

# PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Sunday Services in the Portal-Foster Center

1806 West Lawn Ave., Madison, WI 53711

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251-7526 or 266-2022

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

- THUR  
DEC 11 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of Diane Miracle, 3980  
Plymouth Circle. 231-1649
- FRI  
DEC 12 9 PM SINGLES-SPONSORED DANCE at the Portal-Foster Center,  
1806 West Lawn Ave. Food will be provided, as well as  
glasses and ice but it is strictly BYOB (bring your  
own bottle). There will be a variety of music. It  
is stressed that, although the Singles Group is sponsor-  
ing this event, all are welcome. 238-6047
- SAT  
DEC 13 7:30 PM PLAYREADING GROUP will meet at the home of Pat Watkins,  
2419 Norwood Place. We'll be reading Oscar Wild's The  
Importance of Being Earnest. Bring a copy if you have  
one. 233-5795
- SUN  
DEC 14 10 AM "THE MEANING OF LIFE AS REVEALED THROUGH THE WORKS OF  
THE GREAT MASTERS" The second of a series of pro-  
grams on this subject by Joe Hoffman, Lay Minister.  
257-9595
- SUN  
DEC 14 11:15 AM -  
2:00 PM HOLIDAY SHOW Exhibit and sale of thread and clay works  
for holiday gifts at Portal-Foster Center. Works by  
Ann Swan, Carolyn Steva and Betty French will be  
featured. Work by the Prairie Sunday School children  
will be presented as well. This will be the first in  
a series of Prairie fund raising events. 238-6053
- SUN  
DEC 21 10 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM coordinated by Nellie Willard.  
People are asked to bring symbols for the symbol tree.  
Also, every family should bring a gift for another  
family. The gifts will be placed under the tree and  
then they will be picked up by family members. 256-2801
- SAT  
DEC 27 8 PM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY The seventh annual Prairie  
Christmas Party will be held at Ted and Rebecca Clark's  
home, 1134 Waban Hill. Circle the date and be sure to  
come, one and all. 271-4882
- SUN  
JAN 4 !!!!!!! NEWSLETTER DEADLINE This issue of the Newsletter will  
be the last one of 1975. The next issue will come out  
on January 8th. If you have any news between now and  
January please call or send me the information. Have  
a peaceful New Year and a memorable Christmas season!

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### Sunday School Middle Winter Plans

Theron Caldwell, Director, Religious Education, reports that December 28, January 4, 11, and 18 regular classes will be abandoned and new fields explored. Film Making (Chuck Young), Working with Yarn and String (Marcia Ledford) and Dance (Barbara Carson). Megan Caldwell will operate Nursery-as-Usual. K-6 may switch classes different Sundays--but stay with their choice each hour.

--Theron Caldwell, Director,  
Religious Education

### Rosemarie Needs Help

Rosemarie Lester asks that anyone who possess information about magazines or magazines with color photographs (larger than Time or Newsweek if possible) please call her at 238-6047. She needs them rather badly for a project on which she is working. Rosemarie is willing to come and pick them up if necessary or you may bring them to church on Sunday.

### Free Events Surround Us

Rosemary Dorney has kindly offered to keep Prairie people informed about free events happening at the Madison Public Library. She points out, and rightly so, that some of the best things in life are free--especially with respect to families, children, music lovers, art lovers, etc. Therefore an attempt will be made to keep up the bulletin board on the stair landing for your perusal. Theron Caldwell has made certain, with great effort, to ensure that Prairie people know what their kids are doing downstairs by displaying material on the bulletin board. Perhaps with Rosemary's help and the help of those who are aware of free events around Madison, we can pass on information by way of the bulletin board. Obviously this requires that we all take a little more time to examine the board on a regular basis. Rosemary lists events including: films, lectures, demonstrations, music, and other forms of art. For a start, check the bulletin board this week for specific times and places of these events.

