



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. *From*

Prairie's Bond Of Union

March 2, 1998

The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, March 7

6:00 - 10:00 PM; **Intergenerational Potluck & Party!!!** 6 PM is the Potluck. 7-10 PM is the Party. Come join the fun!

6:00 PM; Our friends at James Reeb UU Congregation will be hosting the **Fifth Annual Reeb Rave**. Members & friends donate services and goods, which are auctioned off during the evening. If you would like to donate items or services for this auction, or receive a list of items available contact Bob Komes at 873-8302.

Sunday, March 8

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00 AM; **"What's a Guy Like Me Doing In a Place Like This?"** presented by Robin Carre.

Tuesday, March 10

6:00 PM; **Madison Urban Ministry Series: Beyond Violence--Judgement, Guilt and Forgiveness.** Prof. Bruce Kittle of the UW Law School and Director of the Restorative Justice Project leads the group in exploring these concepts in "Can the State Hold Criminals Accountable for Their Acts While Promoting Healing, Reconciliation and Forgiveness?" First Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. Please phone 256-0906 in advance to sign up. Cost is \$5, including a light meal. Free parking in Manchester Place Parking Garage.

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 PM; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck**, at Prudence Bakers', 1050 Jenifer St., 251-0852.

Saturday, March 14

1:00 PM; **"Just Economic Community Study Group"**, meets at Rachel Siegfried's home.

7:30 PM; **Prairie Playreaders** meet at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane.

Sunday, March 15

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00 AM; **"Extending Equality Beyond Humanity"** presented by Jackie Ziegler.

After Service: **Secret Friend's Potluck Party.**

Prairie Womens' Group meets downstairs.

6:00 - 8:00 PM; **Family Enhancement Sponsored Program for Community activists, parents, educators and others concerned with the achievement of students in Madison School District.** Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month and the facilitator is Barb Golden. The location is Head Start at 2096 Red Arrow Trail (near Pizza Hut). For more info call Family Enhancement at 241-5150 or Barb at 238-4867.

Tuesday, March 17

6:45 PM; **GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network)** meets at Madison Public Library Central. Topic will be "School In-Service Programs".

Friday, March 20

7:00 PM; **Folk Music at James Reeb. Jim Scott** will be performing a benefit concert at James Reeb. His songs promote peace, human rights, and preservation of our environment. He frequently performs at UU congregations across the country and has composed songs included in our hymnal. Admission is \$7.

Sunday, March 22

10:00 AM; "**Education of African Americans in Madison**", presented by Kaleem Caire.

12 Noon; **Annual Prairie Service Auction.**

Sunday, March 29

10:00 AM; "**Political Correctness: Using language to include versus using language to censor**", presented by Gail Coover.

OUR SOCIETY

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MIKE SHEEHY

Prairie lost a cherished friend to cancer on February 17. Mike died peacefully at home, with his family, Linda, Brooke, Brandon and Brian.

We at Prairie will always remember Mike as a beloved friend, teacher of our children, vocalist both in solos and ensembles, and Chair of our Program Committee. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family, and reaffirm that the members of Prairie are here for them, and in the days and weeks to come, we hope they will continue to let us be of service for their needs, in any way we can.

A memorial service was held at Prairie on February 28, attended by some 170 people. During the service, it became clear in how many ways Mike touched the lives of a great many people. Some shared their memories of Mike, in words and music; others wrote of their feelings in the guest book. If you would like to share your feelings, memories or anecdotes of your time with Mike, we invite you to send them to the Prairie website at

www.execpc.com/~prairieu or mail them directly to Linda at 629 Piper Drive, Madison, 53711.

Big Party!!!!

Please join us for a potluck and party at Prairie beginning at 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 7. The goal of this event is to be like a party for an extended family so we hope all ages will attend. There will be interactive group games, music, some folk dancing, and more games.

Lost & Found

There were some items hanging on the coat rack for ages. These items have been put in a black

trash bag that is now in the Upstairs office. This is the last call to claim things before they are given away. There are a couple of really nice jackets. Are you missing your nice, turquoise spring jacket?

Shakespeare, Interpreted by Schroeder

This weekend, West High School presents *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Erik Schroeder plays the part of Lucentio. If the long hours the players have put into rehearsal are an indication, it should be top notch. He invites all Prairie friends to attend, March 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are just \$2.00, so bring a friend.

Prairie Service Auction

Another reminder! Come to the Annual Prairie UU Society Service Auction, our annual fundraiser, Sunday, March 22. (Lunch at 11:45 and Auction 12:15 - 2:00 PM). Orange Schroeder and Rick Owen will be our auctioneers. Come and make your bid on these services and many others:

Weekend of childcare.

Evening in a hot tub.

1-hour massage.

Vacuuming your home.

Handy-man repairs.

Please get your offer of services to Ken Skog, Nikki Bromberg, or Jennifer Parker by Sunday, March 15. Come enjoy yourself--the auction is always entertaining! The soup lunch will be \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children. Childcare will be provided.

RE Corner

The Building & Grounds Committee and the RE Program are making plans for a prairie burn in front of the building on March 29 (weather permitting.) The junior and senior high classes will be doing most of the work, but we need adult volunteers to help supervise. It will require staying around until perhaps 1 PM. There will be a pot luck lunch after the burn. If you are interested, contact Robin Carre.

Reminder: The Secret Friends wrap-up party is Sunday, March 15th after the Service. Clear your calendars!

The K-1-2 class is beginning the final unit in the Peace and Social Justice Curriculum. The unit is "Working for a fair and peaceful world." Our final group project will be the construction of a peace quilt. We are recruiting guests from the congregation who would like to share with us some Sunday. We have studied the importance of peace and justice in our lives and in our world. We are interested in speaking with people who are interested in peacemaking or justice promoting activities. Anyone who would be willing to share with our small group of enthusiastic 5-7 year olds on Sunday morning, March 8, 15, or 29, please call Amy Wilcox at 845-3884.

