



Newsletter of

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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Volume 21, Number 5, March 8, 1983

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

5:15-6:30p.m.--Women's Health Series at
First Society

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

7:00p.m.--China: Storytelling and slides; a
family evening with Aileen Nettleton's
parents, Gene & Mary Emma Hibbard.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

10:00a.m.--"Social Problems of Aging" by
Vivian Wood, Women's Studies and
School of Social Work

10:00a.m.--Religious Education classes
Child care available

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

10:00a.m.--Our Attitudes toward the Elderly

10:00a.m.--Religious Education classes
Child care available

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

10:00a.m.--UUA Purposes and Principles:
Should they change with the times?
Discussion led by Barb Park (see
article)

10:00a.m.--Religious Education classes
Child care available

11:30a.m.--Potluck lunch

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

10:00a.m.--Sanctuary: discussion led by Les
Lyons and Barb Park

10:00a.m.--Special activities for children
Child care available

POTLUCK LUNCH ON MARCH 27

Don't miss it!!

R. E. CORNER

The "house of One's Own" group celebrated all their birthdays by baking a cake and sharing it with the other classes. Each has now begun decorating a large box which will become his or her own home. To complete this project we could use any carpet remnants or wallpaper scraps you could donate.

The UU and You group has been making graphs to represent the numbers of fellowships, churches, and societies in North America. They have also considered the statistics that show us Unitarian Universalists to be well-represented in terms of our total membership by members of Congress who are UU's.

They are working on a skit to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Priestly.

Our preschoolers' silhouettes are decorating their classroom. They were cut by their teacher, Tami Carter. In the next few weeks they will be writing books and making windmills.

COMING EVENTS IN OTHER PLACES

March 18-19 District Youth Conference in Peoria, Illinois

April 30 Annual North-Central Area Conference at Sauk City

May 6-8 Lay Theology Conference: Religion and Ethics. George Williams campus at Lake Geneva. Major speaker: W.W. Schroeder, professor at Chicago Theological School

Regular Spring Parish Meeting

April 17, 1983

7:00 p.m. at Prairie

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The following people are presented for the offices and committee chairs as listed:

OFFICERS:

- President Mike Briggs
- Vice President Pat Watkins
- Secretary Rick Ruecking
- Treasurer Nina Mattarella

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Denominational Affairs Barb Park
- Finance Carol Dopp
- Hospitality Fran Remeika
- Housing & Property Katherine Fines
- Long Range Planning Al Nettleton
- Membership Alice Bullen
- Program Bob West
- Religious Education Erin Bosch & Linda Nelsor
- Social Action Lance Green
- Publicity Anne Rearden

3-883 PF

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY (to be voted on at the spring parish meeting April 17, 1983.)

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP, section "A" of the present bylaws (on page 15 of the Prairie Directory) should be changed to read as follows:

- A. Members of the Society are those persons 16 years or older who have signed the official membership book. Persons under 16 may join upon petition to and approval of the membership committee.
 1. Active members are those members who have made a financial pledge during each year.
 - a. Only active members may vote in business meetings, and be elected to office.
 - b. The Membership Committee shall maintain a list of Active Members. When uncertainty exists on the active status of members, their names may not be removed except by a majority vote at a business meeting.
 2. Inactive members are those persons who have signed the membership book



UPDATE UUA "PURPOSES & PRINCIPLES"?

The 1981 General Assembly saw an intense debate surrounding the "Purposes and Principles" sections of the UUA Bylaws. This debate revolved around the issues of feminism, pluralism and commonly held beliefs. As a result of the discussion, a committee was formed to study the issues. This committee is seeking guidance from all UU societies. To that end, they have asked us to consider several questions:

- 1) What is a list of specific commonly affirmed principles which you believe should be stated by the "Purposes and Principles of the UUA Bylaws?"
- 2) Do you want the Bylaws to say something about our theological/religious/philosophical pluralism? If so, what?
- 3) Should any of our theological/religious/philosophical positions be specifically mentioned in the Bylaws? If so, which ones?
- 4) Do we need to change our Bylaws in regard to:
 - a. Gender specific language?
 - b. Patriarchal heritage?
 - c. Hierarchical structure?
- 5) Do you want the structure or format of the Bylaws changed? If so, how?
- 6) Do you want to keep the Bylaws just as they are now?

The current Bylaws, plus two proposed revisions, are included in this Prairie Fire. Please study them in relationship to the above questions and bring them and your ideas to Prairie on March 27. The program will be devoted to discussion of the Bylaws, current and proposed in both small group and general discussion.

