

Leland Bullen
5313 Main St.,
McFarland, WI 53558

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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. 9, APRIL 30, 1980

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

Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 4

10:00 a.m.--Dedication of Prairie Meeting House. Speaker will be the Rev. Max Gaebler, "The Need for Roots"

THURSDAY, MAY 8

7:30 p.m.--R.E. Committee, home of Alice Bullen, 5313 Main St., McFarland. Car Pool will be arranged. Call Shirley Lake, 238-1647.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

10:00 a.m.--Rembrandt van Rijn. Illustrated with slides and music, led by Lois Hagstrom.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

7:30 p.m.--Joint meeting of old and new boards, at meeting house.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.--Prairie Lawn Sale, at Meeting House. (Bring items for sale Friday evening 7-9 pm.)

SUNDAY, MAY 18

10:00 a.m.--Women and Words--coordinated by Norma Briggs.

NEW MEMBERS

Newly members are newlyweds Carolyn Cameron Briggs and Jay Cameron Smith. Asked if the identical middle names were coincidental, Carolyn said Cameron is Jay's second name, and they decided that should be the name they would have in common rather than their surnames. A glad welcome to both.

R. E. Corner

Holly Loring, Director

● Hope everyone got a chance to try some of the Middle School's baked goodies being sold during coffee this past Sunday. I enjoyed two gooey and delicious marshmallow and rice crispy squares made by Larry Sarko. My compliments to the chefs! Middle schoolers have been preparing for the sale in order to raise money for their room. Two Sundays ago, 3-5 graders enjoyed sharing a Passover seder celebration with their parents. It was a sizeable gathering for this usually small group--a happy variation. This week, the group drew pictures of themselves for their room. Haunting House people and preschoolers took advantage of the beautiful April 20th weather and went for a "signs of spring" walk. This week, work was completed on the group's houses which will be on view as part of the dedication service.

● We on the R.E. committee are looking ahead to next year's curriculums and teachers. Consider planning to give some time to the children in the R.E. program in the fall, interim, or spring. It's important!

● K-5 people: Remember to bring something for the "garden" this week!

● The TLC conference (Tender Loving Care) for people involved in religious education happened from April 15-17 in Des Plaines, Ill. I was there to learn about a new curriculum called "Centerquest" based on Jungian psychology. It's a fascinating way to get at resolving conflicting forces in our inner lives. The material for the curriculum consists of stories from contemporary children's literature as well as from the

(Continued next page)

(R.E.CORNER)

Bible. Dorothy Spoerl, a long time U.U. religious educator, was on hand to share her extensive experience with us. I found in the conference a much-needed break from Madison, and the kind of warmth and support that comes from people who are doing the same kind of work. I came back recharged for R.E. What we do "downstairs" on Sunday morning is important, and it's important that we do it well. The best way for that to happen is for everyone to care, and to get involved in his or her own way. We need you--and you need us.

Holly Loring will be presenting a voice recital with fellow student Margaret Hadley on Sunday evening, May 18, 7:30 p.m., Madison Campus Ministry Chapel, 731 State St. They will be presenting solos and duets by Vivaldi, Mozart, Duparr, Offenbach, Massenet, and others. Accompanist is Sandra Stevens. All are invited to attend for the recital and the reception following.

President's Memo

PRAIRIE MEETING HOUSE DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

Rev. Max Gaebler of First Unitarian Society will be the guest speaker at our dedication service this Sunday, May 20. Our celebration will also include a look at Prairie's past through some of George Calden's movies, and special music.

This dedication service will formalize the commitments we have made as a group and as individuals to use our new home toward our common goals for the future.

As a thank-you to our friends at First Unitarian Society, they are invited to join us for an Open House and brunch to follow the service. We hope a good number will join us after their own service. This will be a good opportunity to meet new friends or renew old ones with our friends at First and show our new home to them.

For the brunch, please bring finger foods such as fruit compote, breads, crackers, cheese or devilled eggs. Be so good as to bring double for sharing with our guests. Paper plates and drinks will be provided.

THANKS!

- To Pat Watkins for the gift of the refrigerator for the kitchen.
- To Pat Cautley for a heroe's work in coordinating all of us to carry out the myr-

iad of work for the North Central District Council conference.

