



Prairie Fire

Newsletter of

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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Volume 21, Number 9, May 3, 1983

SUNDAY, MAY 8

- 10:00 a.m. -- ~~THE ISSUE OF PHOSPHORUS IN~~
WISCONSIN WATERS by Bob West
10:00 a.m. -- Religious Education classes
Child care available
11:30 a.m. -- Discussion of Sanctuary with the
Madison Sanctuary Committee rep-
representatives
5:00 p.m. -- Solo Discovery Coordinating Com-
mittee Meeting at home of Fran
Pielstich, 2043 Overlook Pass
#1, Middleton

TUESDAY MAY 10

- 7:30 p.m. -- Program Committee Meeting at
Carolyn Briggs, 1323 Spaight St.
Everyone welcome

SUNDAY, MAY 15

- 10:00 a.m. -- KNOWING BY HEARING: BIRD SONGS
AND FROG SONGS by Mary Mullen
and Marian Moran (see story)
10:00 a.m. -- Religious Education classes
Child care available
11:30 a.m. -- Discussion of Sanctuary by
Prairie members

THURSDAY, MAY 19

- 7:00 p.m. -- R.E. Committee Meeting at Prai-
rie. All interested people
welcome

SUNDAY, MAY 22

- 10:00 a.m. -- RECOGNITION DAY - Prairie pats
itself on the back
10:00 a.m. -- Religious Education classes
Child care available
11:30 a.m. -- Prairie Business Meeting - to
vote on the Sanctuary Resolution

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: May 16, 1983

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KNOWING BY HEARING: BIRD SONGS AND FROG
SONGS." At the May 15th service, tapes and
slides will be presented by Mary Mullen, neigh-
borhood bird listener and Marian Moran, U.W.
Extension naturalist and Arboretum guide.

27 WAGONS FULL OF COTTON

Prairie Playreaders will meet at 6 p.m. on
Friday, June 3 at Shelton's Bar and Restaurant,
1821 Main St. Cross Plains, for a fish dinner.
We will then go to the home of Sandra Stephens
in Middleton and read Tennessee Williams one
act play, "27 Wagons Full of Cloth."

Call Sandra at 836-7331 by Monday, May 30 if
you plan to attend.

DISTRICT NEWS

The North Central Area Council Annual meeting
was held in Sauk City on April 30, 1983. Sev-
eral Prairie folks attended including Ruth and
George Calden, Les Lyons, Dorothy Weatherby and
Barb Park. Dorothy presented a workshop. "Pro-
gramming for the Lay-Led," and Barb presented
a workshop on YRUU. Elections were held for a
new Director. At the Board meeting, Barb Park
was selected as President of the NCAC Board and
Peg Stevenson will continue as secretary.

The first YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian
Universalists) meeting was held in Peoria, Ill.
on March 19-20. Two Prairie young people at-
tended, Joelle Bonser and Casey Steinau. Casey
was elected as an at-large representative to
the YAC (Youth Adult Committee) as was Steven
Scott of Wausau. Kelly Kegan of Rockford is
our area's youth representative and Helen John-
son is our adult rep. Barb Park also will be on
the YAC as a representative from the District
Board.

Elise Cade was injured in an auto accident two
weeks ago but is recovering nicely.

Barbara Park

SANCTUARY

Unprecedented numbers of refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala, perhaps as many as half a million, have reached this country in the last several years, seeking a haven from military strife and political persecution. Although the United States has ratified the U.N. Convention on Refugees, the government has refused the request of the U.N. High Commission on Refugees and other humanitarian agencies to give the refugees political asylum, and has even declined to grant them extended voluntary departure status. Instead, immigration officials have been arresting the refugees as illegal immigrants, holding them for long periods in detention camps, and shipping them back to their own countries, often to an early death.

In protest and outrage, churches have been offering public sanctuary to the refugees -- sheltering and caring for them in open defiance of unjust immigration procedures. The growing sanctuary movement now involves at least 50 congregations and upwards of 25,000 church members in many denominations, including ours.

