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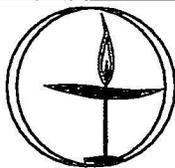
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 33, No. 4, 2-14-95

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, February 26. Submit items for March 2 and later.

CALENDAR

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).

Sunday, February 26

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"NEVER AGAIN FOUNDATION," a presentation by Tomoko Ukei (See related story).

Secret Friends letter exchange continues.

11:30-1:00 PM
PYGs meeting.

Sunday, March 5

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

Choir members note: we will perform today!

10:00 AM

"BEEN IN THE STORM SO LONG: African-Americans, Unitarians and Universalists," presented by Jonalu Johnstone, Minister of James Reeb U.U. Society (See related story).

Secret Friends letter exchange continues.

Spirit Circle and Service Project Sunday for RE.

Sunday, March 12

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

To Be Announced.

Secret Friends ends with party after the morning service.

Today's Quote

"Those who can read and choose not to have no advantage over those who cannot."

- MARK TWAIN

NEWS & VIEWS

Never Again...

Tomoko Ukei is speaking to groups in Wisconsin as part of the "Never Again Campaign." She will show slides and share her

message of the tragedies of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tomoko recently arrived in the U.S., is staying with Anne Pryor and family, and has visited Prairie.

Prairie Patter

Saturday February 11 was a day made for hibernation. The temperature was below 0 and the wind chill was forbidding. Yet there are signs of spring in February even in Wisconsin. I saw a bright red cardinal last week, and Judy Skog's joy this week was she heard cardinals singing territory. It is now noticeable the days are longer. The intergenerational service this past Sunday was a great pleasure. Prairie UU Society has put some thought and discussion and practice into having our youth be part of the society. This week the middle school youth presented the service with drama illustrating the issues brought up in their curriculum this year. Then children, youth and adults all participated in the carnival with games of skill and chance with hugs, cookies and prizes. It was a great pleasure to participate in the activities. A big thank you to the middle school youth and their teachers for contributing a program.

I misspelled a new member's name last issue—Judy Sadowsky spells her name with a y.

Blessed be—

—Julia Bonser
President

In The Storm...

While we welcome Jonalu Johnstone, the minister of James Reeb Society, the newest Madison UU Church, one of our former lay ministers, Warren Hagstrom, will be speaking at James Reeb. Jonalu will bring to us some of the history and current concern in

...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 denomination about including African-Americans in our societies.

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.

CMD Annual Meeting

We have the registration forms for *Retreat to Simpler Times?* This is our Central Midwest District Annual Meeting in a new setting. The rates are modest and the workshops exciting. Friday evening there will be a Coffee House with an open mike with a kick off by the UUTroubadours of Racine (*a must hear*). Dr. Jean Hardisty will be the keynote speaker speaking on the "Challenge of the Radical Religious Right." The new Committee on Disability and Access will guide us on how to recognize and insure accessibility in our buildings and programs. Jim Todd will present musical spirituality from Womb to Tomb. The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi will lead a meditation using some of Dr. Deepak Chopra's techniques and help explore primordial sound meditation. Rev. Gordon Gibson and Melanie Tuttle, Esq. examine the debate on school prayer and

explore ways we can deal with this intractable issue in our home towns. There will be Dances of Universal Peace, conversations with Dr. Hardisty, a workshop on understanding conflict management styles and much, much more. Julie Bonser will be attending and would like several other Prairie members to attend also. Save March 31 to April 2 for Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana.

A Gershwin Extravaganza

Attention Prairie Musicians! The George Gershwin program will be Sunday April 30. 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!

Thank You, Prairie!

Now that, after five months of dependency on walkers, crutches and canes, I can finally get around on my own, I'd like to express my profoundest gratitude to the many Prairie friends who have been so supportive in ways both concrete and morale boosting while I recovered from knee surgery. I'm overwhelmed by the multitude of ways in which you gave me a lift—from meals to wheels (a literal lift, there); from cards, flowers and calls to professional p.t. home visits (guess who?); from cat humor to old radio comedy cassettes; from visits to the warm (for arthritis sufferers and recovering surgical patients) pool at your health club to remembering cushions when I visited or rode with you.

