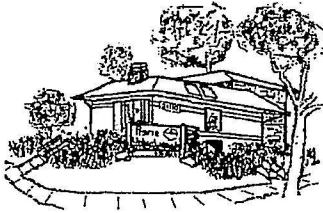


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## PRAIRIE FIRE

*... 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*

Sunday, December 1, 1996

e-mail version available

<http://www.execpc.com/~prairie/>

To subscribe, change address or cancel, call Arleigh at (608)273-9811, or e-mail [birchler@students.wisc.edu](mailto:birchler@students.wisc.edu)

## President's Column

Three years ago this month I traveled to Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. In that desolate high desert country I saw the beginning and the end of a civilization which arose mysteriously 1,000 years ago, flourished briefly, and vanished. They left a stonewalled city whose wonder is heightened by the kivas and petroglyphs evidencing a complex religious mythology and advanced knowledge of astronomy. High on a wall and alone, I stared at a pictured rock on which a shaman holding a sun-dagger (a spiral with the head of a snake) is lecturing a group of four-legged horned creatures with heads like dogs and tails like a panther. The creatures lean toward the shaman as if taking knowledge - the spark of Chaco civilization.

The last two Sundays at Prairie have started me thinking about the direction of our American civilization. We were affirmed as Reid Miller lead an active group reflection on both diversity and togetherness; as we gave thanks for past generations; while the presentation of young Maya Urbanski required us to think of our responsibility to the next. This week, Dr. Hans Adler informed us of the legacy we owe pioneer religious thinkers of the 1800's and he struck a chord when he said that liberal religious foment preceded political reforms. It

seems our civilization is secure, as we honor the past and commit ourselves to the future, until one considers the ill-liberal religious foment of the recent decades and the wave of counter-civil development that leads forensic scholars to write of "super-predators" and headlines in which our government denies a role for the increase in homelessness.

Thanksgiving-day editorials detailed the relative ease with which our society can meet the financial and resource obligations of providing for the next generation. As liberal religious people, we must commit ourselves to understanding the truth of the past to protect that which is good and move to assure that change is progressive and for the better.

*—Rick Ruecking*

Prairie would like to wish a very speedy recovery to Lilo Koehl, one of our charter members, who is recuperating from triple bypass surgery. Lilo would like to hear from old friends.

Lilo Koehl  
1030 Scott Dr. #C-29  
Prescott AZ 86301-1754

*Chalice*



**Lighters**

## Chalice Lighters

Have you noticed the logo to the left appearing on name tags lately? Many in our congregation have already registered to be Chalice Lighters. That means they have pledged to answer three "calls" with a donation of \$10 per call. A call is issued for district-wide help for an individual church's building, staffing or outreach need. The first call will be announced in April, 1997.

Not surprisingly, the Unitarian Universalists in our congregation have been among the first to enthusiastically join this program. With the combined response of UU's throughout the district (there are close to 12,000 of us) you can picture the effect that Chalice Lighters will have!

To be a part of this yourself, call Nancy Graham at 244-6595 (evenings). She can answer any questions you may have and register you as a Chalice Lighter.

## *WORKING FOR A JUST ECONOMIC COMMUNITY*

First Year General Resolution Referred To Local Congregations For Study And Response By  
The 1996 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Delegates in June 1996

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and

**WHEREAS** current economic, social, and political developments have brought about greater concentration of wealth and economic power in the hands of major corporations and wealthy individuals, resulting in a lower standard of living and a growing lack of opportunity for many people;

**WHEREAS** in the United States there is increasing disparity between the wealthiest 10 percent and the remainder of the population;

**WHEREAS** democracy is at risk as wealthy individuals and corporations now dominate the United States' political process and mass media;

**WHEREAS** many corporations benefit from preferential treatment in the form of grants, subsidies, and tax deductions, while increasingly neglecting their moral obligations to the welfare of their employees, communities, and the global ecosystem;

**WHEREAS** government funding for social programs is declining while spending for the military and prisons is being increased;

