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# Prairie Fire



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

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## Vol. 33, No. 3, 1-31-95

The deadline for the next issue of *Prairie Fire* will be Sunday, February 12. Submit items for February 16 and later.



### Saturday, February 4

2:30 PM

PYGs monthly social gathering. Meet at Elver Park warming hut. Bring cross country skis, sleds and/or skates. Ends at 5:00 PM.

6:00 PM

R.E. PLANNING AND DREAMING POTLUCK at Haq-Lawrences, 2886 Stony Ridge Circle (See related story).

### Sunday, February 5

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS? Responding Effectively To Children's Fascination With War And War Toys" led by the Denominational Affairs Committee, Rachel Siegfried, chair (See related story).

SPIRIT CIRCLE SUNDAY. Children begin the morning with a spirit circle downstairs. Sign up for Secret Friends (See related story).

### Tuesday, February 7

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Nettletons.

### Friday, February 10

6:00 PM

FISH DINNER CIRCLE at the M.O.B. Roadhouse, 222 E. Olin Ave. (just before Coliseum on left). Call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 before 5 PM on Feb. 8th for a reservation.

### Sunday, February 12

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE presented by the Prairie middle school class (See related story).

Draw names for Secret Friends.

11:30-1:00 PM

PYGs meeting.

### Monday February 13

7:30 PM

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

### Saturday, February 18

7:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at Nettletons.

### Sunday, February 19

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"HOUSING FOR ALL" presented by Alice and Lee Bullen (See related story).

Secret Friends letter exchange begins.

11:30 AM

Women's Group meets downstairs for a potluck lunch. Questions? Call Erin Bosch at 238-6285.

### Tuesday February 21

7:30 PM

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets at the Meetinghouse (See related story).

### Today's Quote

"Both the cockroach and the bird could get along very well without us, although the cockroach would miss us most."

- JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH

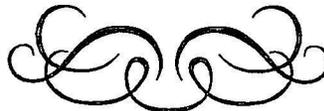


## Who's Calling The Shots?

Often, there is a link between violence depicted on television and in movies and war toys. Children's programs that regularly depict violence often promote toys that encourage children to imitate the actual behaviours that they see on the screen. The problem is exacerbated by the increased availability and consumption of toy and media violence. TV is present in 98% of US homes. Video games that combine toy and entertainment violence are one of the fastest growing markets for children. Of children under the age of 10, 30% play video games.

## Prairie Patter

Officially our membership at Prairie UU Society that we report to the UUA in Boston for the Directory is 113 as of June 30, 1994. Since that time we have had seven people sign our membership book. So as of today, January 29, 1995, our membership is



*...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

at 120. This number represents about 30 couples and 60 individuals not including children. This also includes people who no longer attend our society who still want to maintain their membership and also some who have not given us a written resignation. Prairie's contribution to the UUA and the Central Midwest District are based on dollars per member. We want to be accurate in reflecting the base of support for our society because of the impact on our annual budget. This year we will be looking at revising our membership requirements to show as members those people who have voluntarily signed the book and support our society with donations. There is a ad hoc by-laws committees working on wording for the amendment.

New members since June of 1994 are Judith Sadowski, Michael Schinitzky, Laurie Larson, Vicki Gavel, Gary Giorgi, Kathy Helm, and Anne Pryor. The privileges and responsibility of membership is being able to vote at our business meetings, receiving the UU World, and being able to serve on the Board of Trustees. We will need several new officers this year as several Board members have served their maximum term in office.

Today we joined in a community creative effort to make a Prairie Sculpture during the Sunday Service. Thank you Cinda LaMar for serving as a lay minister, who enriched our lives by word, passion, music, and visual art.

Blessed be  
-Julie Bousier  
President

## Middle School Presents...

The Middle School Class has just finished a curriculum on peace and social justice. On February 12, they will lead an intergenerational service focusing on these issues. There will be a series of dramatic scenes and then there will be a carnival that will help the food pantry. As admission to the carnival, we'd like everyone to bring 3 cans of food ( or contribute \$1.50). We'll have some fun and support a worthy cause. Contact Erin Bosch at 238-6285 if you have any questions.

## Sing Out!

This would be a great time to join the choir. We will be starting new music including a piece written by our own Dean Schroeder and something for the Gershwin program this spring. Thanks to all the choir for their hard work!

-Barbara Park

## Housing for All...

The Denominational Affairs Committee of Prairie is leading two services dealing with resolutions that are being studied by congregations this year. The resolutions will be voted on at the next UUA General Assembly. The second service, on February 19, will address Homelessness and Housing.