On April 17, the congregation of St. Francis' Episcopal Church here in Madison, at the end of a long and spirited meeting, voted to serve as a public sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees. The decision will be made public later this month. Their immediate need is for letters of endorsement from other congregations as well as letters of commitment of service detailing the help that will be available.

We believe Prairie ought to endorse and assist the St. Francis public sanctuary program. To make that possible, it is proposed that a Business Meeting be scheduled for Sunday, May 22 at 11:30 a.m. to vote on the following resolution:

RESOLVED THAT:

1. Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society endorses the decision of St. Francis' Episcopal Church, Madison, to serve as a public sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.
2. The President and/or Executive Board shall appoint a Sanctuary Task Force to organize the Prairie commitment of personal, material, and financial service to the St. Francis sanctuary program.

To enable us to learn as much as we want to about sanctuary before the vote, and to exchange opinions, vent feelings, etc., there will be meetings the next two Sundays after our regular morning service: This Sunday, May 8, several representatives of the Madison Sanctuary Committee will be with us

to supply information on the sanctuary movement and to bring us up to date on the local project.

If the resolution passes, we will need to organize our resources. There will be many ways to help: clothing and other material supplies, meals, bilingual companions, English teachers, monitors, money for maintenance expenses, special bail funds if needed, medical/dental services, etc. If YOU can help in some way, or would like to be part of a task force, please let us know.

Les Lyons and Barb Park

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

A Business Meeting of the Society will be held Sunday, May 22, 1983, at 11:30 a.m. at the Meeting House to vote on the resolution regarding endorsement of the St. Francis' Episcopal Church public sanctuary program and appointment of a Sanctuary Task Force (details in column at left).

Joyce Crim
Vice-President

A NEW TRADITION?

The fifth annual canoe trip for Prairie members will be held on the weekend of June 11 and 12 (note change of date).

It will begin with camping on Friday night at the Muscoda Village Campground for those who want to. Canoeing will start at 10 a.m. at the Lone Rock boat launch. We will stop overnight at Muscoda and continue on to Boscobel on Sunday. The second day is a short run which will leave plenty of time for cleanup and an impromptu service. Meals will be your own responsibility except for a potluck on Friday and Saturday nights.

Dick Bonser

THE MOUSE THAT ROARED

Malcolm Shabazz City High School will be putting on the play, "The Mouse That Roared", a comedy about a tiny 3 mi. x 5 mi. country that declares war on the U.S. Dates - May 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. Adults - \$2.00. Students \$1.00. Children under 12 - 50¢. Address - 1601 N. Sherman Ave. For more details call Kim Capozio, ass't director at 221-2679 or Geoff Bonser at 274-3248.

"The land was ours
before we were the land's.
It was our land for a hundred years
before we were its people..."

Robert Frost

SOLO DISCOVERY'S topic of discussion will be "What Do I Expect of Others?" Saturday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Society



R.E. Corner

Last week Erin Bosch and I attended a Central Midwest District R.E. Conference in LaGrange, Illinois. The three day workshop was from the UUA's new REnaissance program designed to train people who are new to R.E. programs. Some new songs and games, as well as a slightly different format for our Sharing Circle are evidences of the enthusiasm we picked up at the meeting. Our expenses were paid in equal shares from the Prairie R.E. budget and scholarships from the UUA.

Dayle Haglund

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"A Place of One's Own" class will travel to Dunn's Marsh on Sunday, May 8. Remember to dress for the weather and to wear boots. On Sunday, May 15 these children will explore a forest habitat at the UW-Arboretum.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FOR 1983-84

We are making fine progress in enlisting people for teaching Sunday School classes next year. Many thanks to those of you who have committed yourself to helping our Prairie "flowers" grow! Thanks also to the many people who will help with other aspects of our children's programming.

Please note that we are still in need of four or five adults to make the Grades 3-5 team effective. This would involve a commitment of six or seven Sundays over the course of the year in addition to some planning meetings.

Kindergarten through Second Grade:
A Place of One's Own unit: Getting rooted in one's life spaces.

