Editor's Note

Because of uncertainties concerning the availability of the Prairie Meetinghouse, Rick and I have decided to list all upcoming events at Prairie. You may have noticed these dates in the calendar section of the Prairie Fire.

On January 1, a new policy went into effect concerning the Prairie Fire: the due date is now the first and third Sunday of every month, not every other week.

I also think we should all thank John-Brian Paprock for doing a great job on the Prairie Fire for the last few months. I will do the next few issues, and by then we will hopefully have an Administrator.

—Louie Scrattish

...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
Spanish-speakers Potluck

Spanish-speaking Potluckers will meet at the Prairie Meetinghouse (in the kitchen!) at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 12. We are a group of people with widely-ranging Spanish language skills, and a unified and abiding interest in Hispanic/Latino people and their cultures. Some of us have lived in Spanish-speaking countries, some have traveled extensively in Central America, and some of us learned all our Spanish in high school in the U.S. So, don't worry about your skill level. Just bring a dish to pass, (no it doesn't have to be "Hispanic," ) and a desire to spend a couple of hours eating well and chatting in Spanish (más o menos.) For further information or a ride, call Kate Tucker at 221-4382 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

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.

In addition to what we hope will be a very active discussion, this service will also include the distribution of a survey. Please take one, fill it out, and return it to the address indicated by February 15. Survey results will help the committee prepare for the upcoming workshop, our first large planning effort in over 10 years.

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 Tator 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.

There will be an intergenerational potluck following the service.

—Joyce Shag

February 25

Dr. Gene Farley was head of Family Medicine at UW Hospital until he retired this year. He is currently running for a spot in Congress. His wife, Linda, won "Doctor of the Year" award in 1995 for her efforts supporting single payer medicine.

UU SINGLES

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

Homecomings International, Inc., the bed and breakfast travel directory for UU's, 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.

S. A. Committee - Status Report

"To understand and express our common values, to enrich our community." With this principal as a guide, your Social Action Committee presented the following progress report to the 1-21-96 service:

Plan and Progress

Meet on Issues
bi-monthly meeting (February 22 next meeting)

Ask Prairie Members
Social Action Survey - Act Locally!
results of survey:
#1 - ecology/population
#2 - health
#3 - peace/disarmament

Educate
Upham Woods workshop follow-up
reports to members
Organize Action Projects
form project committees
Fundraising
independent of Prairie Budget,
donations accepted

Volunteers and donations for future Social Action Committee projects are needed. Contact Bob Steinhofer at 221-9417.

Administrator Wanted

Prairie UU Society needs a part-time administrator. This person would work 10 hours a week at the Prairie Meeting House. S/he would need to keep scheduled hours. S/he would be responsible for handling Prairie communications such as mail, telephone calls, and occasional letters. Other duties include scheduling building use and rentals, publishing and mailing the newsletter, maintaining the mailing list, and preparing the order of service for Sunday. Skills necessary to do these tasks include good written and oral communication ability, computer skills with word processing, desktop publishing and mailing labels. Please phone Julia Bonser at 274-3248, if you are interested or would like to recommend someone. You may also mail an application or resume ASAP.

Send to:
Prairie UU Society, Attn: Julia Bonser
2010 Whonona Drive
Madison, WI 53711

INTERWEAVE CONVO '96

Interweave, a continental UU group, is an organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, 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 Dorumgaard 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 schedules, and registration info are also posted on the Prairie bulletin board. We hope to have it available on Prairie's Internet Web Site as well. (Nancy Graham)

When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before." —Mae West

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.
Theatre outing

On February 4 there will be a potluck at Prairie after the service which will be followed by the carpool departure for the matinee performance of the musical Dracula at Verona's High School Performing Arts Center. A block of seats, (the best in the house!) have been reserved for those who sign up by January 28 at the meeting room bulletin board or by calling Rick Owens at 845 - 3884.

French Circle Dinner

Can you speak French with your mouth full? Explore this and other continental experiences with the new French Circle Dinner forming now. Beginners are most welcome! Contact Bob Steinhofer at 221 - 9417, or leave your name and preferred dinner day (Sat., Sun., Mon., etc.) and time.

Winter Institute

The Meadville/Lombard Theological School is offering a special price to Madison UU's interested in attending its Winter Institute on the UW campus in Madison from February 15 - 18. "Turning Back the Tide of Violence" is the theme of this year's program which will feature two gifted speakers, Geoffrey Canada and Thandeka. The "commuter fee" is $265 plus $80 more if you need housing. For further information contact Ellen Dodge Severson at 312 - 753 - 1324 or (by fax) 312 - 753 - 1323.

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) 425-8259.1 (703) 425-8259.

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.

ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS!

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

If you can perform, contact Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom (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 archival, Richard Wagner.

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.

"Great is the beginning, but greater the art of ending."

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow