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Prairie Fire



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

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Production Assistants - Susan Hagstrom and Dick Bonser
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The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, March 26. Submit items for March 31 and later.

CALENDAR

Friday, March 17
7:00 PM
CONTRA DANCE, upstairs

Sunday, March 19
9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"WELFARE ISSUES" Second in a series coordinated by Jack Jallings, lay minister.
11:30 AM
Women's Group meets, potluck lunch, downstairs.
12:45 - 4:45 PM,
SHAAREISHAMAYIM meeting, upstairs

Friday, March 24
6:00 PM
ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE meets at Lulu's, 2524 University Avenue. (Please call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 before 5 PM on Wednesday, March 22 for reservations. See related story.)

Saturday, March 25
7:30 PM
PLAYREADERS meet at Pat Cautley's, 4805 Regent St. (west of Hilldale Shopping Center). Phone 238-5373 for information.

Sunday, March 26
9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"WELFARE ISSUES" Third in a series coordinated by Jack Jallings, lay minister.
11:30 AM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal; *Bring the music for "Cake Walk" and practice your part ahead of time.*

Sunday, April 2
9:00 AM
Choir Practice *Country + Ethnic pieces*
10:00 AM
"PROCESS THEOLOGY" presented by JACKIE ZIEGLER, former Prairie intern.
11:15 AM
SPRING BURN OF THE PRAIRIE, Middle School RE (see related story).
12:00 Noon
SPRING POTLUCK LUNCH, please bring a dish to pass.

Today's Quote
"...Some things...arrive on their own mysterious hour, on their own terms and not yours, to be seized or relinquished forever."
-GAIL GODWIN

NEWS & VIEWS

Prairie women
The Prairie Women's Group has been meeting for more than one year. Certainly we have learned a lot about other Prairie women. Several "regular" members agree that it is time for

evaluation of our purpose and future. Please come to the March 19 meeting with your thoughts on how the group is meeting, or can better meet, your expectations. We suggest jotting down some notes in your free time on activities you enjoy, things you would like to learn or experience. Several great suggestions have already been made.

Prairie Patter

Many of us read the article in last Wednesday's Neighbors section about Lily Sandler. This article was incomplete because it did not mention the many contributions that Lily has made at Prairie. Lily has taken care of our preschoolers for several years during the Sunday programs. She has helped coordinate Sunday morning services for us. One of her early efforts was when she and Dan Stevenson offered (for a small fee) to make beds during our retreat at Upham Woods. It is a pleasure to read about the work and accomplishments of one of our youth. Congratulations for the recognition, Lily! Also our thanks to her family and particularly Betty and Jack Jallings who have brought Lily to Prairie Society regularly.

We like to believe that our desire for social good and democracy is transmitted to our children. The best way I know how to teach people is by example. Participating together in our religious community, I hope we are practicing, teach and transmitting those values that we want are children to learn.

Thank you, Bob Steinhofel! Bob has donated the new sound equipment to Prairie UU. I thought we had found some way to overcome the bane of churches, the empty front rows of seats, until we learned that many of you couldn't hear the speakers very well. Today we used the new microphone and sound amplification.

...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

Let Bob know how it works for you. We need to find the right level so that everyone can hear clearly. Please don't let me be sitting all alone in the front row now that you can hear.

Blessed be-

-Julie Bonser
President

Prairie Annual Meeting

Prairie UU Society Annual Meeting and election of officers will be Sunday, April 23 at 1:00 PM. Members are invited to submit agenda items to the board via President Julie Bonser. There will be discussion and voting on proposed bylaw amendments.

Board-Proposed Changes to Prairie Bylaws

The Prairie Board proposes the following Bylaw changes be voted on at the Prairie Spring Meeting on April 23rd. The proposed changes were developed by a subcommittee of the Long Range Planning Committee - Ken Skog (Chair), Al Nettleton, Rick Ruecking, Rosemary Dorney, and Anne Urbanski. The purposes of the amendments are as follows:

Article IV. A. - Clarify what is expected of persons who are members (are in sympathy with the Bond of Union and UU Principles), and to clarify under what conditions a person would no longer be maintained as a member.

Article V. A. - Simplify a statement about how much notice is needed to call a business meeting and allow for longer notice periods if called for elsewhere in the Bylaws.

Article V. G. - Change a requirement to vote for the chair of the Ministerial Committee at the Spring business meeting to make the requirement contingent on Prairie having chosen the option of having a hired professional minister.

Article VI. E. 4. - Correct a reference to how the Annual Prairie budget is developed. Change the reference to Article IX which discusses the budget, rather than Article XII which discusses Amending the Bylaws.

Article VI. E. 9. - Delete words that indicate the Executive Board is to recommend a professional minister if that option is chosen by the Society. The full process of recommendation by an *ad hoc* committee is explained in Article VIII. A. 1.

Article VII. A. 8. - Clarify the duties of the Membership Committee under the categories of "retaining and recruiting members", "maintaining the official membership list", and "providing hospitality/ sponsoring social activities."