In 1994, President Clinton vowed to "break the cycle of homelessness" by offering a plan to: 1) reduce homelessness by one-third; 2) "end welfare as we know it" by establishing two year limits for welfare couples with job training; and 3) increase spending on welfare and housing reform.

Concerns remain that the government may not be able to stimulate creation of enough jobs and adequately meet the housing needs of poor Americans. While reformers debate these issues and while government and non-profit agencies dole out goods and services, huge numbers of people endure homelessness and hopelessness on a daily basis. Alice and Lee Bullen have been involved in Habitat for Humanity, so come well qualified to help lead this service.

## Secret Friends

Secret Friends is a letter exchange that takes place between a paired adult and child. This is a well loved Prairie tradition that fosters special connections between the generations within our community. A child is paired with an adult, but only the child knows who the partner is. Each person brings a letter for her or his secret friend each week, until they finally meet at an ending party.

To participate, sign up during the next few weeks. We'll draw names to pair people on February 12. Write a letter at home during the week, and bring it with you to Prairie on Sunday, Feb. 19; that will be the first day to exchange letters between the friends.

The letter exchange will go on for three weeks, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, and March 5. On the fourth Sunday, March 12, we will have an ending party at which the friends will actually meet each other.

Please sign up if you think you can be at Prairie during these four weeks, can write a letter for the first three weeks, and can take part in the final party on the 12th of March. We especially need children to participate; we usually have many more adults who want Secret Friends than we have children.

## CMD Annual Meeting

Save the weekend of March 31 - April 2 for a "Retreat to Simpler Times," at the

Central Midwest District Annual Meeting. Co-hosted by the Elkhart and South Bend, Indiana churches, this year's meeting will be at Camp Mack, a rustic, secluded retreat center near Milford, Indiana.

Keynote speaker, Doctor Jean Hardisty will offer a sociological, historical, non-historical look at the radical religious right. Professor Emeritus Sam Yoder of Goshen College will present an entertaining "Introduction to the Amish." And be sure to fine-tune your talents for Friday evening's coffee-house/open-mike gathering.

Registration information should be available by mid-February. Whether you attend as a delegate of just for fun, this year's Annual Meeting promises to be a unique and exciting experience.

## A Gershwin Extravaganza

Attention Prairie Musicians and music lovers: We will have a Sunday morning program about the life and music of George Gershwin in the month of April. (The exact date will be announced in the next issue of this newsletter.) Musicians who would like to perform should contact Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom (238-4970) and let them know what they would like to perform or ask for suggestions. Act now! Some of the best songs have already been taken. Music lovers who can't perform but are especially interested in certain pieces of Gershwin's music or certain aspects of his life should contact Warren.

## Signs of Life

Prairie Friend Karen Jackson is a proud new grandmother! Her daughter Silvia Copeland gave birth to a son on December 28, 1994. The baby was premature and will be in the hospital for some time yet. Silvia and her husband are naturally anxious to get the baby home. In the meantime, perhaps Prairie members have some baby things that the young couple could borrow. Call Karen at 241-0274 with your congratulations and/or offers of help.

## Women's Spirituality

A women's spirituality group is forming at First Unitarian Society. Would you like to join other women in exploring this topic? A group is evolving now and they welcome Prairie Women's participation to help create it. They will meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 7:15-9:15 PM in the lower meeting house at First Society. The next meetings are February 13 and 27. Call Debra at 233-0688 for information.

## Help Wanted!

We need a part-time clerical staff for Prairie UU Society. This person would work 5 hours a week at Prairie Meeting House. They would need to keep scheduled hours. They would be responsible for handling Prairie communications, mail, telephone, and occasional letters, schedule building use and rentals. Publish and mail the newsletter, maintain the mailing list and prepare the order of service for Sunday. Skills necessary to do these tasks would include good written and oral communication ability, some computer skills with word processing and data bases. Please phone Julie Bonser at 274-3248 if you are interested or would like to recommend someone.

## Final Pledge Drive Report

A big thank you to the many members and friends who made possible a very successful 1995 pledge drive. We received 73 pledges which total \$32,400. Thirty-two couples and forty-one singles, or 105 individuals, participated in pledging. The median pledge was \$300. For those who want arithmetic averages, the bottom half of all pledges averaged \$123, the top half averaged \$765, and the over-all average was \$444.

If you have not submitted a pledge you may still do so. There are still unmet expenses anticipated for 1995. Remember too that Prairie Society, and each Unitarian Universalist Society, has some moneys that are paid as our fair share to the Unitarian Universalist Association and dues to the Central Midwest District and the North Central Area Council.

