

Return to:
Editor - Prairie Fire
Prairie U.U. Society
2010 Whenona Drive
Madison, WI 53711

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Prairie Fire



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

Rick Ruecking, President238-2924 John-Brian Paprock, R. E. Director274-4405
Judy Skog, Treasurer273-4813 Meeting House271-8218
Editor: Arleigh Birchler To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Arleigh Birchler - (608)273-9811

Production Assistants: Marilyn Peters

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The deadline for the next issue of
Prairie Fire is Sunday, June 16
Submit items for June 20 -July 6

Summer Schedule

Summer is fast approaching and
Prairie's schedule adapts to meet the
season.

And what to do about the Prairie Fire?
Should we keep publishing it every other
week? Or go to once a month? Or should
we remain flexible and see how much news
we get?

Let me know what you think.

— Arleigh Birchler - 273-9811

Friday, June 7
2:00 - 10:00 PM

Rental - John Jallings' School Reunion

Saturday, June 8
9:00 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

7:30 PM

Farewell Party for

Julie and Dick Bonser

At Prairie (See Story)

Sunday, June 9
10:00 AM

"Iraq After the War" - Kathy Kelly

Monday, June 10
7:00 PM

Board Meeting

(Change in Schedule)

Friday, June 14
7:00 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

Saturday, June 15
9:00 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

Sunday, June 16
10:00 AM

"Urban Sprawl" - Elizabeth Bardwell

Thursday, June 20 -
Tuesday, June 25

UUA General Assembly

Indianapolis, Indiana

Saturday, June 22
6:30 PM

Salad Bar Movie (See Story)

Pat Cautley - 238-5373

Sunday, June 23
10:00 AM

"W-2 — Welfare Reform" -

Barbara Herrick

Monday, June 24
7:45 - 11:30 PM

Homeless Shelter (See Story)

Tuesday, June 25
5:00 - 8:00 AM

Homeless Shelter (See Story)

7:00 PM

Social Action Committee (See Story)

Thursday, June 27
7:00 PM

Program Committee

(Change in Schedule)

Saturday, June 29

PRAIRIE CABARET

Piano Fund Raiser (See Story)

Sunday, June 30

10:00 AM

"Northern Ireland" - Andrew Somers

3:00 PM to ...

Briggs' 40th Anniversary Party

(See Story)

Sunday, July 7

1:30 PM

Picnic Potluck - Shirley Grindrod's

Monday, July 8

7:30 PM

Board Meeting

Sunday, July 14

10:00 AM

"Contra Dancing" -

Mike and Norma Briggs

Newspaper Ads

I believe that we have now made
arrangements that will insure that our Ad is
correct and current in the future. I do not,
however, receive either of the Madison
Newspapers. If you should notice an
incorrect ad, I would appreciate it if you let
me know. ;<) I would *especially* appreciate
it if you do not start with "Why didn't
you..." or "Can't you even..." ;<) If you
would like to go directly to the source,
Tonja Harrison is listed in any *complete
listing* Prairie Directory dated May 5,
1996, or later. She is in the *Organizations*
section under *Madison Newspapers,
Religious Ads*. Her number is 252-6236.
Thanks,

— Arleigh Birchler

...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

President's Column

The Membership Committee held a Dessert Party for Prairie's newer members last week. We welcomed Sue and Dick Prest, Nikki Bromberg, Laura Amundson, and Jan Howe (some of our newer members) with delicious treats and warm hearts. Welcome!

While we always welcome, we also sometimes have to say so long. Prairie celebrates the past participation of Dick and Julie Bonser this Saturday, June 8, with a party at 7:30 PM. Dick and Julie have retired from their former careers to embark on a period of rediscovery. My understanding is that their plans for travel and adventure will take them from Madison. Come and help us wish them "safe journey", but not good-bye.

Among certainties is the ongoing need to keep our church lawn from becoming another Prairie. If everyone would mow the lawn once this could be a light task. Please sign up to take your turn at the turf.

— *Rick Ruecking*

Social Action Shelter News

Thanks, Helene Pesche, Fran Zell, Barbara Rames, and Nancy Graham, for staffing the Grace Episcopal Men's Homeless shelter in April.

If you can take a turn, either evening or early morning shift (4th Monday evening and following Tuesday morning), please contact Fran Zell, 233-0213.

(See Kay Frazier's poem "Remains".)

To make work easier for our A.M. crew, we have installed a drop-off box in the Prairie Foyer for cereal and other breakfast staples. Please remember the box when out grocery shopping. Also, don't forget the regular drop-off box for the Allied Drive Food Pantry.