### Get Well Soon!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the following Prairie people: Paula Elkins, who has recently undergone surgery and is recovering.... the daughter of Dick and Julie Bonser, who was struck by a car and is recovering in the hospital....the son of Pat Johnson and Ron Slabaugh, who hurt himself in a fall on an icy sidewalk and who is recovering at home.

### News From Seattle

Sarah Clark writes of a "small-world" happening from Seattle:

"Debbie Singer (ex Shabazz) and I sit together three times a week in Art History. One day she told me she was thinking about taking ballet at the U, but she doesn't like the teacher that well. The teacher is crippled and can't demonstrate the positions. She calls them out and the students are expected to know them but apparently there is no good example to follow. Debbie's had ballet and is currently going to a class in a school on the Ave. She said her best teacher was in Madison, though - Barbara Carson! She had only highest praise for Barbara - she is warm, enthusiastic, a good dancer herself, and she touches her students, moves them into the correct place. Debbie's present teacher doesn't do that and she misses it."

--Rebecca Clark

### Wanted: To Sell...

Skis and boots for an 8-10 year old. Formerly beautiful, still serviceable. Good to start on. Cost: \$2.98 contribution to Prairie Fund-Raisers Fund. Smalls - 233-2633.

Ski Club (cont'd)

In the 1976 edition of The Skiers Directory there are two excellent, and awfully rational articles, (in an often fairyland-like atmosphere which is the trademark of most ski magazines and shops such helpful hints are few and far between). One is by Stein Erickson and the other by Billy Kidd. Neither is a newcomer and both are skilled, and respected for it by their peers. Erickson writes about purchasing boots and Kidd about purchasing skis. For an experienced skier, and especially for a newcomer, the current ski sport is a labyrinth of gaudy colors, exorbitant prices, wide ranges of quality materials, and fork-tongued salespeople. These articles at least arm the consumer with some sort of critical questions to ask and standards to apply.

This year both cross country and downhill skiing are treated in the Skiers Directory. In addition, the magazine includes a price list and list of specifications for all the major brands of skis, boots, poles, and bindings. As usual, there is an abundance of advertising for clothing, equipment, and services. However, this year the editors of the Directory are providing a service which allows the reader to acquire information about specific areas, lodging and board, and travel arrangements directly from the advertisers. I have sent away for a large volume of this information and will be glad to share it with other interested parties when it arrives. As always, I am eager to receive new information and suggestions from interested people regarding ski activities, etc.

--Vivian Meyer

UUA World Strikes Close to Home

In the latest issue of the UUA World, it was announced that the Universalist-Unitarian Church of Racine and Kenosha, through various activities, has inspired the Racine Unified School District to name its new school complex the Olympia Brown School. The Rev. Olympia Brown was a Universalist minister, a feminist, and the first woman in the United States to be ordained by a denomination, according to the World article. For more on this event and on the history of the life of Olympia Brown see the front page of the December 1st edition.

Bicentennial Corner

As a member of Volunteers in Probation (VIP) I was saddened to hear of the resignation of Michael McCaffry, Director of VIP. Though I have only known him briefly he has become, for me, a symbol of what an individual can do to serve the needs of the community. He expressed the Bicentennial spirit eloquently in his farewell letter:

"1976 is bicentennial year for the United States. The early European settlers in this country talked of high ideals: equality, freedom, justice for all, democracy. VIP offers one extremely practical grass roots return to a democratic process. You, the volunteers, are involved in your community and its problems--you are doing instead of complaining. Thank you, sincerely, for your efforts....'If we treat individuals as they are, they will stay as they are; but if we treat them as if they were what they ought to be and could be, they will become as they ought to be and could be....'"

Not since my father introduced me to George Bernard Shaw's The Crime of Punishment have I felt so strongly about the current state of the criminal justice system. Michael and the VIP organization, made up of people from every part of the community from teenaged to senior citizen, rich to poor, and so on, are trying to make America safe for democracy, in a manner of speaking. He asks that you join with your fellow citizens to make a difference in the quality of life in Madison, and in the country. How about it?

--Vivian Meyer

cc: Prairie Unitarian Social Action Committee  
Prairie Community members

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