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# Prairie Fire



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

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Meeting House .....271-8218

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Production Assistants - Susan Hagstrom and Dick Bonser

**Vol. 33, No. 7, 3-29-95**

The deadline for the next issue of  
Prairie Fire will be Sunday, April 9.  
Submit items for April 14 and later.

**11:30 AM**

Parish Poll (*see related story*)

**Monday, April 10**

**7:30 PM**

BOARD MEETING at the Meetinghouse

**Sunday, April 16**

**10 AM**

"SPRING RITES," Intergenerational Ser-  
vice with Child Dedication, led by Mary Mullen.  
Bring finger foods to share after the service  
(*See story*)

**Wednesday, April 19**

**6:30 PM**

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK, at  
the Meetinghouse. All levels of Spanish wel-  
come. Please bring a dish to pass. For informa-  
tion call Kate at 221-2168, or Rosemary,  
238-4382.

**Saturday, April 22**

**4:45 PM**

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM PASSOVER  
SEDER, at the Meetinghouse. Prairie mem-  
bers welcome. Reservations necessary. (*See  
related story*)

**Sunday, April 23**

**9 AM**

Choir Practice

**10 AM**

To be Announced

**11:45 AM**

Potluck lunch (Please bring a dish to pass)

**1 PM**

Spring Business Meeting

**Today's Quote**

"I always felt that the great high privilege,  
relief and comfort of friendship was that one  
had to explain nothing."

-Katherine Mansfield

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, April 2**

**9:00 AM**

Choir Practice

**10:00 AM**

"PROCESS PHILOSOPHY AND THE-  
OLOGY: A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SPIRITUALITY FOR THE 21ST CEN-  
TURY" presented by Jackie Ziegler, UU Semi-  
nary Graduate Student (*See related story*).

**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

**Tuesday, April 4**

**7:30 PM**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the  
Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.

**Sunday, April 9**

**9:00 AM**

Choir Practice

**10:00 AM**

"EXPERIENCES IN LEGAL DEFENSE  
OF WELFARE," presented by Louise G.  
Trubek, clinical professor of law, UW Institute  
for Legal Studies and senior attorney for Center  
for Public Representation. Fourth in a series on  
welfare coordinated by Jack Jallings.

## NEWS & VIEWS

**Prairie Burn**

On Sunday, April 2 right after the morning  
service, our middle school RE class will be  
burning our prairie garden. Fire is a natural  
element of a prairie ecosystem. It controls  
weeds and stimulates the growth of native  
prairie plants. The class will receive fire training  
that morning from Brent Haglund of the Sand  
County Foundation. Several adult partners  
will be required. If you are interested, come in  
your grubby clothes and bring a rake if you have  
one.

Everyone else is welcome to observe from  
the sidewalk. There will be a designated "burn  
boss" and all observers and participants should  
follow that person's instructions. The main  
entrance, front steps, and ramp will be closed  
during the burn. Please use the two alternate  
entrances. If you have any questions, please call  
Diane Derouen of the Building and Grounds  
Committee at 238-3766.

**Process Theology**

You're invited to come to Prairie on April 2  
to hear about a theology that an increasing  
number of Unitarian Universalists are embrac-  
ing. Process theology rejects the idea that  
reality is static and instead, affirms that reality

...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

is in constant change or "process." Thus, and in a profoundly spiritual manner, process theology continuously incorporates new knowledge gained from the physical and social sciences into its spiritual understanding of the nature of reality. UUs call this "continuous revelation."

Process theology was developed by Alfred North Whitehead and further influenced by Teilhard de Chardin and the Unitarian theologian Charles Hartshorn. It has been nurtured by Darwin's and Einstein's theories of evolution and relativity, as well as by the subsequent discoveries in quantum physics and field theory. There is much more to know about it. Process theology will deepen as well as challenge your sense of what it means to exist. Jackie Ziegler

## Prairie Patter

Prairie affirms in our Bond of Union that we share a common humanity. We the Member Congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

Now is the time to demonstrate our common humanity, the time to respectfully tell our elected representatives that we expect this country to treat its citizens with respect and dignity. I want my hard earned money to help feed the hungry, house the homeless, clothe the naked, and educate our young.

One of the functions of government is to carry out social programs; to pool resources so that one person is contributing a portion to the care of others. Now our government is reneging on its duty to the future and our children's welfare. There is much work to be done to promote justice, equity and compassion in this nation.

Blessed be-

-Julie Bonser  
President

## Parish Poll

There will be a brief congregational meeting at 11:30 AM on Sunday, April 9 in order to vote on which three resolutions Prairie will send for consideration at this summer's General Assembly in Spokane, Washington. Resolutions under consideration include: Support for people with mental illness; speaking out for children; sexuality education; right to full employment, and six others. Please plan to attend and be part of this decision.