Article VII. C. 2. c. (3). - Change the time when the Committee on Committees is to submit a list of recommended Lay ministers for the next year. The list is to be submitted at the Spring Business meeting rather than the Fall Business Meeting.

Please see the 1993 Prairie Membership Directory for the full text of the Bylaws. In the text below additions are underlined and deletions are crossed out.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

A. Members of the Society are those persons sixteen years or older who are in sympathy with the Bond of Union of the Society and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and have signed the official Membership Book. ~~Members may resign from the Society by submitting a written resignation. Membership is also terminated when repeated attempts to locate a member over a two-year period have been unsuccessful.~~ Membership shall be in effect until a member resigns in writing or the membership committee, per Article VII, has determined that the person has discontinued contact with the society for two years or longer.

ARTICLE V: BUSINESS MEETINGS

A. Business meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Board at any time, or shall be called by the President or by the Board upon the written request of ten Members. At least two weeks' notice must be given for business meetings, ~~except as specified in Article X~~ unless a longer time period is specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.

G. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year in April, at

such time and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Board. The principal business shall be the election of officers, ~~chairperson of the Ministerial Relations Committee, and members of the Committee on Committees, and, if the professional ministry option of Article VIII is in effect, chairperson of the Ministerial Relations Committee.~~

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

E. Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall be to:

4. Determine and recommend, in coordination with the Finance Committee, the operating budget as outlined in Article ~~IX~~ XII.

9. ~~Recommend a minister if the professional ministry option of Article VIII is in effect; or, select and~~ Appoint lay ministers, if the lay ministry option of Article VIII is in effect.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committees with elected chairs serving on the Board

8. *Membership Committee*
- a. This committee shall:
 - (1) recruit members by greeting visitors, introducing newcomers to others, inviting persons to join the society, conduct orientation meetings in cooperation with the Denominational Affairs Committee; and contact inactive members.
 - (2) Maintain the official membership list by identifying annually those persons who have signed the membership book and have maintained active membership by attendance, contribution, or other expressions of interest. Members who have discontinued contact with the society for a period of two years will no longer be considered to be members. A directory of members and friends will be published periodically and required information for UUA membership and benefits will be re-

ported to appropriate denominational organizations.

- (3) Provide hospitality for members and friends by arranging refreshments at meetings and programs; sponsoring circle dinners and potlucks; and organizing other social events.
- (1) take special care to greet visitors and new members and introduce them to others.
- (2) invite persons known to be interested in the Society to enter into a formal relationship.
- (3) maintain a list of prospective members, periodically inviting them to join, and help plan orientation meetings to acquaint new and prospective members with Prairie Society and Unitarian Universalism.
- (4) keep an up-to-date list of Members and provide this list when needed to committees and subgroups of the Society.
- (5) be responsible for preparation of a directory of Members and Friends.
- (6) attempt annually to contact inactive Members to ascertain their interest in maintaining membership in the Society.
- (7) provide coffee at services and arrange for cleanup afterwards.
- (8) care for and maintain the Society's membership book.
- (9) send an annual list of the membership to UUA headquarters.
- (10) maintain a current list of subscribers to the UU World.
- (11) arrange for ceremonies and name tags for new members.
- (12) organize social events, including but not limited to circle dinners and potlucks.
- (13) cooperate with the Denominational Affairs committee on orientation programs.

B. Committees with appointed chairs not serving on the Board:

2. *Committee on Committees*

c. The duties of this committee are to:

- (3) if the lay ministry option of Article VIII is in effect, to solicit and

interview candidates, and announce at the Regular Fall Spring Business Meeting the names, terms of service, and prospective roles of lay minister candidates for the coming year. These names, along with any additional recommendations from members, shall be passed to the Executive Board for approval.

Member-Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The following amendment to the Bylaws is proposed by Pat Watkins. The existing bylaws are written below with the proposed addition/change underlined.

Article IV: Membership

A. Members of the Society are those persons sixteen years or older who have signed the official Membership Book and have pledged and paid the per member dues assessed by the CMD, the NC Area Council, and the UUA, or have requested in writing to the Finance Committee that such payment be waived. (The remainder of Paragraph A to be eliminated.)

Article VII: Standing Committee

A. 1. c. The committee shall announce in the Prairie Fire the total due to fulfill the individual membership obligation as defined in Article IV, A, as soon as this information is available.

Resolution

A Resolution Concerning Member Financial Contributions to Prairie to be considered at the Prairie Business Meeting April 23, 1995.

Whereas each member of Prairie Society receives benefits of membership and the society incurs expenses for providing these benefits, and

Whereas the Society is committed to maintaining participation in denominational organizations by paying fees, and payment of these fees has the effect of reducing the Society operating budget,

It is resolved that each member be encouraged to provide an annual contribution at least

equal to the payments made by the Society on members' behalf to denominational organizations. Members are also encouraged to contribute above this level in order to support the Society programs as well as denominational fees.

It is also resolved that the Finance Committee inform members of this resolution when raising funds for each annual budget, and that the Membership Committee inform new members of this resolution.

