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# Prairie Fire



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

|                                 |          |                                  |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
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| Susan Hagstrom, Treasurer ..... | 238-4970 | Meeting House .....              | 271-8218 |

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Production Assistants - Susan Hagstrom

**Vol. 33, No. 5, 2-28-95**

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

## CALENDAR

### 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.

### Tuesday, March 7

7:30 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon Street.

### Sunday, March 12

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

"WELFARE TODAY" presented by Ruth Conniff, Associate Editor of Progressive Magazine—Jack Jallings, lay minister.

*Secret Friends* ends with party after the morning service.

### Sunday, March 19

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

The second service in Jack Jallings lay ministry series.

### Monday, March 20

6:30 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. All levels of Spanish welcome. Please bring a dish to share. For information, call Kate at 221-2168.

### Sunday, March 26

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

To Be Announced.

### Today's Quote

"And time is not a gulf, nor space a bar;  
Our hearts are loyal, even though we're far;  
As once we were, again tonight we are."

- GEORGINA GODDARD KING



### Prairie Service Auction

Please extend a big thank you to Orange Schroeder and Judy Skog for organizing the service auction. Thank you to all of you who donated goods, services and help during the auction. Preliminary reports say we netted over \$1,400.

### Welfare Today...

Public welfare for children and women—just what is it? What proposals for reform are being suggested at the state and national level? Are they good or bad and for whom? Are jobs at a living wage available for women on welfare with or without children?

On March 12, 19, 26 and April 9 at Prairie, various speakers will address the subject of welfare for children and families. Will they be informative, lively and (perhaps) controversial? YES!

*-Jack Jallings, lay minister*

### Prairie Patter

This month is the 50th anniversary of the firebombing of Dresden; National Public Radio had a series about this for a week. *I do not like waking up to descriptions of violence and examples of "man's inhumanity to man."* This month at Prairie we examined the issue of media violence and its impact on children. We also saw paintings of the effects of the A bomb on Hiroshima. *I do not like seeing photographs and paintings of the effects of war violence.* Sunday I read an article about local school girls beating up and kicking a female classmate in an isolated county park. *I do not like to see violent behaviour in my own community.* I'm sure you have your own examples of violence that you could not turn your head from. *Practicing non violence personally does not seem to be enough to reduce violent behavior in our community.* The spirit of the times seems to be leading to more violence. Punitive changes to AFDC, Medicare, and SSI are being proposed by State and National politicians, and many are also advocating a return to the death penalty. Such social policies can also do violence to individuals,

...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

their lives, and their feelings—to *abstain from reaching out to help results in harm*. To ignore a call for support and help is in effect to hurt and maim the spirit if not the body.

Prairie's *Bond Of Union* reminds us our futures are inescapably bound together, that the effect on one is the effect on all. We need to practice healing, peace, non violence and conflict resolution—to sit down and discuss with our children, youth and adults how we can promote and spread peace.

Blessed be—  
-Julie Bonser  
President

## New Look for Songbook

Thanks to Orange Schroeder for designing and printing a new title page and donating new plastic covers for them. Thanks also to all of her helpers in recovering the Song Books for Prairie.

## 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 UU Troubadours 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.*

## Gershwin Program a Sellout!

*Attention Prairie Musicians!* The George Gershwin program scheduled for Sunday, April 30, is rumored to be a sellout, with standing room only remaining. Musicians who want to kick off their public career with

a bang should contact Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom (238-4970) and let them know what they would like to perform.

## 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*. for more information, talk to Julie Bonser, 274-3248.



## 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

Carl Wacker led the group in a session focusing on appreciating nature. As usual, they opened with their UU Circle and sharing time, then had a Show and Tell with items from nature such as sea shells, cicada shells, birds' nests, and geodes. They ended by making pine cone bird feeders which they then hung in trees in the yard.

The following week Cathy Converse led a session focusing on understanding animals' needs for shelter, space food and water. All types of animals were discussed, including human, domestic and wild animals. The session included a story about unusual animal homes, guessing which animals could live in any of these homes as shown in collected pictures, and a story about taking care of the environment so as to protect animals. They also made folded paper frogs that really jump!

The children really enjoy talking about nature, since each seems to have a love of animals, and experience and observations to discuss.

