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Editor
Prairie U.U. Society
5213 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Robert & Barbara Park
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Prairie Fire



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

Rick Ruecking, President	238-2924	Anne Pryor, R. E. Director	244-7099
Judy Skog, Treasurer	273-4813	Meeting House	271-8218
To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Fran Zell271-8218			

Production Assistants-- Susan Hagstrom and Dick Bonser
Vol. 33, No. 12, 6-28-95

The deadline for the next issue of *Prairie Fire* is Sunday, July 23. Submit items for July 28 through August 31.

CALENDAR

Friday, June 30
6:00 PM

ETHNIC-DINNER CIRCLE at Casa de Lara, 341 State Street (See story).

Sunday, July 2

No Morning Service. The Grindrods, 232-4422, host a potluck picnic from 1:30 to 5 pm at their home on Lake Mendota, 5235 Harbor Court..

Thursday, July 6
7:30 PM

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets at Prairie. All welcome.

Sunday, July 9
10 :00 AM

"AMERICAN SOCIETY THROUGH CHINESE EYES," presented by Sam Lin, UW graduate student . (See story.)

Monday, July 10
7:30 PM

RE COMMITTEE meets at Prairie

Tuesday, July 11
7:00 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at Prairie for Fall planning.

Sunday, July 16
10:00 AM

"APPARITIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY" Anne Pryor offers a sneak preview of her dissertation.

11:30 AM

WOMEN'S GROUP meets, potluck lunch. (See story.)

Monday, July 17
7:30 PM

BOARD MEETING at Prairie. All board members should attend. Others welcome.

Sunday, July 23
10:00 AM

" CHANNING MURRAY, the UU's on the UW campus, " presented by Elizabeth Barratt

Saturday, July 29
8:30 PM

THEATER PARTY at the University Theater. (See story.)

Sunday, July 30
10:00 AM

"ALLIED-DUNN'S MARSH NEIGHBORHOOD," with Jackson Tiffany (See story.)

NEWS & VIEWS

Prairie Patter

Prairie's current and future health as a religious community is my main concern as the new chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee. In my 13 years at

Prairie, I've seen many members come and go. Some of these people have moved away from Madison. Others have not left town, but have drifted away from Prairie anyway.

The reasons for these latter cases may or may not be simple, but I think that, as a group, we need to make a strong effort to make sure that everyone affiliated with Prairie *really* feels part of our religious community. One way we can do this is to encourage people to get involved with the life of our community.

So my first official act as Long Range Planning chair is to assure all Prairie members and friends that we need you-- every one of you--to get involved, so that Prairie can achieve its greatest potential as a spiritual community.

Our lack of professional clergy is a big part of our identity, but it also means we all have to work harder to make sure that everything that needs to be done gets done. Therefore, I want to challenge all of you to get involved, to join a committee and take an active part in its work. You may suddenly discover that you're getting a lot more out of Prairie as a result.

Your friendly saddle-burr,
Anne Urbanski.

A Chinese View

Sam Lin, our July 9 speaker, is a 45 year old graduate student at UW, currently working on a dissertation about the Cultural Revolution in China. Lin was a visitor to Prairie earlier this summer and expressed some curiosity at that time about our denomination. The Program Committee, in turn, wanted to hear more about his reaction to us and American life in general. Plan to join us for a morning

...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

of intercultural sharing, as Lin speaks on the topic, "American Society Through Chinese Eyes."

Our Neighbors

On Sunday, July 30 we will have an opportunity to learn more about our own Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood. Our speaker will be Jackson Tiffany, a volunteer member of the Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Center executive committee. The center is part of a low-income housing project organized and supported by the Madison Friends (Quaker) Community. The non-profit project includes six buildings in all. Jackson, a member of the Madison Friends Meeting, will provide details about this important work.

Ethnic Dinner

The Ethnic Dinner Circle will meet at Casa de Lara, upstairs at 341 State Street on Friday, June 30, at 6 pm. If you did not reserve with Pat Watkins on Sunday, you may phone the restaurant at 251-7200 and ask them to add the number in your party to the Prairie Society reservations.

Theater Outing

Pat Watkins is organizing a Theater Party on Saturday, July 29 to Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound" and "After Magritte" at the University Theater. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Vilas Hall box office, 821 University Avenue, 262-1500. There is a \$2.50 handling charge per ticket for mail orders. Pat suggests you request rows C, D, or E on the right hand side of the theater. That way everyone will be together and have excellent seats. Contact Pat (233-5795) for more information, or if you would be interested in doing dinner before the show.

Hospitality ???