**WHEREAS** we now see massive numbers of people who are homeless, children who are impoverished, people working for below poverty level pay, environmental degradation, lack of adequate health care, and increasing erosion of workers' rights; and

**WHEREAS** the poor, immigrants, unemployed, and aged are unjustly blamed for the perceived decline, in the quality of life of upper- and middle-income groups;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges its member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to work in cooperation with Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community and other public-spirited organizations and individuals in support of a more just economic community, and toward that objective, to work specifically in favor of:

1. An increased minimum wage to provide an adequate standard of living.
2. A full-employment policy, utilizing public works, if necessary, to supplement employment levels achieved by private enterprise;
3. Restrictions or tariffs on the importation of manufactured goods produced under substandard conditions, by child labor, or by very low-paid workers, or produced under conditions that contribute to environmental degradation;
4. A more equitable federal tax system, including more progressive income tax rates, with fewer preferential provisions for high-income corporations and individuals, greater earned-income credits for low-wage earners, and fair exemptions for middle-income taxpayers;
5. More effective limits on the concentration of ownership of major businesses, particularly in the fields of banking, utilities, communications, pharmaceuticals, and health care, accompanied by effective price controls where no substantial competition exists;
6. A universal health plan, covering the basic needs of all individuals, with adequate freedom of choice, and with a "single-payer" system to reduce administrative costs;
7. Reform of labor legislation and employment standards to provide greater protection for workers, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, protection from unsafe working conditions, and protection from unjust dismissal;
8. Periodic review, renewal, or if necessary, revocation of corporate charters, depending on assessment of performance consistent with the, public interest.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### December 8

#### "The Second German Reformation"

Max Gaebler

In the ferment of the 1840's, Max explains, Germany, experienced what has been called a second reformation, complete with its 19th century Tetzels and its 19th century Luther. In this 'second reformation' are to be found the roots of the Free Religious Movement. Many of the leaders of this movement were so deeply involved in the democratic revolutions of that decade that they sought refuge in America -- the famed, 'Forty-eighters.' They founded numerous congregations in America, of which the only one remaining is that in Sauk City. Meanwhile, the Free Religious Congregations in Germany continue to play a part in the on-going religious life in that country.

### December 15

#### "Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Perspective"

A Panel Discussion

Fourth in series "The Welcoming Congregation" with lay minister Mary Mullen (The fifth service will be on January 19)

Panel discussion by people identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, followed by questions from the congregation. Preparatory reading for next service is available: "Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality," "What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality?" and "Inclusive Liturgy and Preaching."

### December 22

#### "Intergenerational Pagan Celebration & Symbol Tree"

Cinda LaMar & Nancy Graham

The Winter Solstice is a time for tradition. We will be exploring traditions as old as Stonehenge, and as new as Maya.

### December 29

#### "Newspaper Reading"

Mike Sheehy

Bring a newspaper. Share what you read, if so moved.

### January 5

#### "Time and the Crystal"

Al Nettleton

In the dead of winter we pause briefly to consider time. What is it? Does it have a beginning or an end? How do we measure it? Can we control it? How do we perceive it?

Midwinter gives us the winter solstice and the start of a new year. Al Nettleton will continue his lay ministry with a program where we will consider time from a number of different perspectives.

### January 12

#### "Working for a Just Economic Community"

Jean Darling

(Draft General Resolution Referred For Study)

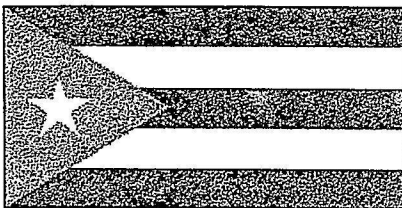
The 1996 General Assembly approved by majority vote three draft General Resolutions (as amended) to be referred to member congregations and districts for review and study.

The member congregations and districts may submit comments about proposed amendments to the draft resolutions to the Commission on General Resolutions by no later than March 1, 1997. Final action on each of the general resolutions is scheduled for the 1997 General Assembly.

The draft resolutions are entitled Working for a just Economic Community; Earth, Air, Water, and Fire; and Toxic Threats to Children.

