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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 and Dick Bonser  
Vol. 33, No. 8, 4-12-95

The deadline for the next issue of *Prairie Fire* will be Sunday, April 23. Submit items for April 28 and later.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, April 16  
10:00 AM

"SPRING RITES," Intergenerational Service with Child Dedication, led by Mary Mullen. No R. E. today. 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 welcome. Please bring a dish to pass. For information call Kate at 221-2168.

Saturday, April 22  
4:45 PM

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

7:30 PM

PLAYREADERS, hosted by Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast, 4205 Odana Road. Everyone welcome. Call Rosemary for information, 238-4382.

Sunday, April 23

National TV-Turnoff Week starts

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:30 AM

Gershwin Band Rehearsal

10 AM

"REPORT FROM CAIRO POPULATION CONFERENCE," presented by Charlotte Zieve, environmental studies instructor, UW-Madison (*See related story*)

11:30 AM

Prairie Youth Group (PYGs) meet after RE

11:45 AM

Potluck lunch (Please bring a dish to pass)

1:00 PM

Spring Business Meeting

Friday, April 28

5:45 PM

FISH DINNER CIRCLE meets at the Avenue Bar, 1128 East Washington Ave. Phone Pat Watkins (233-5795) before 8 PM on Wednesday, April 26 for reservations. Everyone welcome.

Sunday, April 30

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

9:30 AM

Gershwin Band Rehearsal

10:00 AM

"STRIKE UP THE BAND!" Once-in-a-lifetime Gershwin extravaganza featuring Prairie musicians, coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. (*See story*)

11:30 AM

Women's Group meets, potluck lunch

## Today's Quote

"It is easy to be independent when you've got money. But to be independent when you haven't got a thing—that's the Lord's test."

-Mahalia Jackson



## Spring Rites

As part of the intergenerational service to welcome spring on April 16, Dawn Ace and Phoebe Rosebear invite you to celebrate the dedication of their 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.

## Prairie Patter

In praise of *Sing the Living Tradition*: Many of us became acquainted with our new hymnal when we attended General Assembly in Milwaukee during June of 1989. We heard the GA choir sing prospective songs to help raise money for printing. Each year I've attended GA since then, I have heard and sung music from this book. The enthusiasm of other UU's has been contagious; the shock of hearing new words with familiar tunes or unfamiliar tunes with old words has been shared. The melodies and words have enriched my life.

Today my praise is for the words in the back of the book. We have used these readings for our opening words, chalice lightings, responsive readings and closing words. Each week I have perused the hymnal for suitable words to fit the program. Each week I have found those words and thoughts that relate to the topic of the day. This afternoon I planned to write about change. This is *Prairie's* season of change, the time when we elect a new Board of Trustees to carry out the business of *Prairie*. I looked to the song book and found: "Change alone is unchanging. The same road goes both up and

...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

down. The beginning of a circle is also its end. Not I but the world says it: all is one. And yet everything comes in season." Heraklitos of Ephesos

Blessed be—  
—Julie Bonser  
President

## Cairo Conference

Charlotte Zieve's presentation on April 23 will include an excellent slide show of her experiences at the UN Conference in Cairo, Egypt. She will depict some of the problems of a third world nation and discuss how controversy was handled at the conference. She is a teacher in environmental studies at the UW-Madison.

## Strike Up the Band!

Toodle your whistle, honk your horn, twiddle your fiddle. Join the greater downtown metropolitan Prairie Band. We need YOU for a dynamite, once-in-a-lifetime gig at the April 30 Gershwin service.

Tune: "Strike Up the Band"

Music: Available from Doleta Chapru after a service or at the first rehearsal.

Rehearsals: Sundays, April 23 and 30 at 9:30 AM sharp!

Performance: Sunday, April 30

Music Stands: Bring any you have; a few will be furnished

Rehearsals are for adults and older R.E. people. Younger children will be invited to play rhythm instruments at the service.

## Gershwin Rehearsals

The meeting room will be reserved for choir and band rehearsals before the services on April 23 and 30. Individuals and small ensembles preparing for the Gershwin program will need to arrange to rehearse at another time or place.

## 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 Fall Business Meeting
- III. Treasurer Report
- IV. Board Committee Reports (written)
- V. Election of Officers
- VI. Election of Committee on Committees

VII. Elect Delegates to General Assembly  
VIII. Vote on Proposed By-Law amendments.

A. Ad Hoc By-Law comm. proposals.  
B. Pat Watkins By-Law proposal

- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjourn

## Board Candidates

The following slate of candidates for 1995-96 is submitted to the Prairie membership by the Committee on Committees:

**Officers:** President, Rick Ruecking; Vice President, Barbara Park; Secretary, Sharon Scratfish; and treasurer, Judy Skog.

