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# PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 13, Number 10  
17 January, 1977

Editor: Pat Watkins 233-5795  
Mailing: Mills Miracle 231-1649

## CALENDAR

- FRIDAY 7:30 PM FOLK DANCING at Portal Foster. Led by Hermine Davidson  
21 January Refreshments served; contributions accepted.
  
- SUNDAY 10 AM WHAT DOES RELIGION MEAN TO YOU? DO YOU DEFINE YOURSELF  
AS RELIGIOUS? Discussion coordinated by Warren Hagstrom.  
23 January Everyone will have a chance to talk, so come prepared to  
discuss your ideas of what "religion" means and how  
"religious" or "non-religious" you would characterize  
yourself.
  
- SUNDAY 12 Noon PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at Portal Foster immediately  
23 January after the service.
  
- MONDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at Portal Foster. Everyone welcome.  
24 January
  
- SUNDAY 10 AM RELIGION AND THE DECLINE OF MAGIC: THE RELEVANCE OF MAX  
WEBER, led by Warren Hagstrom  
31 January
  
- SUNDAY 10 PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
31 January
  
- WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the home of Pat Watkins,  
2 February 2419 Norwood Place. 233-5795
  
- SUNDAY 10 AM PROGRAM TO BE LED BY JANE FARWELL from Folklore Village.  
6 February Games etc. starting at 10 AM. Potluck dinner at noon,  
13 followed by games, etc. into the afternoon.
  
- SUNDAY 10 AM NATURE AND THE AMERICANS, Lois Hagstrom's Bicentennial  
13 February Slide Show.  
20
  
- SATURDAY 8 PM THE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Rosemary Dorney,  
19 February 2127 Regent St. 238-4382. For family health reasons,  
please leave smoking materials at home. Munchies of  
all sorts will be provided.

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The world is such a great and wide place, filled with all manners of wonderful surprises, delightful people, new opportunities, and joy to the soul, the eye, and the mind, that it is the saddest of things to be so wrapped--ah, warped--into one small part of it--the self--that one is unable to open every petal, like the flower, wide, to expose the maximum surface and revel in the maximum exposure to every part.

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Warren Hagstrom has submitted the following summary of an article on "The Religious Value System of Unitarian Universalists" by Robert Miller, appearing in a recent issue of the Review of Religious Research.

Probability samples of U-U's and of persons in other major religious groups were sent copies of Milton Rokeach's "value survey". (My colleagues in social psychology speak highly of this approach to studying values.) Each respondent is given a set of pressure sensitive labels, each imprinted with a value identifying term and explanatory phrase, and is asked to rank them in accordance to their importance as guiding principles in his or her life. Miller then computed averages (medians) for each of the major religious groups. The following table lists the 18 terminal values in the order of the averages for U-U's, from most to least important, with similar ranks for the other religious groups. (The actual medians for the U-U's are given in parentheses.)

Terminal Value	Religious Group					
	U-U	"None"	Jew	Protestant	Catholic	
Self-respect	(4.9) 1	6	9	7	5	
Wisdom	(5.4) 2	7	3	6	9	
Freedom	(5.5) 3	1	7	3	3 ✓	
Family security	(6.0) 4	3	1	2	2 ✓	
Inner Harmony	(6.0) 5	11	8	13	11	
A sense of accomplishment	(6.6) 6	4	6	11	7	
Mature love	(7.3) 7	12	14	14	14 ✓	
A world at peace	(7.9) 8	5	2	1	1 ✓	
Equality	(8.0) 9	2	5	8	8	
True friendship	(8.6) 10	10	11	10	10	
A world of beauty	(9.7) 11	15	16	15	15 ✓	
Happiness	(9.9) 12	8	4	5	4	
An exciting life	(10.5) 13	13	17	18	18 ✓	
Social recognition	(13.9) 14	17	13	16	16 ✓	
Pleasure	(14.2) 15	16	15	17	17 ✓	
A comfortable life	(14.3) 16	9	10	9	12	
National security	(15.9) 17	14	12	12	6	
Salvation	(17.9) 18	18	18	4	13	

After almost 200 years, the value of "salvation" still discriminated us from the orthodox groups. So also do the values of self-respect, wisdom, inner harmony, and mature love. We don't put such a high value on happiness, but do put a relatively high value on an exciting life.

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I wonder and marvel at the fact that a nation which spends thousands of dollars each year on electric toothbrushes has not yet become civilized enough to incorporate automatic snow removal into its architectural planning. I have yet to hear of anyone suffering a heart attack as a result of brushing their teeth.

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NEWS ABOUT PRAIRIE PEOPLE: LINDA PLUIM has returned from a short vacation in Seattle . . . . It was a pleasure to welcome LETHA DICKINSON, mother of Debbie Chapru, to a recent Prairie service. Letha, who is politically active in her home town of Riverton, Wyoming, worked on and was partially responsible for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in that state. As a member of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Wyoming, she also had a hand in the restoration of the home of Esther Hobart Morris in South Pass City, Wyoming (Esther Morris brought about the first vote for women in the Wyoming Territory in 1869, fifty years before the amendment giving women the vote in the U.S. was passed). . . . HENRY PRATT's new book, The Gray Lobby, will be in the bookstores by the first of February. Published by the University of Chicago Press, it is a study of the impact of senior citizens' organizations on Federal policy in the field of aging. . . . John Laurence in Madison General for emergency surgery. No visits, but calls: (267-5962) would be welcomed.

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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Subject: parent-child relationships. Both parents and children sometimes have these feeling:

" I dislike having my hand forced like this. I'm being dragged into this act. You begin it so that I'd have no chance of drawing back. I don't like your way of riding roughshod over my reluctance." Lines from the play The Misunderstanding by Albert Camus.

Dr. Thomas Gordon in his book Parent Effectiveness Training says that parents and children need not be engaged in a "one up-one down" game. They can treat each other as equals in terms of consideration and respect. He proposes the following:

#### "A Credo for My Relationships with Youth"

"You and I are in a relationship that I value and want to keep. Yet each of us is a separate person with his own unique needs and the right to try to meet those needs. I will try to be genuinely accepting of your behavior when you are trying to meet your own needs or when you are having problems meeting your needs.

When you share your problems, I will try to listen acceptingly and understandingly in a way that will facilitate your finding your own solutions rather than depending upon mine. When you have a problem because my behavior is interfering with your meeting your needs, I encourage you to tell me openly and honestly how you are feeling. At those times, I will listen and then try to modify my behavior, if I can.

However, when your behavior interferes with my meeting my own needs, thus causing me to feel unaccepting of you, I will share my problem with you and tell you as openly and honestly as I can exactly how I am feeling, trusting that you will respect my needs enough to listen and then try to modify your behavior.

At those times when either of us cannot modify his behavior to meet the needs of the other and find that we have a conflict of needs in our relationship, let us commit ourselves to resolve each such conflict without ever resorting to the use of either my power or yours to win at the expense of the other being. I respect your needs, but I also must respect my own. Consequently, let us strive always to search for solutions to our inevitable conflicts that will be acceptable to both of us. In this way, your needs will be met, but so will mine--no one will lose, both will win."

Submitted by Paula Elkins

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