

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
Sunday Services in the Portal-Foster Center
1806 West Lawn Ave., Madison, WI

VOLUME 12, No. 20 "Year of the EDITOR: Vivian Meyer
March 4, 1976 ongoing Revolution" 251-7526 or 266-7051

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

- SUN
MAR 7 10 AM "EVERYTHING GOES IN A CIRCULAR MOTION" Much of what we enjoy is based on the rhythm of things that recur: heartbeat, song rhythms, poetry rhythms, dance and the celebration of the seasons. Starting with the beat of the mother's heart heard from within the womb, human beings seem to have a need for listening to and moving with rhythms as a way of bringing them back to peace with themselves from too much stress in the social world. When people develop rhythmic things they like to do together a new dimension is added, a sense of release in participating in some event which is connected to the way that we understand the world. This is the origin of myth and ritual, which are not static-historical forms but things we make up every day. This program will be led by our new layminister, Annis Pratt. 231-2183
- TUES
MAR 9 7:30 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at 2218 West Lawn, the home of Pat Johnson. Newcomers are always welcome. 256-5343
- THUR
MAR 11 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of Roland and Avis Parrish, 302 Glenway St. 238-1725
- SUN
MAR 14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Date by which material for the March 18th newsletter must be submitted. 251-7526 or 266-7051
- SAT
MAR 20 8 PM PLAYREADING GROUP will meet at Rachel Siegfried's home, 5209 Tolman Terrace. For more information about the play to be read call Rachel at 271-2173.
- SUN
APR 4 5:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of Allan and Aileen Nettleton, 645 Sheldon. 238-6053
- SUN
APR 4 7 PM SPRING PARISH MEETING to be held in the Portal-Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Ave. Remember: you must be a member to vote, though all are welcome to attend the meeting. 221-1244

Parish Meeting to Convene in April

Along with the regular parish business of elections the Prairie Society will consider, this year, the disposition of the Prairie Site. The following motions were adopted unanimously by the Executive Board of the Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society on February 12, 1976: "MOVED that the following three proposals be recommended to the parish at the next meeting for adoption:

- (1) We the members of Prairie Society assert that we have no immediate intention of acquiring the "Prairie Site" for building purposes.

- (2) We declare our hope that the land can be preserved as much as possible in its natural state, to be enjoyed for occasional retreats, meetings, and outings.
- (3) We declare our wish to work with members of the First Society in exploring mechanisms for attempting to ensure this preservation, such as the acquisition of the land by a municipal body for park purposes, nature conservancy, or the like."

The agenda and list of nominees will be published in the next Prairie Fire. If you have an item for the agenda you must so indicate to David Carson, President Prairie by-laws require that at least one week's notice be given of all items to be considered at a parish meeting. Thus, if agenda items are not published in the the next newsletter they may not be discussed.

Board Expresses Appreciation

On behalf of the Prairie Society we would like to express our appreciation for the extraordinary amount of time and commitment exhibited by Barbara Willard and Mike Briggs, and their associates, in their efforts to assure the Ostersaas family religious freedom in their choice of a burial site for Jana. We greatly admire their persistence, in conjunction with the Ostersaases, and share their desire for the right to determine the course of their lives--in life and in death.

-- Executive Board
Prairie UU Society

UUA President Comments on the State of the Denomination

In the March 1st issue of the UUA World the Rev. Dr. Robert Nelson West, UUA President, spoke on the subject, "What are We? A View of Our Denomination after Six Years as President." The following is an excerpt from that speech:

A large number of our members have unresolved authority problems. Another word which might be used is "counter-dependency." The word counterdependency applies to a person who is dependent upon having authority figures in order to react against them and reject them.

A counterdependent person is not free to be himself or herself, but defines himself or herself negatively by what is rejected. Without something or someone to reject, the counterdependent person would have to deal with the insecurity and opportunity of true freedom to develop and act upon one's own beliefs and values....

What we need as we move toward the future is a sense of openness toward the searching which is occurring in our culture. Much of the searching today on the part of adults and young people involves elements which are in tune with the religious approach and programs of our congregations--but we are not meeting the situation as we should.

We have a unique opportunity at this particular time in history. The question is whether or not we will utilize that opportunity....

The speech in its entirety may be seen this Sunday on the bulletin board.

Bicentennial Corner

In light of the upcoming election and the current primaries it seems appropriate that we should profit from the observations of our ancestors. The following quotations pertain to government and its relation to individual freedom and responsibility.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated....

While men could be persuaded they had no rights or that rights appertained only to a certain class of men, or that government was a thing existing in right of itself, it was not difficult to govern them authoritatively. The ignorance in which they were held, and the superstition in which they were instructed, furnished the means of doing it. But when the ignorance is gone and the superstition with it, when they perceive the imposition that has been acted upon them, and when they reflect that the cultivator and the manufacturer are the primary means of all the wealth that exists in the world beyond what nature spontaneously produces, when they begin to feel their consequences by their usefulness and their right as members of society, it is no longer possible to govern them as before. The fraud, once detected, cannot be retracted. To attempt it is to provoke derision or invite destruction.

--Tom Paine, 1776

If you would like to be included in the Prairie Directory Supplement and you have not yet been contacted for the necessary information, please fill in and return this form. You may mail it to Vivian Meyer, 142 N. Franklin St., Madison, Wisconsin 53703 or hand it to Fran Remeika in church on Sunday. The deadline is March 9th.

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Names and ages of children (if any) ←

Return by March 9th

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