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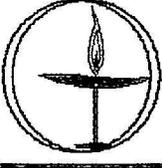
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Prairie Fire



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

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Vol. 33, No. 22, 1-7-96

The deadline for the next issue of *Prairie Fire* is Sunday, January 21. Submit items for January 22 through February 4.

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 13
7:30 PM
PLAYREADERS
Rachel Siegfried's home: 5209 Tolman
Terr (see story)

Sunday, January 14
10:00 AM
Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday - "Million
Man March" panel discussion led by Cephus
Childs, Madison Inner City Council on
Substance Abuse
R.E. Classes will be meeting.
Choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM
2:00 PM
Wedding of Chris Liu and Kate Gann

Wednesday, January 17
7:30 PM
Board Meeting at Prairie. All are
welcome.

Sunday, January 21

10:00 AM
"Early Unitarians" (Fourth in UU History
and Thought Series) Arliegh Birchler
12:00 noon - Women's Group: potluck
lunch and discussion
Choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM

Tuesday, January 23

7:00 PM
Social Action Committee meeting. All
are welcome.

Friday, January 26

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Puzzle Party! (see story)

Saturday, January 27

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Wild Wintering at Elver Park (see
story)

Sunday, January 28

10:00 AM
"What it means to be a Religious Liberal" -
Anne Urbanski
Choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM

Sunday, February 4

10:00 AM
"How to be a Good Ancestor: an
Ecological Look at Life Being
Trashed" (Fifth in "Wed of Life" Ecology
series) - guest speaker, Prof. Hugh Iltis (see
story)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

John Grindrod died unexpectedly in the early morning hours of January 3rd. John was a charter member of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. As if Shirley were not enough aware of his unsurpassed sense of comedic timing, John expressed a characteristically reluctant willingness to allow a memorial service for himself in a conversation following a funeral the afternoon before he died. Shirley Grindrod, their children, family, and friends gathered for that Memorial Service at the First Unitarian Society on Sunday January 7. Goné is a friend whose smile and presence will be sorely missed by all

As we enter 1996, the Long Range Planning Committee is organizing a "Visioning Workshop" in March or April. Prairie last conducted "growth" workshops in 1983, reaching consensus goals which included remodeling the building, increasing its use, and hiring a part-time administrator. All goals from that effort have been accomplished or accomplished in part. So its time again to create new visions for Prairie's future. This may be an especially exciting prospect for members of less than ten-years duration to carve their initials onto our doorways. Watch for and plan on attending a weekend-long activity this spring.

The extent to which Prairie operates well and grows strong is because of our combined efforts including work on committees. It's too bad that many people don't see it as fun. Well, I've found a remedy to that view. In addition to individually scheduled meetings, the committees of another UU Society meet

(continued on page three)

...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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 28

"What Does It Mean To Be A Religious Liberal in Madison?" (presented by the Long Range Planning Committee) This service will serve as a prelude to our upcoming "visioning" workshop, planned for early spring. Please bring your ideas about how religious liberalism of the Prairie UU variety fits into the general Madison society.

February 4

"How to be a Good Ancestor: an Ecological Look at Life Being Trashed"

Dr. Hugh Iltis, a former member of Prairie, is Emeritus Professor of Botany at the UW-Madison, director of the UW Herbarium, and a well known fighter for nature preservation and population control. He will speak on the impending collision of both human population growth and excessive living habits with the earth's finite carrying capacity.

February 11

"Speak out for Children" - Valentine's Day Intergenerational Service.

Most of us know the depressing statistics about children - poverty rates, amount of TV viewing, alcoholism, abuse, drug use, neglect. But there is a brighter side. Come prepared to take credit for what you have done to make things better for children. It may be something as big as collecting medicine to take to Cuba or something as small as smiling at a child you see on the street or in a shop. Since this is an intergenerational service, please help your children think of some examples of their own. Maybe they gave up the swing at school, even though it was their turn, or shared a tot, or said something nice to another child.

We all give gifts from the heart, and it's important to give ourselves credit for that. So, this Valentine's Day, let's share our stories with each other. (Judy Skog)

There will be an intergenerational potluck following the service.

"A committee is a group that keeps minutes but loses hours."
- Milton Berle



Holiday Giving

Prairie raised \$53.47 for the UUA Service Committee through a special collection on Sunday, December 24. Thanks to everyone for their support. In the spirit of the holiday season, the Social Action Committee also purchased six \$10 gift certificates from Supersaver and gave them to the Allied Drive Food Pantry for distribution. Thanks to Paula Pachiarz for expediting this.

The Social Action Committee receives no funds from your pledge money. All contributions to the committee's activities are welcome. Please make your check payable to the Social Action Committee. Thanks.

Social Action Meets

The next Social Action Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 23 at 7 p.m. at Prairie. All are welcome.

