

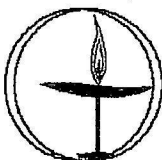
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Prairie Fire



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Vol. 33, No. 16, 9-14-95

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire is Sunday, October 8. Submit items for October 12 through October 26.



Saturday, September 30

7:30 PM
PLAYREADERS, home of Al and Aileen Nettleton, 645 Sheldon Street, 238-6053. All welcome. (See story.)

Sunday, October 1

9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"GREAT IDEAS" - Barbara Rames - second in the series on UU history and heavy thinkers.

Thursday, October 5

7:00 PM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at the meetinghouse. Contact Bob Reuschlein for more information.

Sunday, October 8

9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"CAN HUMANS SAVE THE EARTH FROM HUMANS?" second in a lay

ministry series, facilitated by Michael Sheehy. (See story.)

Saturday, October 14

PHILOSOFEST XII, Annual all-day event sponsored by North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield, IL. (See story.)

Sunday, October 15

9:00AM
Choir Practice
10:00AM
"1000 YEARS" - Greg Schultz - a brief history of the Christian faith.

Sunday, October 22

9:00AM
Choir Practice
10:00AM
UN 50TH ANNIVERSARY - Pat Cautley - The local "Ms. UN" Pat Cautley will present examples of UN's success stories over the last 50 years.

Sunday, October 29

9:00AM
Choir Practice
10:00AM
BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - Panel discussion with local women returning from the UN Women's Conference in China.

Sunday, November 5

9:00AM
Choir Practice
10:00AM
"ECOLOGY POLITICS" - State Representative Spencer Black, third in a series on the "Web of Life".

Friday-Sunday, November 10-12

ANNUAL FALL RETREAT, at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

TODAY'S QUOTES

"This newsletter takes way too long...."

—Louie S.

"From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere."

—Dr. Seuss



President's Column

Vietnam Reconciliation

On Sunday, Mike Boehm described the work of the Madison-Indochina Support Group and the Peace Park and their effect upon the reconciliation of his emotions with his experiences in Vietnam. Prairie members raised \$300 for the Support Group. Those attending found that the Vietnam years live in our hearts without unanimity of emotion or opinion. Clearly the Prairie community could benefit from reflection upon Vietnam and post-war eras. I propose that the Committee on Committees consider this topic for a lay ministry or that Prairie members develop a special program series. Please think about how you could contribute.

...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

Bits of Wisdom

"Great Ideas of Western Man" was a series of ads in newspapers. But what about great ideas of women? We will look at and evaluate some of the wise words of well-known people at our **October 1** meeting, when Barbara Rames brings us another service in her lay ministry.

Web of Life

Mike Sheehy's six-part lay ministry series--"Web of Life"--begins on Sunday, September 17, with a program entitled, "The Ecological Theater and the Evolutionary Play." He will lead a discussion on metaphors and philosophies describing the ecosystem/universe and our role in it; the dynamic nature of the ecological theater itself; and finally a potpourri of recent ecological news. The series continues on Sunday, October 8 with a discussion entitled, "Can Humans Save the Earth from Humans?" The program will be based on Al Gore's book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*. The ministry, which evolved out of Mike's interest in land stewardship, deals with major ecological issues of our day and will continue into 1996. Other upcoming programs include:

November 5: **Wisconsin State Representative Spencer Black** will speak on a topic of his choice, possibly current ecological issues in the legislature.

December 3. **Robert Dahl of The Nature Conservancy** will talk about that organization's work in purchasing and protecting land of key ecological importance in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

Several ecological topics for the remaining programs are currently under consideration.

UU Christians

The Christian Exploration Group at James Reeb UU Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street, is gearing up for another year of activities. This is a fellowship for both Christian and non-Christian UUs, providing an opportunity to discuss Christian spirituality and to worship. Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month at the church. For information call 242-8887.



Social Action Survey

Please take some time to fill out the Social Action questionnaire. We value your opinions and will use them in designing Social Action activities that reflect the interests of the congregation. Return the survey by mail to Prairie, c/o Social Action Survey, or bring it next time you come and leave it in the Social Action box in the basement-level office. We will keep you apprised of the results. If you would like to be involved further, come to the next Social Action Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Prairie.

Homeless Shelter

Please thank Kate Tucker, Barb Barley, Shirley Grinrod, and Mike Briggs for volunteering in September. The shifts are 7:45 to approximately 11:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday and 5:00 to 8:00 a.m. 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.

If you can't give the shelter your time, perhaps you can help by contributing money and/or coupons for milk and breakfast cereal. Leave coupons and/or checks in the Social Action box in the basement-level office. Call Fran Zell at 233-0213 if you can volunteer.