Particular highlights were a computer printout from Al Nettleton of *every* reference in *all* Shakespeare's plays to the knee (you wouldn't *believe* how many!), and Jean Matos' arrival, on Halloween, to pick me up from physical therapy in a black cat costume, complete with whiskers and tail! Group Health will never be the same...

Thanks to all my Prairie drivers for hanging in there with me, week after endless week, trip after trip, between p.t. and home: Pat Watkins, Pat Cautley, Ruth Calden, Jean Matos, John Grindrod, Rachel Siegfried, Susan Hagstrom, Barbara Rames, and Linda Sheehy. Thanks to Barb Park for the cravat (no, it's not a necktie!) and the instruction, and to faithful correspondent Cinda LaMar. Cheers to meal bringers Al Nettleton and Pat Cautley, and to Susan, applesauce maker extraordinaire. Blessings upon cassette senders Warren and Doleta Chapru Hagstrom and George and Ruth Calden. A super-mom award to Amy Schulz who brought not only

a rose from her garden but her two lovely and beautifully behaved little ones to the hospital to visit me. And a Kindred Spirit badge of merit to Shirley Grindrod and Pat Watkins who brought much coveted sweets (chocolate!) that I couldn't go out and get for myself.

You all helped me survive a really unpleasant experience. I felt your caring surround me even when the darned knee would *not* bend and I was so stir-crazy I thought I'd die. To all of you Prairie folks who have given me encouragement and shown so much concern: thank you thank you, THANK YOU!!! It's great to be back and on my own two feet.

Hugs-

-Rosemary Donney

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 date, *the following adults have Secret Friends and should bring letters to exchange on Sunday, Feb. 19.* (Those other adults who signed up but whose name is not listed below, you don't have a Secret Friend yet. Please wait to hear from me before you bring a letter.)

Mary Mullen
Alice Bullen
Warren Hagstrom
Paula Pachciarz
Shirley Grindrod
Doleta Chapru
Aileen Nettleton
Orange Schroeder
Rachel Siegfried
Rick Owens
Bob Purvis
Kerry Beheler-Amass
Susan Hagstrom
Carl Wacker

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 plan to be there if you are a Secret Friend!

Service Project

The Religious Education program's winter service project, to collect needed items for the men who stay at Transitional Housing's

overnight shelter, was a tremendous success. For instance, 21 pairs of warm socks, 14 pairs of gloves or mittens, 9 hats, 17 toothbrushes, 8 razors and 8 warm sweaters were donated. There were many more items too; the complete list is posted on the front entryway door.

Many thanks to all who took part in the project, both young and older members alike.

Service Auction '95

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

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. Silent Auction items may be dropped off at Prairie between 3-6p.m. on Saturday, February 25, or any time before that. If you bring things before the 25th, please label them for the auction, and put them in the office downstairs. Silent Auction items will be available for bidding before service on Sunday the 26th. The service will start promptly at 10:00, so come to Prairie at 9:30 to check out the bargains. Bidding will close when the verbal auction begins after lunch.

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 info.

DONATED ITEMS

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 or 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.

—homemade rhubarb-raspberry pie x3.

Fran Zell—middle eastern vegetarian dinner for 6 in your home.

—overnight babysit.

Melanie Tower (from James Reeb)—4 hours gardening advice to design one or improve an existing one—she has experience with perennials, wildflowers, vegetables and organic techniques.

Kerry Beheler-Amass—Italian dinner for 6 (salad, bread, drinks, main course, and dessert).

Keith Beheler-Amass—complete veterinary service for 1 dog or cat (including physical exam, vaccinations, and recommendation for follow-up care, if needed).

Paula Pachciarz—middle eastern dinner (veggie or meat) for 6-8.

Carl Wacker—use of canoe & equipment for day trip or weekend.