After the program, anyone who wishes should plan to meet with me to draft a response to these questions to send to the Committee on Purposes and Principles.

Barb Park

but who currently do not qualify as active members or choose to be listed as inactive members.

3. Members may resign from the Society and have their names stricken from the Membership Book by submitting a written resignation.

George Calden, Membership Committee

A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME, PLEASE . . .

I'd like to share with Prairie a request I'm making of our Social Action Committee, and also to our Executive Board.

For over a year I've hoped and planned to go to the Women and the Law Conference to be held in Washington D.C., April 8-10. This conference deals annually with areas and issues of the law especially important to women. Conferences attended primarily by male attorneys, administrators, legislators and office holders often put little stress upon these issues. Issues and concerns of critical importance to women and children are overlooked and, as such, tend to "fall through the cracks" of our system. For example, some of this year's topics are: Domestic Violence, Problems of Women in Jails and Prisons, Comparable Worth (Equal Pay for Equal Work) Litigation Strategies, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination Against Lesbians.

When I saw the conference agenda, I was struck with how well these topics meshed with those of our own recent lay ministry, so sensitively handled by Bob West. Both Prairie and the larger community had responded most enthusiastically to Bob's ministry. So I decided to share what I feel is an opportunity with Prairie, as a group, even though some among us have already been individually approached for donations. The U.W. Women's Law School Association is currently raising funds both to help send our own student delegates to D.C. and to contribute to our national organization's fund to assist those who come from even greater distances and more disadvantaged circumstances to attend and share the benefit of their perspectives.

It's very hard to take off from school the 5 days that driving six-in-a-car to D.C. for a 3-day conference will require. But it's a really exciting opportunity to meet people from law-related professions, to see what is being done about our joint concerns and to give and receive support for continuing necessary legal efforts and education. We expect to return, greatly enriched, to spread that "wealth" to our co-students and the Madison community.

Those of us from U.W. who hope to go (some 26, the most ever!) are madly scrambling to raise money by selling T-shirts (anyone want to buy a WLSA T-shirt?), pizza and our cause to other students, alums and friends of the Law School. We will all be primarily paying our own expenses, of course. But we're all living on tight budgets, feeling the pressure of many debts and watching our borrowed funds dwindle as the school year draws to a close. Most of us al-

so carry outside jobs. WLSA usually sends a portion of all donations to the national organization and then divides the balance among potential conferees in proportion to the effort they've given to conference fund-raising (ergo my zeal) to supplement their own usually meagre resources.

The results of work done at this conference can be broad and, ultimately, of great impact. This is why I am asking Prairie for a contribution; I feel the Women and the Law Conference is something we can be proud to support, which has goals akin to our own. If you agree with me, please make your feelings known to either a member of the Board (Marty Drapkin, Chair) or of our Social Action Committee (Les Lyons, Chair). If you'd like to make a small personal tax deductible donation (we try to get small amounts from many, rather than asking only well-to-do established attorneys to give lavishly to "support their own"), please send a check, made out to the W.L.S.A., % W.L.S.A., the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, Madison, WI 53706.

Thanks for taking time to plough through this and to think it over. (I felt this would be an improvement over trying to get it all across at a Sunday morning announcement!) And it goes without saying that I'd be happy to give Prairie its own personal report of the conference, at a Sunday program or whatever, -- AFTER FINALS!!

Rosemary Dorney

PLAYREADERS TO READ, "THE MOUND BUILDERS"

Prairie Playreaders will meet Saturday, March 19, '83, at the home of Lois and Warren Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd. The play will be Llanford Wilson's "The Mound Builders."

REMINDER

Please return your Prairie Questionnaire on March 13, or mail it to Les Lyons, 827 Dane St., Madison WI 53713.

SAVE THE RESOLUTION SECTION in this month's UU WORLD for the Parish Poll.

NEW UUA-TRUSTEE FOR CENTRAL MID-WEST DIST.
Robert U. Johnson has been elected the new UUA-trustee for the Central Midwest District. He will succeed Lori Pederson of Marshfield, Wis. following the 1983 General Assembly.

MEETINGS FOR NEWCOMERS

The second of three orientation meetings for newcomers will take place Sunday evening, March 13, from 7:30-9:30. This meeting will be a mini-history of Unitarian Universalism with a chance to ask questions about our denomination.

