

P. O. Box 4037
Madison, Wisconsin

221-1065

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Dec. 2, 1970

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. at the YWCA, 31 N. Pinkney St.

December 6 - "101 Ways to Argue"
- Grades 6, 7, and 8 with Dee and Boris Frank. The program will start on time - promptly at 10:30. Please be prompt.

December 13- "Traditional Values in Christmas"
- Dave Meyer

What Is a Symbol Tree?

When Pat and I were in Cedar Falls, Iowa a few years ago we picked up an interesting tradition that the Unitarian Fellowship there had developed. Every year at Christmas they had what they called a symbol tree, a Christmas tree decorated completely with many kinds of symbols people wanted to share with each other. For three or four Sundays before Christmas a small portion of Sunday meeting was devoted to decorating the tree. Children, parents, retired people, students, all would present their symbols, explaining to the group what significance this or that decoration had. For example, there was an artist in the group who always made several symbols. Once he made a metal lamp like the Unitarian flame of truth. Now that metal lamp hangs every year on the symbol tree in Cedar Falls. Every year he also makes new symbols, some from one culture or another, others purely personal ones which needed much explanation.

We had people hang Stars of David and Yin-Yangs. All kinds of religious symbols, always with a short explanation. We also had less overtly religious symbols, such as a woman who placed a bottle of pills on the tree every year to symbolize the blessings of modern medicine (and our dependence upon it.) Our Prairie Society symbol tree starts on Dec. 6; by the 20th we hope to see a tree full of symbols from kids and adults. So bring all you can whenever you can!

Dave Meyer

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

As you know from the last newsletter, Robert Siegfried has been nominated for the position of vice-president. Other nominations were invited, but since none has been received by November 30, we plan to declare a unanimous ballot for Robert Siegfried. We feel it is wasteful to insist on mailed ballots when there is only one candidate, but if anyone objects to this procedure, please notify the chairman of the committee on committees (Pat Courtley, 238-5373) by December 5. If no objections are received, we will declare the election as final on December 6, 1970.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A total of \$57.31 was contributed to UNICEF from the luncheon and the Halloween boxes.

Winter sessions of Sunday School will start December 6. Mona Birong will continue as nursery coordinator. The topic for kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 will be the beginnings of the world and life, taught by Roland Parrish.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders will have a choice between two topics. Old Testament history, taught by Betsy Roberts, will go into the background of Judaism and Christianity, David and his significance, the Psalms and Proverbs,

forecasting the Messiah. "Man the Culture Builder" will be taught by Judy and Dave Ort. Third, fourth, and fifth graders should decide by December 6 which class they will attend.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will study Fundamentalism and Unitarianism with Orié Loucks and Dave Meyer.

Thanks go to Mona Birong, Mary Jane Woerpel, Ruth Calden, John Magnuson, Dee and Boris Frank for teaching Sunday School during the fall session. Also thank you to John Lussenhop, John and Leslie Miller for substitute teaching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a meeting of the executive board at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 3, at the home of Mary Jane Woerpel, 4833 Holiday Dr.

The Evening Alliance of the First Society will have a pot-luck suppoer on Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 at the home of Mrs. Louis Rall on 135 Prospect Ave. After the supper, Mrs. Rall will show scenes taken during a recent summer in Europe. All women of the Prairie Society are invited and may notify Mrs. Rall at 233-9079, or Mrs. Louis Berninger, at 233-0188.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 13, the Meyers will hold a Christmas open house at their apartment (5804 Anthony Place). We'll start about 2:00 p.m. and last until 5:00 or 6:00, whenever people go home. We hope every friend and member of Prairie will come for homemade goodies of all kinds. We might sing, or have music. We hope to have a house full of Christmas cheer. If everyone comes, we can hardly miss that!

For anyone interested in joining us, there will be a CAROLING PARTY for all ages December 21. We will meet at about 7:00 p.m., run through a few carols to insure that everyone knows the same tunes, etc., and then go out for a while to sing. We haven't yet determined where to sing, so any suggestions are welcome. Afterwards we will meet somewhere for hot cider or cocoa or something the sort. The place is not yet set, but will be announced at Sunday meeting and will appear in the next newsletter, so save the date.

TOURS OF MEXICO

A Unitarian minister, the Rev. Richard Weston, has used his sabbatical leave to set up two-week inter-cultural programs in Mexico this winter beginning Dec. 19. If you are interested in his "Images of Man in Mexico" tour-seminars, "Man and Woman in Mexico" or summer programs that are planned for high schoolers, check the brochure at Lilo Keohl's or write for a copy to Richard Weston, Academia Hispano Americana, Insurgentes 21, San Miguel de Allendo, Gto., Mexico.

Trips are planned for: Dec.19-Jan.2, Jan. 9-23, Feb. 13-27, March 20-Apr. 3, Jan. 23-Feb. 6, and Feb. 27-March 13.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, December 13. Please include announcements for activities through Jan. 6 as there will be no newsletter the last week in December.