Anne Pryor—one bag of mending.

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 x5 (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.

Rachel Siegfried—Someone to paint her bedroom (will donate \$30 to Prairie).

Anne Pryor—landscaping or garden design advice for her yard.

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!

Leadership School

The Unitarian Universalist Midwest Leadership School is part of our denomination's nationwide network of lay led schools designed to create an environment where leadership skills can be developed. Through facilitated interaction with other Unitarian Universalists and personal reflection, Midwest Leadership school offers opportunities for personal, spiritual and leadership growth. The program includes organizational development, theology, UU history, elements of worship, and the creation of a worship service. Leadership styles, consensus building and conflict resolution as well as the opportunity to develop and share personal belief statements, form important parts of the week. Registration is limited to 32 participants. Applicants are accepted on a first come first serve basis. This year it will be July 15 to 22 on the Beloit College Campus. If you want more information, talk to Julie Bonser, 274-3248.



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. 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. Shifts are difficult to fill, particularly the early morning. Please call new coordinator Fran Zell 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.



Preschool

Painting with watercolors, playing with the train set, and eating snack continue to be favorite activities in this group. The numbers of children attending is small these days, so each child who is there gets lots of loving attention from our great caregivers: Melissa Pokorney, Nora Bosch, Lili Sandler, and Dan Stevenson.

K-1-2: Caring Hands

Welcome back to Kathy Converse! We're delighted to have her well enough to be participating in RE again.

Kathy led this group in an exploration of the ideas of "Partners with Nature." First the children investigated a table full of natural items such as a deer bone nibbled upon by mice, skulls, feathers, seeds, and sponges. Each chose an item and then described it told why they had picked that one. They all talked about where various ones of the items came from. To end with, Kathy drew each child a picture of their favorite animal. The children then drew and colored in the environment the animal would live in. Overall, this topic was very popular with the children.

3-4-5: Timeless Themes

This group, led by the creative Fran Zell, studied the story of Job and the idea that even when bad things happening to good people one can have faith in God or in life despite the misfortune.

The children drew a picture of themselves having a really bad day, and then each talked about his/her picture. They read the story of Job and discusses its themes—especially that bad things sometimes just happen through no fault of our own; that we need to have faith that things will improve; that friends can comfort us in bad times and that we can likewise comfort them. They also read Judith Viorst's book, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.

They went on to create people and other figures out of peanuts to show the enormity of what Job had and what he lost.

6-7-8: In Our Hands

This group, under the dedicated and inspired leadership of Randy Converse and Erin Bosch, led a wonderful intergenerational service for our celebration of love on February 12. The service included skits, which depicted some of the social issues important in their lives and how UU values relate to them. The second half of the service was a very fun carnival which raised both money and collected food donations for the Allied Drive Food Pantry. Great job all!

PYGs

The Prairie Youth Group had a great time sledding, skiing, and skating at Elver Park for our February social activity. Though the sledding hill was icy and dangerous, most of us survived it without too much damage, although there were several minor injuries. Fun was had by all, nevertheless.

The Feb. 12 PYG meeting was spent playing Pictionary.

The Feb. 26 PYG meeting will be suspended in a way. All PYGs have been volunteered to help out with the auction. So, show up for RE on the 26th, plan to stay after for the auction, and be prepared to help out Judy Skog, Orange Schroeder and other organizers in whatever way would be most useful.

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.



Used Carpet Needed

I work at Allied Drive in a basement room with a cement floor. I need a *donated* carpet or carpet remnant in fair to good condition for my students' children to play on. I would like a square or rectangle 6' to 10' on a side that I can roll up at the end of the morning but round or any other shape would be fine as well. If you can help, please call me at 273-4808.

-Paula Pachciany

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.

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).

ABSENTEE BIDDING FORM: PRAIRIE SERVICE AUCTION

Item _____

Max. Bid \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Send to Judy Skog at 626 Orchard Dr., Madison, WI 53711.

Or phone her at 273-4813.