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Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

10:00 a.m.--The Dane County Hospice

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

7:30 p.m.--Board meeting, at meeting house

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

7:30 p.m.--R.E. Committee meeting, Prairie Meeting House

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

10:00 a.m.--"Clara & Robert Schumann: Music and Madness in the Family!" with music by members of the congregation. If you wish to play music by the Schumanns or their friends, contact Dodie Chapru.

WOMAN'S WRIST WATCH was found in the kitchen of the meeting house. Owner should contact Al or Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053.

VACUUM CLEANER, upright or power brush needed to clean Prairie rugs. If you have one to donate or lend, contact Al Nettleton, 238-6053. We will repair if necessary.

The pending table of contents for the new and revised songbook is available even if you missed the Songbook Sunday last week and want to give the songbook committee some feedback. Check the back table in the upstairs room.

NEXT ISSUE OF PRAIRIE FIRE--March 19. Please bring announcements to meeting on March 16.

R.E. Corner Holly Loring, Director

- Feb. 24 was a lively Sunday for the R.E. program. Middle School visited the Greggs' home and caught some Olympic gold medal hockey action. Discussion centered on the possible boycott of the summer Olympic games in Moscow. The 3-5 group talked about Moses passing his leadership of the Hebrew tribes on to Joshua, and began planning for a Passover celebration later in March. K-2 people were experiencing what life as a turtle or a snail would be like, and designed their own "shells." Pre-Schoolers finger-painted and celebrated Tracy Crim's second birthday (Happy Birthday, Tracy!) with singing and feasting on cookies specially baked by her mother, Joyce Crim. Thank you for the yummy cookies!
- R.E. needs update: We still need five shelving units for classrooms, one rocking chair for Pre-School, and people to help build shelves and cut and hang bulletin-boards. We need you!
- Next R.E. Committee meeting coming up on Thursday, March 13, at the Prairie building.

President's Memo

by Aileen Nettleton

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

It's that time again! We need to think about leadership for Prairie for the coming year with the Annual Membership Meeting and elections coming up in April. Please consider how you can contribute your abilities to Prairie. If you are interested in serving on the Board as an officer or chairing a committee, please

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President's Memo, continued

speak up. Think about other members you would like to recommend as well. Present board members can tell you what responsibilities are involved for specific committees.

The Committee on Committees, consisting of Norma Briggs, Alice Bullen, Mel Micke, John Grindrod, and Al Nettleton, will nominate persons for the following positions: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer; and chairpersons for finance, religious education, program, social action, housing and property, and long range planning.

The book of readings by Paul N. Carnes, from which Aileen read at the beginning of one of the recent discussions on death and dying, is

in the Prairie library for the use of anyone who wishes to borrow it. The late Rev. Paul Carnes was president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The book is entitled, Longing of the Heart--Prayers and invocations.

WELCOME HOME, ALEXI

As the newsletter was being typed Tuesday, Marge Lyman, Mike's mother, reported that Alexi was expecting to be released from the hospital on Wednesday. Mrs. Lyman said she thought Alexi would be pleased to have phone calls after she arrives home.

And we, Alexi, will be pleased to have you back with us. Get well soon!

An open letter drafted by the Social Action committee and signed by 58 Prairie members and friends:

Dear

We the undersigned members and friends of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, Wisconsin wish to voice our great concern and our objection to reinstating the registration for the draft.

To respond to the increased crises in the Middle East with a call for reinstating registration is both unnecessary and repugnant.

If the armed forces are unable to maintain adequate staffing caused by low pay and dehumanizing practices towards their personnel, should they then be rewarded by giving them free and forced access to our young people? Involuntary servitude in a life threatening occupation goes against the United States' finest traditions and also goes against the enhanced human civil rights we have struggled so hard to gain for ourselves.

Not only would young people have to face the dangers of possibly having to go to war, but also, if they refuse to register, become subject to criminal prosecution. Once registered, they could find job discrimination because employers would place them into temporary positions instead of permanent (and presumably higher-paying) jobs - thus working an added economic burden on them.

If the reason for reinstating the draft is to protect our oil interests in the Middle East, then it only makes sense to look to other alternatives which could save even more, ultimately, then we are now receiving in imports: a rebate-able gasoline tax, gas rationing, greater efforts at conservation, and developing other energy sources, particularly solar energy.

Our world energy reserves would disappear like snow on the Sahara Desert if we were drawn into a global conflict started over who controls oil in the Middle East.

Sincerely:

The letter was submitted to Madison Newspapers, and the Capital Times responded on their "Religion" page Saturday, March 1 with a summary of the letter under the headline: "Unitarians Mount Drive Against Draft Registration"