**Committees:** Finance, Julie Bonser; Religious Education, Erin Bosch; Program, Bob Reuschlein; Social Action, Fran Zell; Housing/Property, Rick Owens; Long Range Planning, Anne Urbanski; Denominational Affairs, Rachel Siegfried; Membership, Kerry Beheler-Amass.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 23, provided the consent of the nominee is obtained.

**Committee Members Needed:** Prairie will also need active committee members and dedicated R.E. teachers to serve the congregation and to ease the load for elected officials, who like most Prairie folks are already busy with family, community work, and demanding careers. Committee members are recruited by each committee chair. Religious education teachers are recruited by the R.E. Committee and submitted to the Board for approval. Membership is not required for these positions. We encourage members and friends to read the committee descriptions in the back of the membership directory and consider appropriate ways to serve our "do-it-yourself" society. To volunteer, please see the newly-elected chairs.

The Committee on Committees elected Mary Mullen to serve as continuing member.

We are grateful to the previous officers, committee members, teachers, R.E. directors and other volunteers who, over time, improved our society and made our job much easier.

Submitted by the Committee on Committees: Doleta Chapru (Chair), Bob Park (Board Rep.), Mary Mullen, Bob Reuschlein, Marian Thompson.

## Beltaine Potluck

First Society invites Prairie members to attend a Beltaine Potluck Celebration at 6:30 PM on Sunday, April 30 in the West Living Room of the church on University Bay Drive. The festivities will include singing, dancing, creating a Maypole, and, of course, eating.

Please bring a dish to pass, dinner service for yourselves (plates, silverware, etc.), your musical instruments, flowers, greenery and your fun-loving spirit. Everyone—singles, couples, and families—is welcome. See you there. Any questions? Call Rachel at 271-5636.

## UU Christianity

The recently formed Christian Exploration group at James Reeb UU Church would like to invite all Madison area UUs (whether they are Christian or not) who are interested in exploring this aspect of our UU heritage within an open-minded, nonjudgmental context. Meetings are at 5:30 PM on the first and third Sundays of the month at James Reeb, 2146 E. Johnson St.

Currently we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday, while the third Sunday meeting is devoted to discussing a topic relating to Christianity. Topic for April 16 is what Easter means to each of us. All are welcome. Call the church at 242-8887 for more information.

## Editor's Note

I will not be in the office the weeks of April 17 and 24, as I have been granted a writing residency for that period by the Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL. Dick Bonser has agreed to publish the newsletter in my absence. Please talk to him regarding submissions.

*Fran Zell*

## Workshop for Women

"Living as MySELF," is a one day workshop for women that offers a path to self-discovery. It will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, April 22 at First Unitarian Society. Workshop developer and leader, Janet Matson, has given her program at UU churches in Massachusetts and elsewhere. The workshop uses creative exercises to help women identify their own personality, behaviors, and abilities in order to gain a new vision of their possibilities. The workshop costs \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members. For information call 897-4622.

## 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. slots are open for all upcoming Sundays.

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.

Please sign the schedule when it is passed on Sunday mornings. Your help is needed to keep Prairie friendly, hospitable, clean, and on schedule. Thank you.

Please convey your comments or concerns to Kerry Beheler-Amass or Julie Bonser.

## Passover Seder

Shaarei Shamayim invites Prairie members to join them in a community Seder on Saturday, April 22 at the Prairie Meetinghouse, 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 attending, the ages of any children attending, and whether your child would like to help sing 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 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.

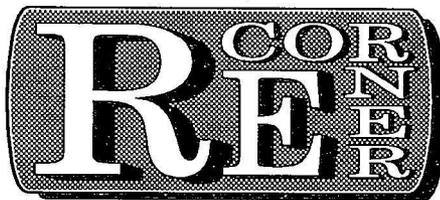
## Prairie Women

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

## Mind-Body Class

Prairie member Michael Schinitsky, 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.



### K-1-2: Caring Hands

Continuing the theme of nature appreciation and stewardship, Carl Wacker led the group in their opening UU circle and sharing time, then in discussing the different ways we all can make the earth a prettier place or an uglier place. Using magazine pictures they made posters of pretty and ugly places in nature.

Welcome back to Zack Howe and Nicholas Rosebear-Ace who joined the group for this session!

The next week Carl, joined by Kathy Converse, led an impromptu session, beginning with their UU circle and sharing time. Judy Wacker and Eleanor Owens read stories to the other children and then the group made penguins, houses, puppets and ducks from construction paper. They ended by singing the song, "No one in the world like me."

### 3-4-5: Timeless Themes

Moving between the New and Old Testaments, one week the topic was John the Baptist's story, and the next was that of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. Bob Purvis led the session on John the Baptist, with the group reading the story and then cutting out doves from construction paper. The discussion focused on the purification of baptism and why people would seek it.

The following week, Fran Zell completed the series on Moses with the story of the Ten Commandments. First they sang the spiritual, "Go Down Moses," and discussed how African-American slavery related to the biblical story. Then the kids made "tablets" out of styrofoam trays, using pencils to carve a commandment and then antiquing them with shoe polish. They seemed to understand the importance of these rules and were very enthusiastic about the art project.