Proposed by a subcommittee of the Long Range Planning committee for Bylaws changes meeting on February 12, 1995 - Ken Skog, Anne Urbanski, Rich Ruecking, and Al Nettleton.

Ethnic and Fish Dinner Circles

It is imperative that people interested in attending these events call Pat at 233-5795 for reservations. The last ethnic dinner was canceled due to lack of reservations, although several people showed up thinking that we would be there (and we weren't). The last fish dinner elicited no reservations until I phone the usual participants, and then a very compatible group assembled at the M.O.B. Roadhouse. Unfortunately, I am unable to phone everyone who may wish to attend, so unless I hear from you, I will be forced to give up my role as coordinator of these dinners.

Absent Friends

To our many Prairie friends:

What a surprise and delight to receive the beautiful bouquet of flowers with the Happy Birthday balloon on our joint birthdays—George's 80th and Ruth's 68th. Also the card was great and we savored all the Prairie signatures and the comments. It made us realize again how precious is our extended Prairie family.

To help celebrate our birthdays we were joined by our four adult children, George's younger brother and wife, as well as a bunch of Madison and Naples folks.

Thanks for thinking of us and adding such zest to our festivities. We miss Prairie very much and look forward to seeing you again in April.

The sunshine kids—Ruth and George Calden

Snake Goddesses

A day-long workshop with Nancy Vedder-Shults on March 25 at the First Unitarian Society will celebrate snake goddesses from several different cultures, including Shakti/Kundalini from India, the Greek Medusa and Eve's famous serpent. Snakes, serpents, drag-

ons and other reptiles often represented the goddess in prepatriarchal society. We will explore the power of such goddesses in our lives as contemporary women through guided visualization, meditative practices, ritual, stories and songs (including several from Nancy's recent recording, "Chants for the Queen of Heaven. Fee is \$55 for the day/\$40 for UUWF or Alliance members. Send your name and address with check (payable to Nancy Vedder-Shults) to 2810 Gregory Street, Madison, WI 53711. For more information call Nancy at 231-3362.

Madison Pagans Meet

At 12:30 PM on Sunday March 19 at the First Unitarian Society, there will be a meeting of Unitarian Universalist pagans from all three UU congregations to discuss how we can connect with each other in an ongoing way. One of the proposals under discussion will be celebrating the eight "hinges of the year" together. Please come to this meeting and the preceding Wiccan celebration of the Spring Equinox at 11:00 am led by Nancy Vedder-Shults.

Channing Murray

Mark your calendars now for the Second Annual Channing Murray Spring Banquet beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday April 1 at the Memorial Union. This catered event will feature entertainment by Ken Lonnquist, door prizes, and a raffle drawing. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$15 for others. Call Connie Nadler at 259-1640 by March 25 to RSVP.

CMD Annual Meeting

The Central Midwest District's 1995 UU meeting will be held March 31 to April 2 at Camp Alexander Mack, a retreat center on Lake Waubesa near Milford, Indiana in northern Indiana. UU's from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri will attend the event. This year's focus is UU response to the Christian right.

Mind-Body Class

Prairie member Michael Schinitzky, M.D., donated to the service auction his course on Mind-Body control. This course will teach us how, by gaining control of our many conditioned responses, we can regulate much more of our health, better control our medical problems, as well as modify our responses to daily

life situations. We will learn how to make use of the "placebo effect" for healthier lives. Michael has presented some of this material during a Sunday program as well as to the Plato group. The first session will be primarily lecture and discussion; subsequent sessions are for support and follow-up. The first session will be May 7, 1:00 PM, at Prairie UU Society. The second will be June 4, 1:00 PM.

Several people donated \$20 a person to Prairie UU Society for this training. There is room for a total of 20 to participate. You can join us by donating to the Prairie Auction. Please register by phoning Julie Bonser 274-3248 before May 7.

Building Committee

The Building and Property Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 PM at the meetinghouse. This committee needs a new chair. Anyone interested in this position is especially urged to attend. Contact Karen Gross for further 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.

Shelter Thanks

Special thanks to the following Prairie members who volunteered for shifts at the Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter in January and February: Rick Ruecking, Bob Nelson, Fran Zell, Fran Remeika (she helped in January and February), Betty Jallings, Orton Gray, and Barbara Rames.

Four volunteers are needed each month. Prairie is responsible for staffing two shifts on the fourth Monday of each month at the Shelter. The shifts are 7:30 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 Fran Zell at 233-0213 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.

Senior Book Sale

The Westside Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace, is collecting books for the annual used book sale to be held on June 3. Books may be dropped off at the Center weekdays between 9:00 am and 3:00 PM, or will be picked up at your home (call 238-0196). Funds from this sale are a major source of support for the program at the Westside Senior Center.

Discussion Group

Bob Reuschlein is organizing a peace economics discussion group which will meet monthly at 414 N. Segoe Road, #57B. For further information and upcoming topics call Bob at 273-3100 (days) or 233-6031 (evenings).