## 3-4-5: Timeless Themes

Bob Purvis led a session about the bible story of Mary and Joseph's flight into Egypt. Along with reading the story, they also talked about what traveling and living would be like 2000 years ago.

The next week Fran Zell led the group in learning about the story of Ruth. In alliance with Ruth's way of helping others, the group made muffins to give to Hospitality House, a drop-in facility for homeless folks in Madison. They also discussed themes of kindness, helping others and how good deeds sometime lead to great things we may never know about.

## 6-7-8: In Our Hands

Randy Converse led the group in two topics, the first being conscientious objection as a way to respond to war-making. They discussed what CO's are, how one can declare himself a CO when turning 18, and what CO's might do in either of these situations: another country cuts off the US's oil supply, or another country bombs Los Angeles. There was a great discussion on this topic; the kids did not need to be convinced of the ugliness of war.

The second topic was finishing their project for the food pantry. With the proceeds from the preceding week's carnival fund raiser they purchased goods for the food pantry on a field trip to Supersaver.

The next week, Erin Bosch introduced a new curriculum to this class, one that focuses on Jesus. The point of this particular session was to emphasize how stories passed orally can be changed when transmitted.

## 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 teach-

ing, music, acting, story telling, dream catchers, meditation and leadership. See Anne Pryor for registration information if interested in attending.



## Candidates' Forum

James Reeb Society and a number of Madison's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual organizations are jointly sponsoring a candidate's forum for School Board candidates from 1 PM to 3 PM on Saturday March 4, 1995 at the James Reeb Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street. Child care will be provided and free parking is available at the East High parking lot across the street. For more information, contact Jack Siebert at 231-3064.

## Friends of Tibet

The Wisconsin Tibetan Association, The Wisconsin Friends of Tibet, and Deer Park Buddhist Center invite us to join them on March 10 for the annual recognition of Tibetan Uprising Day. There will be a rally on the north side of the State Capitol at 12 noon with a number of brief speeches on the recent political history of Tibet and the current fate of its people. Come show your solidarity with the Tibetan people as they continue to struggle for human rights and freedom in their native land.

## Women's History Month

In celebration of Women's History Month, a lecture series "Women's Transformation in a Time of Technology" will be offered at the Westside Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace on Sundays at 2:00 PM, March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2. Through literature, cultural anthropology, media and the arts, the series will present perspectives on the impact of technology on individuals and the community. These lectures are funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council serving on behalf of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For information call 238-0196.

## 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.

## UUSC Justice Program

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has created the *Just Works Program*. Just Works is a multi-faceted program that seeks to direct the energies of participants into programs of advocacy, service, and education in support of the UUSC's mission of working for justice. Furthermore it provides skills, training, and perspective to help the participants make personal, long-term commitments to working with and for economically oppressed people. Lastly Just Works seeks to diminish, where possible, the painful effects of poverty. The four components are:

*Working Justice* is a service opportunity program for volunteers, interns, and students. With numerous locations throughout the United States, it offers flexibility of placement and time. Placements are with grassroots organizations working to empower economically oppressed groups or communities, or with organizations who are either actively engaged in policy and legislative advocacy that will benefit those living in poverty or addressing issues of racial justice. In some instances, financial assistance is available in the form of scholarships, stipends, and/or matching grants.

*Experience For Change* is a service/learning program that provides a work and reflection experience at selected sites. This type of placement is ideally suited for groups of 15 to 20 participants. There is a low participant-to-supervisor ratio and a strong emphasis on community building. Typically, the placement is either a weekend or week long assignment, with some longer placements during the summer.

*The UUSC Disaster Response Network* provides short-term opportunities for volunteers to provide direct service and advocacy for economically oppressed communities, devastated by natural and human caused disasters.

*UUSC Information Clearinghouse*, in cooperation with the Quaker Information Center, provides detailed, current information on long and short term volunteer service opportunities in the United States and overseas.

To find out more about Just Works and how to become a part of this service, please

contact the Rev. Jose Ballester at : UUSC/Just Works, 130 Prospect St., Cambridge, MA 02139; 9617-868-6600 ext. 141; fax 617-868-7102; e-mail: justworks@aol.com.

