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# Prairie Fire



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

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Production Assistants -- Marilyn Peters and Dick Bonser

Vol. 33, No. 18, 10-21-95

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire is Sunday, November 5. Submit items for November 9 through November 23.



**Sunday, October 29**  
9:00AM

Choir Practice  
10:00AM  
BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - Jane Lind and Susan Munkres

**Thursday, November 2**  
7:00PM

Program Committee meeting at the Meeting House. Call Bob Reuschlein at 233-6031 with comments or ideas for upcoming programs. All lay ministers should attend.

**Sunday, November 5**  
9:00AM

Choir Practice  
10:00AM  
"America the Beautiful -- Saving the Beauty" - State Representative Spencer Black, third in a series on the "Web of Life". (See story on page 3.)

**Friday-Sunday,  
November 10-12**

ANNUAL FALL RETREAT, at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

**Sunday, November 19**  
9:00AM

Choir Practice  
10:00AM  
"RELIGION AND WAR"

**Sunday, November 26**  
10:00AM

THANKSGIVING  
INTERGENERATIONAL -- no RE Program

**Sunday, December 3**  
10:00AM

"Ecology Banking" -- Nature Conservancy

### Editor's Notes

Prairie Fire receives many pamphlets and brochures for upcoming events and important services. Unfortunately, I have neither the space nor time to get all of these into the newsletter. I have decided to create a "Prairie Fire Bulletin Board" and place these brochures and pamphlets there. It is located in the Meeting Hall by the main bulletin board. I will include a list of the new pamphlets in each issue of the Prairie Fire. If you want me to include the dates or a condensed version of a pamphlet, put a note to that effect in the purple folder, or call me at 233-1118. Thanks.

—Louie Scrattish



### President's Column

Before the November 19 Fall Business Meeting, I wanted to take time to report on the general condition of the Society. Last week's Board meeting demonstrated that Prairie is generally healthy. The Treasurer reported that income and expenses met mid-October expectations. Sunday services have been excellent and programs are scheduled well into 1996. Social Action activities have been stronger and more evident than in many years. Religious Education programming is "rolling right along" under new leadership. The Finance, Long Range Planning, and Denominational Affairs Committees are preparing upcoming pledge drives, growth workshops, and structured approaches to General Assembly study resolutions. Four members attended the Small Societies Workshop in Appleton and Prairie will host this gathering next year. The building has been better utilized this Fall. The bus trip fund-raisers to Chicago have been sold out; and the Upham Woods retreat will be a reality on November 10-12. Whew! You folks have been busy.

Not everything is rosy. The Membership Committee is without leadership and not functioning. We have suspended replacing the Administrator until after the business meeting. The

...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

Prairie Fire is operating under capable, but temporary, guest editorship. Board members have assumed tasks to fill these gaps, but gaps they remain. I took this job because I was pretty sure Prairie was strong enough to survive any mistakes I made. That perception holds.

Take some time to consider your estimate of Prairie's health. What is it you like or dislike about the Society? If you will write down these assessments (and possible solutions to current problems) and get them to me, I will present a report at the November 19 meeting. Plan on attending after the service and a potluck. Prairie will approve a 1996 budget and other business which concerns you.

Rick Ruecking, President

## 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.

## Kay Frazier's B-Day

Kay Frazier is celebrating her 45th birthday on November 4th from 4 to 10PM. The party will be at her house and will include pizza, veggies, cake, and pop.

Directions: I-94 East from Madison to Lake Mills exit (H-way 89,) turn right at exit onto 89, then right at next intersection onto County V, then right at next intersection onto County B, then right at next intersection onto Rock Lake Road, and right at 2nd mailbox at N6974 Rock Lake Road.

Please call (414) 648-2330 (eve.) or (608) 242-5060 (day) if coming, so we have an idea how much food we need. Bring instruments and games!

## World Wide Web

Development of Prairie's Web Page is proceeding rapidly. **We need artwork (drawings, photos, etc.) to spice up the page.** We are looking for images related to Upham Woods, RE activities, circle dinners, and other activities.

