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Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Volume 18, Number 5, March 11, 1981

Betty & Jack Jallings
Rt 1
Oregon WI 53575

Calendar

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

7:30 p.m.--Board Meeting, home of Nina
Mattarella.

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 develop-
ment from infancy through adulthood.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

7:30 p.m.--R.E. Committee, home of Alice
Bullen.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

10:00 a.m.--The Ghost of Families Past and
Your Family Today. Jim Kerry. Family En-
hancement Project. This program will be
an experiential consideration of feelings
coming from your family of origin which
are carried into your present family sit-
uation. We will come forward to consider-
ation of wellness in your present family.

R.E. Corner

All the children in the K-2 and 3-5
classes are helping decorate a sturdy box
that we will use for our Sharing Circle, by
bringing a picture representing something
of special interest to them. This can be
one they draw, or found in a magazine, etc.
When we finish, our box will show a lot of
interesting individual interests. Remember
to bring them for Sunday, March 22.

I have just come across a statement by
Pablo Casals (in a packet of information sent
out by the UUA) and would like to share it
with you:

Each second we live is a new and unique
moment of the universe, a moment that never
was before and never will be again. And
what do we teach our children in school? We
teach them that two and two make four and
that Paris is the capital of France. When
will we also teach them what they are?

We should say to each of them, "Do you
know what you are? You are a marvel, you
are unique. In all the world there is no
other child exactly like you. In the
millions of years that have passed there
has never been another child like you. And
look at your body --- What a wonder it is!
Your legs, your arms, your cunning fingers,
the way you move! You may become a Shake-
speare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You
have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are
a marvel --- And when you grow up, can you
then harm another who is, like you, a marvel?"

You must cherish one another. You must
work --- We must all work --- to make this
world worthy of its children."

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE--MARCH 22

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
7:30 P.M SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Election of Officers
Ratification of Loan Note from
First Society

Send other business items to Aileen Nettleton
or other board members

NORTH CENTRAL AREA SPRING MEETING

Come to the North Central Area Council
spring meeting! Make a spring pilgrimage to
Green Bay, Wisconsin!

"When that Aprille with his shoures soots
The droughts of March hath perced to the
roots

....

Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages."

So Chaucer wrote about the desire to kick
up one's heels in April and travel. The sap
will be running. Why not join a Prairie cara-
van to Green Bay for the annual NCAC meetings
Last spring Prairie hosted this conference,
our first big hospitality event in our new
quarters.

This year the conference will be meeting
April 3, 4, 5 in the Geen Bay area. There
will be social events ~~sun~~ Friday night. Satur-
day will be filled with workshops, a business
meeting, a presentation on the two traditions
of Unitarianism and Universalism by Robert
Hoagland and Peter Scott and, of course, an
evening party. A worship service Sunday morn-
ing in Appleton will end the conference.

You may choose from a wide variety of
workshops:

On Saturday morning--

Humanism and the New Right, Dick Drinon
Extension and Growth, Lori Pederson
The Church and Body Movement, Carol Taylor
Problem Solving in Local Societies, Elise
Cade

On Saturday afternoon--

Lay-Led Worship services, Emil Gudmundson
Social Action: Where Is the Action? Bob
Swan

Coming to Terms With the Bible, Peter Scott
Religious Education in Small Societies,
Laurie Horton

Home hospitality for overnight accommoda-
tions is available. Call Ruth Cadden, 233-5717
for further details about the conference and
for car pooling ideas.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
From President Aileen Nettleton

On Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. (after
the morning service), there will be a congre-
gational meeting. A parish poll of Prairie
members will be taken to help determine the
agenda for the General Assembly meeting in
Philadelphia, June 12-18, 1981. If the major-
ity of Prairie members think a particular res-
olution should be considered at the General
Assembly an X will go in the Yes box; if no,
an X will go in the No box, or if our congre-
gation abstains, an X will go in the Abstain
box. Our vote, along with those from other
congregations across the country, will deter-
mine which resolutions make the agenda.

Important! There will not be time at the
congregational meeting to describe the details
of each resolution. For the details please
look in your March 1 copy of UU World for the
insert TENTATIVE AGENDA. These pages describe
the nature of each resolution. Please read
these pages carefully before voting on March
22. Bring your copy of the tentative agenda
with you. Here's a chance to make our wishes
known on a national level.

FROM UUA TO PRO-SEEDS

A special contribution of \$50 has been
made to our Pro-Seeds fund by the UUA "in ap-
preciation for the hard work, warm spirit,
and gracious hospitality extended to us," as
Betty Anastos expressed it in her letter.
She also mentions that the photograph Marty
Drapkin took of the leaders of the R.E. Con-
clave will probably be in the March 15 issue
of the UU World.

We earned \$234 for the building fund
through all the work time contributed by mem-
bers of Prairie.

TO PRESERVE RECORD OF PRAIRIE CEREMONIES

The Board has designated the vice presi-
dent as custodian of materials on ceremonies.
We wish to have as complete as possible a
record of ceremonies at dedications, weddings,
funerals and memorial services, and the chal-
ice presentations. If you have records of
such ceremonies, please give them to Warren
Hagstrom. (He'll make a copy for you if you
like.) In addition it has been suggested that
some may wish to have separations and di-
vorces marked by a ceremony at Prairie. If
you are interested in coordinating such an
event or having one to mark your own such
event, contact Warren.

