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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

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The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, May 7. Submit items for May 11 and later.



Friday, April 28
5:45 PM

FISH DINNER CIRCLE meets at the Avenue Bar, 1128 East Washington Ave. Phone Pat Watkins (233-5795) before 8:00 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.

Sunday, May 7
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.
10:00 AM
"A JURY OF ONE'S PEERS? What's wrong with the jury system and what Dane County is doing to fix it." Presented by Pat Watkins. (See related story)
RE Spirit Circle, downstairs.

Saturday, May 13
7:00 PM

SPRING PARTY at the Meetinghouse. Fun and games for all ages. Refreshments will be provided by Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom to celebrate the second anniversary of their marriage.

Sunday, May 14
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.
10:00 AM
"MOTHERS AROUND THE WORLD"
presented by Peg Barratt. (See related story)
11:30 AM
RE POTLUCK PICNIC (last day of RE classes)

Friday, May 19
6:30-9:30 PM

SPRING FLING for all RE students—food, games, and special activities.

Saturday, May 20
9:00 AM

PRAIRIE WORKDAY, including a POTLUCK LUNCH. Come dig, scrape, paint, mop, dust and polish Prairie from stem to stern, top to bottom, and deep into the corners.

Sunday, May 21
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.
10:00 AM
"TRANSITIONS" an intergenerational service. Recognition of Eighth Graders by Erin Bosch and Anne Pryor.

Monday, May 22
7:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Bring a dish to pass if you can. For information or rides, call Rosemary at 238-4382 or Kate at 221-2168.

Friday, May 26 thru
Monday, May 29

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CANOE TRIP. Complete information in the next Prairie Fire. Call Warren Hagstrom for details and/or if you want to help.

Today's Quote

"I figure you have the same chance of winning the lottery whether you play or not."
-Fran Lebowitz



Prairie Patter

We have demonstrated our commitment to democratic principles this past week. At our annual Spring Business meeting we elected a new slate of officers to serve Prairie for the next year. We elected three members to the Committee on Committees—they are Shirley Grindrod, Dean Schroeder, and Ken Skog. Mary Mullen is the carry over member from this year. The new Board will select a representative also. We had a long and thoughtful discussion about the proposed by-laws. After many amendments, substitutions, revisions and votes we have revised the by-laws pertaining to membership and the membership committee duties. The revised wording will be published in a Prairie Fire next month. The election of delegates to General Assembly was deferred to the Board as their may be more people interested in attending. The last item of business was a presentation of a letter from the Prairie Board thanking Dick Bonser for his service to Prairie via editing the Prairie Fire.

...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

Thank you, members of Prairie UU Society, for electing me to serve as your President for three terms. It was a pleasure to work with you to keep our religious community an active UU presence in Madison.

Blessed be-
Julie Bonser
President

Strike Up the Band!

The music and life of George Gershwin will be celebrated with narrative and musical performances by members of the congregation, coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. Bring your instrument to help play the title piece even if you haven't rehearsed previously. The choir will rehearse at 9:00 AM and the band will rehearse at 9:30 AM sharp!

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.

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.

A Jury of One's Peers?

Pat Watkins headed the League of Women Voters study/research project which examined the issue of jury makeup in Dane County. She will share the findings and stories with us at the May 7 service. This is only *one* of the many contributions Prairie member Pat is making to our community!

Mothers Around the World

Longtime Prairie member Peg Barratt is a developmental psychologist who studies mothers and babies. On Mothers Day, come and hear her perspectives from work in the United States and Japan.

Goodbye, Anne!

After seven years as Director of Religious Education at Prairie, Anne Pryor will be moving on. We have been very fortunate to have Anne, as she has enriched our children and our programs for them in many ways. She has shown enthusiasm, energy and love which has spread throughout R.E. and Prairie itself. Thank you, Anne, you will be greatly missed!

If you know of anyone who would like to apply for the DRE position, please let Erin Bosch or Dean Schroeder know.

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.

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.

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.

Thank You All!

A hearty thank-you goes out to the Men's Shelter volunteers for April: *Judy Skog, Barb*

Park, Pat Cautley, and Kay Frazier. Our thanks also to *Barbara Golden* for her donation of a large quantity of fresh fruit for the breakfast shift.