## Spring Rites

As part of the intergenerational service on April 16, Dawn Ace and Phoebe Rosebear invite you to celebrate the dedication of Dawn's new daughter, Annie. Spring is a wonderful time to celebrate together the joy of new life. Please bring breads, fruits, or other finger foods to share together after the service.

## Peace Dinner

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) hosts a Peace and Freedom dinner at 6 PM on Saturday, April 8 at Covenant Presbyterian Church (Segoe and Mineral Point Roads). Featured speaker will be writer and educator Frances Temple, winner of the 1993 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for *Taste of Salt: A Story of Modern Haiti*. Contributions of \$20 per person will go towards continuing the group's work for peace. For reservations call Betty Jallings at 835-3746 or call 276-9178. The menu will be adapted from Belize cooking.

## Service Auction

Thanks to all of you, it was a BIG success! We made (are you ready for this—you'd better sit down) \$1,800!!!

I couldn't have done it without a lot of help. I apologize in advance to anybody I've missed. Special thanks to our remarkable auctioneer, Orange Schroeder; to Nancy Graham for making lots of phone calls and hand writing *all* the auction forms; to members of the Finance Committee (Rick Ruecking, Pat Cautley, and Jim Harvey) for making the rest of the phone calls; and to Marilyn Peters and Susan Hagstrom for doing the hard work at the auction table.

Thanks to all our donors and everyone who lent a hand (whether I asked you to or not), including our cheerful and willing Prairie youth: Jack Jallings, Judy Skog, Rachel Siegfried, Paula Pachiarz, Alice Bullen, Aileen Nettleton, Kathy Helm, Ken Skog, Lee Bullen, Marian Thompson, Shirley Grindrod, Anne Urbanski, Erin Pryor, Alana Pryor, Erik Schroeder, Katrina Schroeder, Heidi Bosch (on crutches, yet), Ian Park, Emma Giorgi, Mona Birong, Kate Tucker, Betty Jallings, Linda Sheehy, Dick Bonser, Lee Burkholder, Metje Butler, Erin Bosch, Rosemary Dorney, Peg Barratt, Kerry and Keith Beheler-Amass, Julie Bonser, Norma Briggs, Mike Briggs, Glenn Chambliss, Doleta Chapru & the Ethnic Connection, Gary Giorgi, Laurie Larson, Greg Nettleton, Al Nettleton, Dr. Rick Owens, Anne Pryor (mending, no less!), Barbara Rames, Kay Frazier, Jose Rodriguez, Dr. Michael Schnitsky, Tomoko Ukei, Carl Wacker, Fran Zell, and Bob Park.

Special thanks also to First and James Reeb for running a notice of the auction in their own newsletters, and to Colin Robertson and Melanie Tower (James Reeb members) for offering services.

WOW! Judy Skog

## Annual Meeting

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

- I. Call to Order 1:00 PM
- II. Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting
- III. Treasurer Report
- IV. Board Committee Reports (written)
- V. Election of Officers
- VI. Elect Committee on Committees
- VII. Elect Delegates to General Assembly
- VIII. Vote on By-Law amendment
  - A. Ad Hoc By-Law committee proposals.
  - B. Pat Watkins By-Law proposal
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjourn

## New Editor at Work

Or in the words of your Prairie Macintosh II, "Eeeep! And never has it been so evident what a wonderful job Dick Bonser has done with the *Prairie Fire* these past eight, or is it nine, years." In the words of your new editor, Fran Zell, "It is indeed a humbling experience. I'm really impressed with the newsletter's design and professional appearance, which has all been part of Dick's energetic efforts. Fortunately he will still be on hand to guide and help me as I learn my way around Pagemaker and Mac.

My hours will be Monday and Tuesday mornings the weeks after *Prairie Fire* deadlines and Tuesday mornings only on alternate weeks. Hours will change again in the summer.

## Secrets Revealed

On Sunday March 12 the Secret Friends celebrated their four-week letter exchange with a party. Sixteen Prairie adults got a chance to guess who their Secret Friends were (and some needed a few guesses!) Finally the mysterious identities were revealed and the new friends shared a delicious potluck lunch. We played an autograph search and did some brain teasers. After lunch we divided up and cheered for our

birthday months, then sang a few songs, including "Happy Birthday" to Erik Schroeder (14). We finished with three rousing rounds of Balloon Basketball. A fine time (and a new friendship) was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who participated!  
Dean Schroeder

## Hospitality Anyone?

Wanted: Volunteers for Sunday hospitality jobs at Prairie.

We need folks to sign up for coffee set up, greeting visitors, and coffee clean up. We have each of these slots open for EVERY SUNDAY IN APRIL.