## Winter in Cuba

Carolyn Dejoie will be away for the winter. She will be enjoying a respite as guest of the University of Havana in Cuba exploring various cultures, political systems and language. Meeting with artists, archivists, legislators and other dignitaries will be on-going. Trips to other cities, towns, beaches and places of recreation will occupy the weekends. She plans to return to Madison in March.



## Social Action Committee (SAC)

1. Allied Neighborhood Center - Christmas Kid's Wish List. We want to put one gift under the tree for 10 kids this Xmas. Prairie Members can donate \$10-15 to the Social Action Committee to get a gift or pick a Wish Ornament off the SAC Bulletin Board for one of the children. Donate by Dec.15, Party on Dec. 19.
2. Check Out The New SAC Bulletin Board in the Prairie Lobby and Check Back Often for News and Opportunities for Involvement
3. Homeless Shelter helpers and supplies money (\$20-25) needed for fourth Monday (7:45-11:00PM) and Tuesday (5-8 AM) each month
4. SAC Meets on first service Sunday each month - JOIN US ! (contact Rob Steinhofner 221-9417, Nancy Graham 244-6595 for more info)

## Calendar

### Saturday, December 7

**7 PM**

Contra Dancing for Women  
and Girls

Norma Briggs, Caller

Dark of the Moon

Contra-Band

Mary Mullen

### \*\*Sunday, December 8

**9 AM**

Choir Practice

**10 AM**

The Second Reformation: The

German Free-Thinkers

Max Gaebler

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

**2 PM – 5 PM**

Shaarei Shamayim

**6 PM**

Salad Bar Movie

George & Ruth Calden

Please call by Fri, 12/6

233-5717

### Saturday, December 14

**9:30 AM**

Shaarei Shamayim

### \*\*Sunday, December 15

**9 AM**

Choir Practice

**10 AM**

Lesbian, Gay,

& Bisexual Perspective

Mary Mullen

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

Women's Discussion Group

### Monday, December 16

**7:30 PM**

Board Meeting

### Saturday, December 21

**10:30 PM**

Denominational Affairs

Committee meeting

with coffee and pastry

Dick & Susan Prest

3444 Lake Mendota Dr

Call Pat Watkins for info

### \*\*Sunday, December 22

**9 AM**

Choir Practice

**10 AM**

Intergenerational Pagan

Celebrtion & Symbol Tree

Nancy Graham

& Cinda LaMar

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

### Monday, December 23

**7:45 PM – 11:30 PM**

Men's Homeless Shelter

Grace Episcopal Church

### Tuesday, December 24

**5 AM – 8 AM**

Men's Homeless Shelter

Grace Episcopal Church

**Thank you, Orton Gray,**

**Barbara Rames, and**

**Julie & Frank Klenko for**

**volunteering at the Grace**

**Episcopal Men's Homeless**

**Shelter in November.**

Volunteers are needed for

December and January

shifts. Please contact:

Fran Zell, 283-0983

### Friday, December 27

**7:15 PM**

Shaarei Shamayim

### Saturday, December 28

**9:30 AM**

Shaarei Shamayim

### \*\*Sunday, December 29

**10 AM**

Newspaper Reading

Mike Sheehy

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

### \*\*Sunday, January 5

**10 AM**

Time and the Crystal

Al Nettleton

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

### Saturday, January 11

**7:30 PM**

Prairie Playreaders

Rachel Siegfried

& Mona Birong

271-2173

### \*\*Sunday, January 12

**9 AM**

Choir Practice

**10 AM**

Working for a Just Economic

Community

Jean Darling

**after program**

PYGs Bake Sale

## *What Do We Mean By "Assimilating New Members"?*

Making them feel welcome

A place to come back to

A part of the community

Sharing their insights & gifts -  
(not Borg)

Increasing resources

Feel the church is important to them  
so above happens

Become part of the process --  
ownership

Making them a part of us and us a  
part of them

Feeling free & comfortable -- new  
member & congregation

(Talking Circle)

What they want & what they expect

**Long Range Planning**

**Committee (Soul, Too!)**