

PRAIRIE FIRE

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Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

 VOLUME 11, NO.11
 15 FEBRUARY 1975

EDITOR: PAT WATKINS
 PHONE: 233-5795

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

SUN
 16 FEB 10 AM No information received on Sunday program.

TUES
 18 FEB 10 PM DEADLINE for 1 March newsletter.

SAT 8 PM PLAYREADERS will meet at Dorothy Osteraas',
 22 FEB 625 W. Lakeside. Phone: 255-7526.

SUN
 23 FEB 10 AM Information not received on this program.

SAT 8 PM BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE FOLK DANCING:
 1 MARCH West Living Room at First Society.

SUN 7 PM SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets at Nettleton's,
 2 MARCH 645 Sheldon. Phone: 238-6053.

TUES 10 PM DEADLINE for 15 March newsletter
 4 MARCH

SAT 5 PM PRAIRIE THEATER PARTY AND DINNER: Shakespeare's
 15 MARCH Richard II at the Milwaukee Rep. Call Pat
 Watkins at 233-5795 if you are interested.

SAT
 12 APRIL Tentative date for PRAIRIE SALE, AUCTION, AND
 PARTY to raise money for the Social Action
 Committee. Details in a later newsletter.

<u>ELECTIONS</u> will be coming up soon. *	DO NOT MISS AN IMPORTANT
Start thinking NOW about whom you *	OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMITTEE
want to nominate for the various *	INVOLVEMENT. We need you on
Prairie offices. Submit nomin- *	the Denominational Affairs
ations to: Chuck Young at 836-3342. *	Committee. Call Chuck Young.

INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHERS??? The St Vincent DePaul Society needs used clothing, appliances, radios, toys, games, etc.. Call 257-0672 for information and free pick-up service. Tax receipts will be provided upon request. . . . Mrs Dieterich, an elderly incapacitated neighbor who lives alone at 3717 Ross Street (near the 3000 block of Glenway), has asked for help in recovering her lost pet and only companion. If you live in that area, please keep your eyes open for a white chinchilla (white fur tipped with gray) female Persian cat with green eyes. If you have any information, call 233-8693. . . . Glenn P. Turner, whose 80th birthday we celebrated about 5 years ago, is now a resident of the Nightengale Nursing Home at Black Earth, 53515. A member of First Society, Glenn was a friend and frequent attendant at Prairie Services. According to the officials

at the nursing home, Glenn continues to be interested in current events, subscribes to the Capital Times, and would be very pleased to receive mail and visitors. Please add his name to your Prairie Directory. . . . BALLET MADISON is a non-profit cultural corporation founded in 1973. Barbara Carson is its artistic director. It has recently received a State Arts Commission grant to have lecture demonstrations in several public schools and to produce a ballet for the general public. The ballet--La Boutique Fantasque--will be presented in the spring. Volunteer costume makers are urgently needed. If you can help on this project, please call Barbara Carson at 221-1244.

PRAIRIE GARDENERS: There will be a brief meeting immediately after the Sunday service on February 23rd to discuss plans for this years Prairie Garden.

MEA CULPA! MEA CULPA! Having performed several acts of contrition, I present the delayed RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULA, which was promised to you last month, but which I lost, and which Theron Caldwell generously and graciously consented to rewrite.

Carolyn Briggs will replace, if that's possible, Sarah Koehl (a year and a half she's worked!) in the pre-school nursery. Many short term helpers needed--we'll call you. Kindergarten and First Grade will have a curriculum built around the themes in "Free to Be You and Me" (UUA adapted) and Mary Lou Diehl's T.A. skills enriched by team teacher Lois Hagstrom's art love. . . . Marv Miracle and Ron Slabaugh will use Human Heritage kits (UUA) and their lovin' spirits with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. . . . Focus on Noah, new from UUA this year, and hopefully a giant step toward Bible literacy without boredom (developmental, analytical in approach) and something of an answer to parents' "Why/When will you teach Bible?" is being taught by Terri Laurence and Mike Lyman to 5th and 6th grades. QUERY: anyone know where we can lay hands on Bill Cosby's recorded sketch on Noah? Shops, libraries infertile! . . . Middle school continues its beautiful together thing with Fred and Ann Seidl built around the UUA "About Your Sexuality" curriculum. That will be year long at least! Ron Slabaugh has agreed to build up giant singing repertory during assemblies (shifted to 11 AM). We promise to drown out the prevailing upstairs buzz. . . . Love, from Theron Caldwell

A REVERENCE FOR ALBERT SCHWEITZER, 1875-1975
by George Caldan

I've always been drawn to people who've combined their fondness for music with their love for mankind. My great heroes of this century are Toscanini, Pablo Casals, and Albert Schweitzer. Several living musicians-humanists in this tradition-are Theodorakis, Yehudi Menuhin, Odetta, Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, and Leonard Bernstein.

Schweitzer was raised in a small town in Alsace-Lorraine. His father was pastor of the town's Lutheran church, which also housed a Catholic congregation (just like our Prairie Society when we were at the Holy Name Seminary).

As a child, the young Albert revealed his compassion for his fellow human beings (and all creatures, great and small). One day a boy picked a fight with him. When Albert won, the boy cried, "If I ate meat soup every day, the way you do, I'd be strong enough to lick you." That evening, Albert refused the meat soup his mother offered him. He refused to wear a new overcoat because his friends wore old, shabby clothing. He wouldn't join these friends, however, when they went out shooting at goldfinches with their slingshots. He couldn't reconcile this wanton killing with "Thou shalt not kill."

His father taught him the piano and organ. When he was nine, Albert replaced the church organist, a Herr Iltis (any relative, Hugh?). Later, Schweitzer became world renowned as the authority on Bach's organ works.

At twenty-nine, he gave up his position as minister, organist, professor of theology, and principal of a college, in order to enter medical school. He aspired to become a medical missionary. He raised money to build his hospital at Lambarene, French Equatorial Africa, by giving organ recitals for the Paris Bach Society. (The society later built him a special zinc-lined piano for use in the jungle). His original hospital was a converted chicken coop. He used his Nobel Peace Prize money to expand the hospital and set up a léper colony. He spoke out frequently against war and publicly opposed further atomic weapon testing.

His humanistic philosophy was based on his "reverence for life." This excerpt, from his writings, will give you a sense of what he believed in:

Reverence for life--what does it mean? It means that life itself is sacred, and our duty is to cherish it. Can we never kill? Sometimes we must. When I have the germs of sleeping sickness under the microscope, I know that I must destroy them to save my patient. Yet we should never kill without cause. A farmer may mow down a thousand flowers in his meadow to feed his cows, but on the way home he must not strike off the head of a single flower for idle amusement. Nothing is too small, too unimportant for our loving care. If a man reverences life, he will not shatter the ice crystals that sparkle in the sun, nor tear the leaf from its tree. If he works by lamplight on a summer night, he will keep the window shut and breathe stifling air, rather than see the moths fall on his table with burning wings.

Is "reverence for life" an outmoded ethic in this era of ecological problems, overpopulation and legalized abortion? Or is life still sacred and to be cherished?

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE has sent a check for \$ 25. to the Southern Defense Fund in Atlanta, GA., to help defray the legal expenses in the defense of Joanne Little who is being tried for murder. Miss Little killed a prison guard while attempting to protect herself from attempted rape by this guard while she was being held in a locked cell on another charge. Anyone interested in contributing to this fund should contact: Melinda Roznoy at 256-5308.

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Prairie Unitarian Univ. Soc.
2127 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705