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.

Prairie Kids Need You!

Please volunteer to co-teach an RE class next year. Your guiding hand can make a big difference to our kids (and it's lots of fun!). Please ask Erin Bosch, Anne Pryor, or Dean Schroeder for details.



6-7-8: Who was Jesus?

Led by Erin Bosch, the group discussed Jesus' ethical teachings with a lively exchange of ideas. They debated whether they agreed with teachings such as 'turn the other cheek,' 'the golden rule,' and 'be humble.'

3-4-5: Timeless Themes

Led by Bob Purvis, the group discussed miracle stories relating to Jesus: changing water into wine, exorcising an evil spirit from a herd of pigs, multiplying the loaves and fishes, and walking on water. Their favorite story was about Jesus walking on water, about which they drew pictures while trying to come up with explana-

tions. Jesus on a surfboard was the most popular image.

K-1-2: Caring Hands

Led by Carl Wacker, the group opened with their UU circle and sharing time. They learned about snakes through a story and acting out snake like behavior. They went on to talk about building a birdhouse, making plans and choosing a tree to hang the birdhouse in. They'll do the actual building in May.

Preschool

Led by Melissa Pokorney, the group took advantage of the nice weather to go to the park. They also played games and colored pictures. A lesson for the day was on compromise.

Spring Fling

Same May 19 for an all-RE (K-8) spring celebration. The usual fun with food and games, plus some special activities.



Oklahoma City Relief

Anyone who would like to contribute to UU relief in Oklahoma City, please send your donation to:

First Unitarian Church
(Bombing Relief)
600 NW 13th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

The First Unitarian Church lost two of its members—Mary Rentie and Susan Farrell—in the blast. Susan was single. Mary's survivors include her husband (currently unable to work) and two teenage daughters. The church also suffered structural damage.

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.

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.

May Day in Madison

Rally for a People's Budget May 1st Noon to 1:00 PM at the State Capitol Steps. Next 1:00 to 5:00 PM People's Filibuster in Capitol Hearing Room 421 South. Presentation of the Alternative People's Budget at 3:00 PM. Also from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, New Alliances present workshops and panel discussions on neighborhood empowerment, building a third party alternative, organizing and coalition building at the State Capitol Room 312 SE. Children's Activity Center in State Capitol Room 213 SE. Unity Rally at 5:00 PM on the steps of the Capitol followed by a march to the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce Building on East Washington Ave.

Baby Needs Drive

The Community Action Coalition's Baby Needs Center helps families provide for infant needs on an emergency basis by providing baby formula, food, clothing, diapers and transportation vouchers. Suby, VonHaden & Associates organized a Baby Needs Drive. Until May 20, you can drop off baby items at the Copp's Food Center on Whitney Way. For more information please contact Pat Bice 831-8181

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 4:00 PM; Tuesday, Noon to 6:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM; Thursday, Noon to 7:00 PM; and Saturday, 8:00 AM to Noon.

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 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The evening shifts includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing a box of cereal. Shifts are difficult to fill, particularly the morning shift. Please call coordinator Fran Zell if you can take a turn.

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.

Braille Course Offered

Volunteer Brailleists & Tactileists, Inc. will offer a nine month course in the transcription of print into Braille. We urge you to consider this worthwhile community service. If you are interested in this or other services for the visually impaired, please contact Karen or Gail at their office (233-0222) between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM or leave a message on the answering machine after hours.



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.

Building Dedication

The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites us to attend the dedication of their new building on Sunday May 7, 1995 at 4:00 p.m. A potluck supper will follow the dedication. Their new building is on the corner of Woodruff Road and Peggy Lane in Minocqua.

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.

Chicago Blues Weekend

Join Chicago's Second Unitarian Church for a weekend of food, music, home hospitality and UU Fellowship on June 2-4. See the blue brochure on the bulletin board or contact Tom Hartman of Second Unitarian at 312./404-5320 for information.

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 4:00 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.



Ginger Rogers, 1910—1995
A great star and a great woman