Prairie hiring a regular secretary to do what she has been doing.)

Congratulations

To Lili Sandler for her monumental achievement in facilitating the West High School **ROOF OVER OUR HEADS** program, which, by donating the proceeds from the school's theatrical productions, has raised over \$11,000 for Transitional Housing.



PYGs

(PYG=Prarie Youth Group: grades 6-7-8) Don't forget our first monthly social event on Saturday, January 7 at 3 PM for an afternoon of broom ball. We'll meet at Anne Pryor's house at 4717 School Road (School Road is off Northport Ave., up past Warner Park. Carpool if you can.) and walk down to the Yahara River to the ice. We'll stay 'til 5:30. Bring a broom! Wear warm clothes! Be ready to have fun! Middle school youths from the other UU societies are also invited to join us.

RE Sessions

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

On Saturday, January 7, all Prairie kids are invited to the Wild Wintering party at Prairie! Come at 6 PM with your favorite pizza topping ingredient. If there's snow, bring a sled for some downhill fun. And, as always, bring books, music and games to share, as well as overnight gear and a change of clothes. PARENTS: if you would like to participate, phone Dean at 256-8813.

Tatonka-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.

SOCIAL ACTION

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.

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.

Martin Luther King Holiday

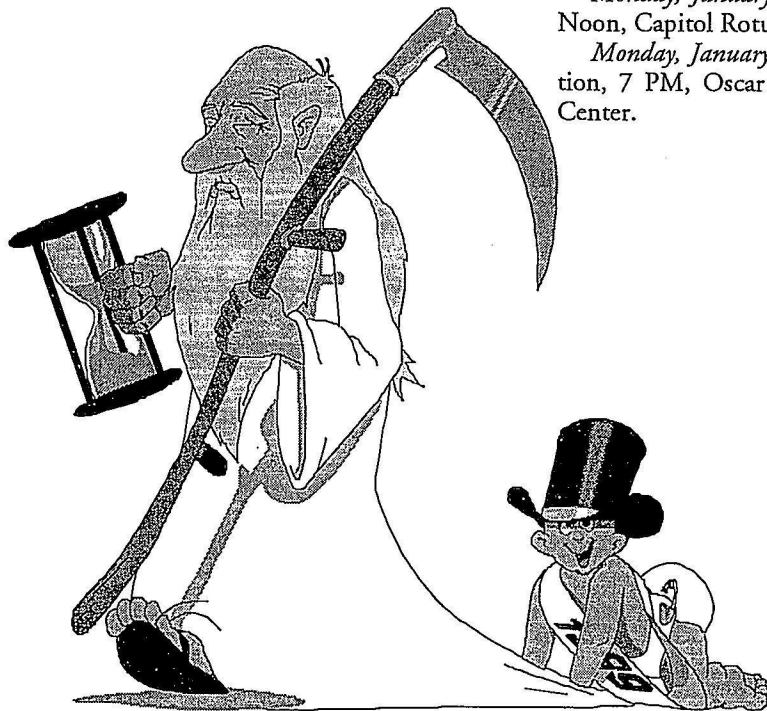
A number of local events will be taking place to commemorate Dr. King's birthday.

Friday, January 13: Free Community Dinner, 6 PM at 1st United Methodist Church.

Sunday, January 15: Breakfast, 8 AM at Edgewood H.S. Call 251-8550 for tickets.

Monday, January 16: State Tribute, 12 Noon, Capitol Rotunda.

Monday, January 16: Birthday Celebration, 7 PM, Oscar Meyer Theater, Civic Center.



Barn Dance

On Saturday, January 7, at 7:30 PM, there will be a barn dance at the Friends' Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, to raise money for the *Tibetan Children's Home* in Northern India. \$10 helps the children, and includes refreshments and door prizes. For more info, call 251-8088. If you cannot attend, but would like to donate, send a check made out to the Tibetan Children's Home Fund, Deer Park, 4548 Schneider Drive, Oregon WI 53575. If you'd like to sponsor a child at the children's home, call 255-5019 or 251-8088

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.

MISCELLANY

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!