Tracey Crim, Benji Gordon, Jessica Laux, Nora Bosch, Erin Dopp, Krin Haglund, Peter Matarella-Micke, Ben Midelfort, Greg Nettleton, Lili Sandler, Daniel Stevenson, Allison Cole, Shawn Cole, Elizabeth Hartog, Todd Novak.

- Teachers:
1. Peg Stevenson
 2. Bob Nelson
 3. Beth Price-Marcus

Third through Fifth Grade:
Stepping Stone Year. Units on the wonder of birth, stories from science, discovering the Bible, and wonderings about death.

Peter Czoschke, Sylvia Jackson, Matthew Laux, Leila Midelfort, Andy Nelson, Robin Park-Doob, Colin Bosch, Abreyal Hegelmeyer, Cristy Merck, David Stevenson, Christine Chambliss, Dana Dopp, Anna Nettleton, Ryan Ostler, Claire Sandler.

- Teachers:
1. Rick Reuking
 2. Norma Martin
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____

Sixth through Eighth Grade:
Exploration of the values of great Humanists from a unit called "How Can I Know What to Believe?" Formulations of one's own positions.

Nadine Czoschke, Jennifer Drapkin, Aaron Laux, Cara Nelson, Christy Spring, Jorielle Vetzner, Ben Fineman, Jon Fineman, Lucas Hartog, David Lake.

- Teachers:
1. Shawn Pollack
 2. Leslie Oakes
 3. Carl Sparrow
 4. Carolyn Campen
 5. Dorothy Wetherby

R.E. COMMITTEE MEETING

On Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Prairie Meeting House the R.E. Committee will meet to make final plans for the Recognition Sunday (May 22) and for the 1983-84 Sunday School year. Please join us!!

A WEEK FOR SINGLES AT LAKE Geneva

When I first attended one of the midwest U-U adult singles weeks, almost a dozen years ago, I discovered an environment which helped me to grow in new directions. It was a very accepting community-not unlike Prairie in that respect. The singles week was where I first had the courage to offer to lead something I was enthusiastic about. It was one of many voluntary offerings that people were making available to each other, so I didn't feel too threatened about whether I would do it well enough, or whether it would be acceptable. Three people showed up who had the same interest, and we had a fine time. It was also a very good feeling to be in a place where not being part of a couple didn't matter. Maybe that's something else the singles week had in common with Prairie.

Anyway, that one week each summer has made a difference in my life. I wanted to share this because it might be something special for other Prairie singles too.

The Lake Geneva Singles Week will be June 26 to July 2. There are brochures on the literature rack at Prairie describing the special interest groups that meet in the morning and the kinds of vacation fun available the rest of the time. The cost ranges from \$205 to \$265 and that covers absolutely everything.

If you want to know more, phone me at 233-4357 between 9 and 10 p.m.

Mary Lou Diehl

LEAVING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

Kathy and I will be leaving Madison in mid May for Maryland. It is with a great deal of sorrow that we leave all of our very good friends here at Prairie. I will be taking a job in the training dep't of a consulting firm in Columbia, Md. We invite all our friends to stop in to see us when you're in the area.

Best wishes to all our friends at Prairie. We will always be filled with love for every one here.

Mark Horn and Kathy Hammon

COME TO A MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE held by several Prairie members and friends - May 6 and 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 7109 Colony Drive, off Gammon Road.

Original etchings, typewriter, music stand, bird cages, sports stuff and much more.

DEPARTMENT OF PRESERVATION OR EXTINCTION

"In the West, our desire to conquer nature often means simply that we diminish the probability of small inconveniences at the cost of increasing the probability of very large disasters."

K. Boulding.

"An expert is a man who does not make the slightest error on the road to the grand delusion."

Marshall McLuhan

"The major block to a sane world is the continual flow of rubbish from the technological optimists."

Paul Ehrlich

"An optimist is a person who hasn't yet heard the bad news."

Berthold Brecht

"Go, go, go said the bird: human kind cannot bear very much reality." (The human ego is biased against unwelcome truths).

T.S. Eliot

"Of all the forms of pollution from which we suffer today, verbal pollution is perhaps the worst. What each of us needs is a built in crap detector."

Hugh Iltis

"NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME!"

