

RP
PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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CALENDAR

- FRIDAY 7:30 PM A SCHUBERTIAD at the home of Warren and Lois Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd. (238-4970) for all those planning to or wanting to participate in Warren's program, Sunday the 27th, Music among Friends: Franz Schubert.
- SATURDAY 8 PM THE PLAYREADERS meet at the home of Rosemary Dorney, 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 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 FOLD DANCING AT PORTAL FOSTER led by the Davidsons. Bring your friends. No charge, but contributions will be taken for refreshments.
- FRIDAY 7:30 PM PRAIRIE WOMEN'S GROUP will meet at Rosemary Dorney's home, 2127 Regent St. (See next page)
- FRIDAY 6:02 PM DEADLINE for next newsletter. Entries may be mailed to Laura Smail, 5059 Marathon Drive, Madison 53705.
- SUNDAY 10 AM MUSIC AMONG FRIENDS: FRANZ SCHUBERT. Led by Warren Hagstrom.
- SUNDAY 10 AM WHERE I COME FROM IS WHAT I AM: FIVE GENERATIONS OF A BLACK FAMILY. Led by Pat Watkins.

"Church won the unique distinction of praise from the English critic, Ruskin...Ruskin previously had condemned America: "I have just been seeing a number of landscapes by an American painter of some repute [Kensett]; and the ugliness of them is Wonderful. I see that they are true studies and that the ugliness of the country must be Unfathomable." (P. Boswell, Modern American Painting)

Pat Watkins writes: On Sunday, March 27th, we will be doing a program on Capital Community Citizens' Orchids and Onions awards, which we hope will result in the submission of several candidates for these awards to the CCC (or, we may decide to make an award ourselves). Please begin now to think about nominations: take some slides, or go through some you already have, or get together background material (each nomination must be documented). We need your cooperation and your input to make the program a success.

The Prairie Women's Group will probably talk some more on the subject of women and jobs. Suggested reading is What Color is your Parachute? by Richard Nelson Bolles. It's in paperback. Or bring your own suggestions for readings on the topic. It's also ok to bring a friend. The group has been meeting about once a month since Upham Woods. Attendance has ranged from eight to eighteen. A group member will write more about the group in a later newsletter.

The Finance Committee is not sure whether it has made clear to Prairie members that it is not going to send out quarterly statements this year. The reason is that stamps cost so much. Elizabeth Harald, as you know, is the person to whom checks should be sent -- 2416 Gregory St., Madison 53711.

On the Hudson Valley School

Lois Hagstrom will be considering some aspects of the nineteenth century movement away from eighteenth century rationalism and classicism in order to look straight at nature. As a preview, she has sent us this:

Our age is retrospective. It builds the sepulchre of the fathers. It writes biographies, histories, and criticism. The foregoing generations behold God and nature face to face; we, through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should we not have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition, and our religion by revelations to us, and not a history of theirs? Embosomed for a season in nature, whose floods of life stream around and through us, and invite us by the powers they supply, to action proportioned to nature, why should we grope among the dry bones of the past, or put the living generation into masquerade out of its faded wardrobe?

Ralph Waldo Emerson

INTERVIEW WITH THERON CALDWELL

A Prairie community pillar is taking a year's leave of absence. Theron Caldwell has asked for a year off from her long time position as director of religious education at Prairie. Paula Elkins, religious education committee chairwoman, interviewed Theron.

PAULA: How many years have you been RE director at Prairie?

THERON: This is my fifth year. Took one year off in the middle to go to Spain.

PAULA: Were you connected with RE anywhere else before that? What is your training and educational background?

THERON: I was a psychiatric nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville--became overwhelmed with how little anyone was helping anyone--and how long, how much money it took to do it. Quit and began as RE chairman of the Nashville Church--they decided to hire and train someone so I decided this would be a good work among friends. There were trips to Boston, two weeks in the New York area with DRE's in large churches and courses at Vanderbilt in religion, child development, counseling. During the first year we lived in Madison, journeyed to Boston to sit before their accreditation board.

PAULA: What have some of the highlights of the job at Prairie been?

THERON: Prairie has been a total sort of place--one knows the families as a whole as well as the kids--and an adventure in RE. So many of our people make up their own sparkling curriculums. I love the job mainly because it is a way to know Prairie persons more fully. It has been impossible to meet everyone's needs for their children. But it is impossible too to give up! I feel the advantage someone in my spot has is that I get to see and talk with the same kids and parents year after year.

PAULA: What has prompted you to take a leave of absence?

THERON: I take a leave now as I have had a growing desire to be a better artist these past years. As a child I didn't try--someone told me it was a shame I couldn't draw like my (artist) mother. And I think I can.

PAULA: Do you have any advice for the next RE director?

THERON: I would wish my successor broad shoulders and a well polished sense of humor. A diligence in getting the few necessary forms from people disdainful of same--and full joy in these very special families.

Paula adds, We'll miss you Theron. Many thanks for your long hours of work, for the many possibilities you've opened up for our youth, for the quality teaching staff you've always insisted upon, and for the tender loving care you've given the children.

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