



Prairie Fire

Newsletter of

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Volume 19, Number 3, February 9, 1982

CALENDAR

Saturday, February 13

7:00p.m.--Valentine decorating and dancing--
Bring refreshments and danceable
records. (No instruction)

Sunday, February 14

10:00a.m.--"A Cosmic Valentine"--Family
service.

11:30a.m.--Potluck--share foods you love!

Saturday, February 20

8:00p.m.--The Playreaders at Jack and Mona
Birong's, 599 Glen Dr., tel.233-
5995.The play: Williams' Street-
Car Named Desire or Dracula.

Sunday, February 21

10:00a.m.--Kay Clarenbach, Professor of
Women's Studies at U.W.: E.R.A./Or

10:00a.m.--Religious Education classes.

7:00p.m.--Kickapoo Cloggers (see story)

Sunday, February 28

10:00a.m.--Mike Briggs, Attorney and Hearing
Examiner: Legal Protections in the
Bill of Rights.

Saturday, February 27

6:00p.m.--Chili supper

Coming soon--A meeting of Prairie out-
door-types to plan one or more spring or
summer weekend outings. If you have a
favorite stream or activity, get information
about camping, rental options etc. in ad-
vance.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 21

R.E. CORNER

We are still talking about "older people" in the Sharing Circle, and today heard Annie and the Old One, the story of an Indian girl who misbehaved in order to distract her mother from completing weaving a rug, as her grandmother had said she would "go to Mother Earth" when the rug was finished. But finally the old woman convinced her granddaughter that time cannot be held back.

I shared the lovely "thank-you" notes we received from Oakwood and from Avis Parrish, whom we visited in her apartment. She reported that she had had to move the little tree with the origami cranes into her glass cabinet because her cat could not leave the birds alone!

Our second semester classes are well started and again we are very indebted to the individuals who are willing to spend time with the children. The K through 2nd-grade group are learning the story of a wise, courageous and capable woman, Sacagawea, who guided the Lewis and Clark explorers across the Rockies to the Pacific. They have made some striking murals for the wall of their classroom, and today made Indian headresses and papoose carriers. Cathy Cole and Linda Nelson are currently teaching this group, Beryl Gordon is returning and Fran Small is also helping. Do stop in to see the murals the children have made.

The 3rd through 5th graders last week heard the story of Genesis and today learned about Prometheus and Pandora--as Al says, they have heard how the troubles of the world have been blamed on women! We trust this will not be a lasting impression. The

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R.E. CORNER (from Page One)

class began painting a mural showing the beginning of the earth.

Today was to be the beginning of introducing the children to the adults, starting with the pre-schoolers, but they had made popcorn and couldn't be persuaded to leave it to go upstairs in time. I wish you could have seen their reaction of laughter and pure joy over seeing the kernels pop!

Pat Cautley

WANTED FOR FEBRUARY 13

For the valentine decorating party on Saturday, February 13, here is a list of suggestions of needed items: red and white crepe paper, scraps of lace, red or white rick rack, paper doilies, red or white ribbon, and other pieces of miscellaneous items. Bring your donations Saturday evening or call Dorothy Lee if you have things that can be used but you do not plan to come.

AN EVENING OF CLOGGING AT PRAIRIE

A reminder that on February 27 there will be an evening of clogging at Prairie. Clogging is a very old American dance form that has roots in, among others, slave dances and Irish jigs. It has been likened to a combination of simple tap dancing and square dancing. It is also called Appalachian folk dancing.

Before the dancing, at 6:00 p.m., Chuck Vetzner, Gail Ostler, Linda Nelson, and Susie Drapkin will be serving their favorite chili recipes. Admission for the dinner and dancing will be \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. Y'all come for a down home, foot-stompin' evening.

NOMURAS SEND GREETINGS

When Veda Nomura recently sent in some recipes for the Cookbook, she included a note. Veda was the Religious Education Director for Prairie several years ago, as well as being an occupational therapist for the public schools while David finished up his PhD in computer science. Soon after the birth of Emi (Japanese spelling for Amy) in June, 1980, they moved to Portland, Oregon (12235 SW Douglas, zip 97225) where they are both working full time.

Veda writes that Emi is "running all over and into everything"--fun to play with. They joined a fellowship there, and are busy putting on an addition their house. She reports that they enjoy the west coast even though they miss all their friends here. They say hi to everyone.

We are sorry to know that two Prairie members have lost their mothers within the past two weeks.

Bertha Calden, mother of George Calden, died January 26 in Brooklyn, N.Y. after a long illness.

Bob Nelson's mother died February 3. She had also been ill for a long time. She had lived in the Green Bay area.