Thanks again to our members and friends from your grateful Finance Committee:

*Patricia Cautley, Susan Hagstrom (Treasurer), Jim Harvey, Rick Ruecking, Judy Skog, and Jack Gallings (Chairman)*

## Service Auction '95

\*\*\*DATE CHANGE—FEBRUARY 26\*\*\*

The Service Auction will take place right after service on Sunday, February 26. Starting at high noon we will be selling lunch by the plate. For \$2 you get one slice of pizza (or a 1/2 sandwich), an apple, dessert and beverage. For \$3 you get two slices of pizza (or a whole sandwich), an apple, dessert and beverage. If you're still hungry, extra dessert is \$.50.

We still need more services, so give careful consideration to something you like, or at least don't mind doing, which someone else would pay to have done. We are looking for

a few children's toys or games, so that the younger set can also bid at the auction. As far as goods for the auction, please send only things that are too good for a garage sale (we will have one of those later). All goods MUST be delivered to Prairie ON OR BEFORE Saturday, February 25, or your auction coordinator will self destruct. We need time to see what we have so that we can organize it in a way to best facilitate its sale. If it's brought at the last minute, we may not get a fair price for it.

Some of the goods will be auctioned and some sold at the silent auction. This will be at the discretion of the auctioneer. We hope to have the things for silent auction set up early. Bidding for this will close when the verbal auction begins, so bid early and bid often. Bids must be raised by at least \$.25-.50.

There will be a designated bidder for anyone who sends or calls in an absentee bid on an item. Contact Judy Skog at 273-4813 for more information.

### PARTIAL LIST OF SERVICES:

*Rick Ruecking*—two single weekends at the farm (near Wyalusing State Park) for up to 8 people.

*Dr. Michael Schnitsky*—a course on natural mind-body control, 2 sessions of ~2 hours' length, 3 p.m. Sundays in April—This technique is useful for medical and optimal functioning. For questions, call Dr. Schnitsky at 238-4043.

*Orange Schroeder*—homemade bread x5.

*Dr. Rick Owens*—one office surgical procedure of your choice (moles, ingrown toenails, cysts, warts, lumps or bumps—hemorrhoids cheerfully accepted)—local anesthesia only. His office opens at 1920 Monroe St. the end of February.

*Metje Butler*—insect-collecting workshop, 2 Saturday mornings in the spring.

*Mike Briggs*—a simple will.

—piano playing at your house.

*Judy Skog*—homemade granola x4.

*Bob Park*—a lesson in Word Perfect.

*Barb Park*—a painting.

*Rachel Siegfried*—a hand woven scarf.

*Norma Briggs*—a simple will.

*Pat Cautley*—a tour of the wildflowers on her land in Juneau Co., Saturday May 13 and 20 (Sunday after church, rain date).

*Lee & Alice Bullen*—homemade bread (from a breadmaker) x2.

*Glenn Chambliss*—pound cake x 5 (these are legendary!).

*Gary Giorgi & Kathy Helm*—Italian Dinner for up to 6 people.

*Laurie Larson*—Medicinal & wild edible plant identification for up to 4 people.

—Hand spinning lesson (all supplies included).

*Fran Zell*—Vegetarian dinner for up to 6 people.

*Erin & Alana Pryor (together)*—Babysitting, preferably weekends.

*Doleta Chapru & Ethnic Connection*—Musical Performance.

*Barbara Rames*—Babysitting x5.

—Homemade apple pie.

*Linda Sheehy*—Homemade granola.

*Mike Sheehy*—Snow shoveling.

*Kay Frazier & José Rodriguez*—Big Screen Video movie for 6-8 persons, including snacks and drinks.

—One hour pool party at a private pool with whirlpool for up to 10 persons, including snacks and drinks.

### Wanted to buy:

Pat Cautley—needs help washing storm windows that are high.

Judy Skog—an adult to do an overnight babysit.

If you have questions, want to donate your time during the auction, or donate a good/service for the auction, call Judy Skog at 273-4813.

The auction is a lot of fun, so bring a friend!



## Planning and Dreaming Potluck

All Prairie adults (not just parents and RE leaders) are invited to an informal dinner gathering on Saturday evening, February 4, at 6:00 PM. We will meet at the home of Cyndy Haq and Bob Lawrence, 2886 Stony Ridge Circle, between Madison and Verona. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. The main course and beverage will be provided. We'll enjoy each other's company and share ideas on the Prairie RE program, present and future. Please come! Call 845-8065 for more information or directions.

—Dean Schroeder

## Service Project

RE's winter service project has been to collect needed items for the men who stay at Transitional Housing's overnight shelter. I invite as many children who can to stay after

the service on Sunday, February 5 for 20 minutes or so, in order to sort and package the collected items. We'll catalogue them too, and let the rest of Prairie know how well the drive went. Many thanks to all who helped in any way.