Many people have generously filled in the gaps on our empty Sunday Service hospitality sign-up sheet, especially Barb Park, who makes all the coffee during choir practice, Barbara Rames, who greets guests each week, and many who clean up after services.

We would really appreciate if you would please sign the schedule that is passed each Sunday morning. Your help is needed to keep Prairie friendly, hospitable, clean, and on schedule. Thank you.

## Passover Seder

Shaarei Shamayim invites Prairie members to join them in a community Seder on Saturday, April 22 at the Prairie Meeting-house beginning at 4:45 PM. Cost is \$2.50 for members and \$3.50 for non members who reserve before April 17; and \$3.50 for members and \$4.50 for members who reserve later. Make checks payable to Shaarei Shamayim and send to Judith Burstyn 830 Ottawa Trail, Madison, WI 53711. Please specify the number of people attending, the ages of any children attending, and whether your child would like to be included in a group that sings the Four Questions.

Please bring a veggie or dairy dish to pass. Nothing should contain bread, flour, pasta, beans, rice, corn or other grain. For more information about suitable ingredients and recipe suggestions contact Judith at 238-5545. Help will be needed with set-up, clean-up, preparation of the ritual foods, and reading during the Seder. Let Judith know if you would like to volunteer.

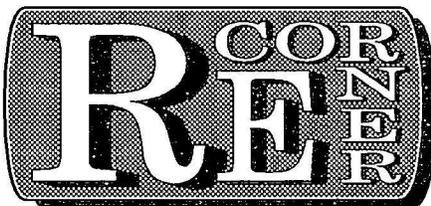
## Women's Spirituality

Prairie women are invited to join Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, a UU course on women's spirituality, which will run from 7 to 9 PM on Thursdays from April 13 to June 1 at First Unitarian Society. Cost is \$10 for pledged members of any Madison UU society and \$15 for others. Enrollment is limited. For

further information or to register call Nancy Graham at 244-6595 or Ingrid Landberg at 241-9497.

## Prairie Women

The next Prairie Women's meeting will be after the service on Sunday, April 30, instead of on the usual third Sunday. This change has been made because of the Easter holiday. Be sure to save the date.



### Preschool

We continue to have great high schoolers watch great little kids, and lead them in such activities as playing with the train set, the gear machine, puppets, and dressing up. Welcome to Rueben and Madeline who have joined the group for a few sessions. And happy 4th birthday to Ben!

### Caring Hands: K-1-2

On the theme of nature appreciation and stewardship, Carl Wacker led the group in their opening UU circle, the song "All A Family," and sharing time. Then they talked about taking care of nature and the environment and practiced using their ideas. First they went outside to collect beautiful natural objects and also to pick up large bagfuls of litter. Back inside they made pins from their beautiful found objects. During snack they discussed how they can keep natural areas clean.

The next week Kathy Converse led the group on the topic of understanding the need of animals (human, domestic, and wild) for shelter, space, food and water. They read a story about unusual animal homes and needs and then looked at a variety of pictures, trying to imagine what type of animal lived there. They read another story about taking care of the environment so as to protect animals, and then they made origami frogs. All the kids were very interested in the topics.

### Timeless Themes: 3-4-5

Exploring the story of Moses and the ten plagues, the group first reviewed stories they'd read before about Moses, such as him being found in the bulrushes, and his experiences with the burning bush. Then they read and discussed the new story, about Moses and the ten plagues sent to Egypt to force the Pharaoh to free the enslaved Jews. The children then fingerpainted

images on the walls of their classroom to illustrate some of the more dramatic scenes from this history. They also discussed the main themes and issues of the tales.

### Who Was Jesus? 6-7-8

During the first part of the RE year, this group used the UUA curriculum on peace and social justice, *In Our Hands*. They've now completed that curriculum and have moved into a second one: *Who Was Jesus? An Historical Look at the Man, His Message, and His Times*. Written by Tony Larsen and Ellen Schmidt of Olympia Brown UU Church in Racine; this is a six session course that examines Jesus from an historical and humanist perspective.

Some of the topics that have been covered so far have included oral tradition and how stories change through word of mouth; basic information about Jesus and his life; and Jesus' main message. One Sunday Randy Converse led a discussion on how Jesus often approached problems by meeting questions with questions. The message the middle schoolers gained was that it's often a good idea to meet racist, sexist, and other unkind comments with clever, witty responses rather than be silent and give the impression of agreement. Erin Bosch is the other leader of this group.



## Foster Parents

Dane County has recently seen a dramatic increase in the need by teens for foster homes. In response, the Dane County Department of Human Services has developed FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE, a program which recruits and trains people to become foster parents for teens. As a foster parent you will receive compensation, support, and training for the care you provide.

Through FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE it is hoped that teens will learn the basic tenets of adult living in a supportive, loving environment, so that they will be able to live independently as adults.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent to a teen call Dane County Human Services at 273-6611.

