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Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
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Volume 18, No. 10, May 20, 1981

Calendar

Friday, May 22 - Monday, May 25

Canoeing on the Kickapoo

NO SERVICE OR R.E. SUNDAY, MAY 24

Saturday, May 30

7:30 p.m.—Playreaders, home of Rosemary Dorney, 4205 Odana Rd. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, May 31

10:00 a.m.—“If I Should Die Before I Wake.” Fran Remeika, John Grindrod, Dorothy Lee

Sunday, June 7

10:00 a.m.—Family Service, Celebration together and pot-luck. Pat Cautley and Aileen Nettleton

Sunday, June 14

10:00 a.m.—“The Moonie Experience” Jo Vukelich

Sunday, June 21

10:00 a.m.—Hopi Summer Solstice Celebration. Rachel Siegfried

Sunday, June 28

Noon—Pot-luck picnic with Sauk City Congregation

Kickapoo Kanoe Trip This Weekend

We will NOT be staying at Wildcat Mountain. The camp was full. We will go to BRUSH CREEK Camp (See map) The fee there is \$3.00 per person for the weekend. The trip will begin on Friday night and come home on Monday afternoon, the 25th. You must make your own canoe arrangements, since the local rental stands are likely to be sold out early.

—Dick Bonser

R.E. Corner

As we near the end of the church school year, the teachers deserve special recognition: Helen and Marian Briggs, pre-school; Megan Kroeger and Bob Park, K-2; David Lisman, with assistance by Shirley Lake and Judy Spring, 3-5; Gerald Beroldi, Glenn Chambliss, and Shirley Grindrod, Middle School.

Last Sunday many of the children, even some of the pre-schoolers, joined the others to design sections of the quilt made by the Prairie family. It was an exciting experience for all.

The K-2 group had a wonderful overnight two weeks ago at the home of Barbara Steinau and Bob Park. To top it off, the group visited the Environmental Center at Poynette before coming to Prairie.

—Pat Cautley

Bullens Delegates to UU Assembly

Alice and Lee Bullen will be the two official delegates representing Prairie at the UU General Assembly meeting this year in Philadelphia, June 12-18. On this trip Alice and Lee will be able to stop off and visit two of their three sons . . . as well as attend the General Assembly meetings. Also, the trip to Philadelphia will be a first for the Bullens as joint retirees: Alice retires in June as a school librarian. We will be anxious to talk with them about their experiences on their return.

—Ruth Calden

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The Social Action committee will be initiating letter-writing sessions occasionally at crucial decision points. You can help by donating odds and ends of stationery, note paper, and envelopes so that there will be a good supply on hand when the need for communications with key people arises.

Welcome to a New Member

Don Fago wrote his name in the membership book last Sunday, May 17. We're glad to have you with us in the Prairie family, Don.

A Note from Lilo Koehl

Having been one of the "founding mothers," I hope someone will stitch one of my fabrics in for me . . . Greetings and love to those who remember me and those of you I only know by name.

Best, Lilo Koehl

For Women Newly Alone

Do you know a woman who is newly alone? Judy Spring and Dorothy Lee are launching a new enterprise which will begin with a survival skills workshop for newly separated, divorced, or widowed women. They are drawing on a variety of professional resources and on a range of work experience covering legal and financial issues, counseling, and employability skills training as well as their own experience with singlehood. The series will begin on Sunday afternoon, May 31. A fee will be charged. Please call Dorothy at 255-7526 for more information.

Couple Enrichment Session

The Adult Programs Committee of First Society has done the groundwork for a possible couple enrichment weekend to be held at the St. Benedict Center in Madison in November. Couple enrichment is based on the notion that in every couple relationship there is a potential for growth and revitalization. The committee has the promise of a skilled leadership team (couple) who are well trained to facilitate such a weekend. It will take place in the beautiful surroundings of the St. Benedict Center. This will be an opportunity to devote Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, November 13-15, to yourselves, a couple who realize that time spent in nourishing a relationship is time spent working toward a more satisfying life. The weekend will not be a therapy session. The degree of involvement is under your control. You can pass or participate at any point. Confidentiality is a ground rule.

Here are flyers concerning the program at Prairie.

A registration blank included must be returned to First Society by Friday, May 29.

Letter from Holly

Prairie Fire—East, May 10

Dear Prairie Friends:

Greetings to you all! Life in Madison sounds varied and busy judging from Prairie First gratefully received here in the east.

I hope closer affiliation with denominational affairs such as the R.E. Conclave has been as enjoyable to you as it seems to have been for the people from 25 Beacon Street. On my first Sunday at Arlington Street Church I ran into Eugene Navias, freshly returned from Wisconsin and he

was full of warm praise for Prairie hospitality. I couldn't have agreed with him more, and was delighted to have his personal report and messages from some of you. He lifted my spirits considerably that day.

Apparently the Scottish dance grapevine has been functioning also, thanks to Mike and Norma Briggs and mutual acquaintances. The Royal (if you please) Scottish Country Dance Society has quite a network, throughout the United States and around the world. I have been dancing twice a week, and recently attended the annual Boston branch ball at the Copley Plaza Hotel. A somewhat swishy affair (all those kilts, needless to say, but good exercise and great fun. My dancing comrades are pleasant people, many of whom share my interest in folk music, and some, in Unitarianism-Universalism. They form one of my important communities at the moment.

I am still without permanent employment, and that is a sore spot in my existence. In late January I was offered a job with Headstart as a home visitor, a job which, in hindsight, I wish I had accepted. But I turned it down because I felt I hadn't fully explored my options. In researching my options, I have taken a leisurely approach, which has not proved particularly satisfactory. I keep diverting my attention: singing, dancing, volunteering at a battered women's shelter, organizing groundwork for a women's music benefit in September. All these are positive activities for me, ones that use my skills, but non-paid for the most part. So the search goes on, and any moral support would be appreciated.

After a rotten two-week bronchial cold with laryngitis (did you get that variety in Madison?). I have gotten back to singing—at church, in various schools, and even a shopping mall once or twice. I am trying to get listed as a performer with the UUA's Religious Arts Guild, so I'll be asking for a recommendation from Prairie. I heard Dave Mallett sing his own "Garden Song" the other night and thought of you all. The Danvers congregation sang it with me back in April, but it just wasn't the same. I've found a competent voice teacher and look forward to preparing audition repertoire for this fall. The only problem is deciding which of the myriad groups to try out for.

I haven't settled into one church yet, but hang out at Arlington Street Church when I'm in Boston (quite often since I'm living with my aunt). Although the sanctuary is overwhelming at first—the congregation hardly does justice to the amount of space it offers—I believe one can get used to it and even feel a sense of connection with all those other heads popping up out of the box pews. The coffee hour is loud and friendly, and I find myself relatively at home.

Hannah, my trusty chariot, has had a few difficulties—a new alternator, voltage regulator, battery, and water pump, after she dropped dead on Storrow Drive in the middle of rush hour. Also had three side windows shattered by vandals out behind our building one fine Saturday night. The vandals came through again, not six weeks after the first time, but fortunately I had parked elsewhere. Generally I try to keep the car in Manchester most of the week where it's accessible by train.

(Sorry, Holly, we'll have to finish this next week)