

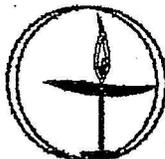
Return to:  
Editor  
Prairie U.U. Society  
5213 Milward Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

Robert & Barbara Park  
5610 Hammersley Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1604

Address Correction Requested

# Prairie Fire



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

Rick Ruecking, President ..... 238-2924      John-Brian Paprock, R. E. Director ..... 274-4405  
Judy Skog, Treasurer ..... 273-4813      Meeting House ..... 271-8218  
Editor: Louie Scratfish      To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Julia Bonser ..... 274-3248

Production Assistants - Marilyn Peters and Julia Bonser  
Vol. 33, No. 24, 2-4-96

The deadline for the next issue of  
Prairie Fire is Sunday, March 3.  
Submit items for March 7 - March 21.



**Thursday, February 22**  
All Committee Night  
5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Potluck Supper  
7:30 - 9:30 PM  
Committee Meetings

**Saturday, February 24**  
7:00 PM  
Bosch Family Party at Prairie

**Sunday, February 25**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Community" - Gene Farley  
(See page 2.)

**Friday, March 1**  
5:30 PM  
Ethnic Circle dinner at Taste of India  
(See page 2.)

**Sunday, March 3**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"The Bible and the Koran" - Betty  
Jallings

**Sunday, March 3**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"The Bible and the Koran" - Betty  
Jallings. (See page 2.)

**Thursday, March 7**  
7:00 PM  
Program Committee Meeting at Prairie

**Saturday, March 9**  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Visioning Workshop at Prairie

**Sunday, March 10**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Of Babies and Bathwater" - Barbara  
Rames

**Monday, March 11**  
6:30 PM  
Spanish Speaking Potluck at the house  
of Ema Pachon (238 - 4382 for directions  
or a ride)

**Sunday, March 17**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Mendelsohn" Musical - Warren  
Hagstrom

**Saturday, March 23**  
7:30 PM  
Prairie Playreaders meet (See page 2.)

## President's Column

Perhaps my uncase in not apparent, but I often feel self-conscious in my role as spokesperson on Sunday Mornings. It is difficult to find comfort as I move us along while trying to convey that this Society is as much yours as it is evidently mine. I encourage you all to take advantage of our long range planning programs coming soon to do the work that directs Prairie's future.

If you were unable to attend the All Committee Night on Thursday, February 22, I'm sure you missed a fun opportunity to learn how your influence could be brought to Prairie. Don't despair, the Society will be having a day-long planning workshop on March 9.

On this day, Prairie will establish a set of objectives for the near future. We will try to reach a concensus for the directions in which you want Prairie to proceed. We will identify the problems facing our Society and brain storm means of resolution. We will consider the structure of our institution and begin the work of making it more responsive and inclusive. We will discuss our strengths and strategize how we might best utilize those characteristics. It all depends upon you. I'll have my say, that's for sure, but this time it will be from the back bench instead of the podium. We can't move anywhere without your consensus, so be sure your voice joins ours on March 9 as we try to attain goals for our future.

...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



## Challenging the Radical Right

Leona Balek, of First Unitarian Society, presented a very informative and somewhat frightening view of the radical right, which comprises ultra conservative religious groups and leaders as well as extreme right-wing politicians and groups.

If you want to learn more about these groups, there is plenty of information available on the Internet. People of the American Way has launched a national campaign called Expose the Right! Campaign. Its broad purpose is "to expose to the American People the dangerous agenda of religious political extremists and others on the far right, and to force the 1996 presidential candidate to either repudiate or embrace that extreme agenda."

The Expose the Right! Campaign has a World Wide Web site located at: <http://www.mainlink.net/expose/>. A link to this web site will appear soon on Prairie's home page, (<http://www.execpc.com/~prairiev/>).

## Prairie Directory Update

Please check your name, address, phone number, and membership status on the clipboard in the back of the meeting hall. Also, please update information about other members if you can. Julia Bonser and Doleta Chapru will produce a quick, low budget directory as soon as possible.

## Ethnic Dinner Circle

Due to popular demand, the Ethnic Dinner Circle will meet at Taste of India, 6713 Odana Road. Everyone is welcome, but must phone Pat Watkins at 233 - 5795 before 9:00 PM on February 28th for a reservation.

## Prairie Playreaders

Mark March 23rd on your calendars for the next get together of Prairie Playreaders, one of our society's many small group social activities. Participants read from and discuss a wide variety of plays. Call Pat Watkins at 233 - 5795 for more information.

## Congratulations Publishers

In addition to working as Prairie's R.E. Director, John-Brian Paprock is also coordinator for the Madison Area Inter-faith Network, and can be heard regularly on WORT-FM, for whom he is their religious reporter. He also has recently published A Madison Area Guide to Spiritual and Religious Sources, which can be ordered from Living Gold, P.O. Box 5207, Madison 53705. Enclose a check payable to Living Gold, for \$5.00 to cover cost, postage, and handling.