Although designed especially for newcomers, anyone interested in the topic is most welcome to attend. All sessions will be held at the home of Ruth and George Calden, 4606 Waukesha Street (off Segoe Road). Call Barb Park, 635-7519, or Ruth Calden, 233-5717, for details. This is an opportunity, too, for us to get to know you.

EDUCATION TOWARD A WORLD VIEW

From July 25-29 in Ithaca, NY, the Lisle Fellowship is sponsoring "Education Toward a World View", an international conference to explore the significance of experiential learning in furthering intercultural understanding; to integrate interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives in promoting education toward a world view. Keynote speakers include Dr. Kenneth Boulding, Dr. Mahdi Elmandjra, Dr. Mercedes Fermin-Gomez, and Dr. Carl Rogers.

Focusing on the theme "Alternative to Violence: Education and Training for Social Change," Lisle's regular programs this summer will be from June 9 to July 20 in India and Philadelphia, Pa. Designed for people 18 and older, the programs involve relating to international networks of resources and community organizations; living in a group with individuals of different races, religions, and nationalities; and working in teams with community based human service programs. Emphasis is on experiential learning, cooperative living, and decision making by consensus. Many institutions award credit for participation in Lisle programs.

For further information, call Shirley Lake, 238-1647.

BUILDING CLEANUP

3-13 Bob & Linda Nelson
3-20 Julia Broughton & Helen Graves

KITCHEN CLEANUP

3-13 Gerald Beroldi & ??
3-20 Betty Jallings & Karen Hegelmeyer
3-27 Robert & Barb Park
4- 3 (Easter) Les Lyons & Dorothy Wetherby

NEXT PRAIRIE DEADLINE: MARCH 20

CURRENT BYLAWS
of the
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

1981 PROPOSED
AMENDMENT

ARTICLE II
PURPOSES

Section C-2.1. Purposes

The Unitarian Universalist Association is empowered to and shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and charitable purposes.

Section C-2.2 Principles

~~1 The Association, dedicated to the principles of a free faith shall:~~

- 2 (a) Support the free and disciplined
- 3 search for truth as the foundation of
- 4 religious fellowship;
- 5 (b) Cherish and spread the universal
- 6 truths taught by the great prophets
- 7 and teachers of humanity in every
- 8 age and tradition, immemorially
- 9 summarized in the Judeo-Christian
- 10 heritage as love to God and love to
- 11 humankind;
- 12 (c) Affirm, defend, and promote the su-
- 13 preme worth and dignity of every
- 14 human personality, and the use of
- 15 the democratic method in human
- 16 relationships;
- 17 (d) Implement the vision of one world
- 18 by striving for a world community
- 19 founded on ideals of brotherhood,
- 20 justice, and peace;
- 21 (e) Serve the needs of member societies;
- 22 (f) Organize new churches and fellow-
- 23 ships and otherwise extend and
- 24 strengthen liberal religion;
- 25 (g) Encourage cooperation among peo-
- 26 ple of good will in every land.

~~28 *Section C-2.3. Non-Discrimination*~~

~~29 The Association declares and affirms its~~
~~30 special responsibility, and that of its~~
~~31 members and organizations, to promote~~
~~32 the full participation of persons in all of~~
~~33 its and their activities and in the full~~
~~34 range of human endeavor without~~
~~35 regard to race, color, sex, affectional or~~
~~36 sexual orientation, age, or natural origin~~
~~37 and without requiring adherence to any~~
~~38 particular interpretation of religion or to~~
~~39 any particular religious belief or creed.~~

Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief

41 Nothing herein shall be deemed to in-
 42 fringe upon the individual freedom of
 43 belief which is inherent in the Universalist
 44 and Unitarian heritages or to conflict
 45 with any statement of purpose, covenant,
 46 or bond of union used by any member
 47 society unless such is used as a creedal
 48 test.

In the following proposed Bylaw Amendments, underlining indicates an insertion, brackets around the words indicate a deletion.

The exact text of the C-2.2 Bylaw Amendment submission made by the Pacific Central, Joseph Priestly, Pacific Southwest, Ohio Valley Districts also 14 active member societies by action of their governing boards or their congregations is set forth herein for the information of the delegates.

