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Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive

P.O. Box 5362 Madison, Wis. 53705

Leland Bullen, Editor 838-8055

Aileen Nettleton,
President of the Society 238-6053

VOL. 17, NO. ⁷~~6~~, MARCH-19, 1980

Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

8:00 p.m.--Good Friday service at First Unitarian Society. Rev. Max Gaebler will speak and George Calden will provide recorded music.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

10:00 a.m.--"Go Fly a Kite" Family Easter service. Details following Calendar.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

6:00 p.m.--Registration begins for North Central Area Council spring conference.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.--Spring Conference.
8:00 p.m.--Party at Prairie. George and Ruth Calden will teach and lead disco dancing & mixers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

10:00 a.m.--Fellowship Service. Peter Lee Scott speaking on "Seeing Where We Came From." (Story on Conference elsewhere)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

7:00 p.m.--Social Action Committee meeting, home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace. All interested persons welcome.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

7:30 p.m.--Annual membership meeting. Election of officers. Please submit agenda items to Aileen Nettleton or Warren Hagstrom.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

1:00 p.m.--Wedding of Carolyn Briggs and Jay Smith, at First Society, with reception follow-

Betty & Jack Jallings
- Rt 1
Oregon WI 53575

ing. Bring musical instruments for jam session later in afternoon. Please remember to RSVP by April 5th.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 a.m.--"the First Six Years of Martial Law in the Philippines." Slide show and talk.

GO FLY A KITE

The wonderful wind, the freedom of flight, and kite making for all! (If the weather's good, we'll do a trial run.) You will need to bring (1) kite making materials: paper, two 36" flexible wood strips, strong string, rags for tails. We have scissors, markers, etc. for cutting and decorating; (2) a picture, poem or thought (original or borrowed) about kites, wind, flying, or related subjects. We'll exchange these as Easter gifts to each other; (3) fruit and/or bread for after-program refreshment. (a lot to remember, isn't it?) Come reach for the skies with us! And have a Happy Easter.

R. E. Corner

Holly Loring, Director

• Spring is almost here! I look for returning birds, wait for the buds outside my window to swell, and watch the now rapid growth of my Prairie geranium. This past Sunday was one of our busiest ever with twenty-five young people downstairs having an enjoyable morning. Preschoolers colored Easter eggs and baskets to put them in and watched films of two favorite stories: "Whistle for Willie" and "The Snowy Day." K-2 decorated eggs which will be brightening our upstairs program on Easter. They also learned about how puppies and kittens are born, and continued work on their houses. I hope you

(Continued next page)

(R.E. Corner, continued)

have seen the houses, and more importantly, their owners in them. They are entranced with each little house of their own, in a way that is special to see. Third graders talked about King Solomon and the nature of wisdom--how difficult it can be to find! Middle schoolers continued planning the decor for their room and the financing for said decor; last week they also discussed the upcoming presidential elections.

• Unsung heroes and heroines of the week--Bob Nelson, Al Nettleton, Damon Smith, and Lee Bullen for sawing wood for shelves in the cold two Saturday mornings ago. Also Cara and Andy Nelson and their friend for keeping themselves occupied while waiting for their parents. A big Thank you! to all. One more shelf needs to be hammered and glued (pieces already cut). We'd like to get it put together before the N.C.A.C. conference. Give Holly a call if you can help out.

UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PEACE AFTER SUNDAY PROGRAMS

The idea being worked on now is to try having the upstairs become a gym for our active children, with two adult volunteers to provide direction and supervision. Socializing and coffee for adults as well as quiet activities for children would be downstairs. We will try this plan sometime after public school vacation. Volunteers needed! Please call Shirley Lake, 238-1647.

Energy and the Way We Live: The third of four National Issues forums sponsored by MATC will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, at the Madison Civic Center. Topics to be covered will be: "Can the good life in the Madison area be saved?" and "Should local government enforce an energy plan?" The audience will have a chance to respond to the experts.

The Lake Geneva Singles Week (June 22-28) for UU members and friends is filling up already. Brochures in the literature rack at Prairie promise "vacation enjoyment with new friends plus choice of discussion and personal growth groups led by trained facilitators." Phone Mary Lou Diehl for more information (233-4357).

Also in the Prairie literature rack is an announcement of Sawbill Lodge in the Superior National Forrest, Tofte, Minn. Many Unitarian youths may remember it as the spot where their wilderness canoe trips with Al and Sparrow Senty began. Now the Sentys have bought the lodge, rebuilt the cabins and opened it to the public again.