Congratulations, also, to Wilma Lewis of First UU Society, and a frequent traveler on Prairie's bus trips, upon the publication of her book, WILL. She will be reading it at Canterbury Booksellers on February 21st.

## Visioning Workshop

Prairie Society will hold a visioning workshop on Saturday, March 9, from 9:30 AM - 4:30PM. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch at noon.

This will be our first long range planning workshop in over 10 years. At our last workshop, Prairie members decided on a set of goals, most of which have been accomplished, including remodeling the building to obtain handicapped accessibility, installing a new roof and windows, and developing more structure in the Sunday services.

It is extremely important that we have a large turnout for this workshop. Please try to attend if you possibly can. If you cannot, please contact Anne Urbanski at 258 - 8269 or Rick Ruecking at 238 - 2924 with any concerns you may wish to bring to the attention of the Long Range Planning Committee. If you have not filled out a Long Range Planning Survey, please fill out the one provided in this issue of Prairie Fire and mail it back to Prairie by March 2. (The address is on the second page of the survey.)

### TODAY'S QUOTE

This news is old enough, yet it is every day's news.

—William Shakespeare

## Grinrod Memorial

If you would like to contribute to a stained glass window for John, please send a check, made out to Prairie and marked "Grinrod Memorial" to Dick Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive, Madison, 53711.

## 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.

## "Sandwich Generation"

Prairie is planning to sponsor a discussion series for the "Sandwich Generation," ie those adults positioned between growing children and aging parents. There will be a meeting to plan the times and context of this series after Prairie on February 25. Anyone who is interested is welcome. If you have questions, contact Reid Miller at 437 - 3388 or Barbara Parks at 273 - 8775.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### February 25

Dr. Gene Farley was head of Family Practice 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.

### March 3

"The Bible and the Koran" - Betty Jallings. Questions to be discussed will include: How have they changed their world and Western Civilization? Who wrote them? How has interpretation changed them over the years? What are their effects on various other civilizations? Do you have a book that you would like to advocate as something that has made a difference? If so, bring it to the service.

# SOCIAL ACTION

## Volunteers Needed

Looking for a social action? The League of Women voters has engaged in a study of Dane County's jury system. Volunteers are needed to observe and record the number of minority jurors in the jury pools. (Dane County juries almost always end up being all white.) Volunteering will require one (or more, if you wish) visit to the City-County Building, between 9:30 - 11:30 on a Monday morning of your choice. If interested call Pat Watkins at 233 - 5795.

## Democracy Campaign

Be part of the trickle up democracy movement. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is an independent, non-partisan coalition dedicated to campaign finance reform for equal access to government. A Democracy Day forum will be held on Saturday, March 23. If interested in the forum or how to volunteer, contact the WDC office at 608 - 255 - 4260 or Bob Steinhofner at 221 - 9417.

## MMSD Gay/Lesbian Forum

The Madison School Board Candidates' Forum on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues will be held on Saturday, March 2 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street in Madison.

Organized by Gays, Lesbians, and Allies for diversity in Education, the forum will give School Board candidates Carol Carstensen, Peter Williams, and Calvin Williams the opportunity to speak about their positions on issues of concern to gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual students, staff, and families in Madison's schools. The Religious Right has targeted our public schools and one of their key issues is the elimination of any support services to gay, lesbian, or bi-sexual youth. We encourage you to attend this public forum and let your voice be heard. For more information contact Sunshine Jones at 276 - 8010 or Chris Halvorson at 241 - 5089.

## Volunteers Needed

Dane County Advocates For Battered Women will soon be holding training for volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are available in five subject areas including the crisis line, outreach, and children's program training. If interested call Mory Johnson at 251 - 1237 by February 15.

## Give Blood

Dick Bonser started our New Year off by giving a pint early in January, bringing his lifetime total to eight gallons; Laurie Larson and Bob Steinhofner each gave a pint in late January.

The entire procedure takes only about an hour. Schedules of donor center hours are on our greeter's table each Sunday. In February, when we think about hearts and loving, let's give to those unknown people whose lives depend on it.

Have you signed the back of your driver's license to show that you'd be willing to have your organs donated in case of a fatal accident? If not please contact the Department of Motor Vehicles and be sure to tell your nearest relatives of your wishes as well.

—Barbara Rames

## 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 Whenona Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

## Food Pantry Alert

This Sunday, February 25, will be our last Sunday before the monthly food pantry offering is sent to the Allied Drive Area. Any non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, cereal, and canned goods can be donated by dropping them in the donation box located in the lobby.

## Shelter News

When volunteers from Prairie Society serve breakfast at the Men's Homeless Shelter, we are responsible for providing the food. If you are not one of those volunteers, perhaps you would like to help foot the cost of groceries. At least twelve dozen eggs were needed last month, along with bread, juice, and fruit. See Fran Zell if you would like to contribute.



