Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Newsletter

Vol. 9 No. 14

May 16, 1973

Upcoming Events:

May 11-Friday, 1:30 p.m. — Show and Tell Camera group will meet out at Goose Pond this Friday at Evelyn Werner's house. 'Super 8' nature movies and nature slides will be shown. Everyone is invited to come. Prairie burning and bird hikes will be included in the pictures.

Directions to Goose Pond:
Head North on Highway 51. About 20 miles from Square turn left on Country Trunk K. Turn right on Goose Pond Road. Go about a block and a half and watch for refuge sign. Turn left on access road. It is the only house on the road. Call Eve Werner if any questions at 635-1174.

May 13-Sunday 10 a.m. — Program at Portal Foster entitled "Feeling and Intelligence" led by Bob Koehl and Vivian Meyer. The Blazing Sun Rock Band will make an appearance.

May 13-Sunday 8 p.m. — The annual Prairie Parish Meeting is to be held on Sunday May 13, 8 p.m. at the PFC. Election of officers, consideration of Lay Ministers and director of R.E. for next year, amendment of by laws, voting on "Bond of Union," etc.

May 16-Friday 8 p.m. — First Society invites all Prairie members to attend a Folk and Song Fest at their church.

May 29-Sunday 10 a.m. — The last meeting of the year. "Affirmation-Confirmation." The Willards assisted by Bob Koehl will lead a celebration of Prairie renewal on the Prairie site (unless it rains).

Meeting at Portal Foster Center in case of rain.

Directions to the Prairie site:
Take Whitney Way south to Raymond Road. Turn right on Raymond Road, proceeding one mile west to point where Raymond Road forks southwest (intersection with Gammon Road). Turn into far yard on right before intersection and proceed up the hill to summitt.

Roland Parwich and Al Nettleton are running against each other at the Parish meeting election.

This is the last newsletter of the year so don't expect anything else 'til next fall. Good bye until we meet again!

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison
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From R.E. to the Community:

A fond and encouraged look back over spring 1973 before it is consumed by summer sun. This year, some growth in numbers, more important, we seem to inch toward group cohesion. So many come regularly, seem to seek a belonging to our reverberating church school basement rooms.

The Nursery has been graced year long with 3arm alert Marcia Birong and Melinda Birong. To watch these smallest Prairie people is to see our future community. Reality. Kindergarten and First Grades (teachers: Dianne Rameika, Chuck Langley) dealt in paint, clay, collage, seeds, each other, and one's own special growing. Class climate: non-pressure which made possible delightful free creating kids Sunday after Sunday. Various adult fans spent much time with this group often producting one to one child/facilitator ratios.

Indian cultures were the springboard for the next four grades — a reflection of the deep concern for Indian people in our country. Bunny Whiting and John Siegfrigg guided the second and third grades lovingly, earnestly, and with fine imagination in exploring the American Indian's perception of those people's world through their music, physical senses. Co-cloning: how well they exploited touch, sight, etc. How much better might we?

Hermine Davidson continues her lend commitment to our kids with the fourth, fifth grades this spring. Vehicle: Man the Culture Builder. Curricula made recognizable through her rich embellishments. Their conclusion: Culture is the result of the way people solve problems. Method: doing — Visual, manual, exploration made for the Woodlan Indians who lived in Madison before 1850 — their records, sermons and genealogy, guided course content.

Our middle school saw a real beginning in child centered open learning at Prairie. Though a curriculum was planned (myth, symbols) by teachers Martha Williams and Aileen Nettleton, their flexibility let them go with the rich and intense interests of what could easily be called "The chaotic age." Play-reading, poetry, field trips, and centrally, class planning from its members seemed to allow them to feel "Prairie is an OK place and I'm a part of it. This group especially utilized family Sundays.

Hey— I'd like personally to thank this year's teachers and many other people (the numbers of you who spent one, more assembly times with the total church school sharing important ideas, songs, dance), those who helped set up, clear up. I most specially want to thank Pat, Cautley and the R.E. Committee. Wow, this year's downstairs program was community indeed.

Theron Caldwell