



# Prairie Fire

Newsletter of

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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Volume 19, Number 4, February 23, 1982

## CALENDAR

Saturday, February 27

6:00 p.m.--Chili Supper, at Prairie

7:00 p.m.-- Clogging, led by Kickapoo  
Cloggers

Sunday, February 28

10:00 a.m.--"The Rights of the Accused,"  
Mike Briggs

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

Sunday, March 7

10:00 a.m.--"Threats to the Bill of Rights  
Prof. Joel Grossman, Political Science  
Department, specialist in International  
Law.

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

7:30 p.m.--"Conscience & Taxes!" Discussion  
at Pat Cautley's, 4805 Regent St.

Tuesday, March 9

7:30 p.m.--Prairie Board meeting at Nina  
Mattarella's, 636 Sheldon St.

Wednesday, March 10

7:00 p.m.--Program Committee at Dorothy Lee's  
5209 Tolman Terrace

Sunday, March 14

10:00 a.m.--"El Salvador: What We Can Do"  
Judy Strasma

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

Saturday, March 20

7:30 p.m.--Playreaders, at Crims' 432 N. Few.

Sunday, March 21

10:00 a.m.--"Rites of Spring" Dave Zakem

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

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## R.E. CORNER

We had a lively group last Sunday, first singing with Carolyn Briggs about "The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly".

The fragrance first of smoke and then of delicious cookies resulted from the Middle Schoolers' activities in the kitchen with an oven that behaves differently from most in pre-heating. The 3rd and 4th graders talked about family trees and began making their own after hearing some of the myths. Al Nettleton and Carol Dopp are teaching this group.

The K - 2 group continued learning more about Indian customs and Sacajawea's skills with Beryl Gordon and Fran Small. Linda Nelson and Cathy Cole are also teaching this class.

As spring approaches we all look forward to getting outdoors more often!

--Pat Cautley

Sunday, March 28

10:00 a.m.--Beginning of Barbara Park's  
ministry.

10:00 a.m. Religious Education classes

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The program Sunday, April 4th will deal with the music and life of Peter Ilyitch Tchaikowsky. We want as much as possible of the music to be performed by members. If you wish to perform or wish to find others to perform with, call Warren Hagstrom (238-4970). Warren or Susan can give you some suggestions of particular pieces to play. In addition to the symphonies and operas, there are many songs, solo piano works, works arranged for recorder consort, etc.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE MARCH 7



#### FOLLOW-UP ON PRESIDENTIAL VALENTINE

Our Ambassador to the White House, Bob Nelson, reports that our giant Valentine, covered with messages about some of the many "loves" of Prairie people, was delivered on Thursday, February 18. Here are the letter and picture that accompanied it:

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Dear Mr. President:

We are a small religious community which shares a commitment to peace on earth. During the past year the adults among us have become particularly troubled by the growing threat of nuclear war. We are unanimous in our feeling that preserving the natural world for our children and grand-children is our highest priority.

We have been especially concerned about how best to share our awareness and commitment with the children of our congregation. Our Valentine's Day Celebration, with a happy focus on the many objects of our love, seemed an appropriate time. We are sending to you the 4' X 5' valentine on which we each pinned messages about our special "loves". We have each pinned particular people, places, experiences, and ideas that give us joy.

Mr. President, we want you to know how very precious to each of us is this world we live in. We do not believe there is any threat to us that has ever in fact existed or which may now exist that would justify risking all this through our country's use of nuclear warfare.

Please, Mr President, begin to give us adults some hope that our children and all children will be able to enjoy the possibilities of our precious planet. Give us children confidence about growing up in a peaceful world.

Shalom,  
The People of Prairie Unitarian-Universalist  
Society

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Dave Zakem will take orders for the Valentine picture included with this issue of Prairie Fire.

#### PLAYREADERS MARCH MEETING

Meeting at the Crims', 432 N. Few St., March 20, at 7:30, the Playreaders will read either "Philadelphia Here I Come" or "Lovers" by Brian Friel. Wear green and come!

#### SPRING PARISH MEETING

The Board has set April 25 as the date for the spring parish meeting. Anyone who would like to put something on the agenda should contact Betty Jallings within the next month.

## MEADVILLE/LOMBARD INSTITUTE

The two sessions I attended were truly excellent, and I hope many Prairie members can hear them when the tape recordings of the four main programs arrive.

Howard Kischenbaum, now the executive of the National Coalition for Democracy in Education, gave a chilling description of the threats to public education and the effect of tuition tax credits to parents of children in private schools (removing 7 to 9 billion dollards from the U.S. Treasury if the current legislation is passed). For action he urged 1) having a dialog whenever possible with individuals on the "other side" (having found they are often grossly misinformed), and 2) actively communicating in every way we can what "secular humanism really stands for.

It was a great treat so see quite a few of the friends from last year's R.E. Conference. They sent greetings to Prairie as a whole and to a number of individuals with whom they had stayed.. It was heart-warming to see so many kindred spirits from all over the country!

--Pat Cautley

## "CONSCIENCE AND TAXES"

Sunday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. at Pat Cautley's there will be a discussion of tax resistance with members of the Dane County Conscience and Military Tax Resistance Campaign.