Homeless Shelter

Many Thanks to Jack and Betty Jallings, Paula Pachiarz, and Mike Shechy who volunteered at the Men's Homeless Shelter in December. Thanks also to Kathy Converse, who has arranged with Bagels Forever and Ovens of Brittany to provide bagels and bread for the morning shift. If you are able to volunteer at the shelter, please contact Fran Zell, 233-0213.

The Prairie Women's Group

Prairie Women's Group is an opportunity for Prairie women to eat, meet, talk and get to know each other better in an informal setting. The Women's Group usually meets at the meeting house, at noon on the third Sunday of the month. All women (teenagers included) connected to Prairie are welcome.

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.

WINTER YOUTH CONFERENCE

January 19-21 @ First St. Louis UU Church. If your high-school age youth needs registration info, transportation, and/or designated adult chaperone (must be 1 adult 25 or older to each 5 youth attending), please call KK Anderson 255-3596 for further information.

PUZZLE PARTY

Friday, January 26, 7-10pm at Prairie. There will be jigsaw puzzles set out ready for completion. At 8-8:30pm, Doleta Chapru will start a charades sessions. Bring yourself, snacks, any games or puzzles for a challenging and relaxing evening. For questions, details, etc., call Susan Hagstrom 238-4970.

Prairie Playreaders

Prairie Playreaders will be reading a Humana Award winning play, a comedy about the northwest woods spooed owl dispute, Betty, the Yeti. Everyone is welcome to attend. Theatrical experience is not necessary; neither is a commitment to the group. For further information, call Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Prairie UU Society needs a part-time administrator. This person would work 10 hours a week at Prairie Meeting House. They would need to keep scheduled hours. They would be responsible for handling Prairie communications, mail, telephone occasional letters, schedule building use and rentals, publish and mail the newsletter, maintain the mailing list and prepare the order of service for Sunday. Skills necessary to do these tasks would include good written and oral communication ability, computer skills with word processing, desktop publishing and mailing labels. Please phone Julie Bonser at 274-3248, if you are interested or would like to recommend someone. You may also mail an application or resume by **January 15, 1996**, to:

Prairie UU Society, Attn: Julie Bonser
2010 Whenona Drive
Madison, WI 53711

quarterly at their church for supper followed by break-outs to conduct committee business. This scheduling provides an opportunity for socializing and increases the likelihood that new persons may attend. It enhances car-pooling options and allows for child care, and to these ends has a set ending time. I want to try this. Committee Chairs, let me know your thoughts.

Madison Fire Department conducted a fire and safety inspection of Prairie. While we passed, here are a few things to consider: We must keep exits well lit, accessible, and free from obstructions. No combustibles may be stored in the downstairs electric closet and unattended extension cords must be unplugged. No combustible materials should be near any of space heaters.

The few, the proud...Prairie recently received continued recognition and awards as an "Honor Society" from the UUA for support of the Annual Program Fund and as a "Banner Society" for congregational support to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

- Rick Ruecking

wild wintering

The PYG's (Prairie Youth Group) and the High School R.E. Group will slip and slide into winter at Elver Park between 1:30 and 4:00 PM on Saturday, January 27.

Activities include: sledding, ice skating and x-country skiing. Bring equipment and chocolate. There is a warming house at Elver Park, where we will meet.

All are invited.

- Gary George, Bob Anderson,

Rich Owens

"There is such a thing as being so open-minded that your brains fall out."

- Nicholas Cardell, when UU minister (Albany, NY)

a gentle reminder:

For those of you (or your children) who enjoy hot chocolate, you can put donations in the "coffee fund" tin.

Thanks.



THE KING COALITION

Invites you to Madison's 1996 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, January 15. The evening's events begin with group singing at the Capitol Rotunda at 6:20pm, followed by a march to the Civic Center for a program lead by James Jones, entitled, "Reigniting the Vision." Admission is free.

INTERWEAVE CONVO '96

Interweave, a continental UU group, is an organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people, and their heterosexual allies.

Our 12th annual convocation (Convo '96) is in Madison this year, Feb 16-18, with most activities at First Unitarian Society.

We are looking for home hospitality hosts to provide 1 or 2 overnight accommodations for our guests from all over North America. One or more beds, a couch, even floor space, are good options. Sue Dorumsgaard is coordinating home hospitality - give her a call at 242-9099.

Call Nancy Graham (244-6595) or Jonalu Johnston at James Reeb UU for further information.

Flyers, workshop schedule and registration info are also posted on the Prairie bulletin board, and we hope to have it available on Prairie's Internet Web Site as well. (Nancy Graham)

UU SINGLES

UU singles will be meeting every Friday at 6:00pm at the Sunporch Restuarant on University Avnuc. Contact Jeff Nelson at 249-2414 for more information.

