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# Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the  
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VOLUME 18, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 25, 1981

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

10:00 a.m.--The Crisis in El Salvador. David Kaimowitz, speaker

12:00 noon--UU Singles potluck at First Society. Judy Spring will present her interest area, "Personal is Political: Feminist Paintings and Drawings."

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

10:00 a.m.--Families in the 1980's: Research and Theory. Dr. Pauline Boss, Associate Professor of Child and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin--Madison. This will be the kickoff for the series of programs coordinated by our new lay minister, Peg Stevenson.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

10:00 a.m.--Wisconsin and Federal Resources: In Support of Families? Bob Nelson. This will be a consideration of the impact of proposed budgets on families, especially the poor.

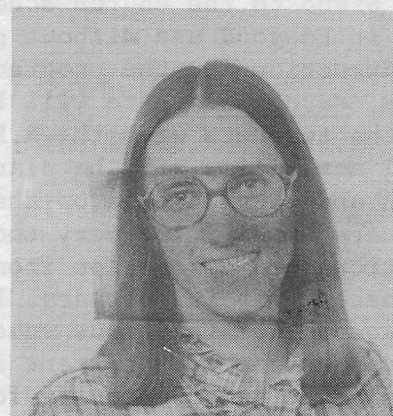
### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

7:30 p.m.--at Pat Cautley's home. For those who are interested in hearing Dr. Kegan's opening lecture at the Institute. He is a wonderful raconteur as well as having a very thought-provoking theory of development from infancy through adulthood.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 p.m.--Playreaders, home of the Drapkins, 1422 Chandler.

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### LAY MINISTER PEG STEVENSON

"I have a great appreciation for the variety and the strength of Prairie families, and of our larger Prairie family, and this will be the underlying theme of my lay ministry," says Peg Stevenson, who's planning eight services for March, April, and May. The family is most certainly the focus of Peg's busy professional and personal life.

Peg's special expertise is the parenting of small children. She does research on the development of normal babies at the Waisman Center, teaches a course on child development for 150 undergraduates, and supervises a graduate seminar in the School of Family resources and Consumer Science. At home, she supervises the development of David, 6, and Daniel, 3.

Peg is that rarity among us, one who grew up in a Unitarian fellowship. In fact, Peg's parents joined with three other families in Hanover, New Hampshire, to form that fellowship in order to provide a Sunday School for Peg. She was seven at the time. Another special tie to Unitarianism occurred later when,

(Continued on Page 2)

CALENDAR, continued

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

10:00 a.m.--Integration of Family and Work.  
Peg and Rod Stevenson. Consideration of the economics and logistics of working families: childcare, flexitime, part time employment, family business, etc.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

0:00 a.m.--The Ghost of Families Past and Your Family Today. Jim Kerr, Family Enhancement Project. This program will be an experiential consideration of feelings coming from your family of origin which are carried into your present family situation. We will come forward to consideration of wellness in your present family.

**R.E. Corner** Pat Cautley, Director

Many thanks to the Briggs family for the gift of the piano to the church school. We hope to put it to good use without providing too much distraction for the program upstairs.

On Sunday, March 15, there will be a meeting of all the teachers with the R.E. Committee. Special activities will be planned for the children and young people on that morning. I hope to share some of the very thought-provoking questions and discussion from the conclave held here early in February. It's focus was the philosophy of religious education--a monumental and extremely important subject. There will also be an opportunity for open discussion of our program; hopefully all kinds of good ideas will be forthcoming.

Did you notice the banner hanging in the main room downstairs? It was created by the group of young people in grades 3 through middle school, with the guidance of Pat Whyte-Lehman and Judy Spring. And one of the looms made by the younger group is hanging on the wall of the K through 2 room; it functions as a single harness loom as you raise and lower it.

I felt very fortunate to be able to attend the Meadville-Lombard Institute held here in Madison at Lowell Hall immediately following the R.E. Conclave, and to hear Dr. Robert G. Kegan, a Professor of Developmental Psychology at Harvard University. At the end he emphasized the real need we all have for a supportive community. During the week I heard so many good things about Prairie from those who had been at the Conclave; I just wished everyone could have experienced such positive feedback. The extra things that were done were much appreciated, along with the hospitality, such as Marty Drapkin's photographing a group for the UU World, and George Calden transporting several groups to the airport..

PEG STEVENSON, continued

while working at a Unitarian summer camp in Massachusetts, she met husband Rod.

After completing two years at Radcliffe, Peg moved with Rod to East Lansing where she got her undergraduate degree in psychology. The Stevensons next moved to Washington, D.C. where Peg began graduate study at George Washington University. Finally, they arrived in Madison five years ago and Peg completed her doctorate in developmental psychology in 1978.

Much of Peg's rare leisure time is spent on the farm near Baraboo which the Stevensons own jointly with Nina Mattarella and Mel Micke. She is a perennial student in a wood-working class and her most recent creation there is a magnificent wooden train.

