



Prairie Fire

Newsletter of
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another. *Prairie's Bond of Union*

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CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 a.m.--CELEBRATION OF WINTER SOLSTICE
 family service & dedication of
 2 babies--Erin Bosch. See story.
 11:30 a.m.--Potluck lunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

NO MORNING SERVICE
 4:30 p.m.--WASSAIL TIME -. Bring cookies or
 appetizers to share.
 5:00 p.m.--CANDLES, CAROLS, & CHRISTMAS PAST
 led by Aileen Nettleton. Children
 invited. No child care available.
 See story.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:30 p.m.--Solo Discovery at First Society
 9:00 p.m.--All Unitarian New Year's Eve
 Party at First Society

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 a.m.--DOES THE FUTURE LIE AHEAD; a
 participatory discussion of
 what's ahead for us led by
 George Calden.
 10:00 a.m.--Interim activities for children.
 Baby care provided.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

7:30 p.m.--Choir practice at Briggs, 2259
 West Lawn Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

7:30 p.m.--Ceremonies Committee Meeting at
 home of D. Wetherby

 DON'T MISS IT: POTLUCK LUNCH DECEMBER 18!

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 Prairie U U Society
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Prairie will be having a Christmas Celebration on December 18. This program will include our traditional symbol tree. Everyone is encouraged to participate by bringing an object or a symbol that has meaning for you. Be prepared to share its meaning as you hang it on the Prairie Christmas tree.

There will also be a dedication of Andrew Mattarella-Micke and Daniel Edward Hauer Plane on December 18. If you would like to contribute a piece of writing, a favorite poem etc. to the babies keepsake-books just give it to Mel or Nina and a copy to Peter or Mary Beth Plane.

CANDLES, CAROLS & CHRISTMAS PAST

~~Join us for a time of reflection and~~
 song at 5:00 on Christmas Day. If you would like to share a reading or original writing expressing your feelings at this time of the year, please contact Aileen Nettleton.

Before the candlelight service, wassail will be served.

BRING CANDLES

This week, in order to brighten Prairie for our Christmas service, please bring candles & candle holders to use in lieu of the fluorescent lighting. Thank you.



NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 25

HAGSTROMS CONTINUE WITH LAY MINISTRY

Warren Hagstrom coordinated a musical and narrative program on the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Sunday (Dec 11), the second of Lois' and his lay ministry on music and art.

Warren described Mozart as being typical of child prodigies in that he was promoted (exploited?) by his father.

The program made use of a variety of Prairie talent, including the newly formed choir, selections by the recorder group, a vocal solo by Dodie Chapru, a piano solo by Susan Hagstrom, and congregational singing, all of music by Mozart. Aileen Nettleton and Mike Briggs were accompanists.

Warren Hagstrom, professor in science and sociology at the UW, has had a longtime interest in musical composers and has done several programs on the subject at Prairie.

Lois Hagstrom earned a master's degree at the Chicago Art Institute and has won awards in photography. She cooperated with Warren in the first program of their current lay ministry, on the work of Michelangelo.

SOME CHILD PRODIGIES EDUCATED BY MOTHERS

Apropos of the child protegy, Mozart, and his relationship to his father, Dave Zakem called to mention that Margaret Mead was largely educated by her grandmother. That Alexander the Great was influenced by his mother and that Shaka Vulu, a great African warrior was educated by his mother.

Perhaps you know who the primary influence was on some other child prodigies and want to let us know.

Prairie people and friends are invited to attend the annual Christmas Vesper Service at The First Unitarian Meeting House, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. The service is a meditative one of readings and recorded Christmas music led by Max Gaebler and George Calden. This is the 20th year of this First Society-Prairie cooperative service. Come--you'll enjoy it.

I'm looking for another roommate to share a large attractive house with 2 mature, liberated women and a dog and cat. You would have your own bedroom, bath and dressing area. There is a huge kitchen and living room with a cosy fireplace. Available Dec. 21. Non-smoker, please. Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173

CLIPBOARDS

BUILDING CLEAN-UP

Dec. 18 Jim Novak & Lance Green
" 25 Anne Reardon & ??
Jan. 1 ?? & ??