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

July 2 - No service at Prairie (picnic at Grindrod's)

July 9 -- coffee setup: Thomas Wordell; coffee cleanup: Marilyn Peters and Metje Butler; greeting visitors: Ruth Calden

July 16 setup: ??; cleanup: Lee and Alice Bullen; greeter: ??

July 23 setup: ??; cleanup: ??; greeter: ??

Please remember to sign up for one of the above duties. The hospitality clipboard is hanging at the back of the meeting room and is also passed around during the Sunday service.

Music and Poetry

Rosemarie Lester and Barb Park are planning a program of summer music and poetry on August 27. Contact Rosemarie, 255-7039, with information about your favorite summer poem. (Note that she will be out of town from August 13 to 23.) Let Barb, 273-8775, know about your ideas for songs or instrumentals celebrating summer...or the end of it.

Prairie Women

The Prairie Women's Group will meet throughout the summer after the service on the third Sunday of every month. Each meeting includes a potluck and sharing/discussion. Upcoming dates are July 16 and August 18. All are welcome, especially newcomers.

Newsletter Mailer

We still need a volunteer to relieve Susan Hagstrom from her duties as Prairie Fire mailer. The job requires about 1 1/2 to 2 hours every other week (and 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. This is a good job for someone who wants to get involved, but does not have time to attend meetings. Please call Susan at 238-4970 if you would be willing to take over. Thanks.

Lawn Care

The Housing and Property Committee needs volunteers willing to be responsible for mowing the Prairie lawn during two blocks of time this summer: August 5 -25 and August 26 -September 2. If you are able to help out, please sign up on the appropriate clipboard at the back of the meeting room.

Office Work

James Reeb UU Society, 2146 E. Washington, seeks a quarter time office administrator. Duties include paying bills,

keeping the membership and pledge records and general office work. For a complete job description and application information, contact the church office at 242-8887.

Oklahoma Thanks

Dear Friends,

In the aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, your words of concern, compassion and love are greatly appreciated. The outpouring of support to our church from Unitarians, Universalists and caring citizens around the world has been overwhelming.

Your messages have been posted around the walls of our large social gathering room, Daniel Hall, for all to read. It is difficult to read them and not feel the pain of our friends and neighbors. We know we are not alone. Your generous contributions have been used to meet the immediate needs of the families of the victims who were members of our church. Ongoing counseling and future education costs will be paid because you helped.

On behalf of the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, thank you for your concern and support.

Sincerely,

Patrick Corley, president

(Editor's note: This church lost two of its members in the tragic April blast.)



Welcome New DRE!

John-Brian Paprock has been selected by the ad hoc Prairie search committee, as our new RE director. John-Brian brings a rich background of experiences and interests to us. He is an artist whose most recent show of pastels, "Still the Winds of

Heaven," was at the Art House in April. His religious roots are in the American Orthodox Church (Russian Orthodox origin) in which he received theological training and served for several years as ordained pastor. He says he is a "student of Truth," which has led him to an "eclectic, multi-religious" philosophy of religion.

John-Brian has had extensive involvement in our community, working with young people and adults in programs such as the Allied Neighborhood Center, the New Loft Teen Center, AODA Prevention Counseling, and the Madison Opportunity Center. His volunteer commitments range from the Madison Interfaith Network and Madison Urban Ministry to WORT programming of "Religion in Our Back Yard" and the Gathering of the Peoples Committee with the Ojibway and other groups.

He expressed a strong interest in helping children and youth gain a heightened awareness of their inner selves and of the world around them in order to learn better ways of dealing with the world. He has a deep respect for children and seems very enthusiastic about working with kids. John-Brian is the father of Christopher, a 3-year-old, who we look forward to meeting.

John-Brian will begin planning and orientation with Anne Pryor during July and will meet and plan with teachers in August in preparation for fall RE classes. We are very pleased John-Brian will be helping to lead our RE program and anticipate working with him toward the benefit of our Prairie kids.

*RE Director Search Committee:
Dean Schroeder, Anne Pryor, Rick Ruecking, Aileen Nettleton.*

RE Rebirth

The Religious Education Committee will begin planning the 1995-96 year at Prairie on Monday, July 10 at 7:30 PM. We have hired a new Director of Religious Education (see above article), have several volunteer teachers committed, and now need an effective committee to serve them in the new year.

The RE Committee should be large and enthusiastic enough to share the burdens of its many activities. The Society needs your help in keeping this most important of its functions operating smoothly.

Whether you have young children or not, the committee has a place for you. Please plan to attend.