### Preschool

Only one or two children show up for this group each Sunday, so we've cut back to only one care provider per morning. But the fun still continues, with the toys and games that are there and occasional special activities and projects. The care providers here are Nora Bosch, Melissa Pokorney, Lili Sandler, and Dan Stevenson.

### K-1-2: Caring Hands

Each session begins with a chalice lighting and a sharing time. On Jan. 15, Carl Wacker read the group the story, "My Friend the Monster" which they then discussed. Then they formed a marching band and played along to the song, "We're All a Family." Each child made a collage of friends they could have around the world. As an ending treat, the group read, "Amelia Bedila."

On Jan. 22, Lili Sandler and Dan Stevenson led the group on the topic of friends. They talked about what people like to do with their friends and colored pictures of them. They read the books, "A Book of Hugs" and "Rosie and Michael."

The following week, Carl led the group on the topic of enemies. The focus was the video, "The Hating Movie," which is based on a story by Charlotte Zolotow. Stopping the video often to discuss what was going on, the class was lively and engaged in the topic. At the end, they joined the rest of the society upstairs to partake in the community sculpture.

### 3-4-5: Timeless Themes

On Jan. 15, Fran Zell led the session on King Solomon. The children made crowns while they heard the story. They discussed solutions to the problem of the baby and came up with good ideas. They also each chose a proverb from the bible (King Solomon's wisdom) and discussed what they thought they meant.

### 6-7-8: In Our Hands

This group will be leading the intergenerational service on February 12, and so they are spending their Sundays preparing for that event. They have original skits which they're writing and practicing, and have various games they're also preparing. This group is led by Erin Bosch and Randy Converse.

### Honehe-Con is Coming

The 7th and 8th graders of Brookfield, WI's UU Church West will be hosting a junior YRUU conference on March 11-12. The focus is Native American ways and spirituality. Workshop topics will include: bead weaving, cornhusk dolls, wolf teaching, music, acting, story telling, dream catchers, meditation and leadership. See Anne Pryor for registration information if interested in attending.



### Vascular Volunteers? Yes!

Somehow, Laurie Larson's name was omitted from a list of blood donors from Prairie Society when she gave her pint in early December. Just this month, Fredericka Schilling and Bob Purvis were donors—Bravo! A list of special sites other than the Sheboygan Avenue center is on our bulletin board at the meeting house. By the way—have you signed the back of your driver's license to show you would be an organ donor? Donors are urgently needed, so please give this idea serious consideration.

### An Evening in the Garden

We are invited to a wine tasting and Dance Benefit for The United, an agency serving the Dane County Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual community. The event will be Saturday, February 18, 1995 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Olbrich Botanical Gardens 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison. Tickets are \$20 - \$30 (Sliding Scale) and must be purchased in advance. You may purchase tickets at The United, Community Pharmacy, Green Earth, Mother Fools Coffee House, Orange Tree Imports, and Willy Street Co-op.

### Volunteers 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 AM to 8 AM.

Thank you to *Barbara Rames* and *Alice Schuman* who worked the evening shift in December and *Pat Cautley* and *Mike Briggs* who worked the morning shift in December. Please call new coordinator Fran Zell if you can take a turn.

### Social Action Committee

Plan to attend the dynamic and controversial Social Action Committee Meeting Tuesday February 21, 7:30 PM, at the Prairie Meeting House. We will continue our discussion from January 22 about our participation in community service. The questions are: Should Prairie UU's continue to donate staff time at the Homeless Shelter once a month. Is there some community service we can provide in the Allied Drive—Dunn's Marsh neighborhood of which we are a part? Come help us make these decisions!

The Social Action committee has also signed on as a member to the Coalition Against Capital Punishment. Individuals are welcome to join also. You may call Michael Schuler at 233-9774 for information.

### 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.



### UU Singlz

Prairie member Rick Ruecking (238-2924) is our in-house contact for this group. All UU singles, guests, acquaintances and any other single who finds out about these events are welcome to attend.

Beyond Divorce classes start in late March. This 8 week course explores building healthy relationships. Call Libby Hofsteen at 274-7551 for information on how to register.

Friday dinners alternate between the Sunporch Cafe and selected other restaurants. On February 3, it will be at Imperial Gardens on University Avenue, and on the 10th it will be at the Sunporch.

Saturday, February 18, there will be an ethnic potluck and game party at Libby Hofsteen's, 5602 Barton Road (274-7551). Bring your favorite dish to pass, a beverage, and a game (optional).