— *Fran Zell*

Keep Your Pledge Money Coming

It may be summer, but Prairie continues and so do our expenses. Please remember to send your regular pledges and contributions to the Treasurer, Judy Skog, 626 Orchard Dr., 53711, or to Prairie. Thank you to all who so faithfully support our work through your contributions.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 9 - Iraq After the War

Peace activist Kathy Kelly is no stranger to the world's hot-spots. Struck by the reports of dead and dying in Iraq due to lack of medical supplies, she recently joined a group delivering humanitarian aide to Baghdad. "With the mortality rate over five times the norm," she states, "it is clear that the U.S. is using hunger and disease as a weapon of war against non-combatants." Kathy has also carried messages of justice and non-violence into Haiti just before Aristede was reinstated and into Bosnia during the height of the fighting. She is a passionate and articulate advocate for peace and non-violence.

June 16 - Urban Sprawl

Elizabeth Bardwell will present a video which describes the problems that are created for an urban community through over-growth. It graphically illustrates the fact that growth can, and should, be limited. Group discussion will follow the video.

Program Committee

The monthly program committee has been changed to the last Thursday of each month.

Choir

There will be no choir rehearsal for June, July, and August. We'll miss you!

Holey Roof, Prairie!

Special Thanks to Rick Owens and Al Nettleton for climbing up on the Prairie Roof and fixing the hole where the rain came in!

Thanks, Henry Fox!

A big "Thank You" to Henry Fox of American Cleaning Co. for helping us solve our ant problem!

Come to the CABARET!

Saturday, June 29 — What do Le Chat Noir, Überbrettl and Die Insulaner have in common? They were famous cabarets. Their colorful history began in late 19th century France and lasted through post-war Germany.

The term "cabaret," a cognate of "chamber," refers to both the place and style of entertainment. Early French cabaret chansons had political and sociological overtones. In the 1920s the Überbrettl cabaret in Munich attracted famous artists including Berthold Brecht. By then the style of political, social, and sexy commentary was well established.

Smothered during the Nazi era, the cabaret reemerged after WWII. Berlin's cabaret Die Insulaner took on issues of postwar Germany. Pointed social satire got applause at Die Stachelschweine (The Porcupines).

On Saturday, June 29, Prairie entertainers will carry on the cabaret tradition. Torch singers, satirists, jokesters and performers who have other styles of nightclub-type music to share, please call Barb Park, Reid Miller, or Doleta Chapru.

Everyone bring fat wallets for your snacks and entertainment. Proceeds are for the piano.

Prairie Playreaders

I would like to invite all Prairie Playreaders to join me in attending the University Theatre's production of the comedy Charley's Aunt (by Brandon Thomas) Saturday, July 20 at 8:30 PM. They will be holding the play in their cabaret setting. Tickets can be purchased by calling the University Theatre Box Office (262-1500). People interested in meeting after the play for dessert, etc., or for going out to eat before the production, should leave a message for Susan Hagstrom at 238-4970 indicating their interest in one or the other.

Bucky Books

The publishers of the "Bucky Books" would like to know if we would like to sell them as a fundraiser. Please let someone on the Board know how you feel about this. Would the person who has the letter and sample book please call Arleigh at 273-9811?

Rachel Siegfried

Rachel is recovering from a recent return of the vasculitis she experienced five years ago.

Recovery seems much faster. She needs volunteers to drive her to medical appointments for a few weeks. Please call her at 271-2173 to volunteer.

John Grindrod

Has anyone seen John's metal name tag? His family would very much like to have it. Please call Shirley at 238-4422 if you know where it is.

We will soon have five new 60" round tables for potlucks and meetings. These have been donated as a memorial to John. I'm sure we will all have fond memories of John to enjoy while we are using the tables.

Summer Garage Sales

Would you be willing to hold a garage sale at your place sometime over the summer or early fall as a fund-raiser for Prairie? (Instead of holding a big one at Prairie.) If so, please call Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair, 238-6053. Or save your garage sale items to bring to one we set up. Neighborhood sales can be very productive — help us help Prairie and recycle!

Ready For Emergencies!

Tom (Phoenix) Wardell, Linda Sheehy, and Dick Bonser are our most recent blood donors. You, too, can be a member of the One-A-Week Club, in which Unitarian Universalists of Madison participate: you need only weigh at least 100 pounds and be in good health. Questions at the Red Cross donor center will exclude unsuitable donations, and your gift will not endanger you at all. Summer accidents increase need, so let's help.