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

On Sunday evenings in April, a group will meet weekly to consider "building your own theology." The title is from a UU adult education booklet which will be used as the basic text for the group.

Together members will explore and share their religious values; determine what life experiences, what models, and what writers have shaped their thinking and behavior, and become aware of what values from their past each has kept or discarded. Exercises, readings, discussion, and reflection will be used to help each develop a personal "credo". The first meeting will be held Sunday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Caldens, 4606 Waukesha St. If you are interested in being part of this group, call Ruth Calden, 233-5717, or Dorothy Lee, 255-7526.

Enrichment reading (other titles available by calling Ruth or Dorothy:

- Frankl, Viktor Man's Search for Meaning
- Eisley, Loren The Immense Journey
- McLendon, James William, Jr. Biography as Theology
- Keen, Sam and Fox, Anne Valley Telling Your Story

A PRAIRIE COOK BOOK

Prairie is planning--at long last--to put together a cook book. Hopefully all those wonderful dishes we have experienced in circle dinners will find their way into it.

We are planning to bind it in such a way that after the initial purchase through Pro-Seeds to Prairie, additional pages may be added over the years.

Avis Parrish has agreed to coordinate the collection of recipes. They may be mailed to her or placed in a labeled basket at the rear of the meeting room. Metje Butler will coordinate art work to illustrate the recipes. Prairie artists will be asked to contribute the illustrations.

Peg Stevenson will coordinate a discussion group for parents with young children at Prairie. Prairie non-parents are requested to volunteer to babysit for the children in their homes.

Boyce Totz, in preparation for moving to Mineral Point, has landscapes, still lifes, and a few abstractions, done in acrylics and water colors, on sale at half price. Call for an appointment, 255-8647.

FROM THE CLIPBOARDS

BUILDING CLEANUP

- Mar. 15--Rachel Siegfried, Gail Osler
- Mar. 22--Shirley & Jim Lake
- Mar. 29--?????
- Apr. 5--Joan Hall, Rita Refner

SNOW SHOVELING

- Mar. 15--Rod Stevenson, Mel Micke
- Mar. 22--Les Lyons, Norma Briggs

COFFEE MAKING

- Mar. 15--Judy Spring
- Mar. 22--Alice Bullen
- Mar. 29--Ruth Calden

KITCHEN CLEANUP

- Mar. 15--Cathy Cole, Dave Zachem
- Mar. 22--Judy Spring, Dave Zachem
- Mar. 29--Aileen Nettleton, ???

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: EL SALVADOR

On Page Four appears a statement drawn up by the Social Action committee protesting the government's involvement in the bloodshed in El Salvador. The statement was signed by 45 members and friends of Prairie during the March 8 service.

Lee Bullen printed this week 5000 leaflets announcing a protest meeting sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity With People of El Salvador. The meeting will be held March 26 at the U.W. stock pavilion.

TAX WORKSHOP

Mike Briggs will call those interested in the tax workshop to set up time and place. If other people are interested, contact Mike before Sunday evening (workshop will be some time next week).

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Rick Ruecking and Sven Midelfort, who signed our membership book on March 1.

LAST CHANCE!

The final polka, waltz, schottische dance session will be held Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. at the meeting house.

The Committee on Committees is still seeking suggestions for nominations to the Board and is especially interested in volunteers for and suggestions of potential lay ministers. If you have ideas, pass them on to Dick Bonser, Norma Briggs, Carol Dopp, Warren Hagstrom, or Joan Hall.

A STATEMENT ON EL SALVADOR

We, members and supporters of the Social Action Committee of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, Wisconsin, are outraged that our Government has been, and still is, sending military and financial help to the ruling junta of El Salvador.

Statements by former Ambassador Robert White and the recent report of the Congressional investigating group confirm that the United States Government has issued misleading information on the situation in El Salvador. The truth is that combat forces controlled primarily by the junta have been waging a relentless campaign of torture, murder and mutilation against landless farmers, religious and professional leaders, academics, journalists, labor organizers and other supporters of moderate reform. Documented atrocities include the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the rape, torture and murder of American missionary women, the massacre of eight hundred impoverished refugees encamped near the Honduran border and the extermination of many thousands of other civilians. Our own Government has contributed to these crimes by supplying the junta with money and combat equipment and by training so-called counterinsurgency forces.

There are frightening parallels between the activity of the United States in El Salvador today and in South Vietnam in the early nineteen-sixties, particularly the presence of armed "advisers" and "technicians." We are dismayed by the prospect that such military intervention will lead to a large-scale war, this time in Central America, of the kind that ravaged southeast Asia.

The conflict in El Salvador must be resolved peacefully and as soon as possible. We therefore applaud Representative Robert Kastenmeier and other Members of Congress who oppose military aid for El Salvador, and we strongly endorse House Bill HR 1509, which would prohibit military assistance, sales, and credits to the junta. For the sake of world peace we need to help all people attain freedom and improve the quality of their lives. A first, decent step will be to ease the suffering of the Salvadoran people by refusing to support the regime that rules them by terror and violence.

It is imperative that all nations, including the United States, halt the flow of arms to El Salvador and cooperate in promoting political reconciliation, social and economic justice, and democratic freedom. We urge the United States Government to set an example by sponsoring negotiation between leaders of the junta and the Democratic Revolutionary Front in a place where they will be safe from assassination. We hope this process will, in time, lead to free elections and self-determination for Salvadorans.

Leslie Lyons
Chair, Social Action Committee