

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. 21
March 18, 1976

"Year of the
ongoing Revolution"

EDITOR: Vivian Meyer

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

- 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
MAR 21 10 AM "OURSELVES ALONE...SONGS OF THE IRISH: A COLLAGE"
A family service led by Robyn Costello and coordinated by Pat Watkins. 233-5795
- FRI
MAR 26 8 PM SLIDE PRESENTATION Ruth and George Calden will show slides and movies of their recent trip to Israel. Come to the Calden's home at 4606 Waukesha St. All are welcome. 233-5717
- SUN
MAR 28 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Date by which information is needed for the April 1st newsletter.
- SUN
MAR 28 10 AM "ORDER AND CHAOS" Rhythmic patterns in worship and art. A program led by Joe Hoffman. 257-9595
- SUN
APR 4 10 AM "YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT YOURSELF TO BE" This service is inspired by the remarkable poem composed communally at a Prairie service last year in which many individuals described themselves as animals. Of what would a Prairie totem pole consist? Program led by Annis Pratt, Layminister. 231-2183

Part of the program will include planning a Prairie Easter ritual.
- 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
- TUES
APR 6 7:30 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE meeting at the home of Pat Johnson, 2218 West Lawn Ave. 256-5343
- SUN
APR 11 10 AM "SHAKER LIFE AND RITUALS" Come take a bicentennial look at the American Shakers and participate in a Shaker worship service. Led by Ruth Calden, Barbara Carson and the Prairie Shape-Note Singers. 233-5717

Easter Service in Planning Stages

Annis asks that Prairie people bring to the March 28th service 3x5 cards (or other written means): 1) remembered rituals you have known and 2) ideas you have about a Prairie Easter ritual

Theron Caldwell would like to remind Prairie members and friends that a dedication ceremony will be included in the Easter service. Adults and children may participate. Dedication or the act of being dedicated is a commitment between the individual and the community. Please consider your feelings about dedication and if you wish to participate speak with Theron Caldwell at 255-9974.

Dancers Needed

Dancers are needed for Prairie Society's Shaker Service to be held on April 11th. Needed are 5 women and 5 men. If you would like to participate please contact Barbara Carson at 221-1244. The first rehearsal will be held Monday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Carson School of Ballet, 3536 University Avenue. The studio is in the Coca Cola Bottling Company. If you turn north on Highbury off of University Avenue, you can't miss it. Folkdancing experience will be helpful.

--Barbara Carson

Prairie Quilt Exhibit

Annis is grateful to hear that so many people from Prairie have quilts they want to show. Bring your quilt any Sunday this spring.

Middle School Special!

Joe Hoffman will spend Sunday, April 4th with the class in a trial balloon teach. His tale: "creation, the real story."

--Theron Caldwell

Prairie Friend Mentioned

While reading The Best and the Brightest by David Halberstam, David Carson came across the following quotation which pertains to John Smail, a Prairie friend.

"In 1965 [Ellsberg] went on assignment to Vietnam and gradually turned against the war; year by year both his doubts and his outspokenness had grown. In 1969 he publicly criticized President Nixon's policies on Vietnam, statements which expedited his departure from Rand, and which were picked up in the New York Times. An old friend named John Smail read in the Times of Ellsberg's statements and wrote asking: "Are you the Dan Ellsberg I used to know in college?" Ellsberg answered back, in what was an epitaph for many in that era, "I haven't been for a long time, but I am again."

Rumor Has It.....

It would seem that Joe Hoffman has applied to and been accepted at the Thomas Starr King School, a Unitarian school, in Berkeley, California. Joe could not be reached for confirmation or comment, however, if this is true we would certainly like to wish him the best of luck in this pursuit. He will not be leaving immediately....

Washington Island Cottage For Rent

Henry and Annis Pratt have the cottage Prairie people visited on Washington Island and would like to rent it at \$75-100 per week, June 21-July 28. 231-2183

!!Help!!

Rosemary Dorney is trying to help a friend from Michigan find living accommodations for two months this summer. Her friend will be engaged in intensive study as a part of her graduate work. Consequently, she will not be home most of the day and will only require a small room with access to some sort of kitchen facilities. If anyone has suggestions or accommodations please call Rosemary at 238-4382.

Another Prairie Merchant Marine

Alicia Diehl has been nominated as a candidate for the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy by Congressman Robert Kastenmeier. Alicia has been accepted, pending a physical examination, and will begin in July at Kings Point, New York. Alicia is the second female from Wisconsin to be nominated for the academy and was chosen for her superior academic record. Alicia is the daughter of Mary Lou and John Diehl. Alicia will follow Martha Willard, also of Prairie and nominated by Kastenmeier for the U.S.M.M. Academy, as yet another woman interested in a career at sea. Congratulations Alicia!

Bicentennial Corner

While I am conscious of being an intelligent and mortal being; while I see myself denied, in so many cases, the exercise of my own discretion; incapable of separate property; subject in all periods of my life, to the will of another, on whose bounty I am made to depend for food, raiment, and shelter; when I see myself in my relation to society, regulated merely as a beast, or an insect; passed over, in the distribution of public duties, as absolutely nothing, by those who disdain to assign the least apology for their injustice--what though politicians say I am nothing, it is impossible I should assent to their opinion, as long as I am conscious of willing and moving. If they generously admit me into the class of existence, but affirm that I exist for no more purpose than the convenience of the more dignified sex; that I am not to be entrusted with the government of myself; that to foresee, to deliberate and decide, belongs to others while all my duties resolve themselves into this precept, "listen and obey", it is not for me to smile at their tyranny, or receive, as my gospel, a code built upon such atrocious maxims.

--The female character of
Charles Brown's Alcuin, 1798

That's All Folks

This will be the last issue I will produce and edit. I have enjoyed the opportunity to write and contribute to Prairie my views and to edit and present material given me by other Prairie people. However, as the job is rather time-consuming and, on occasion, frustrating, I have few regrets about terminating my position as editor of the Prairie Fire.

Any information which you may wish to pass on should be given to Barbara Willard, 2217 West Lawn Ave., Madison, WI 53711 (256-2801).

--Vivian Meyer

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society

Spring Parish Meeting

A G E N D A

- I. Reading and Approval of the Previous Parish Meeting Minutes
- II. Committee Reports by Chairpersons
- III. Election of Officers and Committee Chairpersons

The following persons have been nominated:*

President - Pat Cautley	Religious Ed. - Paula Elkins
Vice President - Charlie Davidson	Social Action - Betty Jallings
Secretary - Rachel Siegfried	Finance - Aileen Nettleton
Treasurer - Elizabeth Harald	Housing & Property - Roland Parrish
Program - John Lewis	Long Range Plng. - Norma Briggs

respectfully submitted,
Committee on Committees
Elizabeth Harald
Avis Parrish
Jack Jallings

*Nominations are permitted and encouraged from the floor with the stipulation that the permission of the nominee be secured in advance

- A. Election of Chairperson of Ministerial Relations (not a board position but elected) Comm.on Comm.s nominee: John Grindrod
 - B. Election of Committee on Committees (nominees to be furnished by current Committee on Committees at the Parish meeting.
 - C. Nomination of Chairpersons for Remaining Standing Committees
 - D. Nominations for Ministerial Search Committee
 - E. Discussion of Co-Chairperson Alternative for Social Action Comm.
- IV. Discussion of Status of Prairie Site and Recommendations by Board
- (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."
- V. Other Business

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RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society
c/o 142 North Franklin Street, #3
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

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Marvin Miracle
3980 Plymouth Circle
Madison, WI 53705