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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

Barbara Steinau/Bob Park  
Rt 3 Box 325-C  
Poynette WI 53955

VOL. 17, NO. 8, APRIL 17, 1980

## Calendar

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20

10:00 a.m.--"Transylvanian Unitarians."--  
Lajos Biro, a Hungarian Unitarian, living in  
Madison, will share lives of past and con-  
temporary Transylvanian Unitarians.

### 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-  
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.

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

10:00 a.m.--Dedication of Prairie Meeting  
House

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We plan to plant annuals and transplantable  
perennials around the Meeting House at our  
final regular meeting of the spring on June  
8. Contact Rachel Siegfried or Barb Steinau  
if you have things you would like to plant  
then.

## R. E. Corner Holly Loring, Director

• A goodly number of folks made kites Sunday,  
April 6; the rain held off just long enough  
for a trial flight. We sent a helium balloon  
aloft with the words "Goodbye winter, welcome  
spring" written on it, our Prairie version of  
a Korean kite flying tradition on the 15th  
day of the new year. The Koreans sand kites  
aloft saying "Bad luck away, good luck stay."  
Once the string is all out, it is severed,  
and the wind carries the kite (and the bad  
luck) off to distant reaches. This past Sun-  
day, Middle Schoolers trooped back in after  
a morning of bowling and did some further  
planning on room decoration. Third-5th grade  
planned for a Passover celebration with their  
parents on Sunday, April 20. K-2's houses  
are beautiful! The decoration is inspired  
by delight in having one's own house. As a  
group we did some thinking about how to make  
our building a happy place to be. One idea,  
agreed on by all, was closing doors quietly  
while we're in the building. So, we're in the  
testing phase...tread softly.

### WE PUT IT OVER!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the  
North Central Area Conference this past week-  
end. About half the Prairie families (at  
least 41 members and friends) were actively  
involved--contributing home baked products,  
helping in the lasagne making, bringing salads  
and desserts, housing the people requesting  
it, helping with clean-up, the play readers,  
etc. We can all feel great pleasure in the  
report that everyone was delighted with the  
food and all the arrangements.

--Pat Cautley

1. Election of officers for the 1980-81 year
2. Committee reports and discussion
  - Treasurer's report
  - Report of Religious Education Committee
  - Report of Long Range Planning Committee
  - Report of Social Action CommitteeMembers are invited to bring beverages and snacks for consumption at the meeting. Officers and committee people are asked to put their reports in written form and also to write up the duties and procedures of your office or committee.

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES NOMINATIONS

##### FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The slate of candidates for Prairie officers, committee heads, and lay ministers to be presented by the Committee on Committees at the annual meeting Sunday is as follows:

President: Aileen Nettleton  
Vice President: Warren Hagstrom  
Secretary: Sue Drapkin  
Treasurer: Nina Mattarella  
Program Chair: Jack Jallings  
Housing & Property: Bob Nelson  
Hospitality: Megan Kroeger  
Social Action: Barbara Steinau  
Finance: Julie Bonser  
Religious Education: Shirley Lake and Joyce Grim  
Long Range Planning: Doleta Chapru  
Membership: Terri Hauser  
Publicity: Leland Bullen  
Committee on Committees:

Carry-over: Norma Briggs

Lay Ministers: George Calden, Peg Stevenson, John Grindrod

More candidates may, of course, be added to the list by nominations from the floor. The by-laws provide that lay ministers be selected by action of the old and new Executive boards upon recommendation by the Committee on Committees and other members. That action takes place at the first board meeting after the annual meeting.

#### PLEASE PAY PLEDGES NOW

Members are urged to bring their pledges up to date. Obligations and expenses in connection with the meeting house make it important for us to keep the money coming in. New members who have not pledged are urged to contact Norma Briggs, 256-3445. If you do not know how much you owe, please call Julie Bonser, 274-3248.

#### DEDICATION SERVICE PLANNED FOR MAY 4

The Prairie Meeting House-Unitarian Universalist will be officially dedicated Sunday morning, May 4, and we hope to make this a festive affair. Michael Briggs, George Calden, and Warren Hagstrom have agreed to coordinate the program. They will be contacting members and guests to help with the program.

Part of the program will be a brief history of Prairie with slides, films, tape recordings, and documents. Members who have any of these should contact George Calden to have them on the program.

We hope to have the Meeting House well decorated for the dedication. Please plan to bring flowers and plants for interior decoration to Prairie on May 4.