Later they discussed the upcoming holiday of Passover and how it retells the story of freedom.

### 6-7-8: Who was Jesus?

Continuing with the Jesus curriculum, Randy Converse led a session that focused on Jesus' miracles. They reviewed information

about the historical Jesus, then looked at a map of the Mideast during Jesus' time and today to compare historic and contemporary conflicts. They discussed ways to explain the miracles of Jesus: spirits, medical conditions, drug use, mind-over-matter. They concluded by talking about the following week's prairie burn and how that might be connected with both Jesus' teachings and UU principles: UU's help each other just as a burn helps the plants of the prairie; burning is a preparation for rebirth, a topic important to Jesus' ministry.

The following week was the very exciting prairie burn. Led by Diane Derouen, the group learned how to conduct the burn, prepared the equipment for it, and then, following a community potluck, did the burn. It was very successful, very beautiful, and very empowering. Thank you Diane for involving Prairie's middle schoolers in the project. Our sincere hopes for Brent Haglund's speedy recovery (Brent was unable to attend as scheduled burn leader). And thanks to Erin Bosch and Randy Converse for the flexibility, interest and support.

## What-Ever Con II

A regional YRUU conference will be held April 21-23 at the UU Church of Rockford, IL. Open to anyone from 7th grade up to age 20. Cost \$25. The event will include fencing, AYS revival, fishbowl, worship, meditation, tie-dye and more! Get registration forms from Anne Pryor or contact Gentian Nuzzo at 815-637-6644 for more information.

## TV-Turnoff Week

We'll be having a pledge-card signing event at Prairie on April 23, where kids and adults will pledge to not watch TV for the week of April 24-30 and thereby discover other exciting things to do with their time. We invite parents to talk with their children about the idea between now and then, preparing them for making this kind of commitment.



## 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 com-

pensation, support, and training for the care you provide.

Directors of the program are aware that a disproportionate number of today's homeless people were once in foster care. Once their care is terminated at age 18 most of them do not have a family to fall back on if things don't go well for them. 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Drivers Needed

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County is looking for older adults (55 plus) to provide rides for seniors and disabled persons without access to personal transportation. Drivers are reimbursed 28 cents per mile and covered with personal accident, liability and excess automobile liability insurance. If you can volunteer call the RSVP office at 238-7787.



## Peace Internship

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a national interfaith peace and justice organization, is accepting applications for 1995-96 internships. FOR interns work with FOR staff to build racial and economic justice, peace, and a stronger movement of faith-based nonviolent activists. Interns must be at least 21 and willing to make a one year commitment. Interns receive room in Nyack, NY (20 miles north of NYC), insurance, paid vacation, and a \$600/month stipend. For details contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, 914-358-4601. Information is also on the Prairie bulletin board. Deadline to apply is June 1.

## Leadership Training

The Fellowship of Reconciliation will offer three leadership programs this summer for people aged 17-25. Sliding scale fees, based on ability to pay, range from \$275-\$425. For details contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601. The programs include:

**\*\*United for Change**, June 24-30, Santa Cruz, CA

*Application deadline, May 20.*

An intensive week of leadership development and nonviolence training. Includes meeting with local community organizers, skill workshops, discussions of social change theory, and reflections on participants' successes and challenges in organizing work.

**\*\*International Training**, July 17-31, Nyack, NY

*Application deadline, June 15*

A two week gathering of youth from Bosnia, Germany, the US, and elsewhere to explore both local and global violence, and positive alternatives.

**\*\*Skills for Change**, August 15-22, Washington, D.C.

*Application deadline, July 15.*

The focus will be on multiculturalism, racial and social justice, and strategies for creating positive social change. Lots of workshops and interaction with D.C. folks.

## Housemate Wanted

I am interested in finding a compatible person to share my home. There is a large private room which is part of a nicely furnished older home with kitchen, living/dining room, laundry and semi-private bath. There is plenty of privacy when desired, storage space available in the basement and attic, and garage space. If interested, please call Jennifer Parker at 246-4304. The space is available for May 1.

## Artful Women

The Ninth Annual Exhibition & Sale of work by Wisconsin Women Artists takes place the weekends of April 29 and 30, and May 6 and 7. from noon to 4 PM each day. Opening reception is set for April 29. Location is 215 Forest Street in Madison. (Corner of Forest St. and Kendall Ave.)

## Grief Support Group

HospiceCare, Inc. offers a "Journeys through Grief" educational series to those mourning the loss of someone important in their lives. The series examines the grief process in three consecutive sessions and presents very practical information and advice. The next session will be held on three consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning April 25 at Physicians Plus West, 7102 Mineral Point Road. All sessions are free. For further information call HospiceCare at 276-4660.