



Prairie Fire

Newsletter of

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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Volume 20, Number 24, November 16, 1982

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 21

- 10:00 a.m. --COMING APART: DIVORCES AND OTHER PAINFUL SEPARATIONS by Dorothy Weatherby
- 10:00 a.m. --Religious Education classes
Child care available
- 10:00 a.m. --Collection of canned food for Food Pantry to benefit Madison people in need. Please contribute.

Monday, November 22

- 7:30 p.m. --Social Action Committee meeting - 827 Dane Street

Sunday, November 28

- 10:00 a.m. --WORLD HUNGER: IMPOSSIBLE TO END USING OUR PRESENT METHODS by Dave Zakem
- 10:00 a.m. --Religion Education classes
Child care available
- 10:00 a.m. --Continued collection of canned food for Food Pantry
- 11:30 a.m. --A Refugee Meal, prepared by Shirley Grindrod, with proceeds to benefit Salvadoran refugees in Honduras

Sunday, December 5

- 10:00 a.m. --MEN'S LIBERATION by Michael Biernbaum and Patrick duCharme of the Madison's Men's Center
- 10:00 a.m. --Religious Education classes
Child care available

WELCOME

To new Prairie Society members -
Carolyn Dejoie, Dayle and Brent Haglund,
Shawn Pollack, Karen Hegelmeyer and
Diane Knott.

R.E. CORNER

I think you all would be impressed with the list of UU values that the "UU and You" class has been developing. They are posted on the bulletin board in their classroom. And this group has been interviewing each of the other classes in the Church School, finding out what they are doing, how they feel about it, what they are learning, etc. Soon they will be locating UU churches on a big map of the U.S.

Making special little books of their own has been the primary project of the "Heroines and Heroes" group. Inspired by Beatrix Potter's little books, each child has written a short story, made a cover (cloth over cardboard) for it, and bound it like a sewn book. The books will be exhibited next Sunday after the service as this is a real achievement.

The group also have been developing secret codes and next Sunday will try reading each others.

A special secret project will take place in the Prairie kitchen next Sunday - all of you will hear about it the following week.

Pat Cautley

I LOVE THE MOVIES BEST

Did you hear about Cara Nelson winning the recent "I Love the Library Coloring Contest"? Four hundred school age children entered the contest and Cara was one of 10 winners. She drew a beautiful picture of a movie projector projecting a soccer game on a screen, with children watching. The drawing was called, "I love the movies (in the library) best."

Congratulations to Cara! Also, thanks to Shirley Lake, Pat Watkins and Orange Schroeder for publicizing and for helping out in the contest aimed at reducing the city library cuts.

DO TOUCH

The Prairie Massage Group will have it's next meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 21 at Carolyn Briggs/Jay Smith's home at 1323 Spaight. All who are interested in learning more about and sharing massage are invited to attend. We will be planning future activities and meeting times, so if you are interested but cannot attend, please let us know (call Carolyn - 258-9696 or Shawn - 251-1272). Please bring some floor cover (sheet, blanket, etc.) and your favorite oil or lotion.

AN OPEN PAT ON THE BACK

Here is how Joan and Larry Constantine described their recent visit with us at the Prairie Society, where the Constantines led a service on multilateral family relationships. This is from their newsletter "Family Tree:

"On Sunday morning we talked about open relationships, mostly ours, for the Prairie Society program. I was both surprised and impressed by the people in the audience. They were so active and delightful that I felt I would like to belong to a Prairie Society here! Seems like such a vital, doing, thinking group with lots of individuals. I also met people who had been in open marriages as well as those who were interested in opening up their relationships. I also talked with people who were content with their lifestyle choices as well as those who had unresolved issues with the past which made the present an unhappy one. In other words, I met a lot of real, good people. I learned some things from these people which I would like to share in a future newsletter. To sum up, the weekend in Madison was quite an enriching experience!"

