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# Prairie Fire



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

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Judy Skog, Treasurer .....	273-4813	Meeting House .....	271-8218

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Production Assistants -- Susan Hagstrom and Dick Bonser  
**Vol. 33, No. 11, 5-25-95**

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, June 25. Submit items for June 30 through July 27.



**Friday, May 26 thru  
Monday, May 29**

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CANOE TRIP (See pages 2 and 4.) Call Warren Hagstrom, 238-4970 for details. No service at Prairie May 28,

**Sunday, June 4  
9:00 AM**

Choir Practice.

**10:00 AM**

'EXPERIENCES WITH THE UNITED FARM WORKERS,' presented by Karen Gross with slides, depicting her brief sojourn with the Rodriguez family in Texas.

**Tuesday, June 6  
7:00 PM**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE convenes at the Meetinghouse. Everyone welcome. Call Bob Reuschlein, 233-6031 for information.

**Sunday, June 11  
9:00 AM**

Choir Practice (Last one until fall.)

**10:00 AM**

"SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER," Working for change in a new political climate, presented by Robert Alpern,

Director of the UUA's Washington, D.C., Social Justice Office. (See story.)  
**11:30 AM**  
Potluck Lunch

**Sunday, June 18  
10:00 AM**

"FATHERS FROM THE BIBLE AND TODAY," presented by Dietrich Gruen, author of *Fathers Who Made A Difference* (See story)

**Monday, June 19  
7:30 PM**

EXECUTIVE BOARD meeting at Prairie. The Board will meet the third Monday of each month. Prairie members and friends are invited to attend.

**Sunday, June 25  
10:00 AM**

"FIFTEEN YEARS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD," a very personal history presented by Dave Johnson. (See story.)

### Today's Quote

"In solitude one can achieve a good relationship with oneself."

-May Sarton



### Prairie Patter

When offered the chance, Sir Edmund Hillary declined to climb my silo. The New Zealand beekeeper had earlier proven a larger courage as the first person to

ascend Mt. Everest. He told me that climbing was for younger people than he, and that he was now content to watch the rope.

It's graduation time and four of Prairie's youth--Emily Owens, Erin Pryor, Erik Schroeder, and Andria Hayes-Birchler, are setting out beyond the foothills of our religious education, toward the steeper peaks of high school. Five others--Nora Bosch, Greg Nettleton, Chenoa Ruecking, Lili Sandler, and Dan Stevenson - have completed that goal, and now depart for the more challenging Alps of college.

We know all nine will range far and climb as courageously as possible. We congratulate them on their achievements and marvel at their growth, stamina, and vision.

In *The Faith of An Unrepentant Liberal*, A. Powell Davies writes that good character is not dependent upon adherence to petty pieties, but in keeping faith with the great dreams and purposes of our age--the claim of the world for brotherhood, the cry for a universal, just community. "You cannot have a good character today and at the same time have a small mind and a little heart. A good character today is shaped by greatness, greatness in vision, greatness in courage, greatness in sight, greatness in purpose and devotion."

We trust our youth will understand that Sir Edmund did not have to climb the silo (a pretty, petty, piety) to prove his mettle. He had used his youth to lay claim to his dreams, to climb as high as he could. We adults recognize that our youth have their mountains to climb, but we can watch from below and belay the rope.

-Rick Ruecking  
President

...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

## Memorial Weekend

Join us for Prairie's annual canoeing, bicycling and camping trip on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29. This year we will again camp at the Mekan River Canoe Rental about seven miles east of Montello, off Highway 23. It's about 50 miles north of Madison. Come to camp even if you don't canoe. Come at the last minute. Come just for the day and join us for dinner. It's always a lot of fun. We share potluck meals Saturday and Sunday nights (and some share breakfast).

Camping is primitive and the fee is about \$2 per person per night. The Mekan River is an excellent trout stream with exceptionally clear water and a steady current (meaning that without care capsizing can occur!).

Please contact Warren Hagstrom (leave a message at 238-4970) if you intend to come.

## Alpern on Activism

Robert Alpern, Director of the UUA's Washington, D.C. office will speak at Prairie on Sunday, June 11. A UU social activist since 1975, Bob is featured in the May issue of *Ethics & Action*, a UUA publication. The Rev. William Gardiner writes of him, "Bob has energized Unitarian-Universalists about the power we have to affect public policy. He has created a presence for UUism on Capitol Hill by making us known as an engaged religious body." Join us for an especially meaningful Sunday morning when Bob discusses social activism in a new political climate.

## Father's Day

Dietrich Gruen, our Father's Day presenter and author of *Fathers Who Made a Difference*, is an ordained minister who edits Bibles for a living. He is also Bob Reuschlein's brother-in-law. Join us Sunday, June 18 for Gruen's talk about "Fathers from the Bible and Today."