YOUR OPINION IS REQUESTED

Our Festival of Lights/Winter Solstice/Christmas/Hanukkah Celebration in retrospect: The program committee wants your opinion in order to assist next year's committee. Do you prefer having that service at the regular time on the Sunday before Christmas, as we did this year? Or would you rather that in the future that it be a candlelight service held in the early evening, followed by a potluck supper? Or should that special service be on Christmas Eve? If you care one way or the other, please let Dorothy Lee know about your preference.

SINGLES

For those singles who are interested in having a get-together occasionally on Sundays, we are planning to meet once a month, the third Sunday of the month. We will meet here at Prairie (singles from First Society are welcome to join us) and have a potluck lunch or go to the nearby Pizza Hut (or some other restaurant) for lunch. Sunday, February 21, we will go to the Pizza Hut.

Jean Quay and Norma Martin are coordinating this effort to maintain a singles group at Prairie Society.

BOARD ADOPTS SMOKING POLICY

At its January 12 meeting Prairie's Board of Directors adopted a revised smoking policy. After some discussion of past deliberations, Bob Nelson made a motion that we not adopt a hard and fast rule but that our policy be that 1) both non-smokers and smokers try to be considerate, 2) smokers smoke in the front hall area when possible, and 3) smokers try to avoid the downstairs rooms because of the poor air circulation.

Please save extra plastic containers from the grocery for the kitchen at Prairie --a help for sharing left overs.

Feb. 9, 1982

SOCIAL ACTION ALERT ON EL SALVADOR

A recent letter from Rep. Les Aspin, in response to our concern last year about military aid to El Salvador says, in part:

"Although Congress approved the aid, conditions designed to help win a negotiated settlement and protect human rights in El Salvador were included in the 1982 Foreign Aid Authorization bill (S. 1196) which was signed by the President December 29, 1981.

As you may know, the administration requested \$26 million in military aid to El Salvador for fiscal 1982 and both the Senate and the House approved this amount. However, the aid is subject to certain conditions being met by the ruling junta...and certified by the president.

The conditions the junta must meet are:

--substantial control over its armed forces, and

--good faith efforts to begin discussions with all major factions in El Salvador who have shown themselves to be willing to find an 'equitable political solution'--the solution to include a renunciation of military and paramilitary operations.

In providing military aid or arms sales, the President also would have to certify to Congress that El Salvador was making a concerted, significant effort to assure internationally recognized human rights, within 30 days of enactment of the bill and every 180 days thereafter. If he is unable to make the certification, he would have to suspend all U.S. aid and arms shipments, and withdraw all U.S. military advisors from the country.

In addition, the President is required to ensure that the El Salvadoran government has made good faith efforts to investigate the murders of six U.S. citizens in December, 1980, and January, 1981.

Finally, the bill includes lengthy resolutions calling on the government of El Salvador to reform its human rights practices, to seek control of its own armed forces and to continue economic and political reforms. The bill states that economic assistance to El Salvador should emphasize revitalizing its private sector. It also urges the President to set aside a portion of El Salvador's economic aid to provide guarantees to private U.S. banks willing to make loans to private Salvadoran business."

Incredibly, hard on the heels of reports of large-scale killings of civilians by government forces, President Reagan certified on January 28 that the El Salvador government has made an effort to respect human

rights and is in substantial control of its security forces. The Administration is now seeking congressional approval for a massive increase in military aid to the junta--aid that will surely serve to prolong the oppression of the people of El Salvador.

A letter of protest from YOU to the President will help. Write to him at: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N., Washington D.C. 20500. If you can write also to other administration officials or members of Congress, I have a list of addresses supplied by the UUA Washington Office.

Les Lyons

AGENDA FOR A PROPHETIC FAITH

An ad hoc committee has been meeting to consider ways to respond to the "new religious and political right." Early in our considerations, we decided on a non-defensive, non-responsive approach. Rather, we thought that it would be best if we spoke affirmatively for the values of prophetic religion, providing an alternative way for the community at large to think about major questions of religious, political and social issues--and the values that undergird them. In short, we think we have something to say to our fellow Madisonians, a different way of approaching religious concerns from Jerry Falwell and his ilk, and we decided to say it --publicly and loudly and proudly.

Who are we? We are simply religiously-committed citizens who got together and thought and finally decided on action. The ad hoc committee is: Rev. Wells Grogan, Rev. Vern Forsberg, Rabbi Kenneth Roseman, Rev. Steven Bremer, Rev. A.C. Schumacher and Rev. Lee Morehead. Also, Gary Aamodt, Avram Weiss, Marjorie Tobias, Midge Miller, J. Mark Thomas, Rev Vern Visick and James Wright.

The first step we are going to take is to sponsor a lecture series (with appropriate opportunities for discussion) which will be open to the community and address major theological and social issues. We call this series AGENDA FOR A PROPHETIC FAITH. The first speaker will be:

February 21 Dr. John Killinger, Presbyterian minister, Lynchburg Virginia.

All sessions will be held in local religious buildings from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

General topics will include: faith, peace, family life, poverty, and the political process.