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

1. Following Dave Zakem's Nov. 28 program on the problem of world hunger, Shirley Grindrod will be serving a minimal meal, of the kind that far too many people in the world have to depend on, when they get anything to eat at all. There will be a nominal charge for the meal and the proceeds will be forwarded to the UUSC for the direct benefit of the Salvadoran refugees who are encamped on the Mesa Grande in Honduras.

2. Please remember to bring canned food to Prairie on Nov. 21 and Nov. 28 - the Sundays before and after Thanksgiving. It will be given to one of the local Food Pantries for distribution to Madison area people in need. Please do not bring perishable food.

3. The UUA Washington Office has issued an arms control legislative alert asking us to urge Senators and Representatives to support votes to delete funding for the MX and Pershing II missile programs from the 1983 Dept of Defense Appropriations Bill. Letters and telegrams will reach representatives at "House of Representatives, Wash. D.C. 20515" and senators at "U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510". To telephone, call (202) 224-3121 and ask for the office.

4. The UUSC in the current issue of the "Action Factory", asks us to voice our objections to the U.S. Administration and responsible legislators regarding important issues: proposed relaxation of guidelines for the regulation of nursing homes; the "Violent Crime and Drug Enforcement Improvement Act" (S. 2572); pressure by the U.S. Government on Bangladesh not to implement its ban on hundreds of therapeutically worthless drugs; and proposed changes that could weaken the Hill-Burton program of low-cost health care for the poor. For information on these issues, and the names and addresses of people to write to about them, look for "The Action Factory" on the social action table.

5. Planetary Initiatives for the World We Choose, an education project of Planetary Citizens, will sponsor a Town Meeting for the World We Choose: Global Security. Speakers will be Richard Bilder (UW Law School), Ray Short (World Federalist Association) and Joann Elder (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The moderator will be Assembly Representative Midge Miller. Madison Public Library, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. Les Lyons

COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

Now is your chance to order copies of the new Prairie Cookbook at reduced rates.

Please fill out the form and mail it to:

Metje Butler
2115 E Mifflin St.
Madison WI 53704

Cookbook

COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Number of copies ordered @\$8.00 _____

Number of copies ordered @10.00 _____
(Post-publication price)

Amount enclosed: _____ (Make checks to Prairie U.U.Society)

UUSC IN CENTRAL AMERICA

On November 22 the Social Action Committee will discuss Dodie Chapru's proposal to continue support of UUSC projects in El Salvador. All Prairie members and friends are welcome. (Monday, November 22, 7:30 PM, 827 Dane)

Why El Salvador? The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has competent staff members with expertise on Central America who have directed projects in El Salvador since 1973. Networks established with the Catholic church and the Green Cross are operating as well as can be expected. Our money would be used wisely by long time friends of UUSC.

UUSC Fact Finding Missions. Our service organization has sponsored and paid for five fact finding missions to Central America aimed at providing members of Congress with independent and reliable sources of information about activities in the region. The next trip is scheduled for January. Local fellowships are asked to encourage their legislators to take advantage of this service.

Refugee Relief. UUSC money aids civilians harmed or displaced by violence in El Salvador and Guatemala. Our contribution is particularly valuable in that it is flexible. For example, UUSC money was used to buy gasoline for ambulances when no funds were available from other agencies.

Reagan's Certification UUSC publicly questioned President Reagan's certification of progress in human rights in El Salvador, specifically in relation to the deaths of the Maryknoll missionary women and Archbishop Romero who were associates of UUSC staff members. A UUSC fact-finding mission revealed that ". . . some of the women had been blindfolded when killed. The U.S. State Department knew that when Secretary of State Alexander Haig suggested in March 1981 that the women might have been killed while running a roadblock." Atrocities continue under the D'Aubuisson regime. UUSC deplores all violence in El Salvador regardless of its source and supports withdrawal of U.S. support of the Salvadoran government until negotiations can take place without fear of reprisal.