Books For RE

Do you have any children's books, especially picture books that are languishing on your shelves and in need of a loving home? The books available for the nursery school seem to be mostly from the 50's. It would be great to be able to read some of today's wonderful books to our youngest members. Please consider Prairie (as well as the public library) when you clear out your book shelves. Please give them to our RE Director, Robin Carre. Thanks! Judy Skog.

An Addition to Sunday Services: A Contemplative Moment by Larry Nahlik.

In January, Anne Pryor did a presentation she called, "Living with Heart". After Anne's talk, a group of us felt that issues of spirituality deserve more thought, so we stayed to talk about what might be done to add more "heart" to Sunday services. We discussed several good ideas for exploring the profound, and consensus seemed to form around the idea of a reading and a moment's contemplation at the time of the Chalice Lighting as a first step. A reading at Chalice Lighting is often done already; the suggestion was that it would be done consistently, with perhaps 30 seconds of silence to contemplate and appreciate the meaning of the reading. These readings are intended to borrow from the wisdom of the ages - and of diverse religious traditions - to prime us to gather our thoughts for the day's topic. I agreed to do some research into references that might be relied upon for quotes from religious and philosophical thinkers,

and to take this idea as a proposal to the Program Committee. The Program Committee agreed that "A Contemplative Moment" should be added to Chalice Lighting. I showed the Committee a copy of A World Treasury of Religious Quotations from the public library, and they agreed to buy a copy of it or a similar reference book to keep on hand for this purpose. That particular book is out of print, but I found a copy and ordered it; it will be delivered by about March 10th.

This concept is in flux, and your ideas to improve our contemplative moment are welcome. During the January discussion, someone pointed out that the first Sunday of every month, there is no children's story, because the kids are downstairs for Spirit Circle. That extra time could be used for a longer reading, or perhaps members of the congregation could share their personal spiritual journeys. What to do differently on the first Sunday of the month, if anything, has not been nailed down. I will work with presenters during the month of March to explain the idea and find suitable readings, but I will be back downstairs with kids in April, so we need to work out a way to make this work permanently.

Another open question is one of semantics and emphasis. Some of our membership, including one member of the Program Committee, expressed concerns about forcing "spirituality" on the congregation. Perhaps that word carries too much baggage for people. But it is obvious that there is interest at Prairie in "examining our place in the Universe". I reiterate that the intent is not advocacy of any religious practice, but to explore how diverse philosophies throughout the centuries have regarded the human experience, to explore our "connectedness". Many of the topics we consider at Prairie, including those most secular and technical, have been addressed by great minds for centuries. We can learn from them.

Volunteer Schedules

Snow Removal:

Mar. 1-7: Rick Owens

Mar. 8-14: Anne Pryor

Mar. 15-21: *Need Volunteer (It could happen folks!)*

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

March 8: *Need Volunteer*

March 15: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Set-up:

March 8: Anne Urbanski

March 15: *Need Volunteer*

Coffee Clean-up:

March 8: Marilyn Ruecking

Need another volunteer

March 15: *Need two volunteers*

Taping of Service:

March 8: Paula Pachciarz

March 15: Anne Urbanski

Make sure to check out how you can help!!

Quilt Show

Cabin fever getting you down? Tired of these dreary, cloudy days? Come to the Sun Prairie Quilt Show with me and feed your soul on the colors and artistry of the quilts. The show is March 29-31 and costs \$4. Plan to meet me at Prairie after church (~12:30) and we can carpool there. Any questions, call Judy Skog at 273-4813.

ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS:

For the program April 25, we seek volunteers to perform music by Richard Rogers and his collaborators, Larry Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. If you have something you wish to perform, or desire suggestions about what to perform, contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru at 238-4970 or hagstrom@ssc.wisc.edu



UU Death Notice

The Rev. Dr. Virgil (Bud) Murdock died on Wednesday, February 18, 1998 from complications related to Alzheimer's Disease. He was 73 years of age.

Dr. Murdock served congregations in Westford, Rockland and Medfield, MA. He served as Minister at Large and Executive Director of The Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Churches, Boston, MA until his retirement in 1986.

Dr. Murdock is survived by his wife Betty Murdock, daughter Lisa Smalley of Spring, TX, and seven brothers and sisters. Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Murdock at 2936 East 57th Street, Tulsa, OK 74105.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 8

"What's a Guy Like Me Doing in a Place Like This?". Come hear Robin Carre answer this intriguing question! Robin, who is doing such a great job as RE Director, is going to share with us the circumstances in life and the "objective coincidences" that were part of the path to Prairie, both for himself and members of the Congregation.

Sunday, March 15

"Extending Equality Beyond Humanity". In this sermon, Jackie Ziegler explores how the newest group being argued for inclusion in the franchise of rights is a logical addition, as well as a spiritual necessity in the evolution of the rights movement. As Unitarian Universalists has a history of championing the rights of others, it will discuss why we should be supportive and involved in the current controversial "rights" debate.

Sunday, March 22

"Minority Student Education in Madison". Continuing the series on public education, the guest speaker for this service will be Kaleem Caire. Mr. Caire is a Madison native who will speak to us about his experience being an African American educated in the Madison school district, and his ideas of how the district can improve the achievement of low performing students. Mr. Caire is a candidate for School Board for Ray Allen's seat.

Sunday, March 29

"Political Correctness: Using language to include versus using language to censor."

Presented by Gail Coover. More details later.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Mar. 15th