Generous Four

Blood donors in September's first week included Laurie Larson, Bob Purvis, Linda Sheehy, and Rick Ruecking. Their gifts brought Prairie Society's 1995 total to 24. Will you join the One-A-Week roster gaining that good feeling from helping an unknown needy friend? Hours of the Sheboygan Donor Center are on a card you can pick up at our greeter's table.



Preschool/Nursery: Celebrating Me And My World

Robin has been joined by Louie as a preschool teacher. They made macaroni necklaces last week and are learning a special way of lighting the chalice.

K-1-2: Holidays and Holy days

Learning about calendars and the world, the students celebrated Rosh Hashana last week, making prayer shawls (tallith) and eating traditional apples and honey.

3-4-5: Time Travels

The students are building a time machine for the year's travels into ancient civilizations which will begin this week. They will begin their journeys with ancient Egypt.

6-7-8: The Church Across The Street

The first church visited was First UU Society. After discussion at Prairie this week, the group will be off again to another Church Across the Street.

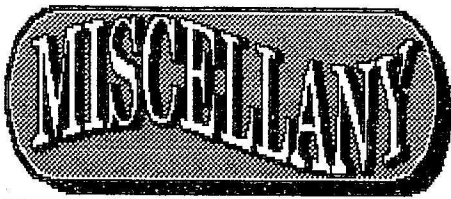
9-12 Sr. High: L.I.F.T.

The teens have started the year with "good" listening skills.

PYGs

The Prairie Youth Group started the year with a bike ride last week and will be meeting October 23rd after service to plan further activities.

Parent-Teacher Coffees are scheduled for the next few weeks. Please check RE Schedule for specifics.



Hospitality

We need people throughout September to help with hospitality tasks on Sunday mornings at Prairie. Duties include greeting members and visitors, preparing coffee, and coffee clean-up after the social hour. If you can help, please sign up when the hospitality sheet is passed around on Sunday mornings. Or look for the sign-up clipboard in its permanent home on the wall at the back of the meeting room.

UUA Bookstore

The UUA offers extensive resources on a wide variety of spiritual, political, and other topics through its bookstore in Boston, MA. Books, tapes, and videos may be ordered through the 1995-96 UUA Bookstore Catalog, which is now available at Prairie. Pick up a copy from the magazine rack at the back of the meeting room. To place an order or request additional catalogs call the bookstore at 1-800-215-9076.

Homeshare

The Homeshare Program at Independent Living, Inc. matches older adults who have a room to spare with working persons and students in need of low cost housing and able to provide some help around the house. Homeseekers are carefully screened. If you would like to explore homesharing, call 274-7900.

Exploring Violence

The Madison Urban Ministry announces a four-month series of assembly programs entitled, "Confronting Violence in Our Community." The first program, "Understanding the Personal Affects of Violence," takes place at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 3 at St. Benedict Center in Middleton. "Dealing with Violence in Our Neighborhoods," is the topic at 7 p.m. on November 7 at South Madison Neighborhood Center, 2001 Taft Street. All programs are designed to open dialogue in the community. See the flyer on the

Prairie Bulletin Board for information on other programs.

Beginning in October, the Urban Ministry also launches a new program called Study Circles. In its first phase the Study Circles will also focus on Confronting Violence in our Community. The circles break issues down into manageable subdivisions so that controversial topics may be dealt with in depth. For further information about the study circles and the assemblies call 256-0906.

Art Show

John-Brian Paprock invites Prairie members and friends to visit his exhibit of pastels, "Moments Along the Path" at Espresso Royale, 208 State Street (across from the Civic Center). The show runs from September 18 to October 18.

World Wide Web

The Prairie Board has decided to move ahead and begin developing its own Home Page on the World Wide Web. I have volunteered to be the lead developer (along with my husband, Lee, who's the computer genius :-). If you are interested in contributing something (especially photography or art work) please contact me. I'm especially interested in ideas from our various RE classes.

— Anne Urbanski

UU Guide

The UU Church of Canton, New York, has published a booklet, entitled *Visiting a Dying Friend*, which is available by mail. Address orders to the Memorial Committee, Unitarian-Universalist Church, East Main Street, Canton, NY, 13617. Books are \$1.50 each, postage paid, for one to nine copies, and \$1.25 per copy, postage paid, for 10 or more copies.

Program

The Program Committee meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 5. All are welcome to attend. This is a good opportunity to have some input on upcoming Prairie programs.

Dawn Ace

Dawn Ace just graduated from Law School and will be opening her own general practice. Her office is at 1914 Monroe St. and is right below the office of Norma Briggs.

Special Tribute

Singers Doleta Chapru, Terry Penner, and Vernon Sell will present a concert honoring Danish tenor and patriot Aksel Schiotz. Schiotz was knighted by the Danish Government for his inspiring concerts and radio broadcasts during World War II. Chapru, Penner, and Sell studied with him in the late 50's. Danish musicologist Tina Frank and Scandinavian Studies Professor Niels Ingwersen will also take part in the program. The concert will be held on October 28 at the Edgewood College Chapel at 7:00PM.