## Developing World

On Sunday, June 25 Dave Johnson will draw from his own experiences in the developing world, including projects attempted, successes, failures, and lessons learned. In his own words, "a very personal history full of prejudices, preconceived ideas, cultural stereotyping,

sweeping generalities, and rude awakenings. Lots of questions, few answers."

## Hospitality ???

The following people have signed up for June hospitality duties at Prairie.

June 4: Anna Urbanski, Marian Thompson, ? and ?

June 11: Jack Jallings, Mike Sheehy, ?, and ?

June 18: ?, ?, ? and ?

June 25: Al Nettleton, ?, ?, and ?

Question marks indicate vacancies. See the sign-up sheet (on the back wall by the name tags) or check the sheet when it is passed on Sunday mornings. Remember, Prairie is a do-it-yourself congregation. We need everyone's help to keep Prairie friendly, hospitable, clean, and on schedule. Thank you.

## Newsletter Mailer

I would like to turn my job of mailing the Prairie Fire over to someone else. It requires about 1 1/2 to 2 hours every other week (only once a month in the summer). The responsibilities include picking the newsletter up at the printers, putting address labels on them, placing newsletters in the proper order for bulk mailing, and taking them to the post office. Please call me at 238-4970 if you would be willing to take over. Thanks. -----Susan Hagstrom

## Graduation Party

Nora Bosch, Krin Haglund, Greg Nettleton, Lili Sandler, and Dan Stevenson are celebrating their high school graduation with a party from 1 to 5 pm, Saturday, June 10, at Prairie. They invite Prairie members and friends to join them for an afternoon of "family, friends, free food, frosting on the cake, flying frisbees and fun."

## Tragedy, Close-Up

The recent tragedy of a murdered Hardee's employee touched our family. The victim's daughter, Pamela Chareun, is a classmate of our daughter, Kate, at Lincoln Elementary. Pamela is a bright, sweet, quiet fourth grader who had a good future in this country until her mother, Vilay Chareun, was killed last week. She lives in South Madison with her father, a six year-old brother and a 13 year-old sister. We cannot replace her mother, but we can help make the future a little more secure for the family. Please give gener-

ously to the Vilayphone Chareun Family Fund, c/o Park Bank, P.O. Box 8969, Madison, WI 537008-8969---Judy Skog

## Summer Solstice

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate the summer solstice on Sunday, June 25 at the Andrew's farm. All welcome. For further information and directions contact Susan, 258-9035.



## RE Chair Needed

Prairie needs a religious education committee chairperson. We need a volunteer dedicated to the well-being of our children to fill this important board post. Dean Schroeder is temporarily extending his tenure. He is willing to provide training and assistance to the new chair. Please contact Dean at 256-8813 to offer your services.

## Prairie Seeks DRE

Prairie Society is in search of a new DRE through an ad hoc committee whose contact is Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053. This exciting, part-time paid position will be filled through an application and interview process. Applications may be requested from Aileen or Rick Ruecking, 238-2924, with a deadline of June 10. An appointment is anticipated by July 1. Anne Pryor will be available to train the new director before her departure from this position.

## Thank You Dinner

All RE teachers, leaders, helpers and friends (and their families) are invited to an appreciation dinner --NOT a potluck--at the Schroeder house, 1909 West Lawn Avenue on Thursday, June 1 from 6 to 8 pm. Please come to eat, drink and be merry in Prairie's appreciation of all your volunteer contributions to a great year of RE.

## Softball Starting

All RE kids are invited to join the MSCR softball teams out of Allied Drive. It's a great way to get to know our neighbors. There's a coed T-ball team for grades 2 and 3, and separate boys' and girls' softball teams in two divisions: Mites (fourth and fifth grades) and Juniors (sixth, seventh, and eighth). The season runs from the third week of June to the end of July. If you're not on a team yet, this would be a great way to connect with kids at Allied Drive. Contact Anne Pryor for more information.



## Ride for Arthritis

The Fifth Annual Dane Terrain Bike Tour to benefit the Arthritis Foundation is set for Saturday, July 22. Three routes (25, 35, and 50 miles) offer a variety of challenges for riders of all ages. All tours begin and end at St. Bernard's Church, 2015 Parmenter Street in Middleton. A \$20 registration fee (\$23 the day of) includes a tee shirt and pizza party sponsored by Pizza Hut. Proceeds will benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by a paying adult. For more information and a brochure call the Arthritis Foundation, 221-9800.

## Food Pantry

It's peanut butter sandwich time, or is that tuna salad? Both peanut butter and tuna make good contributions to our entryway basket that holds our gifts to the Allied Drive pantry. Any non-perishable food is welcomed.

