

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

1806 West Lawn Avenue

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Ed.: Laura Smail, 5059 Marathon Drive, 233-2633
Mailing: Preston Miracle, 231-1649

CALENDAR

- SUNDAY 20 Nov. 10 AM The Smokey Mountain Pioneers. A family service with slides on the historical pioneer settlement in the Smokey Mountains National Park. The emphasis is on a simpler life style and in particular, how these pioneers coped with the need for food. This service will include early American folk hymns and party games led by Dodie Chapru and Rose Smith, and will end with a Shaker processional dance led by Barbara Carson. This service celebrates World Hunger Day and for those who wish, a three-meal fast prior to the service is suggested. Sunday school children will serve food to break the fast during the service. Other members are urged to bring homemade bread.
- SATURDAY 26 Nov. 8 PM Playreaders meet at the home of Linda Plum, Keewatin Trail, Verona. 836-5547
- SUNDAY 27 Nov. 10 AM Voluntary Simplicity. A consideration of the ways in which we could reduce our disastrous consumption of goods and energy. David Lisman will present proposals and suggestions from the book Taking Charge, written by the Simple Life Collective, A.F.S.C. of San Francisco. David will also explore ideas from the Shaker Town Pledge Group from Minneapolis. Come bring your own suggestions for simpler living and share these ideas in small group discussion. The Shape Note Singers invite old and new voices to join them in the singing of Shaker hymns during this service. Attend the practice session after the Nov. 20 service.
- SUNDAY 4 Dec. 10 AM Idealists Confront Authority. Prairie members speak of their pasts. David Carson, Lay Minister.
- 7 PM Special Parish Meeting at Portal Foster. See next page for agenda.
- SUNDAY 11 Dec. 10 AM J.S. Bach. If you remember Warren Hagstrom's Mozart and Schubert services, you will be eagerly awaiting his program on the life and works of Johann Sebastian Bach. Already a number of musical ensembles, including vocal groups, pianists, and recorder players, have been practicing for the event. If you would like to play a Bach number, alone or with others, contact Warren, 238-4970. Flautists, oboeists, and cellists especially solicited.

"The spirit of liberty is not, as multitudes imagine, a jealousy of our own particular rights, but a respect for the rights of others, and an unwillingness that anyone, whether high or low, should be wronged or trampled underfoot."

William Ellery Channing via Rosemary Dorney

Agenda for Parish Meeting, December 4

Special Parish Meeting with the following agenda:

- 1- Election of a president
- 2- Discussion and vote on the following two statements:
 - a. Prairie should not advertise its weekly services in the Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times until such time as the strike is ended.
 - b. Prairie should, in the interim, advertise its weekly services in the Madison Press Connection.
- 3- Discussion and straw vote on Prairie goals in order to facilitate possible bylaws revisions:
 - a. Do we want the bylaws changed to make it possible for Prairie to express itself more promptly on social/political issues?
 - b. Under what conditions do we want the Board to act on social and political issues?
 - (1) Not at all
 - (2) After a straw vote on a Sunday morning
 - (3) When it has a strong sense of what Prairie members want
 - (4) Other___

Special notice: The Prairie Board met on Monday night, November 14, at which time the December 4 special parish meeting was planned. With considerable reluctance the Board decided it should accept Charlie's resignation so that the Committee on Committees could begin its identification of nominees for the election. Hope was expressed that Charlie might consider running in the election. _____

The Board moved to withhold further action concerning the newspaper ads until after the special parish meeting, so that the wishes of the parish can be clearly determined and carried out. That means that the Board motions of October 30 still hold--but it also means that the Board did not authorize additional funds to insure that our ad can be placed in the Madison Press Connection.

- The Board's motions of October 30 were:
1. to withdraw our ad from the Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times.
 2. to spend up to the same amount of money for an ad in the Madison Press Connection.

Our ad is presently appearing in neither the Madison Newspapers (Wis. State Journal and Capital Times) nor in the Madison Press Connection. The Press Connection does not yet run a church directory (where ads might be cheaper), and thus far ads in the Press Connection would cost about \$6.00 per week compared with the \$2.50 we were paying for the ads in the Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Lacking specific bylaws on procedure for a special election and following precedent (of a few years back) for filling unexpected vacancies on the board, the Committee on Committees will announce its nominations for the President of Prairie at the service on Sunday, November 20. The Board is following this procedure because it felt that it was important to hold the special parish meeting as soon as possible, and it was impossible for the Committee on Committees to have ready an announcement of nominees in time for publication in this issue of Prairie Fire.

An effort will be made to distribute up-to-date copies of our bylaws to all active members at the next three Sunday services and at the parish meeting on December 4.

A Tribute to Charlie and Hermine

The generous giving of time and energy for Prairie is probably exemplified by no two people in Prairie better than by Charlie and Hermine. There are only a few who, like the Davidsons, have nurtured our Society from the beginning. The rest of us have shorter Prairie memories, but we do appreciate the enormous extent of the Davidsons' commitment to Prairie--of their willingness over the years to teach Sunday School, to serve on committees, to take on the responsibilities of time-consuming offices, and to organize and share dances and picnics with all of Prairie. Our thanks to you, Charlie and Hermine.

The Board, on behalf of the Society

Now that we are going in for his sort of thing, what about the money we're sending to the telephone company every month--everyone knows what kind of an outfit the telephone company is. And then there's Madison Gas and Electric which we pay for the use of our electric coffee pot and our microphone and our slide projector, not to mention this electric typewriter. We've just read that they're involved in some nefarious business with the Koshkonong nuclear power plant, and most of us are probably pretty mad at nuclear power. And what about InstiPrint that prints our newsletter. Who knows what InstiPrint might be up to.

Affectionately, your editor.

Ethnic Dance rehearsals. Dec. 1 Portal Foster, Dec. 7, Bethany Methodist (3910 Mineal Point), Dec. 15, Portal Foster, Dec. 21, Bethany Methodist. All at 7:00 P.M. Call Dodie Chapru for further information, or just go.

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Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society
c/o Preston Miracle
3980 Plymouth Cir.
Madison, Wis 53705

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Debbie Doob
Bob Park
Rt. 1, Box 83
Barneveld, WI 53507