Bucky Books

This year the Dane County Youth Connection is selling Bucky Books to help raise funds for its many educational and recreational programs. These books cost \$35 each and offer coupon savings and freebies on restaurants, entertainment, etc. To order a book call the Youth Connection at 251-7175 or talk to Fran Zell.

Volunteers Needed

First Call For Help needs several adult volunteers to answer the 246-HELP phone lines at its Madison office during the day on weekdays. Complete training is provided, and small group sessions are held frequently at regular intervals. For more information, call Denise at 246-4381

Social Action

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be on October 18 at 7:30PM at Prairie. Call Bob Steinhofner at 222-2166 ext. 116 with questions.

Today is gone.
Today was fun.
Tomorrow is
another one.

— Dr. Seuss

Guest Editors

Welcome Louis Scratish! Prairie Fire will have guest editors, of which Louis is the first, through the end of the year. This will give the board time to consider the administrator position in light of 1996 pledges and get congregational input at the fall business meeting November 19. John-Brian Paprock is also scheduled to be a guest editor as could you if interested.

Prairie's Homepage

The Board accepted Anne and Lee Urbanski's offer to develop an Internet Homepage for Prairie Society. This facility is educational and will enable people to more easily find us and our natural linkages. Anne and Lee will try to involve the middle and high school youth in this project.

Personal concerns may absent me from Prairie in the coming weeks. Contact Barbara Park in my absence. Members are encouraged to attend the October 7 Fall Leadership Conference in Champaign or the October 21 Small Society Workshop in Appleton (see bulletin board if interested).

Rick Ruecking

WORLD Update

Members should be receiving the bi-monthly magazine UU World. Please review and update the UU World Audit Report which will be on the greeter's table for a few weeks to assure your family will continue receiving a copy of this magazine. Sheets for additional names will also be available. If you want this magazine, it is your responsibility to assure the information is correct.

Small Societies

The Fox Valley UU Fellowship is hosting a Small Society Workshop in Appleton on Saturday October 21. This workshop is to give leaders of smaller UU societies concrete ideas that will be helpful in achieving growth in quality and numbers. It will provide opportunities to share successes and challenges with folks from other small congregations. Home hospitality for Friday night is available at 414-731-0849, if reserved by October 13. Cost is \$5 for lunch. See bulletin board for registration.

Coming Out

Coming Out-Coming Together (COCT), an inter-faith coalition of Madison churches in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, will hold a celebration, "Faith Out of the Closet," on National Coming Out Day on Sunday October 8th at 7p.m. at the First Baptist Church. This is the third annual service sponsored by COCT. The First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Avenue, has recently become fully and officially inclusive of lesbian and gay persons.

Lesbian Carnival

A lesbian carnival sponsored by the Kissing Girls Art Show and the Apple Island's Craft Show will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 11 am - 4 pm at the Madison Senior Center.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals take place at 9 a.m. on most Sunday mornings. (See calendar). If you always wanted to sing, this would be a great time to join. No previous choral or singing experience is necessary. Come and sing with us. If you have questions, call Barb Park at 273-8775.

Playreaders

Prairie Playreaders meet once a month at members' homes. Everyone is welcome to attend, whenever the spirit moves you. Theatrical experience is not necessary; neither is a commitment to the group. All you need is an enjoyment of literature and theater, an enjoyment of open discussions, and the desire to get together for a social evening. Information on play titles, dates, and locations will be printed in the Prairie Fire. (See page 1.)

Upham Woods

Plan on attending our fall retreat November 10 to 12 at Camp Upham Woods near The Dells. Put the dates into your family calendar now. We still need a program coordinator for this event. If you have attended in the past and have not filled one of these positions, we have an opportunity for you! There are files from past years to guide your efforts.

Circle Dinners

Circle Dinner groups are currently being organized by Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru. Each circle consists of a small group (6 to 12 people) that holds potluck gatherings in one another's homes on selected dates throughout the year. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know Prairie members and friends on an informal basis. To sign up see Doleta or Warren after the service on Sundays or call them at 238-4970.

Camp Upham Woods

November 10-12

Annual Prairie Retreat

Fun for All Ages

Save the Dates

Storytellers Needed

Please call Bob Reuschlein, 233-6031, if you are interested in presenting a five-minute children's story at upcoming fall, winter, or spring services.

Philosofest

"Revisioning liberal religion and the free church in a post-modern world" is the theme for Philosofest XII, an annual UU event to be held on Saturday, October 14 at the North Shore Unitarian Church, 2100 Half Day Road, Deerfield, Illinois. The program includes presentations by prominent UU ministers on topical issues, and the opportunity for participants to debate these issues with the speakers and other UUs from the Central Midwest District. For further information, call 708-234-2460.