## National Conference...

*A Religious Response to the Radical Right: A Day of Lobbying, A Year of Advocacy.*

Feeling angry about the election results? Concerned about the future we are passing on to our children and grandchildren? Then attend the 19th Annual UU National Conference for Social Justice in Washington, DC, March 31 - April 4, 1995. Learn to be effective in your own community and help transform the national debate. Be part of the effort to establish a coordinated liberal religious response at all levels: local, state, and national. We invite all UUs and friends to the nation's capitol for a weekend of reflection on our liberal religious values AND training on how we may become better equipped spiritually and politically to address issues that are important to us.

Help transform national policy on critical issues including welfare reform, capital punishment, prayer in public schools, censorship in public institutions and lesbian, gay and bisexual civil rights. Build interfaith coalitions. Don't Just Get Angry: ORGANIZE! Come to Washington for a weekend of reflection, organizing, training and lobbying. Contact Kerry Smith at the UUA Washington Office for information or registration forms. UUA-WO; 100 Maryland Ave. NE #106; Washington, DC 20002. Phone 202-547-0254. Fax 202-544-2854

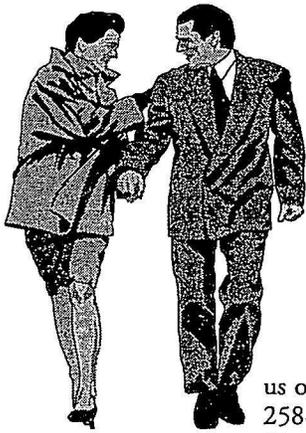
## Food Pantry

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.



## CAT TENDER Needed!

Wanted: someone living on the Isthmus or Near East Side to visit, feed and play with two very nice cats while my husband and I go to Florida from March 11 through the 17th. The older cat needs to have two pills daily, or at least once every other day. If you can help



us out, please call me at 265-0573 days or 258-8269 evenings as soon as possible. Thanks!

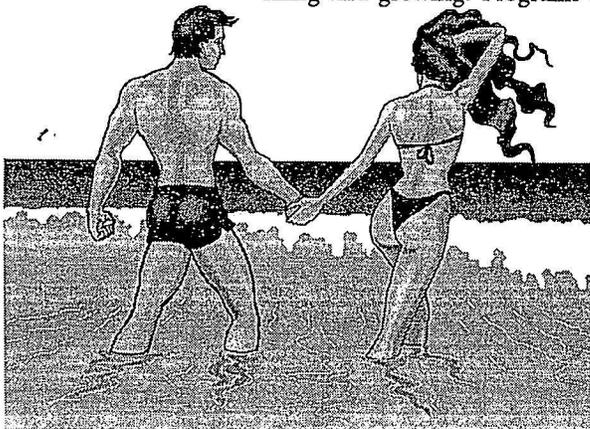
-Anne Urbanski

## Summer Camp Offerings

We have received information from several UU summer camps around the US. The information will be in the rotating book rack in the rear of the meeting room. Several members of Prairie have attended these camps and found them delightful. A partial list of camps is included below:

*AMUUSE—Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles Enrichment Camps* offer discussion, personal growth groups, outdoor fun, special interest activities, musical jam sessions, talent night, dancing, campfires. Four individual week-long camps are being offered. Saug-in June, June 18 - 24; AMUUSE at Lake Geneva July 16 - 22, Saugatuck, August 6 - 12; and Saugatuck Tool, August 20 - 26. For more information call Sharon Spencer, Registrar (312) 973-2715 or write AMUUSE P. O. Box 14598, Chicago, IL 60614-0598.

*NorthWoods Retreat: About Time and Place...A Northwoods Intergenerational Experience.* The theme is based on our connectedness to the interdependent web, the Seventy Principle, and our continuing search for truth, the Fourth Principle. Join us for six days of relaxing, hiking, canoeing, swimming and growing. Programs for each age



group are held in the morning. Afternoons are free for family activity. In the evenings join in naturalist programs, campfires, night hikes, a pow wow, and more. The camp will be July 1 - 7 at Trees for Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

## Part Time Opportunity

The Free Congregation in Sauk City is seeking a person to fill a part-time administrative position. The position will concentrate on developing a strongly focused religious education program and meeting some of the day to day administrative needs of the congregation. Approximately 40 hours per month are required. Please contact John Lichtenheld at 608-544-2917

## Summer Job Opportunity

Camp Unistar on Star Island, Cass Lake, Minnesota, has a variety of summer jobs. See the posting on the bulletin board.

## 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 Hofsteeen at 274-7551 for information on how to register.

