

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Portal Foster, 1806 West Lawn Avenue, Madison

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CALENDAR

- SUNDAY 10 AM Aunt Jennifer's Tigers: Embroidery as a Subversive Act.
15 Jan. Annis Pratt will lead this service of poetry, commentary,
and slide show illustrating the revolutionary content of
needlework.
- SUNDAY 12:30 PM For Unitarian Singles, a lunch at First Unitarian
15 Jan. Society--a time to get acquainted and plan future
social events.
- SUNDAY 10 AM Prairie Families and Their Music; A Family Service
22 Jan.
- SUNDAY 7:30 PM Program Committee meeting at the home of Rosemary Dorney,
22 Jan. 2127 Regent St.
- SUNDAY 10 AM The Texas Convention. Norma Briggs, leader.
29 Jan.

POSITION OPEN

Newsletter editor. One-year appointment. Use of an electric typewriter.
Involves putting together whatever items you're given, adding as much of your
own commentary as you feel like, and typing the whole thing up every two
weeks during the Society year, with one or two issues, perhaps, during June,
July, and August. Please phone Laura Smail.

RECORDER PLAYERS

Did you know that the Prairie Recorder Group meets weekly on Wednesday evening
from 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. at the home of Ruth Calden, 4606 Waukesha St. This is an
especially good time for newcomers to join the group. All parts are welcome and
also those who just wish to attend the practice session and "tootle along" are
encouraged to come. Tea and conversation follow.

HYMN SINGERS

Late item: Hymn singing at Clark Wright-Edwards' Friday, January 20, 8 pm. You can
sing or just listen. Call Clark (256-2261) or Ruth Calden (233-5717) if you are coming.
Fire in fireplace. Enjoyable evening.

LETTER FROM GERMANY

Dear Pat - and all the Prairie people,

I've reached the point where I know it is impossible to write even a Christmas card to all those I want to communicate with! So, Pat, why don't you take this along to the Prairie Christmas party, wherever it's being held this year, and give much love, greetings, good wishes, to all I haven't written and yet feel close to! Really miss Prairie--went to a German Unitarian group once and it was quite an experience. Never dreamed one could be Unitarian and right wing conservative. But no snap judgments. Will investigate and report on that when I get back.

Am slowly getting some people together for music. Pat Watkins: your friend (and now mine, too) Anita, is one of them!

My dissertation topic (Image of the Black in West German Popular Magazine Fiction) is becoming more interesting by the minute. Am finding more stories than anticipated, and have also met "German Blacks" who have told me about their experiences. Now if only I could write.

Oh well--that'll come, too. So sing a song for me and the top o' whatever it be to all of you!

Rosemarie Lester

TWO CAUSES

A message from Mobile Meals: "Mobile Meals is a program sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Service which provides a hot-noon-time meal, Monday through Friday, to individuals who are homebound, alone, and unable to prepare meals. Volunteers deliver the meals.

"We are unable to continue our program due to lack of volunteers. If you have a car and about two hours per week, or every other week, we could use you. If you are interested please call Mobile Meals at 249-6671

The anti-abortion bill, AB 321, is coming up for a hearing in Carl Thompson's committee on January 17th and 18th. This bill cuts off public funding for abortion except in cases where the mother's life is at risk. Dane County representatives in the legislature do not support this bill. Rachel Siegfried suggests, however, that you write friends in other parts of the state to write their representatives urging them to vote against the bill.

A COMMENDATION

"President Anwar Sadat, the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association of churches and fellowships in North America has cited you for highest honors as a man of peace and vision because of your initiatives in seeking peaceful solutions to the social, economic, and political problems

of the Middle East. Whatever the results of your individual efforts, you have acted with courage and compassion in taking a risk for peace long overdue. You have offered the possibility of a new approach which can push away the scourge of war so that peace and justice may come to the people of the Middle East--lands so vital to all the people of the world. We call upon the religious leaders of the world, whatever their differences, to join in urging all men and women of good will both to pray for peace and to increase their efforts in working for peace by supporting new initiatives and by seeking to create human conditions in which peace will be possible."

In his letter accompanying this statement, Paul N. Carnes of UUA, Boston, wrote "The Board also took note and paid tribute to Prime Minister Begin of Israel for his immediate and positive response." He goes on: "I send you this in the hopes that you may in some way recognize not only this particular peace initiative but also the historic stance which we Unitarian Universalists have taken in behalf of peace making efforts in your services for the New Year ("you" being UUA societies). It is my belief that we must put our weight and influence behind all constructive and creative alternatives to war as a solution to any human situation."

LAST SUNDAY'S PROGRAM

Once again, what sounded to be a singularly improbable subject turned out to be exceedingly interesting. To begin with, we hadn't imagined that anyone in Prairie did ride motorcycles and thought George Calden's program was going to be about bicyclists--the sort of thing good Prairie people are. But not at all, Seven helmeted figures filed solemnly into church and they turned out to be, besides George, the Bonsers, the Wright-Edwards's, Mary Slabaugh, and Arnie Clay. They all own motorcycles, and not just to get from here to there. A "facilitator of feelings" is how one of them described the motorcycle. What they had to say was not just eloquent, but actually moving. Extraordinarily personal statements--self-revealing as even people in Prairie rarely manage to be.

George had distinguished between the black-leather-jacket and the Easy Rider types, and while Madison evidently has some of the former they were not represented here. It was Fran Remeika, earliest motorcyclist of Prairie--she owned a motorcycle in the 1930's and went for regular gravel-pit outings every Sunday--who pointed out that the black leather jacket symbol for motorcyclists was created by Marlon Brando, and that the only thing that distinguished motorcyclists from normal people in her day was noise. In fact, they went out of their way to help people in trouble on the road. Zen and the Art of Motor Cycle Maintenance was, of course, a prominent reference book. And Arlo Guthrie's endearing song, "I don't want to tickle, I just want to ride on my motorcycle," which all of us lucky enough to own Alice's Restaurant have heard backhandedly for years, was the closing hymn.

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