Another possibility is a Member Showcase which could include photography, drawings, or other types of art.

Jose Rodriguez has suggested we develop a list of Prairie folks who have e-mail addresses and distribute that list among those folks.

If you are interested in contributing, please call me at 258-8269, or e-mail me at: arbana@carth.cccpc.com

----- Anne Urbanski

## Youth Shines

Congratulations to Raza Lawrence, son of Bob and Cindy Haq Lawrence, for his selection as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Raza is a senior at Edgewood High School with scholastic interests in philosophy, mathematics, and science. National Merit awards go to young men and women who have combined their talents with hard work. Well done, Raza!

## Building Calendar

Until further notice, follow these steps to reserve the building: 1.) enter the dates, times, and who will be using the building on the desk calendar in the RE Office downstairs, 2.) contact Rick Ruecking at 238-2924 to confirm the date and to make key arrangements. In most cases the first group registering will be honored.

## 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.

### TODAYS MISPLACED QUOTE

"The first day or so we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day we were aware of only one Earth."

—Discovery 5 Space Mission

## 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!**

## 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.)



## Bake Sale News

Thank you all for making the Social Action Committee Bake Sale last Sunday, October 15, a great success. We collected \$46.06 from the bake sale and coffee proceeds. We used \$22.50 to purchase 24 pumpkins for the Allied Drive After School Group. Some will be carved, some will be baked. Thanks to the bakers: Judy Skog, Shannon Hayes-Birchler, and Fran Zell. The Social Action Committee is always open to participation.

—Paula Pachciarz

## Blood Donors

Dick Bonser, Heidi Oliverson, and Barbara Rames gave blood in October. Won't you give a pint? Hours of the Sheboygan Donor Center are on a card at our greeter's table. The Newsletter Bulletin Board has information regarding who can and can't give blood.

## Homeshare

Do you have a spare bedroom? The Homeshare Program matches older adults with students in need of housing. The students provide help around the house, and are carefully screened. If you would like to explore Homesharing call Independent Living at 274-7900.

## MUM Study Circle

The Madison Urban Ministry sponsors study circles to build communities and resolve local problems. Study circles are organizing to focus on "confronting violence in our community." Call 256-0906 if interested, or see the Prairie Fire Bulletin Board.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### October 29 - "Beijing UN Women's Conference"

A panel discussion with local women returning from the UN Women's Conference in China.

### November 5 - "America the Beautiful -- Saving the Beauty" - State Representative Spencer Black

Spencer Black, member of First UU Society and of the Wisconsin State Assembly, will speak on "America the Beautiful -- Saving the Beauty." He will discuss the responsibilities of people today to be good stewards of our natural resources for future generations. He will also speak about some of the threats that we face in Washington and Madison to our traditional commitment to good stewardship. This is the third in Michael Sheehy's series on the "Web of Life."



### Preschool/Nursery: Celebrating Me And My World

The preschoolers have enjoyed a variety of activities, including art, storytelling, and games.

### K-1-2: Holidays and Holy days

While investigating the changing colors of autumn, the class moved into the festivals of late autumn, namely Halloween. They told scary stories and decorated masks.

### 3-4-5: Time Travels

Our time travelers have left Ancient Egypt for America before it was deemed the "New World." They will be exploring the culture and beliefs of the woodland nations.

### 6-7-8: The Church Across The Street

The middle schoolers have already visited and discussed very different traditions, the Quaker and the Roman Catholic. In the next few weeks visitors will bring the "Church Across the Street" to Prairie (see note below).

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

The teens embarked on a new UU teen group in cooperation with Arthur Thexton and James Reeb UU. The new group will be more or less social in focus. In the L.I.F.T. Sunday program, they learned how to deal with conflict.

### PYGs

The Prairie Youth Group ate pizza, juggled, and planned the next event. Bowling night is scheduled for Friday, November 3rd. The next PYGs meeting at Prairie is scheduled for the third Sunday of November (the 19th).