Are your taxes used for purposes that violate your personal principles? If so, what can you do about it? On March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Regent St. several members of the Dane County Conscience and Military Tax Resistance Campaign will help us explore the use of tax refusal to protest the military budget and the nuke arms race. We have a selection of tax resistance literature at Prairie, but not enough copies for everyone, so if you borrow something, please return it in time for the program.

## UPCOMING CEREMONY OF DEDICATION

Please contact Dorothy Lee if you'd like to have your child be part of an upcoming dedication ceremony this spring. It's a simple service in which we specially welcome little ones into our community and give parents the chance to express their highest hopes for these young lives.

## SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

The Wisconsin nuclear arms moratorium resolution (AR 18) was passed by the Assembly by a wide margin several weeks ago and is now before the Senate as SR 21. A public hearing is scheduled for March 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 321 NE of the State Capitol. Make a note to attend and register your view, and don't forget that the skyblue ribbon you are wearing expresses support for SR 21 as well as for disarmament.

Nuclear explosions are not rare events! According to the Task Force for the Nuclear Test Ban, from 1945 to the end of 1981 there were 1309 known or announced nuclear explosions: 697 by the United States, 454 by the Soviet Union, 97 by France, 34 by Great Britain, 26 by China, and one by India. That's an average of one nuclear explosion every 10 days for all of the past 36 years, and well over half of them have been since the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963. Understandably, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki, considers that the two underground explosions in Nevada on February 13 were a severe blow to Hiroshima citizens who earnestly hope for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Don Gilbert is the Miami Unitarian-Universalist who conceived, inspired, and financed the Caravan for Human Survival, which came through Madison last October en route to the United Nations. The following poem by Don appeared recently in the one-and-only issue of "Caravan Times".

This is OUR World

It is a beautiful world.  
It is a bountiful world.  
It is a wonderful world.

It is a fragile world.  
It is an **EXPLOSIVE** world.

Handle it carefully.  
Handle it with Tolerance.  
Handle it with Friendship.

Handle it with Courage.  
Handle it with Justice.  
**HANDLE IT WITH LAWS!**

This is the only world we've got.  
**IT MUST NOT BE DESTROYED!!**

Les Lyons

THE PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS (and friends) will perform its special version of Inherit the Wind at the North Central Annual Spring Area Counsel Meeting at First Society at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2nd. A practice session will be held at First Society at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 27th. If you were a member of the cast and cannot attend the practice or the performance, please call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 or 262-7960 so we can either change the practice date or arrange a substitute for your role.

#### ALEJANDRO TECUMSEH BAYLEY MEMORIAL

On February 13 a memorial service was conducted at Prairie for the baby son of John Bayley and Eva Jackson who was born and died on February 8. John and Eva had contacted Prairie after their son's death because of their desire for a humanistic service in which their family and friends with a variety of religious orientations, could all take part.

John's father is a Presbyterian minister. His parents sent us the following note:

February 18, 1982

Dear Friends in the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society,

How grateful we are to you for all the love and support you gave and continue to give to Eva Jackson and John Bayley during our period of grief.

Your loving concern expressed in home visits, phone calls, leadership of the Memorial Service and implementation of the potluck meal which followed are very much appreciated by all of us.

Especially do we remember the devotion and long hours volunteered by Dorothy, Shirley (Grindrod), Fran and a gentleman (Dave Zakem) who worked so hard bringing in beautiful rugs and carrying tables from one floor to another and back again. Eva and John were very, very comforted by being able to talk with friends following the service.

We could in no way repay you for all of the love which encircled us that day but we would like to make this small contribution to your work of ministering to those in need.

Your new friends,

Ray and Hazel Bayley

#### HEALTH CARE & THE ELDERLY

Deborah Kennedy, of the Center for Public Representation, will speak following the general meeting of the Gray Panthers of Madison on Health Care and the Elderly, Monday, March 1. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 2002 Monroe St. All are welcome. For further information, call 257-3072 or 233-0664

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

At its February 9 meeting, the Board approved a resolution to publish the highlights of each meeting in the following Prairie Fire so that others are aware of our deliberations and decisions. Accordingly, here are the highlights of the February 9 meeting:

The Board approved the expenditure of about \$200 for two seven-day programmable thermostats.

We discussed the need to accept and respect diversity of viewpoints among our own members, and to be careful that the vehement expression of majority opinion not discourage others from voicing differing opinions.

The UUA requests \$10 per member as our fair share of the annual program fund. At last fall's parish meeting we allocated \$6.10 per member. But the Veatch Foundation will match contributions given through Prairie, so if anyone would like to give apart from the budgeted amount, the contribution will be matched and count as increasing Prairie's contribution.

If anyone has a good picture of Prairie's building, please see Marty Drapkin.

Report submitted by Joan Hall, Secretary.

Special thanks to all the people who made that Family Valentines' Day a success: Dodie Chapru, Norma Martin, Nadine, Peter and Shirley Czaschke, Bob West, John Ohliger, John and Shirley Grindrod, David Lake, Mike Briggs, and most especially Rachel Siegfried who had the inspiration for and made the Valentine itself.

Dorothy Lee