#### NEW R.E. DIRECTOR NEEDED FOR PRAIRIE

The R.E. Committee is sad to announce that Holly Loring will be leaving Madison at least by December, and possibly earlier. The Sunday school and Prairie as a whole will surely miss her and the benefits of her many efforts and talents.

We now begin our search for her successor. If you are interested or can suggest someone, please contact us right away. The job involves an average of 15 hours a week, with the busiest times coming in late spring and late summer with preparations for the following school year. The main responsibility is to oversee the Sunday school program and involves working with the R.E. committee and the Prairie board and planning for family programs.

This year's salary has been \$1,708.

--Shirley Lake

#### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE PLANNING LAWN SALE

The Prairie Social Action committee is planning a lawn sale for Saturday, May 17, to raise money for its emergency fund and for the UU Service committee (our share is \$175). Start saving things to donate or sell at that time. We also ask that you donate 25% to the fund from the sale of larger items.

Intake of items will be on Friday evening from 7-10. We will be asking for volunteer help. Call Barb Steinau, 635-7519 or Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173.

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Folklore Village comes to Madison April 25. Bethany Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Donation \$2.00.

## BUILDING RENTAL POLICY

A rental policy and schedule of rates was printed in the March 19 issue of Prairie Fire, but is repeated here as an encouragement for members to make use of the building for groups with which they are affiliated or to let the housing committee know if they are aware of other groups who might want to use the building.

1. Rates for members for use by groups with which they are affiliated:

Upstairs only, \$15.00

Downstairs only, \$10.00

Use of kitchen for meals, \$5.00

2. Outside groups and individuals:

Upstairs, \$15.00

Downstairs meeting rooms only, \$7.50

Use of kitchen for meals, \$10.00

Use of kitchen for making coffee will be permitted when rooms upstairs or downstairs are rented. All fees are based on the assumption that the building will be left in the same condition it was in when use began. Rental fees for the entire building, or rental for regular or recurrent use will be negotiated.

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PRAIRIE NEEDS A SINGING GROUP to perform at Sunday meetings and on other occasions and for fun. A performance by such a group would be welcomed for the dedication service May 4. If you are interested in singing, call Barb Steinau, 635-7519, or Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053. Persons interested in singing at the dedication should meet after the service April 20.

## SOME QUOTES FROM HUGH ILTIS TALK AT NORTH CENTRAL AREA CONFERENCE MEETING

On April 12, Hugh Iltis presented a talk on religion and biology at the North Central area conference, which took place at our meeting house. Hugh spoke mainly about the increasing extinction of many species of flora and fauna and its effect on humankind.

Here are a few memorable quotes from his introductory remarks:

The trouble with the world is that we don't have the facts. We have a tremendous amount of garbage. We are bombarded day and night by official garbage by the government and unofficial garbage by the Unitarians.

Hemingway was asked once what makes a good writer. He said, "To be a good writer, you have to have a shockproof, foolproof, built in crap detector." This is what I want to help you achieve, that you can listen to what people say or write and then you can say, "This is crap. This is nonsense," in-

stead of being a good, faithful servant of the university system and perpetuating the same old falsehoods.

Even Unitarians can be gullible of disseminating crap. Look at this pamphlet, "Liberal Faith in Action." Join a project and help alleviate hunger. Let me tell you, there's no way to stop hunger. None. There's nothing here in this pamphlet about abortion. Not a word in here about how many people are added to the world each year--81 million were added last year. If we do not cut down on population, people will starve. If we do not cut down on population there will be war.

Children are born as biological bundles with genes. The demands of these genes must be fulfilled. A child is genetically adapted to human milk. A cow's milk is for cows. Human milk is for humans. We are only beginning to understand the allergic and mental health reactions of what happens to children in the first two years of life.

We have been put at the service of the industrial-technological system--we should put things to the service of our children. Children need not only a clean environment but also a rich environment, an environment that is meaningful for them. We should not be concerned with feeding the maximum number of people in the world. We must make sure that no more should be born in this world than the world can sustain.

A rich environment means not just food and shelter. It means wilderness to hike in, flowers to look at, butterflies and birds to see flying in the air. We don't want our children to live in a world of cows and concrete and cars and nothing else.

We are honed to the natural environment in the finest way and any diddling you do with it is bound to be bad--like hitting a watch with a hammer.

An optimist is a man who hasn't as yet heard the bad news...And the bad news is that the tropics are going down the drain.

All our natural resources are limited. The only thing that is unlimited is human stupidity.

Thanks to George Calden for taping and transcribing these remarks

NEXT ISSUE OF PRAIRIE FIRE--MAY 1

Please bring announcements and other contributions to the April 27 meeting.