- To Orange and Dean Schroeder for the lively posters for the church school.
- To Mel, Al, Rod, and Dick for installing storm windows in April, and picture moldings.

CONGRATULATIONS, JAY & CAROLYN

We extend our congratulations and warmest wishes to Jay Cameron Smith and Carolyn Cameron Briggs who were married Saturday, April 26, at the First Unitarian Society.

The service, which was written by Jay and Carolyn and "ministered" by Gertrude Lindener, was simple and beautiful.

--Aileen Nettleton

1980-81 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual parish Meeting April 20, the entire slate of officers and committee heads presented by the committee on committees was elected:

- Aileen Nettleton, president
 - Warren Hagstrom, vice president
 - Sue Dapkin, secretary
 - Nina Mattarella, treasurer
 - Jack Jallings, program chair
 - Bob Nelson, housing and property
 - Megan Kroeger, hospitality
 - Linda Schaldach, Beryl Gordon, social action
 - Julie Bonser, finance
 - Shirley Lake, Joyce Crim, religious education
 - Doleta Chapru, long range planning
 - Terri Hauser, membership
 - Leland Bullen, publicity
 - Norma Briggs, committee on committees carryover
- The committee on committees recommended George Calden, Peg Stevenson, and John Grindrod as lay ministers, subject to confirmation by the old and new board at its May 14 meeting.

Discussion and action on a contract for installation of insulation in the meeting house is on the agenda for the May 14 meeting. A presentation of the work proposed was made at the parish meeting by Ted Clark.

Lost and Found--If anyone who went to Carolyn and Jay's wedding has a beige trench coat to big for her, please call Sue Herbst, 256-6652. Sue has one too small for her and would like hers back.

PRAIRIE LAWN SALE

The lawn sale, sponsored by the Social Action committee, is for the purpose of raising money for the committee's emergency fund and for the UU Service Committee. Our quota for the Service Committee is \$175.

In connection with the lawn sale, a bake sale will be held. The success of the sale is dependent upon the amount everyone is willing to contribute.

The sale will be held Saturday, May 17, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Items for sale should be brought to the Meeting House Friday, May 16.

NOTE OF THANKS

To all members and friends of Prairie UU Society:

It has been my fondest hope that Prairie Have a home of its own ever since we left Portal-Foster Center. When I was elected vice president a year ago, it was still only a dream. Since then, all of you have demonstrated beyond doubt that you shared in that dream and wanted to make it a reality. When I accepted the responsibility of Building Fund/Fund Raising chairman, we on the board thought that eight to ten thousand dollars was at best only a possi-

Then the pledges and gifts began to arrive, and in the end we had over twelve thousand dollars! Every single pledge was paid in full, and some gave more than they pledged. Fund raising ideas were offered and followed up, and money is still arriving on a few of them. I owe special thanks to Pat Watkins and Barb Steinau for the organization of the craft sale, to the R.E. committee and friends for the bake sale idea and the delicious baked goods, to Metje Butler for the Pro-Seeds suggestion, and to Roland Sarko for the firewood project (along with the many good people who cut and carried wood with us). I also owe thanks to many others for help and advice.

My time on the board has been imbued with an ever-growing feeling of wonder and joy at what we have accomplished. We had a dream...and we have a new home. Thank you all--you're wonderful!

--Richard Bonser

Next Prairie Fire Jay and Carolyn will be listing gifts and cards that had been separated from each other. We would like to thank each person properly, so let us know if your gift and card seem to be listed.

--Jay and Carolyn

LETTER FROM JAMAICA--excerpts--March 26, 1980

Rightly Jamaica is in a very desperate position which can be seen on every man, woman, and baby. The country is broke and starts a "lay-off" process now to cut back on spending cash. Families are being ruined now by unemployment and one half of the nation is jobless and have (sic) got to eat to stay alive. You ask what is short? Well EVERYTHING IS SHORT. Jamaica has just rejected the I.M.F. loan which keeps it alive and that means drastic lay off (NOW HAPPENING) and soon starvation. (Note: The International Monetary Fund rejected Jamaica because of its economic status.) The supermarket shelves are empty no rice, no flour, no cooking oil, no washing soap, no bread--nothing that one buys in the supermarket. We are being encouraged on the radio to grow things in our backyards, but while the grass is growing the horse is starving.