"To love life through labor is to be intimate with life's inmost secret...work is love made visible." --Kahlil Gibran

UU SPRING CONFERENCE APRIL 11-12

Prairie is hosting the Spring Conference of the North Central Area Council, which begins Friday evening, April 11, with registration and supper at 6:00 p.m. and continues on Saturday, April 12, through the day. Prairie is planning a party for Saturday evening for its own members and all those from out of town who plan to stay. And Peter Scott from Wausau is speaking at our Sunday service on "Seeing Where We Came From."

We need to provide housing for many of the persons who come from out of town. Please call Shirley Lake at 238-1647 if you have space in your home or apartment for one or more persons. Sleeping space (and generally breakfast) is all that is needed. It is a good opportunity to get acquainted with other UUs.

We hope that Prairie members will want to come to the conference. If you do, be sure to complete the registration form by next Sunday, April 6.

REGISTRATION FOR NORTH CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL SPRING CONFERENCE April 11, 12, and 13

Name..... Address.....
No. of persons:

_____ Registration Fee @ \$5.00

_____ Friday supper @ \$2.50

_____ Saturday lunch @ \$2.50

Total Amount _____

Return to: Pat Cautley
4805 Regent St.
Madison, Wis. 53705

Make checks payable to Prairie UU Society. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 6.

FIRST MORTGAGE PAYMENT DUE SOON

The first quarterly payment on our mortgage is due May 1. Please help by keeping up on your pledge. Checks should be given or mailed to Rod Stevenson, 628 Sheldon St. 53705.

Thanks!

PARISH MEETING PICKS UUA RESOLUTIONS

Members of Prairie who attended a special parish meeting Sunday, March 30, voted on which of 12 general resolutions they would like to see placed on the agenda of the UUA Assembly to be held June 13-18 at Albuquerque, N.M. The rules of the Association provide that parishes should reduce the number of resolutions to six.

Prairie's choice of resolutions were titled: Indian Treaty Rights, Refugee Assistance, Repressive legislation, Human Rights and War, Preventing the Weather Disaster From Coal, A Religious Statement on Abortion: A Call to

A list of business resolutions was also submitted to local parishes, but Prairie did not address itself to those.

Phase II of a two-part program: "A Critical Look at Self in Society," will be open to interested persons May 5 and 6 at the University Bay Center. The first phase will be limited to 40 invited participants. The purpose of the second phase, the open enrollment session, is to raise awareness about narcissism (a pre-occupation with self) and iatrogenesis (the disabling effects of specialized service-delivery systems i.e. doctor-induced illnesses). For more information, contact John Ohliger.

EASTER AT FOLKLORE VILLAGE

A Norwegian Easter will be celebrated Sunday, April 6, with Norway's finest folk trio, Hans Brimi, fiddle; Jon Faukstad, accordion; and Mary Barthelemy, tassel fløyte. There will be workshops on Norsk music and dance at 3:30 p.m., a light smorgesbord supper at 5:30, and a Norwegian concert and old-time dance beginning at 7:00.

Advance reservations are recommended for events at the farm: Rt. 3, Dodgeville, 53533.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

On March 30, Marcia Bradley Christensen, Carol Goldert Dopp, Robert Dopp, Alexi Lyman, and Eric Hagstrom became members of Prairie Society. A warm welcome to you all.

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to all who have helped with building maintenance, snow shoveling, and the other chores of "settling in" at the new building.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE

The next issue of Prairie Fire will be mailed Thursday, April 17. Since I will be staying in West Chester, Pa., until Monday, the 14th, please give announcements and other contributions for the newsletter to Alice on Sunday. Thank you.

--Leland Bullen

LETTERS, POEMS, THOUGHTS ARE WELCOMED

The newsletter should be a vehicle for members and friends to use to express their concerns and share their thoughts in poetry or prose. If these have a time value they will be included in the next newsletter; if timeless they will be used when space allows.

Christian-Judeo-Moslem-Marxists now control most of the money, top-down power, and scientific knowledge in the world.

But what happens to holders of these beliefs when money no longer talks as much,

When top-down power no longer frightens as many people,

And when scientific knowledge no longer dominates as much consciousness?

What happens to Marxist-Moslem-Judeo-Christians when money is equalled by face-to-face exchange and gifts,

When top-down power is joined by people cooperating as peers in matters of shared concern,

And when scientific knowledge is met by experience-as-knowledge?

--John Ohliger

DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE, & REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. ☛ Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. ☛ Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. ☛ Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. ☛ Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. ☛ You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. ☛ Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive God to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. ☛ With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy. ☛ ☛

FOUND IN OLD SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, BALTIMORE; DATED 1692

(Found by the editor in Brian Yocum's Reproduction Center.
One word changed to eliminate gender.)