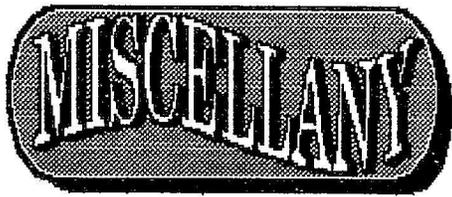
### RE Notes and Upcoming Stuff

On November 5, a special visitor will be coming to RE. Art Shegonee, local Native American pipe carrier, activist, teacher, and traditional dancer, will be giving a special presentation for all RE classes.

Of course, no RE November 12th because everyone will be at Upham Woods.

The Parent-Teacher Coffee for the Sr. High Group (9-12, teens) is rescheduled for November 19, after the service.

Fall Frolic was well attended. 25 "kids" and several adults had a great time at the Church. Thank you to the RE Committee members and parents who helped make it possible: Erin Bosch, Carl Wacker, Dean Schroeder, Kathy and Randy Converse, Kay Frazier, Kerry Beheler-Amass, and everyone not mentioned by name, including the participants!



## The IRS Loves Us

Prairie doesn't have to pay state sales tax. If you plan to buy things for Prairie (coffee, copies, napkins, RE supplies, etc.) call Judy Skog at 273-4813. She can tell you our tax exempt number.

## Hospitality Givers

These people have signed up to do hospitality tasks:

### Coffee Making:

10/29 - Paula Pachciarz

11/05 - Linda Sheehy

### Coffee Cleanup

10/29 - Al Nettleton &  
Rosemary Dorney

11/05 - Linda Sheehy &  
Kay Frazier

### Greeting Visitors

10/29 - Aileen Nettleton

11/05 - Linda Sheehy

## Spiritual Diversity

The Madison Area Interfaith Network is holding its 1st Annual MAIN Conference to maximize dialogue and encourage fellowship among diverse perspectives. The conference will be held November 18 and 19 at the St. Benedict Center. See the Prairie Fire Bulletin Board for more details.

## SOPHIA

A Journal of Women and Religion is the publication of the CMD Women and Religion Committee. Subscriptions and a sample copy are available on the PF Bulletin Board.

## Madison Area Guide

Spiritual and religious resources are available in the new Madison Area Guide. To order see the PF Bulletin Board, or contact RE Director, John-Brian Paprock.

## 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

## 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.

## Re:Summer Program

Where else can you attend a Sunday service where most of the congregation contributes instrumental music, song, poetry, and dramatic readings -- all in celebration of Summer?

For the variety and quality of performances the Program Committee thanks you one and all.

Also a special thanks to the young people in the Dixieland Band who added much with their enthusiasm and joy.

Finally, many thanks to Doleta Chapru and Barb Park for putting it all together and ensuring the quality of the program.

— *The Program Committee*

## Violence Conference

The Winter Institute, Feb. 15 - 18 in Madison will focus on "Turning Back the Tide of Violence." Geoffrey Canada, the featured presenter, is the author of Fist Stick Knife Gun, a book recently released by Beacon Press. See PF Bulletin Board for more information.

## WomanSpirit '96

Womanspirit 1996 will be held January 26 - 28 at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois. The special speaker is Rev. Shirley Ann Ranch, author of Cakes for the Queen of Heaven. See the PF Bulletin Board for more information.

## New Items on the PF Bulletin Board

"Sophia," a journal of women and religion. This pamphlet is an eclectic mix of songs, poetry, stories, and reports about women and religion. Published by the Women and Religion Committee of the Central Midwest District of the UUA.

"Women With Wings," a program of the Womanspirit Conference which will be held January 26 - 28 in Deerfield, Illinois.

"Creating Change," the brochure of The 8th Annual National Conference for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Movement.

"Sanchari," is a brochure dealing with travel to India.

"Spiritual Diversity into the 21st Century," is a brochure sent out by MAIN (Madison Area Interfaith Network.) It gives the specifics of the first annual MAIN Conference.

"You Can Donate If..." This is a list of what restrictions there are for giving blood at any of the Red Cross Locations.

## Good Quotes?

If anyone out there has any quotes s/he would like me to include in the Prairie Fire please write them down and put them in the purple folder in the main office. Thanks.