KITCHEN CLEAN-UP

Dec. 18 Lu Kummerow & Martha Fineman
Dec. 25, 4:30 program ?? & ??
Jan. 1 Jack & Betty Jallings

SNOW SHOVELING

Dec. 18 Bob Nelson
Dec. 25 ??
Jan. 1 Mike Briggs

BABY CARE

Please call Alice Bullen, 838-8055 if you are willing to help if needed. No one signed up but we may not need help until Jan. 1. Thank you.

... And the rains came before we were ready. At this time of the year it is almost impossible to organize a work day. ... The basic jobs which must be done in the winter are: mowing green areas, pulling weeds in sand box, around roses and other planted areas, and picking up trash.

--from the Livermore, CA newsletter.

Wouldn't you hate to mow the lawn with all this snow on it?

Also from the Livermore CA, Unitarian Fellowship Newsletter:

Love is the spirit of this church
And service its law.
This is our great covenant
to dwell together in peace
To seek the truth in love
and to help one another.

James Vila Blake

Susan (Drapkin) Vaughan and Jennifer Drapkin cordially invite all Prairie friends to an open house on New Year's Day from 2-6 at 1422 Chandler.

SANCTUARY NOTES

Prairie U U Society, as one of the congregations endorsing and supporting the St. Francis House project of Sanctuary victims of Central American oppression, has been asked to take responsibility for contributing \$25.00 every six to eight weeks to cover the cost of groceries for Carlos Martinez, the young Guatemalan presently in residence. Passing the hat at Prairie last Sunday morning produced well over \$50.00 - enough for our first two contributions! Many thanks to all who chipped in. We'll pass the hat again later in the winter, and plans are afoot for a more elaborate fundraiser in the spring to aid the St. Francis House project and the Sanctuary Committee, which is working to establish other local sanctuary sites and to send help to the many hard-pressed groups on the border that are helping refugees. If you route your checks to me (218 Jackson St., 53704), I'll make sure they get to the right place, and we'll be able to keep track of how much help is coming from Prairie. According to my rough reckoning, we have already contributed about \$600, not counting the personal hours spent monitoring, transporting, teaching, entertaining, etc. That's something we can be very proud of.

Carlos Martinez will be with us on Sunday, January 8. We'll meet him upstairs at the start of that day's service. For the rest of the morning he will be with the middle school folk, who will hear his story and get to know him.

If you have been wondering how you can help the Nicaraguan people and compensate a bit (or atone?) for the CIA's use of your tax money to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, there IS something you can do -- buy Nicaraguan coffee. Wisconsin Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) is sponsoring the sale. Their current newsletter states that they have "recently purchased a quantity of drip grind, vacuum-packed Nicaraguan coffee. Until 1979, Nicaragua's agricultural export trade was controlled by a few landowners and dictator Somoza's family. Since then, the privately owned coffee plantations have been managed by the Sandanista government agency, ENCAFE. Over 30% of Nicaragua's exports is coffee coming from coffee growers' cooperatives and from private landowners. Privately owned farms are taxed at 60% of net profits and required to provide workers with certain standards of welfare, wages, and education. ENCAFE also tries to guarantee a consistent price to the farmers. The coffee comes in packages of 250 grams (8.82 oz.), and is



available for \$2.25 per bag (\$4.08 per pound)." The price is expected to rise to \$2.50 in the next shipment. We'll have an order form at Prairie for the next few weeks, so it's first-come-first-served for the lower price. If you are a non-coffee drinker, you might consider buying some for someone who still has the habit. Remember, it's a worthy cause. Les Lyons

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE SANCTUARY

WHA-TV's "Wisconsin Magazine program" will be presenting, on December 23 at 8 p.m., a segment on Carlos and Amos and their experiences here in sanctuary at St. Francis House. Prairie is one of the co-sponsors for these El Salvadoran refugees.

