

# Prairie Fire

December 4, 1978  
Vol. 15, No. 20

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Leland Bullen, Editor-Mailer: 838-8055

## CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 10, 10:00 a. m. --"Six Approaches to Design" Metje Butler.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:00 a. m. --"Epics" John Smail. On the surprising similarities between the national epics of different societies --Illiad, Song of Roland, Maha Bharata, Heike Monogatari, etc. --and why this might be so.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:00 a. m. --Family Christmas program. To include our traditional symbol tree in which individuals bring an object to represent something of significance to his or her life over the past year. We tell the group what these things mean and then use them to decorate our bare Christmas tree. This will be our ninth symbol tree. The custom was brought to us by former minister David Meyer. We should each also bring bread, fruit, or some other eat-with-the-fingers food to share, for an after service potluck.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 10:00 a. m. --General family get-together with games, to be conducted by Dorothy Lee.

Dec. 31st--New Year's Eve party at Rachel Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman Terr. (Time to be announced). All are welcome. Rachel is providing only her home and empty glasses. YOU bring food and drink!

## R.E. CORNER with Holly Loring

There will be an R. E. committee meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p. m. at Rose Smith's house at 218 Du Rose Terr.

A teachers' breakfast is planned for Sunday, Dec. 17, at 9:00 a. m. All first semester teachers and R. E. committee members are invited to attend. A chance for us to get together and say Thank you!

-----  
LRYers: Keep your eyes open for news of a get-together soon. You'll be hearing from us.  
-----

## HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

Those who attended the meeting Sunday, Dec. 3, will know how the upstairs room at Colby street has been divided and the problems it will make for adult services. We have discussed the possibility of moving to Dudgeon school in December or January. This may create problems for religious education. If you want further information or wish to express an opinion about moving, call Warren Hagstrom (238-4970 or 262-6585 days.)  
Soon.

-----  
The next Prairie Fire deadline will be December 18.

## ABOUT OUR CURRENT SPEAKERS

Metje Butler was born in Michigan and grew up in Chicago and Rhode Island. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She was married while in college. She went into textile design, working in three different design studios in New York City. The Butlers came to Madison when he decided to go back to school, and Metje went into commercial art. She also resumed her studies, intending to teach, but discontinued to rear three sons. Since then she has done part-time teaching at the Madison Community Center and at the Attic Angels, instructing in casting, flatware, and stone carving at the former and weaving at the latter. She sells most of the jewelry and carvings she makes.

Metje Butler summed up her talk on finding "Design in Everyday Life" last Sunday with her poem, which perhaps ought to be pasted on the refrigerator door:

So the small fry spilled the shoe-dye (on the best rug, I suppose),  
And they're shooting kitty litter with the vacuum cleaner hose,  
And your neighbor's dripping cocoa on the nicest linen mats,  
And the kids have tracked their water fight right in the house, the brats,  
Your son has over-filled his milk, the puddle's spreading out,  
And your daughter's making dinner and she's burnt the saur kraut,  
Now before you go to pieces and your family malign,  
Just count to ten about the mess and look for the design!

\*\*\*\*\*

Born in Cairo, Egypt, the son of a Scottish father who worked there for Shell Oil Co., and an American mother, John Smail moved with his parents to Scotland at the age of nine. There he attended a boys' preparatory school for one year--the boys had to get up in a 40° room and run down the hall through a "bath" of cold water. The family came to this country when John was ten and lived in Connecticut. He attended Harvard, studying English history. Entering the army, he was stationed in Japan and later traveled throughout most of southeast Asia, when he became interested in the history of the area. Mr. Smail then attended Cornell university where he earned his Ph. D. in Southeast Asian history. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Smail teaches a course in "A Natural History of Man" in which he attempts to put evolution together with human history from first cell to the present and also tries to put pre-history together with recorded history.

## PRAIRIE GROUP VISITS BETSY ROBERTS

In November, three Prairie members, Paula Elkins, Ione Hatfield, and Ruth Calden drove to Hazard, Ky., to spend the weekend with Betsy Roberts, stopping overnight with hospitable Elinor and Orié Loucks in Indianapolis.

As many Prairie people remember, Betsy left Madison a number of years ago for her home town of Hazard and is now a librarian in a rural school (K-8) in Busy, Ky. Betsy is jubilant about her efforts toward a Reading Is Fun project, geared to giving books to deprived children, most of whom have never owned a book. Betsy convinced her local PTA to give \$400 toward the project and went on to procure matching government funds and a publisher's 40% discount on the paperback books. Betsy is also excited about her budding art print collection and a music appreciation time she schedules in her library.

In order to meet with fellow Unitarians, Betsy must travel as far as Lexington. Betsy cherishes her ties with Prairie friends and would welcome hearing from you. Write to 209 Baker Ave., Hazard, Ky 41701.

✓ SOLO PERFORMANCES

The Solo Performances group will get together Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p. m. at Laura Smail's house, 5059 Marathon Dr. All levels of performance will be appreciated. Start practicing now. Please call Laura to tell her what you will play or sing. Listeners are welcome.

At the Solo Performances in November Linda Pluim played three Bach inventions, Dodie Chapru sang two Brahms lieder, Laura Smail played a chopin waltz and a Beethoven bagatelle, and Aileen Nettleton Moonlight Sonata. As encores, Dodie sang another lieder and various combinations played through Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Mozart, in a four-hand arrangement. We had a great time. It's an incentive to practice. L. Smail.

NEW IN THE PRAIRIE LIBRARY

The New Games Book, by the New Games Foundation, edited by Andrew Fluegelman, is organized by type of activity (very active, active, and moderate) and number of players (two, dozen, two dozen, and the more the better) The games have enticing sounding names. How about a game of Tweezli-Whop, Smaug's Jewels, Doh-Ahh, or Planet Pass? There are essays exploring the philosophy of the New Games movement which is the outgrowth of the Whole Earth Catalog. It's easy to check out a book. Ask Holly where the box is and follow guidelines, please. Enjoy!

--Rose Smith

MARY LOU MUNTS ON PUBLIC TV

Member Mary Lou Munts had the distinction of appearing on the McNeil-Lehrer program Monday, Nov. 27--not for her environmental accomplishments, but because of her major role in the passage of Wisconsin's "no-fault" divorce law, which includes a provision for payment of alimony to either spouse. The main focus of the program was an ACLU challenge to an Alabama law prohibiting payment of alimony to a man. We learned from Mary Lou and Judge Foley of Milwaukee (also on the program) that such awards have been made to only about 50 men in Wisconsin since the law was passed (as compared with many thousands of divorces).

-----  
Missing out on Prairie because you don't have a ride? Call Shirley Lake, 238-1647. She will try to arrange transportation for you.  
-----

Messiah Sing--January 17, 12:30, at Nettletons. Bring music if you have it and "finger foods" for a snack. Accompanists who wish to participate call Laura Smail. Soloists call Dodie Chapru. Everybody welcome.  
-----

Out-of -town members and friends of Prairie who have not pledged a contribution for the current year and who wish to continue receiving Prairie Fire should send \$5.00 or indicate that they wish to receive it and are not able to pay, within the next two weeks. Mail this to Rod Stevenson, 628 Sheldon St., Madison 53711. Remember to correct your address if it is not as it appears on the newsletter.

# Prairie Fire

c/o Leland Bullen  
5313 Main Street  
McFarland, Wis. 53558

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Mrs Louise Vogel  
2308 University Ave  
Madison WI 53705

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Madison, Wis. Permit No. 1604
--