## Wild Wintering Party a Success

About 30 Prairie kids and their friends attended the Wild Wintering Pizza Party/Overnight on January 27. The children played board games and made music until Kathy and Randy Converse arrived with pizza. After dinner, Reid Miller led the group in interactive stories and games. Then Paula Pachciarz helped some of the kids bake cookies while Fran Zell, Rick Owen, and Jan Howe helped the children develop three different plays, which were presented to the whole group. After the plays, there were more games, crafts, and music until midnight when (believe it or not) the kids decided to call it a night. Thanks to Dean, Erin, Amy, Kerry, John-Brian, and the other Prairie adults who helped with planning, activities, and clean-up. We're looking forward to Spring Fling.

—Carl Wachen

## Religious Liberal Service a Success

Thanks to everyone who participated in the service on Sunday, January 28. Julia Bonser brought several thought-provoking quotes (from a book by the late UU theologian James Luther) that helped to frame the discussion on the topic "What does it mean to be a religious liberal in Madison, Wisconsin?"

Following Cinda Lamar's heartfelt testimony about what Prairie has meant to her in her personal and professional life, Barb Park facilitated the discussion, while Anne Urbanski attempted to summarize the participants' comments. Barb posed the question: "What difference does it make that you are a religious liberal in a relatively liberal town like Madison?" Here are people's responses:

**Metje Butler:** Minority views count here (referring to the Madison newspaper in the late 1970's in which Prairie lost some members.) Great to see that principle in action. You CAN do something, take ideas and put them into action.

**Doleta Chapru:** Annoyed with traffic noise and smog but really doesn't want to live in a small town with an anti-intellectual attitude. Recommends the book Eyes Right, in which the suggestion is that free thinkers are messengers of Satan.

**Rosemary Dorney:** She often wore a "Question Authority" button in law classes. Many people were threatened by it. Many felt the need to comment on it. They saw it as a challenge. "Question authority because it's there." She, as an ex-Catholic, realizes that she has the option to question.

**Aileen Nettleton:** She found she could belong to different kinds of groups. Prairie has provided a community for her entire family. A place to explore values and actions. Prairie has also helped her grow in ways that no other single place could have - environmentally, socially, etc. Undergirded by Bond of Union.

**Rosemarie Lester:** She has studied and taught at a Lutheran College in South Dakota. She was raised Lutheran in Germany. "Don't forget Christianity has many factions. The most liberal Lutherans at this college were part of the theology department." Discussions with them moved her to a small UU congregation in S.D. "We UU's are not the only liberals!"

**Rachel Long:** Believes Unitarian Universalism is distinguished by not believing in original sin. She says that it believes that people can develop moral, ethical ways of living on their own, without an external force. She has faith in self, and others, reinforced by connections/links with Prairie members. She feels surrounded by a culture that doesn't believe in humanity.

**Julia Bonser:** She enjoys the "freedom to examine." She can take her Sunday life and use it all week. Every day at work she tries to actualize her belief in the worth and dignity of every person. She feels gratified that people she works with say she makes them feel comfortable and unjudged.

**Mike Briggs:** He has been a Prairie member since 1974. Eighteen of those years his job involved deciding what would happen to parole violators. He has gotten from Prairie: (a) Listen to people. (b) People should be free to make their own choices, and those choices make the person. (c) When on Madison City Council he used a sense of humility and equality, partly derived from Prairie.

**Kathy Converse:** "It takes a whole community to raise a child." She comments that it is hard to find a community that can be trusted with your child's mind. She believes that at Prairie her children can learn something from everyone as well as see a loving and equality oriented community. She wanted them to be a part of a community that wasn't a "church." She doesn't believe in moral absolutes, but does believe in different ways of getting where you want to go.

**Bob Steinhofner:** 'This is a psychic friends network! (grin) He believes we all have that inside us. "I can only speak for myself." Sees reading number 655 in "Singing the Living Tradition" as a reminder of integrity. He feels he can bring his entire self here.

## Quilting Show

The Annual Sun Prairie Quilt Show will held one Monday, March 25 from 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM and Tuesday, March 26 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. For anyone who enjoys art or beautiful things, this show is a "must see."

For directions or if you want to carpool Monday Night, call Judy Skog at 273 - 4813.

## 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 (mas o menos.) For further information or a ride, call Kate Tucker at 221 - 4382 or Rosemary Dorney at 238 - 4382.

## 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.

## Equinox Service

Nancy Vedder-Shults will guide participants in a service based on the Spring Equinox. The service will be held on March 24 at First Society. She will reflect on "Balancing the Dark and Light in Our Lives." The service will be conducted within the framework of a pagan ritual, using a short guided visualization, stories, and songs, including several from Nancy's recent recording "Chants for the Queen of Heaven."