## Blood Donors

Please give blood to aid someone else's emergency. Pick up a card at our greeter's table to remind you of hours at the Sheboygan Avenue donor center. Other sites and times are listed on our bulletin board.

## Volunteers Needed...

For the Homeless Shelter, Prairie is responsible for staffing two shifts on the fourth Monday of each month and the following Tuesday morning, at Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter. The shifts are 7:30 to approximately 11:30 PM and 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The evening shift includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing milk and cereal.

Special thanks to Helene Pesche, Fran Remeika, Barbara Rames and Rick Ruecking who volunteered in May. Please call Fran Zell at 233-0213 if you can volunteer in June or later.



The Fellowship of Reconciliation will offer leadership programs this summer for people aged 17-25. For details contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601. The programs include:

**\*\*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.

## Summer Deadlines

This is your last Prairie Fire until approximately June 30, as our newsletter is only published one time per month during the summer. The summer deadlines are June 25 for the July issue; July 23 for the August issue. and August 27 for the first issue of the fall season. Mark your calendars accordingly.

During weeks when there is no newsletter this summer I will print

announcements on the back of the Order of Service. Please get information to the Prairie office by the preceeding Monday. Thanks. -Fran Zell

## Healing Touch

Clark Roberts, formerly affiliated with Prairie, will offer a Healing Touch Therapy workshop for health care professionals June 2 through 4 at the T' Tai-Chi Center, 301 S. Bedford. The program offers 20 continuing education contact hours toward a certificate in Healing Touch Therapy. It is sponsored by the American Holistic Nurses Association. Local contact is Pamela Zill, 257-3848. Or call Clark in Marquette, Michigan at 906-225-1821.

## UU Women

The Central Midwest District UU Women's Federation holds it's annual meeting Saturday, June 3 through Monday, June 5 at Robert Allerton Park in Monticello, Illinois. This will be a weekend of workshops and worship with the theme, "A Child of the Universe, a Citizen of the World: Goddess Energy...Provides the Space to Create." Keynote speaker, Frances Farishon is a visual artist, Registered Nurse, and wellness facilitator. Registration fee after May 26 is \$40, plus food and housing. For information on space availability contact Nancy Babel, 314-821-7211 or 314-946-8822.

## Birthday Bash

To celebrate my August 4th birthday I would like to invite everyone to join me at the Platteville Shakespeare Theatre production of "Cymbeline," Friday, August 4 at 8 pm. Tickets may be ordered after June 8 by calling 608-342-1298 from 10 am to 5 pm. They cost approximately \$15. Let me know if you are going. I will arrange a potluck at one of the state parks before the show. -Susan Hagstrom

## Moving Party

I'm offering free pizza and drinks for all those who help me move to my new condo on Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day). We will gather at 9 a.m. at 414 N. Segoe Road, #57B to wait for the truck. We'll finish at 3 pm, or sooner, depending on how many hands we have. My new address and moving destination is 4921 Ascot Lane, Unit 2, Madison, WI 53711. Phone, 233-6031, remains the same. - Bob Reuschlein

About 50 miles, as the crow flies, NNE of Madison comparable to the Kickapoo

## Mecan Me

Dixie Ave. to Germania Dam (8 miles)  
 Germania Dam to County Trunk C (10 miles)

The Mecan River is one of the smallest streams considered in this guide, but also one of the most pleasant. Well-known locally as an excellent trout stream, the river has a steady current and exceptionally clear water. Streamside scenery consists of wild wetlands, hardwood swamps, and farm pastures. Wild ducks and shorebirds, and even sandhill cranes, are often observed along the Mecan, especially in the Germania Marsh Wildlife Area. Muskrat, beaver, and deer also are common. Several private campgrounds are available in the area. Canoes and car shuttling are available from Mecan River Canoe Trips on Highway 23 and Lake of the Woods Campground near Dakota. The trip from Dixie Avenue to Germania Dam takes about 5 hours. Downstream from Germania Dam to County Trunk C, allow for 5½ hours of pleasant paddling.

**Put in** on Highway 22 at the Dixie Avenue crossing 11 miles north of **Montello** in Marquette County. The access here is undeveloped, but is adequate for small parties. The Mecan is canoeable for several miles upstream, and several town and county roads provide unimproved access in northern Marquette and southern Waushara counties. Some parties begin at the Highway JJ crossing at Dakota. **Fallen trees and branches** present occasional obstacles in these upper reaches, but the crystal water and wilderness atmosphere make up for the inconvenience.