Saturday Night Salad Bar MOVIES

The next Salad Bar Movie will be at the home of Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St., Madison, on Saturday, June 22. Join us at 6:30 PM and bring a salad to add to the salad bar. Bread and beverages will be provided.

Movie will start about 7:00 PM with discussion to follow.

Call: Pat Cautley at 238-5373.

General Assembly

The 35th Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will convene in two weeks in Indianapolis, Indiana, **Thursday, June 20**, with the Opening Plenary Session and Banner Parade at 8:00pm. The meeting will end by noon on Tuesday, June 25, with a Plenary Session and Worship Service. Our fellowship is entitled to two (2) delegates, plus alternate delegates. Observers are also welcome. If you'd like to know more about General Assembly and how to be a part of the excitement in Indianapolis, talk with Pat Watkins at 233-5795. She was our delegate in Spokane in 1995.

You can reach Indianapolis via car, rail or air. Room rates range from \$75 to \$104 for single or double. Registration for the full six days is \$195 for adults and \$100 for youth (14-22), theological students and retired ministers. Or come for the weekend and register for \$130/\$65. If you're interested in going as an observer, talk to Pat and plan to join over 2500 UUs from across the country in Indianapolis from **June 20 to 25**.

All Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to attend the annual convention and participate in a variety of programs and business meetings. Postmark your registration before May 10 to receive the lowest registration fee. Check the March/April issue of the World for detailed fees and hotel information.

The General Assembly theme in 1996 will be The Future is Now, and this theme will focus on the youth in our denomination and will explore the wonderful gifts they have to offer our congregations. There will be youth-led workshops throughout GA at every time slot, and multiple opportunities for socializing and interacting with the three hundred youth across the United States who are expected to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity for young people and we encourage parents to consider bringing or sending their youth to GA.

Cinda LaMar will be traveling to General Assembly again this year. If you decide you would also like to go, give her a call at 233-1114.

Missing Tablecloths

Tablecloths for our potluck lunches have been taken home for washing. Do you have some? Please return. Thanks.

German History, Wine & Art

... are the focal points of a university sponsored tour to Germany's beautiful south-west, led by Rosemary K. Lester, from September 30 to October 14. A few spaces are still available; the tour is limited to fifteen participants.

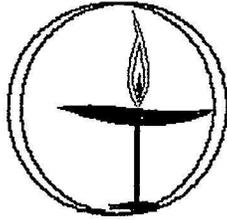
We'll spend the first week based in the nine-hundred-year old Freiburg, gate to the Black Forest and a treasure trove of Renaissance history and art. Day trips will take us deep into the Black Forest; to vineyards and wine festivals; to magnificent Colmar in the French Alsace; on nature hikes and all along, we'll enjoy the hospitality of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee. The second week we're based in Frankfurt, the twelve-hundred-year old City of Emperors, international banking and book fairs, with its "museum mile" along the Main river that houses some of Europe's finest art collections, the Jewish museum and the German film museum. Day trips include the two-thousand-year old Mainz, the city of Gutenberg; Bad Homburg, last of the truly elegant 19th century spas; a Roman castellum in the Taunus mountains and of course, Heidelberg. Tour price including round trip air fare from Chicago by Lufthansa is \$3,350.

Call Rosemarie at 262-2075 (work) or 255-7039 (home) for further information

(Merely reading the names of these places brings back so many fond memories. By any means available, GO! — Arleigh)

Upham Woods (plan ahead!)

Mark your calendars for October 11 to 13, 1996 (Friday thru Sunday)! That will be the weekend for our annual Prairie Retreat to Upham Woods. This is a high-point in the year for many of us. Spending time together in a beautiful woods with other Prairie folks builds relationships that last a life-time. Watching the Wisconsin River out the window, wandering through the forest on the island, and getting over the wall at Peanut Butter Mountain plant memories that can be enjoyed again and again.



Remains

Poem by Kay Frazier (©1996)

Accepted for the Wisconsin's Poets' Calendar

Written after volunteering at the Men's Homeless Shelter

At dawn,
sanctuary is gone.
At dawn,
the bed is gone,
rolled and tucked away into a closet.
At dawn,
a mercy meal waits,
with throwaway plate and throwaway cup.
I pour milk into
his own, well-worn plastic cup.
We smile, and
take a long sip of dignity.

Briggs' 40th Anniversary!

Everyone is invited to the Briggs' home, 2404 Fox Ave for a potluck on Sunday, June 30. Arrive at 3 PM, eat at 5 PM, music and dancing later, (No gifts, please. If you wish, you may make a contribution toward a songbook for Prairie.)