UUSC Leadership UUSC's involvement in Central America utilizes the expertise of John MacAward who has worked in the region for many years. MacAward considers UUSC's integrity of utmost importance and thus works through legal channels with competent local agencies. He stresses the importance of "leaving competence behind" rather than utilizing temporary, outside experts. UUSC became involved in Central America in the early 1970s because of MacAward's interest and expertise.

UUSC Recommended Legislative Action

1. Grant extended voluntary departure status to people fleeing El Salvador.
2. End military assistance to El Salvador coupled with U.S. insistence that all outside countries do the same.
3. Press for a negotiated solution in El Salvador
4. End all covert activities to destabilize Nicaragua. Observe strict neutrality in this country. (See Newsweek, Nov. 8)
5. Continue and increase economic support to Costa Rica.
6. Stop using Honduras as a military surrogate in support of El Salvador and in opposition to Nicaragua.

7. Offer no aid to Guatemala until human rights violations by government forces have ceased and democratic privileges, enabling opposition parties to organize for free elections, are restored. UUSC is not convinced that the current government will make significant changes.

Central America's conflicts will not be alleviated until social and economic reforms improve conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Military solutions will not bring about peace or justice.

MAC AWARD RECOMMENDS WRITING DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SCHULTZ EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. SEND COPIES OF YOUR LETTERS TO YOUR U.S. CONGRESS MEMBERS.

Salvadorans at Mesa Grande Prairie members "met" the Mesa Grande refugees through Judy Strasma's slides of their camp in Honduras. Now there are 10,000 refugees on the mesa. More continue to come. The November 8 issue of Newsweek contains a map of the area showing Mesa Grande as a red circle near the Salvadoran border and west of the U.S. improved air base at Compayagua. UUSC supported the camp through CEDEN, a local relief agency, but lost confidence in CEDEN's leadership. If UUSC renews its support of the camp, it may utilize a new agency organized by former CEDEN leaders. Mesa Grande refugees are now in a "Catch 22." The mesa is cold and people need winter clothing. "Outside intruders" continue to harrass the camp. Wooden shelters have been constructed providing better housing but causing psychological problems. To some Salvadorans the houses represent permanent homes in a camp they had hoped would be temporary. To others they provide proof that a rumored move to the interior of Honduras will not take place or will not affect those who have wooden dwellings. Thus they will not support tent-dwellers' efforts to oppose a move. Mesa Grande is funded in part by the U.N.. Caritas provides food and food distribution. "Concern," a California based agency, offers training in nutrition and public health and has a seven member staff at the camp. Observers and visitors, whose welcome presence decreases harrassment of camp residents, come from several organizations including American Friends Service Committee, World/National Council of Churches, Concern, and the UN. Local agencies can't provide sufficient expertise, protection, and supplies but they refuse to invite the Peace Corps to participate. Due to the long history of U.S. covert operations in Central America (Honduras was the base for destabilization of Guatemala's reformist government in 1954) local relief agencies assume that all U.S. programs are fronts for undercover activities. (Anyone interested in contributing directly to Mesa Grande relief agencies may obtain addresses from Dodie.)

Learned Along the Way According to a returned Mesa Grande volunteer, the wife of John Negrofonte (U.S. Ambassador to Honduras of November 8 Newsweek fame) is in charge of the relief program for Miskito Indians. "World Relief" is the major agency serving the Miskitos. Miskitos are receiving military training. Somocistas are receiving military training. Both groups are in the same general area and both are reported to have connections to the Negrofontes.

Dodie's Opinion UUSC is our best bet for channeling funds for international projects because of it's integrity, its well established networks, and the fact that donations over \$50 are matched by the Veatch Foundation. El Salvador is our best established relief program in a troubled nation. While much of our time and energy must be spent caring for our families and addressing local concerns, we can enrich our lives and ease the misery of a few of our Salvadoran neighbors by focusing on their plight. Selfishly, we may be saving our own skins by showing the humane people of Central America that they have counterparts in the U.S. who have had enough of violence and greed from extremists of all persuasions.