

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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* CALENDAR *

- May 5
Friday.....A Lunch with Bella Abzug - A (fund-raising) lunch with Bella Abzug at the evening Hillel Foundation, Those interested in more information and/or tickets may contact David Carson (221-1244) or David Clarenbach (251-2528).
- May 7
Sunday.....I Feel and That's Fine! - An adaptation of UU Religious Education ideas to 10 am the age which finds you now.
- May 14
Sunday.....A Question of Time: is its passage bad? Prairie people examine their own 10 am growing older. An outside friend speaks of death.
- May 21
Sunday.....A Celebration of the Ending of Another Year - The beginning of our summers, 10 am a FAMILY PROGRAM.

immediatly following the service - PLAN NOW to celebrate Spring - with a Prairie picnic at Ann and Clark Wright-Edwards home in the Arboretum. Brats will be provided. Bring a salad or dessert to add to the fare. You can follow the picnic with badmitton, a stroll through the Arboretum, or stretching out on the lawn! RAIN DATE will be the FOLLOWING SUNDAY (May 28th).

A couple of Sundays ago, we had a program about the UU Service Committee with discussion as to which matters of social concern we beleived action should be taken on. Statements were made from the floor, and many matters of human concern were raised.

There is a lot of need in the world for social justice, because there is a lot of social injustice, perpetrated by both humanity and fate, but no one spoke for the seals.

It would appear no one cares about the seals. Is it acceptable to the rest of us that some of humanitys numbers beleive that anything they come upon in the natural world belongs to them if they pick it up? Do human rights have no limits?

To turn our backs on the cruelty of the seal bludgeonings is to state that such action is acceptable behavior. This is also to state that such cruelty is acceptable under certain conditions. "They are just animals" ... so are people, remember? 'Harvesting seals' rings very much of 'Anti-personnel missile'. They are both divorced from the horror of the moment.
-Metje C. Butler April 14, 1978

CLEANING UP and CONTROL

The Portal Foster building is only ours on Sunday (and upon request). It is used during the week by another group of people. Robert Ward, director of Portal Foster, reported that things were left in great disorder on March 23rd (food in kitchen, doors open, etc.). Also, for those who have children - the toys at P-F are NOT to be played with if they aren't Prairies toys. Please inform your kids - and be responsible for their actions.

BILL HR6075 - WASHINGTON DC

Your action is needed! An anti-abortion rider (Beard amendment) has been attached to this bill, which will be coming to a vote soon! This bill corrects the Supreme Court decision, and forbids employer discrimination against women workers on the basis of pregnancy. The amendment says that abortion coverage does not have to be provided. WRITE NOW TO: Hon. _____, US House of Representatives, Washington DC, 20005.

I REMEMBER . . .

- Ted and Roland spray-painting our now home - Portal Foster.
- Joyful hours spent tending everyone else's little children, along with our own two babies, in the nursery at Portal Foster.
- The fun Mark and I had putting out the newsletter in our basement, using that cantankerous old duplicating maching.
- That Sunday morning, at the Y, when Dave Meyer 'christened' Scotty, Unitarian-style.
- Dancing at the Carson's farm one hot summer night, after devouring an entire pig!
- Joyous Christmas parties...
- Waiting in vain, but happily, for Haley's comet to appear above Avis and Roland's A-frame in Blue Mounds.
- Planting peas, one at a time, at the Carson's farm, under the watchful eye of Barbara Willard!
- That December 20, six years ago, when we 'presented' our new baby, Amy, to our cheering friends at Prairie. A most happy Christmas day.
- Hours and hours of patting the critters at the Willard's, stomping my feet and listening in bliss to the Chicken Pluckers.

I could go on and on and on. Prairie was, and still is, more than a church, more than a fellowship, more than Mark and I can explain. We yearn to be with you on this special day. Our love and best wishes to all of you.....Mark and Nancy McElreath (who gave us daisies)

 The challenge was there from Prairie just when I needed it. In 1966-7 my old life script changed, and I needed a new focus for the future.

Fortunately some of the 'branch' members were friends, and I knew I had found a new home after a few stimulating and provocative meetings. One quality that I appreciated was the importance placed on truth and honesty, People were not mouthing dogma, but insights they had learned from experience.

Yes I have found 'it', a strength within myself that Prairie has continued to foster even though I live far away - I am not alone in a hostile environment. Prairie's UU spirit is with me - I am proud that I was able to sign the book as a charter member. -Betsy Roberts.

 Died by accidental gunshot, Jay-Jay, 21 year old son of Sally and Dick Grahams of Salt Lake City; Sally is Rebecca Clark's sister.

 Items of interest should be mailed to Carolyn Briggs, Editor, P.O. Box 5485, Madison, 53705

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