Social Action Meets

Prairie's Social Action committee will meet at the meetinghouse at 7:30 pm on Thursday, July 6. This will be a brainstorming and planning session, a chance to make some decisions on issues to focus on in the coming year. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Update on ELF Walk

As a protest against Project ELF (Extremely Low Frequency, the Navy's "starter pistol" for a first-strike nuclear attack) a group of 10 people will walk from Chicago to the ELF site at Clam Lake in Ashland County, Wisconsin. Their walk, which also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, begins July 1 and will end in a peace encampment at ELF from August 6 to 8. The walkers will reach Madison on Friday, July 14, and there will be a celebration/potluck at 6 pm that day at the Olin Park shelter. Call Nancy Graham, 244-6595, for further information and full walk itinerary.

Gay Pride

Madison's annual Gay Pride March takes place on Sunday, July 16. If you would like to march with pride in your gay children, friends, UUs, or even your gay self, meet under the UU banner in front of McDonald's on the square at 1:30 pm. The rally and march start at 2 pm. If you're too shy to march, UU participants invite you to watch from the sidewalk and wave proudly and gaily as they go by.

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

The Bible has an apropos quotation for summer doldrums: "Be not weary in well-doing." The Red Cross blood donor center needs your pint. Dick Bonser and Linda Sheehy are the latest Prairie members to congratulate for giving freely.

Homeless Shelter

Thank you, Prairie members and friends. You have responded enthusiastically to our renewed call for volunteers to staff the Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter on our fourth Monday of the month-shift. June volunteers included Betty Jallings, Donna Gilson of James Reeb, Aileen Nettleton and Pat Cautley. There are still one or two vacancies for July, and all of August is open. Call Fran Zell, 233-0213, if you can take a turn. The shifts are 7:30 to approximately 11:30 PM on the fourth Monday and 5:00 to 8:00 AM the following Tuesday morning. The evening shift includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing milk and cereal.

Hiroshima Day

A Hiroshima observance will be held in Madison on Saturday, August 5, sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility and WILPF (The Women's International League of Peace and Freedom). Organizers need help planning the event. If you are interested, contact Betty Jallings.



Leadership Skills

There's still time to apply for "Skills for Change," a summer leadership program sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation for people aged 17-25. Application deadline is July 15 for the workshop, which takes place in Washington, D.C. from August 15 to 22. The focus will be on multiculturalism, racial and social justice, and strategies for creating positive social change. There will be lots of workshops and interaction with D.C. folks. For details contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, P.O. Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601.

Interweave

Interweave, a national group of UUs for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender concerns, will hold its next annual convocation in February, 1996 in Madison. The event will draw some 250 people for a weekend of workshops, food, music, and worship. The local planning committee is seeking leadership and help for hospitality (housing and local transporta-

tion) and for in-house arrangements (decorations, greeting, and on-site registration). If you are interested in these functions or would like to work on other aspects of the gathering, please contact Jonalu, 242-8887, planning committee chair; or Nancy Graham, 244-6595. If you have suggestions for workshops, please contact Candace Peterson, 767-3014 or Jane Holtzman, 233-6056.

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

Yard Worker Needed

I need a strong person to help me with a couple of yard projects. I'm willing to pay \$10 to Prairie Pro-seeds for each hour of your efforts. Contact Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173.

Books Missing

At least two books are missing from the Prairie RE library. They include *The People Could Fly* and *In the Beginning?* both by Virginia Hamilton. Please check your bookshelves at home for any Prairie books you might have inadvertently taken home. Please also return any RE curricula you have at home, as well. Thanks.

Writing Class

Fran Zell will teach a writing workshop on Saturday, August 5 at the Writers' Place, 122 State Street. Entitled, "Writing By Heart," the workshop is for fiction and nonfiction writers who wish to call upon memory to enhance their work. Fran is currently working on a series of interlocking short stories based on her childhood and early adult experiences. One of these stories, "Sunday School Blues" won first prize in the 1995 Writers' Place literary competition. For more information about Fran's class and other Writers' Place programs call 255-4030. or talk to Fran.

Alive with Spirit

"Coming Alive with Spirit," a spiritual retreat of renewal and community, will take place July 21, 22, and 23 at St. Benedict's Conference Center in Madison. It is co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Church of Religious Science and the Madison Religious Science Society. Featured speakers include Nancy Vedder-Shults, of Madison, addressing the importance of music and ritual in creating sacred space. The weekend will include numerous workshops designed to foster activity, movement, and dialogue. For further information see the brochure on the Prairie bulletin board or call 233-0727.

Today's Quote

You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

Eleanor Roosevelt