(Note: later in the letter RICE, COOKING OIL, SOAP, BREAD, MILK, SUGAR, & MATCHES are again mentioned as being unavailable. Ironically, people needing these items live near a sugar estate.)

The letter writer is in his late twenties and was once a member of the Kingston All-Star Soccer Team. He is working with a boys and girls sports club in Jamaica's interior and used his spare money to help people of the community. He is selfless, cares deeply for Jamaica and its people and is becoming extremely discouraged.

He and his community desperately need the above mentioned grocery items plus canvas shoes and light-weight clothing. They are grateful for anything durable regardless of how long it has been worn by someone else.

Those who wish to help please mail items directly to:

E. Ned Allen

Wakefield P.O.

Trelawney, Jamaica

Packages of less than six pounds can be mailed at a cheaper rate.

--Doleta Chapru

UUA'S AND THE DRAFT

(excerpts from a memo from Bob Alpern, UUA Washington Office)

According to President Jimmy Carter, a return to peacetime draft registration is needed to increase U.S. preparedness and to demonstrate "our resolve as a nation". Our capacity to mobilize, the President asserts, will help us maintain peace and prevent conflict in the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia. By having our young people fill out a regi-

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(UUA'S AND THE DRAFT)

stration form, we are being told, the Soviet Union will somehow be deterred.

Before a single American youth has to register for the draft, Congress will have to make a special appropriation of \$20.5 million dollars for the Selective Service System (S.S.S.) in 1980. Congress will also have to authorize, in separate legislation, the registration of women.

(The House has passed this appropriation)

According to House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, the House will overwhelmingly vote against granting the authority the President wants to register women. The feeling in the Senate, while not as sharply stated, is also believed to run against registration of women. However, if Congress appropriates funds for registration of men, but refuses to authorize registration of women, the ACLU is prepared to entertain a suit on behalf of the first man who registers and claims that he is being discriminated against. Such an action could bring the registration process to a temporary halt.

Around the country, students and parents have begun to organize to demonstrate their opposition to draft registration and the warlike measures undertaken by the Administration. This feeling is eloquently expressed by Senator Mark Hatfield (OR) who has been outspoken in his criticism of the Carter response to Afghanistan. After the State of the Union Address, Hatfield said

"If over two million men backed by the largest arsenal in the world is not a sufficient show of military might, the President should call up the over 1.3 million trained men in the reserves. If there still has to be a draft, let it begin with those over the age of 50. I am sick and tired of 18 year olds being coerced into bearing the burden of the failure of politicians to face the tough domestic choices needed to end our dependency on foreign oil. I refuse to make the price of this cowardice the lives of politically powerless young men."

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark estimates that 10% of the 18-26 year old group failed to register during the Viet Nam war period. It is likely that the same percentage would refuse to register if pre-mobilization registration becomes a reality.

But, if even as few as 2% of the 19-20 year group, which will be the first to register, refuses to do so, some 80,000 youth would then be subject to prison sentences and fines. Dealing with this new class of felons would split the country asunder, as happened during the Viet Nam war era.

This is an unrivalled time to rethink the U.S. responses to international conflict situations. Military responses in a nuclear armed world are bankrupt and threaten civilization. Needed are fresh alternatives that stress diplomacy, new ideas which recognize global interdependence and the need for non-violent solutions to conflict situations.

Before we crank up the draft system by early summer, let each of us expend new energies in moving away from the further militarization of our society.

Most members of Congress have received little citizen input on this issue. Since 1980 is an election year, they are very attentive to what their constituents are thinking and saying. Word from those they represent carries considerable clout.

NOTE: Send telegrams to Senators Proxmire and Nelson TODAY.

The 1979 UUA General Assembly called upon UUA members and societies to oppose renewal of draft registration and induction.

The next issue of Prairie Fire will be mailed Wednesday, May 14. Please bring items to the May 11 meeting.