## Progressives

On Saturday, April 22 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, the Madison Institute will hold a conference titled, "Wisconsin's Progressive

Tradition: Confronting a Troubled Future." Participants will discuss what is happening in Wisconsin government and how best to adapt progressive ideals to contemporary realities. The conference will take place at the UW-Madison Historical Society and is open to the first 300 registrants. An informal gathering will follow that evening from 5 to 8 PM at Pres House. For registration information call Midge Miller at 238-7177 or Charles Dufresne at 255-7179.

## Homeless Shelter

Special thanks to the following Prairie members who volunteered for shifts at the Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter in March: Rick Owens, Fran Zell, Paula Pachiarz, and Rachael Siegfried. Thanks also to Barbara Rames for buying large quantities of breakfast cereal and milk.

Four volunteers are needed each month. Prairie is responsible for staffing two shifts at the Shelter each month: The fourth Monday evening and the following Tuesday morning. The shifts are 7:30 PM to approximately 11:30 PM 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 milk and cereal.

Shelter food supplies fluctuate greatly; we need to provide at least five large boxes of cereal for our morning shift. Breakfast volunteers can call Glenn at the shelter at 8 AM the previous morning—255-2960—for information about current supplies. Save your receipts; the Social Action Committee can reimburse you for your expenses. Please phone Fran Zell at 233-0213 if you can take a turn. Next openings are for May.

## 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. A drop-off box for food is in the Prairie foyer.

## Blood Donors

Don't forget to show up at the Red Cross Blood Donor Center "where the elite meet" while giving a pint to unknown, but very grateful people. Heidi Oliverson, Kate Tucker, and Mike Sheehy gave last week—join them!

Expanded hours at the Sheboygan Donor Center are Monday, noon to 4 PM; Tuesday, noon to 6 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM; Thursday, noon to 7 PM; and Saturday, 8 AM to noon.

## Turn Off Your TVs

Announcing the first annual TV-Turnoff Week, April 24-30, 1995. The idea is for schools, libraries, and community organizations to encourage families and individuals everywhere to turn off their TV sets for seven days. Participants will engage in a broad range of substitute activities that foster greater social, physical, academic, and creative development.

The average American watches more than four hours of television each day. At this rate, by age 65, that person will have spent nine years watching television. Upon graduation from high school, the average American will have spent more time watching TV than in school.

For information about activities in Madison relating to the event contact Bob Steinhof, 221-9417.

## March for Parks

A walking event to raise money for play equipment in Madison parks will be held Sunday, April 23 during Earth Day Weekend. The second annual March for Parks covers a scenic 4.5 mile lakefront route from Olin-Turville Park to Olbrich Park. Pledge forms are available from the Parks Division. For additional information contact coordinator, Linda Lopeman, 266-5949. See flyer on the bulletin board.

## 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).



## B & Bs for UUs

The latest edition of *Homecomings*, a Bed & Breakfast travel directory for Unitarian Universalists will soon be available for distribution. If you would like to buy a copy or be listed as a host in next year's directory you need to join the Homecomings network. (\$15.95 for new members; \$4.95 for renewing members.) Membership fee includes the book. For further

information write Homecomings International, Inc., P.O. Box 1133, Fairfax, VA 22030. Or call 703-425-8259. A sample of the membership/renewal form is on the Prairie bulletin board.

## Northwoods Retreat

"About Time and Place" is the theme of this summer's Northwoods Retreat, an intergenerational UU family camp to be held July 1-7 at the Trees for Tomorrow Resource Center in Eagle River. There will be discussions and a variety of activities for adults. The children's program, "Dreamwalker in the Spiritworld," provides many ways to explore visions of the future. Brochures are available from Sharon Lee, registrar, (708) 776-2044 or write Northwoods Retreat, CMD, 114 South Marion, Oak Park, IL 60302.

## Golden Gate Getaway

The Marin Fellowship of Unitarians is offering seven nights of bed and breakfasts in its Golden Gate Getaway, October 7-14, 1995. The vacation will also include a guided tour of San Francisco, an all day trip to Napa Wine Country, and a dinner party at the Fellowship. Cost is \$350 per person, double occupancy. For further information write Golden Gate Getaway, Marin Fellowship of Unitarians, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael, CA 94903, or call (415) 479-4131 Monday through Thursday. See notice on Prairie bulletin board.

## UU Singles

Prairie member Rick Ruecking (238-2924) is our in-house contact for this group. All UU singles, guests, and acquaintances are welcome to attend. Contact Rick for information about upcoming events

## Spring Sale

The annual spring resale sponsored by the Queen's Guild of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 405 South Owen Drive, will be held Saturday, April 1 from 8 AM to noon. Items for sale will include spring and summer clothing, household items, toys and sporting equipment.