Responding to a request for a reading list, Peg suggests the following (available in textbook department, University Book Store):

McCubbin and Boss (eds.) Family Stress, Coping and Adaptation; Family Relations, Oct. 1980, Vol. 29, No. 4; A. Napier (with C. Whitaker) The Family Crucible; Adams, The Family.

Peg's plans for her ministry include the scheduling of several evening discussion groups on topics related to the family. At least one evening will focus on the parenting of young children.

--Dorothy Lee

#### UU SERVICE COMMITTEE IN ACTION

In late January 1981 the UUSC took three members of Congress to Central America to confer with Salvadorian refugees. UUSC is also organizing a Counselling and referral center in the San Francisco area where there may be as many as 150,000 refugees from El Salvador.

#### RECENT ARTICLES ON EL SALVADOR

February 16 Capital Times, February Progressive, February 15 UU World.

#### UU SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Memberships shall consist of persons who have contributed not less than \$25.00 in the previous year (for voting purposes). Otherwise memberships are on a calendar year basis. Prairie members who wish to contribute or become members of UUSC please send your check to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 78 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 02108.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES SEEKING CANDIDATES;  
WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Committees is now busy putting together a slate of candidates for the spring parish meeting and is searching for lay ministers for next year. Members are encouraged to volunteer themselves or suggest others for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the chairpersons of the Finance, Housing, Long Range Planning, Program, Religious Education, and Social Action Committees. Contact any member of the Committee on Committees--Dick Bonser, Norma Briggs, Carol Dopp, Joan Hall, or Warren Hagstrom.

The choice of lay ministers influences the kinds of topics to be treated at Sunday services next year, and the choice of lay ministers will be influenced by the kind of topics members want. If you have ideas about themes you would like to have treated over a series of Sundays next year, tell them to members of the Committee on Committees or the Program Committee (Jack Jallings, chair), or drop a note to Warren Hagstrom (916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison 53705).

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The R.E. Committee and church school teachers wish to thank the Briggs family for their donation of a piano for our downstairs program.

We encourage all Prairie members who would like to teach or accompany our children's songs to contact Pat Cautley (238-5373). This would involve missing the first 15 minutes of an upstairs program and can be a one-Sunday commitment.

SPRING PARISH MEETING

The meeting will be held Sunday, April 12, at the Meeting House. Items for the Agenda must be known 30 days prior to the meeting--this means having them in the Newsletter whose deadline is March 8.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Terri Hauser and Tony Prudlo will be \*  
\* married at Prairie on Saturday, Feb. \*  
\* 28th at 4:00 p.m. A pot luck dinner \*  
\* will follow. Bring whatever you would \*  
\* like, dessert and punch furnished. No \*  
\* formal invitations will be sent. You \*  
\* are all welcome and we hope you will \*  
\* come and share our wedding with us. \*  
\* Terri and Tony \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

ARE YOU AN INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR?

"I'm not just a bum, I'm an independent scholar!" If you do serious intellectual or artistic work outside of university, government, or corporate control, come to the first Madison Community Scholars' Roundtable, Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., at Pres House, 731 State St. Discussion of how we can pool our strengths, overcome obstacles, and gain more support for our work will follow a brief talk by Vince Kavaloski on "The Socratic Amateur as independent Scholar." Bring your own bag supper. Coffee/tea provided. For more information or R.S.V.P. call Chris Wagner or John Ohliger at Basic Choices (256-1946).

POWER, POVERTY, POLITICS

Over 160 Madisonians participated early in February in the first of the three-part conference on "power, Poverty, and Politics." The second part, on Poverty, will take place 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7th at the new South Madison Neighborhood Center, 2001 Taft. New participants are welcome. The speaker will be Leona Sullivan of Groundwork for a Just World, Lansing, Mich., who was active in a mixed racial neighborhood during the Detroit riots.

Co-sponsors are Basic Choices, University of Wisconsin Extension, University of Wisconsin Sociology Department, and ten other groups. See or call John Ohliger (256-1946 or 251-8894) for more information.

LEARN TO WALTZ, POLKA, SCHOTTISCHE!

At the meeting house Saturday, Feb. 26, 7:30. Proceeds go to Prairie. (Wedding guests welcome to stay after the potluck). \$2.00 donation requested. We hope to plan a dance outing to McFarland or New Glarus.

THANK YOU JOHN

...for your fine lay ministry to us in the issues facing society in the area of medicine. From your own sharing, the visits of guest speakers, and discussion among ourselves, we have gained appreciation of the possibilities and complexities ahead of us.

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Sam Caldwell, son of Theron Caldwell Ris, was one of eight University students who received awards in the eighth annual Wisconsin Union Craft Exhibition at the Memorial Union. Sam's creation was "Violence Inherent" (Uneasy Chair, a chair of walnut and forged iron).