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PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 13, Number 11
January 31, 1977

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CALENDAR

- WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419
2 Feb. Norwood Place. Phone: 233-5795
- SUNDAY 10 AM FANTASY - REALISM - DESPAIR. Led by Warren Hagstrom
6 Feb.
- SUNDAY 10 AM FUN AND GAMES. Led by Jane Farwell from Folklore Village.
13 Feb. Games etc. beginning at 10 am. Potluck dinner at noon.
After dinner, more games, etc., into the afternoon.
- MONDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at Portal Foster. Everyone welcome.
14 Feb.
- SATURDAY 8 PM THE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Rosemary Dorney,
19 Feb. 2127 Regent St. 238-4382. For family health reasons,
please leave smoking materials at home. Munchies of
all sorts will be provided.
- SUNDAY 10 AM NATURE AND THE AMERICANS. Lois Hagstrom will show and
20 Feb. talk about slides of pictures by Thomas Cole, Ascher B.
Durand, Frederic Church, and others in the Hudson Valley
school, along with the literary figures associated with
them such as Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper,
and Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- FRIDAY 7:30 PM SQUARE AND FOLK DANCING AT PORTAL FOSTER Led by the
25 Feb. Davidsons. Bring your friends. No charge, but contribu-
tions will be taken for refreshments.
- SUNDAY 10 AM MUSIC AMONG FRIENDS: FRANZ SCHUBERT. Led by Warren
27 Feb. Hagstrom.

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A NOTE ON THE FEBRUARY 13TH PROGRAM. Jane Farwell is said to be a magician (magic is one of the themes of Warren Hagstrom's lay ministry) in leading children and adults in games. This is apparently one of the things people learn to do in Folklore Village, a community near Dodgeville. This magic touch does not extend to creating food.

As first-time editor of the newsletter, we (editorial we) are sitting here in two sweaters, a poncho, quilted longjohns, and a hat, cursing the ribbon on the Prairie typewriter (we are reduced to pulling it through by hand) and hoping people will send or phone in grand or random thoughts for the newsletter. Next newsletter deadline is February 11th.

The content of the January 30th program for some reason called to Hermine Davidson's mind the following limerick:

There was a young maiden from Chichester
Whose charms made the saints in their niches stir
As her breasts swathed in satin
Rose and fell during matins
The bishop of Chichester's britches stirred.

To compensate for that, and also tied into the same program, part of which involved a debate about why Unitarians should feel more strongly identified with Quakers, Reformed Jews, and Buddhists, than with Fundamentalists, and in addition related to Lois Hagstrom's upcoming program in which Ralph W. Emerson will figure, she had another memory: of the opening of the meeting hall at First Society, that is, the first day they could use the new building, with the heat not yet in and everyone sitting in coats and wooly scarves, Max Otto's rising and saying (to paraphrase) that indeed Ralph Waldo Emerson was right, Unitarianism was a religion in an icebox

At the board meeting of January 14th the board set the final meeting date for this year as May 22nd; the program committee reported that the January square dance had been well attended [which accounts for the announcement of a February square dance]; Rachel Siegfried would like someone else to take over leadership of the women's group; Roland Parrish will do some phoning of people interested in buying into the Prairie site; the new membership book, being put together by Sidney Mannerling and typed by Rebecca Clark, is almost ready; a group interested in the history of Madison is asking for a history of Prairie Unitarian.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS

Nancy McElraeth will be in Madison the weekend of February 12th. She is staying with Ted and Rebecca Clark and we will have a grand reunion with her at Prairie on Sunday the 13th (or call the Clarks).

Rachel Siegfried writes: Is there anyone (or two) in Prairie who would like to share my large house? You would have for your own use a big bedroom with queen-size bed, dressing room, one-half bath and shower adjoining bedroom, own study. Share two refrigerators, large kitchen, and extra large living room, with working fireplace. Available March 1. Call me around 6 p.m. at 271-2173

The word "February" derives from a Latin word "februa" which means purification rites, and is so named because these rites were performed on February 15th. The term may even come from the Sabine, according to another dictionary. Here is what some people have been thinking about in February:

February 2.

In the evening with Chopin, Grzimala and Alkan; talked music. He thinks Beethoven was tormented by the idea of Bach. He based his work on Bach a great deal. Haydn, the man whose second and third parts, that is to say, the pieces which follow the first, are the best, sometimes did them in three or four ways, all different. That astonishes me. Mozart, he says, worked a great deal also. Beyond a doubt; but not in that way. He must have been led by a view of the whole which did not permit him to make any sweeping changes in his original idea.

February 5.

M. Baudelaire came in as I was starting to work anew on a little figure of a woman in Oriental costume lying on a sofa, undertaken for Thomas, of the Rue du Bac. He told me of the difficulties that Daumier experiences in finishing.

He ran on to Proudhon, whom he admires and whom he calls the idol of the people....Am in a very poor state of mind. To day it is public affairs which are the cause. Another day, it will be for some other reason. Must one not always be fighting against some bitter idea?

Eugene Delacroix: Journal, 1849

New works on glass: "A Girl Writing," after a pencil-drawing from nature, stepping, all white, out of a fish, etc.

Played music at the Zionist Student Association: Schubert's String Quartet in A minor, with the good Jahn as violinist.

Acquired a Testore violin of the year 1712, got rid of the old, charmingly revarnished Mittenwalder. One falls in love with violins. But when they are jilted, they don't commit suicide. That's convenient.

Paul Klee, Diary, 1906

...See in any case Nietzsche: "Socrates, I must confess, is so close to me that I am almost constantly fighting him."

Nietzsche, with the most monotonous external life possible, proves that thought alone, carried on in solitude, is a frightening adventure.

Four months of ascetic and solitary life. The will, the mind profit from it. But the heart?

Albert Camus, Notebooks
February 10, 1943

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