Birch woods form a canopy for the stream in many spots. Chaffe Creek, an excellent trout stream, soon enters on the right bank. About 1 hour downstream from the put-in, you pass the **Dover Avenue bridge**. A nice canoe landing is on the left bank. **Three farm bridges** cross the stream between Dover Avenue and County Trunk E.

A mile downstream from Highway 22, a low footbridge spans the Mecan. An old farm bridge and a second footbridge follow in short order.

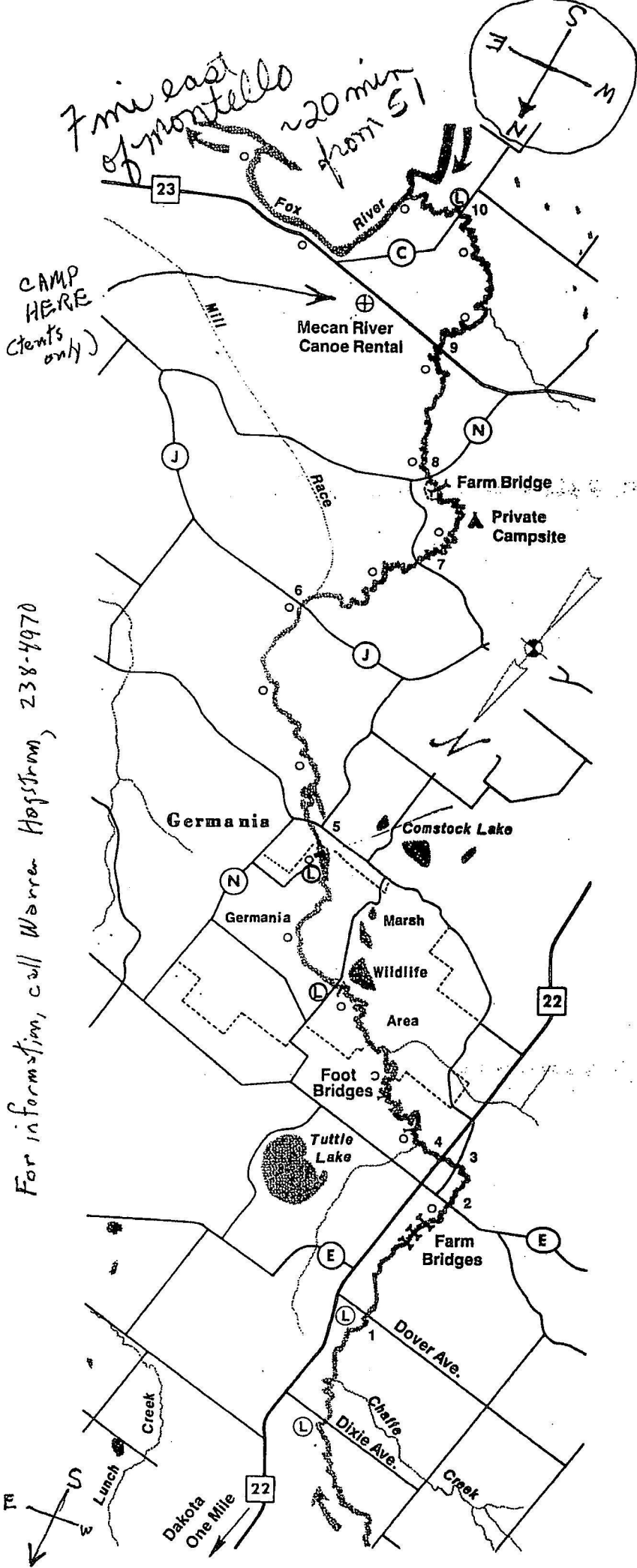
The **Germania Marsh Wildlife Area** is a successful wetlands restoration project undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources. Noted for its excellent waterfowl habitat, the sprawling marsh attracts birds of all kinds. Among the most interesting are the sandhill cranes—large, rare birds with a distinctive tremulous cry. Just downstream, an **electric weir** for carp control stretches across the river. **Portage** around it on the right bank and pass over a gravel road.

A **dam** forms a small lake at **Germania**. Another **short portage** on the right bank is necessary here. County Trunk N spans the Mecan just downriver. The tiny village of Germania is located here on the right bank. Supplies, billiards, and a good glass of beer are available locally. The lower river is known for its smallmouth bass and catfish fishing.

There are several **logjams** in the stretch below County Trunk J, and in the vicinity of the Highway 23 bridge, the Mecan becomes quite swampy.

**Take out** at a canoe landing on right bank at County Trunk C, 2 miles beyond Highway 23. Downstream ½ mile the Mecan empties into the Fox River.

Mecan River Outfitters  
 414-295-3439



For information, call Warren Hogstrom, 238-4970