GIFTS OF GIVING

A recent Isthmus article reported that more and more young people and families in Madison are joining the ranks of the hungry; (and that demand has increased markedly since President Reagan took office). The Response to Hunger Network coordinates weekly meals sponsored by various church groups. The Salvation Army serves as an ongoing meal site and will distribute 4-500 food baskets this holiday season. GIVE yourself the good spirit of helping those less fortunates in Madison: PLEASE bring canned or dried foods of all kinds to FILL the Prairie Food Pantry box on December 18, or put monetary donations in the envelope on the front of this box. The Social Action Committee will deliver these gifts (make checks out to the "Prairie Emergency Fund").

Give a gift for PEACE with the Holiday Peace Card. Donate money to a local peace group of your choice in the name of a loved one or friend. Simply take a card (available on the table in the rear of our meeting room and at various stores), fill in the name of the organization and send it to your family or friends. Then send the enclosed insert with your donation to the peace group you've selected. Help bring Peace into our World in 1984! Lance Green

Tim Diehl and Alicia Diehl (son and daughter of Mary Lou Diehl) and Sue Langen, have two vacant rooms in their large house, one block from the Moorland bus route. They'd like to find one or two non-smokers without pets. Anyone interested can call 274-0566 in the evening, or call Sue at work, 263-8553.

FROM "DECK THE HALLS" SERVICE:

Several people suggested that the following paragraphs be printed in Prairie Fire for those who were not at the service. We are glad to oblige.

"To create is to transcend one's status as a creature who was thrown into life in the way that dice are thrown out of a cup. The power to create, the capacity to transform and change, is embodied in religion and myth as God the Creator. And so people have always made their own wonderful powers into an object of awe.

Yet creativity, however awesome, needs another element: a love of life. Each must know joy and share that joy with another. Then it is right to truly celebrate human creativity."

"DECK THE HALLS" BENEDICTION

"Now is the time to live, to look, to see,
To taste that life is good, to share its zest
And know its patience in the dormant tree,
The silent earth, the motion that is rest;
Creation in each moment flowing free
Nor dread the sunset in the darkning west."

NEWS FLASH! DISTRICT EXECUTIVE TO BE HIRED!

Central Midwest District delegates voted Nov. 12 to engage a District Executive (DE) as a consultant for congregations, ministers, and RE directors throughout the district. The DE will respond to local and regional needs in religious education, conflict resolution, fund raising, leadership training, growth, public relations, etc. Jointly employed by the district and the UUA, he or she will bring UUA presence and resources to our church communities and carry local concerns back to the UUA. A half-time administrative assistant in the Chicago area will provide office support.

Ministers and laypeople may apply by writing Joan Goodwin, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108, before Feb. 15.

SON BORN TO EVA JACKSON, JOHN BAYLEY

Pacal Alejandro Bayley was born Oct. 21 at Madison General Hospital. Prairie people will remember that Eva and John were helped by us with a memorial service when their first child died at birth on February 13, 1982. We share their happiness at this time.

CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be 3 days of training sessions for the course, The New About Your Sexuality the weekend of Jan. 27-29, at Northbrook, Illinois, which is about 20 miles north of Chicago. The sessions will begin at 7:00 Friday evening and run until 3:00 Sunday afternoon. They will be held at Techny Towers Conference Center where all participants will have both food and housing.

The fee includes all supplies and handouts, room and 5 meals. The weekend will be led by Dettie Dominguez and Creag Banta who have returned from a national training program in Denver. The weekend will be exciting and informative for both newcomers and enablers experienced with the old kit.

A separate mailing is being sent to each society, with more information and registration materials. If you have questions call: Creag Banta (312) 945-4098. The fee is \$110. Registration and information: call Diane Brodson, (312) 564-5854. Her address is 1832 Oak Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062.



NIFTY-GIFTIES IN PRODUCTION

Metje Butler, Linda Nelson, and Tami Carter are shown here helping an unidentified young Prairian with a project which has to remain classified until Christmas. The whole downstairs area was turned over Sunday, Dec. 10, to the manufacture of "home-made" Christmas gifts.

"I do not want the peace which passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace."--Helen Keller