HOMECOMINGS INTERNATIONAL

Homecomings International, Inc., the bed and breakfast travel directory for UUs offers travel and socializing opportunities. This travel network serves thousands of travelers with over 400 hosts in 45 states and 9 countries. Applications for Host Listings in the April 1996-97 edition are due January 31. Contact Homecomings, Box 1133, Fairfax, VA 22030, or call (703) 425-8259.



COVENANT OF UU PAGANS

JANUARY 21, 7:00pm (Sunday)
James Reeb, 2146 East Johnson Street

There will be a special organizational meeting to consider the direction of our Unitarian Universalist Pagan Group will take.

We have approxiamately 154 people on our mailing list and have had as many as 70 attendees at our rituals. We are a vital group that represents all three of the UU churches in the Madison area, as well as members of the community at large.

If interested in participating in this important meeting, please plan to attend. If you have further questions, call Julie Bonser at 274-3248

FEBRUARY 3, 7:30pm (Saturday)
First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr. (lower meeting house)
FULL MOON RITUAL (lower meeting house)

FEBRUARY 4, 3:00-6:00pm (Sunday)
First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr. (lower meeting house)
BRIGHID/CANDLEMAS
Ritual celebration and potluck



RE start second semester

After quite a break, RE classes are alive again.

Secret Friends (a intergenerational activity) is coming up. If you, as an adult, wish to be paired with a Prairie youth, a sign up sheet will be available at the Greeter's table.

When things get rolling again, I am sure their will much to report. Until then, I hope '96 is treating you as well (or better) than you're treating it.

- John Brian Paprock

STRENGTHEN- ING THE SPLINTER

When William Ellery Channing preached his Baltimore Sermon, call "Unitarian Christianity," in 1819, he spoke his own beliefs, not official doctrines of an institutional church. "First Church in Boston" and "First Church in Roxbury" did not use the word Unitarian in identifying themselves. Unitarianism became a separate organization in 1825, a product of many questioning thoughts and discussions in New England.

A widely read and reprinted sermon by Theodore Parker of Boston was called, "The Transient and the Permanent in Christianity." We will hear more about his ideas when, on January 21, Arleigh Birchler will be the speaker at Prairie Society.

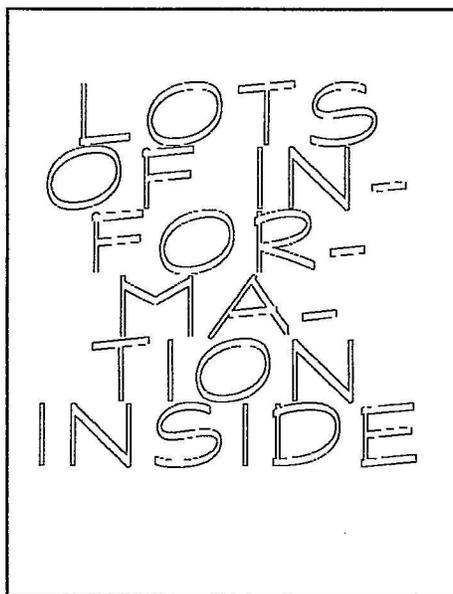
"I have strong disagreements with Theodore Parker," said Arleigh, when he was asked to speak to our society about early history of our denomination. Arleigh and his wife,

Shannon Hayes, attended the Starr King School of the Ministry in California.

One of the strengths of Unitarian Universalism fellowships is the growing acquaintance we gain with one another as we share in leading Sunday morning services. Arleigh will tell us more about the path that led him to Starr King School. He is at present a nurse at Meriter Health Center.

At the January 21 meeting, Bob Steinhoefer, chair of our Social Action Committee, will summarize the discussions that group held at Upham Woods, and he will point to directions we may take in pursuing meaningful change.

- Barbara Rames



ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS!

Our music program this spring will be on MARCH 17 and will feature the music of Felix Mendelsohn.

If you can perform, contact, Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagsrtom (238-4970). They can suggest works to perform, if you are undecided.

We might include not only works by Felix, but also music by his sister, Fanny, and his archrival, Richard Wagner.

THE EDITOR'S FAVORITE QUOTE SUBMISSION

"THE MAJORITY OF US LEAD QUIET, UNHERALDED LIVES AS WE PASS THROUGH THIS WORLD. THERE WILL MOST LIKELY BE NO TICKER-TAPE PARADES FOR US, NO MONUMENTS CREATED IN OUR HONOR. BUT THAT DOES NOT LESSEN OUR POSSIBLE IMPACT, FOR THERE ARE SCORES OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR SOMEONE JUST LIKE US TO COME ALONG; PEOPLE WHO WILL APPRECIATE OUR COMPASSION, OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, WHO WILL LIVE A HAPPIER LIFE MERELY BECAUSE WE TOOK THE TIME TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE." - LEO BUSCAGLIA