1 The Association, dedicated to
 2 the principles of a free faith,
 3 shall:

4 (a) Support the free and disciplined
 5 search for truth as the [founda-
 6 tion of religious fellowship] cen-
 7 ter of our religious community;

8 (b) [Cherish and spread the univer-
 9 sal truths taught by the great
 10 prophets and teachers of human-
 11 ity in every age and tradition,
 12 immemorially summarized in
 13 the Judeo-Christian heritage as
 14 love of God and love to human-
 15 kind;] Recognize our Judeo-
 16 Christian heritage as well as
 17 other traditions, and seek last-
 18 ing values and new insights;

19 (c) Recognize the importance of
 20 equality among women and men;

21 [(c)](d) Affirm, defend, and promote the
 22 supreme worth and dignity of
 23 every [human personality,] per-
 24 son;

25 [(c)](e) [And the use of] Support the
 26 democratic [method] process
 27 and mutual respect in all human
 28 relationships;

29 (f) Acknowledge our responsibility
 30 to cherish the earth and its
 31 resources;

32 [(d)](g) [Implement the vision of one
 33 world by striving] Strive for a
 34 world community [founded on
 35 ideals of brotherhood,] of love,
 36 justice and peace;

37 [(e)](h) Serve the needs of member
 38 societies.

39 [(f)] (i) Organize new churches and fel-
 40 lowships and [otherwise] extend
 41 and strengthen liberal religion;

42 [(g)] [Encourage cooperation among
 43 people of good will in every land.]

1981 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The exact text of the C-2.2 Bylaw Amendment submission made by the Massachusetts Bay District is also set forth herein for the information of the delegates:

- 1 The Association, dedicated to the prin-
2 ciples of a free faith, shall:
3 (a) Support the free and disciplined
4 search for truth as the [founda-
5 tion of religious fellowship] cen-
6 ter of our religious community;
7 (b) [Cherish and spread the univer-
8 sal truths taught by great
9 prophets and teachers of human-
10 ity in every age and tradition,]
11 Recognize our Judeo-Christian
12 heritage immemorially sum-
13 marized [in the Judeo-Christian
14 heritage] as love to God and love
15 to humankind, as well as other
16 traditions and seek lasting
17 values and new insights;
18 (c) Affirm, defend, and promote the
19 equality, [supreme] worth and
20 dignity of every [human per-
21 sonality] person;
22 [(c)](d) [And the use of] Support the
23 democratic [method] process
24 and mutual respect in all human
25 relationships;
26 (e) Acknowledge our responsibility
27 to cherish earth and its re-
28 sources;
29 [(d)](f) [Implement the vision of one
30 world by striving] Strive for a
31 world community [founded on
32 ideals of brotherhood,] of love,
33 justice and peace;
34 [(e)](g) Serve the needs of member
35 societies;
36 [(f)] Organize new [churches and fel-
37 lowships and otherwise] societies
38 and extend and strengthen
39 liberal religion;
40 [(g)] [Encourage cooperation among
41 people of good will in every
42 land.]

RATIONALE

(a) *foundation* has a hierarchal connota-
tion whereas *center* connotes heart and
expansion in all directions. Building on a
foundation can only go in one direction. The
substitution of *community* for *fellowship*
reflects terminology used today and is more
encompassing than *fellowship*.

(b) This phraseology was controversial
within the workshop and continues to be so.
It is offered here with the expectation that
another year of dialogue and further
amendment will enhance the principles and
enrich our religious community. Celebrating
our Judeo-Christian heritage (as well as
other religious traditions) continues to be
important to us. When we try to sum up the
meaning of that tradition in any single
phrase, such as "love to God and love to
humankind," we deny freedom to those who
express their own concepts and sensitivities
differently."

(b) Reference to *universal truths* is deleted
because our understanding of *universal truth*
is everchanging. Can we conceptualize
universal truth?

(c) This succinctly spells out a central basic
premise; use of the term man/woman here
delineates the all-inclusiveness of the prin-
ciple.

(c) The only change is *person; personality* did
not express the whole — and in the light of
line 196, *person* includes both women and
men.

(d) The democratic method does not always
lead to justice, and there is usually a loser;
while democratic process is open to creative
approaches. The *method* is often manipulated/
manipulating and can be cruel and denigrat-
ing for individuals. *Mutual respect* in con-
junction with *process* emphasizes the concern
for everyone. Use of the *all* includes men,
women, and children; human is inclusive in
light of line 196. (This was unanimous.)

e-f This line amends to introduce a concept
absent from the current principles.

(d) What are we striving for? World gov-
ernment? World economic unity? Here
again, we clarify and simplify a basic concept.

(f) We deleted the word *otherwise* as non-
definable and superfluous.

(g) Deleted because we felt it is covered in
(d)