



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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Volume 22, Number 4 February 14, 1984

CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:30 p.m.--Playreaders at the home of D. Wetherby, 341 W. Wilson (note change)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

10:00 a.m.--Ethical & Spiritual Values in Rock Music by Bob West
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes
Child & baby care available

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11:30 a.m.--PANCAKE LUNCH BENEFIT for Mary Mullen's Texas trip. See story

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:00 a.m.--DIMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH: Music, Revolution, and Tyranny. Coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. (see note)
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes. Child care available.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 a.m.--FINAL CHOICES. Mary Lou Munts, Arnoldus Goudsmit
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes. Child care available.

11:30 a.m.--POT LUCK LUNCH



SUNDAY, MARCH 11

10:00 a.m.--Traditions. Diane Worzalla
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes. Child care available

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BENEFIT FOR MARY MULLEN'S BORDER ADVOCACY TRIP

Mary Mullen will be taking part in the Madison Sanctuary Committee's Feb. 24-Mar. 4 tour of Texas border communities to learn about the plight of Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees and the efforts of religious, medical and social agencies to assist them. It will be a truly no-frills trip as far as travel, housing, and meals are concerned, but it will still cost a lot.

We'll try to help cover Mary's expenses with a gala PANCAKE LUNCH BENEFIT this Sunday, Feb. 19, at 11:30 a.m. The cost will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children. If you can't make it to Prairie that day, please send your contribution to Mary at 4337 Milford Rd., Madison 53711

Les Lyons

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

"Peace & Justice--Action & Education" is the theme of the 1984 Unitarian Universalist National Workshop on Social Justice. It reflects a dual emphasis of active involvement in social issues and education for all ages on the issues of peace and social justice. This annual event will be held (April 8-11) at the Howard Inn (by the campus of Howard University) in Washington, DC. The workshop is organized by the Washington-based National Workshop Planning Committee & the UU Social Action Clearing House, with a special commitment this year from the UUA Section on Religious Education. For further details see the brochure posted on the bulletin board.

Scholarships for travel expenses over \$75 are available for two of our members.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE FEBRUARY 26

PRAIRIANS INVITED TO JOIN
FIRST SOCIETY WORKSHOP SERIES

Prairie Society members are cordially invited to participate in the Winter Workshops sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee of First Unitarian Society. The workshops will be held on three Tuesday evenings, Feb. 21 and 28, and March 6, from 7 to 9 p.m.

"The Terrestrials and Their Religions," led by Arnoldus Goudsmit, will explore the past, present, and future religions of the human race. "Exploring Retirement," led by Gordon and Vera Cunningham, will focus on three subjects of interest to present or future retirees: health, activities, and finances. Carol Ann Taylor will lead the third workshop, "Parents as Resident Theologians," which will help parents explore their own religious beliefs in order to assist them in their role of nurturing their children's religious development.

Registration forms may be obtained from Mike Briggs or from the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The Adult Programs Committee reserves the right to cancel any workshop series that does not attract sufficient interest, so preregistration is encouraged. The cost for each workshop series (all three nights) is \$5.00.

HELP THEM WRITE A BOOK

We are seeking accounts of personal experiences that have made a difference in the lives of Unitarian Universalists. These will be gathered in a book articulating the values & the common faith shared among today's UUs.

What kinds of experiences do we seek? Some samples might be:

1. Experiences of birth, death, love, friendship, good and evil, God, tragedy, or hope, that have influenced a Unitarian Universalist's life journey.

2. Experiences of personal change or enrichment that have been influenced by involvement in a UU congregation.

3. Experiences of social change brought about by Unitarian Universalists.

Of course, we will not be able to quote all contributions in the book. But we are grateful for every submission. Responses should be sent to Rev. Bruce Marshall, 302 Maplewood Rd., Huntington Station, NY 11746.

Rev. Tom Chulak

Rev. Bruce T. Marshall

Thank you Diane Knott for all the herb tea, and we hope to see you again on Sundays when your schedule permits.

FROM THE CLIPBOARDS

KITCHEN CLEANUP

2-19 Alice Bullen & Linda Nelson

BUILDING CLEANUP

2-19 Mary Beth Plane & ??

2-26 Rick Rueking & ??

SNOW SHOVELING

Week of 2-19 Dunns Marsh N. A.

BABY CARE

2-19 Alice Bullen

2-26 Karen Aubrey

R.E. SNACKS

2-19 Bob & Barb Park

2-26 Christy Merck

PRAIRIE NIGHT AT THE DANCE ROOM

Some Prairie folks who enjoy dancing to rock, disco, and soul music have had a great time in recent weeks at the Friday night "Dance Room" sponsored by the Peace Project. We'd like to make the Dance Room at least a semi-regular outing--it's a lot more fun when you have friends to dance with! We'll try to meet on Friday, Feb. 17, at room 3R, Madison Civic Center. Dancing begins at 9:00 p.m. in a smoke-free room. See you there!

SOLO DISCOVERY

Solo Discovery, a discussion group for single adults, will meet on Saturday, Feb. 25, at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. This month's topic is "What are my needs for space? How do I get it and how do I give it?" Registration begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 238-9884.

DEATHS IN PRAIRIE FAMILIES

George A. Gaines, father of Prairie member Pat Watkins, died Monday, Feb. 6, in a Madison hospital. Before coming to Madison Mr. Gaines and his wife, the former Doris Clarke, had lived in Jersey City, N.J.

Barbara Park's father passed away at the end of January, and Sandra Sephens father died in December.

Rachel Siegfried reminds everyone that she would like alterations and sewing to do at home. Call 271-2173.

(alias) Wonder Woman

SOCIAL ACTION

The project to "twin" Madison with a Soviet city continues to grow. Our intended city was recently changed to Voronezh, after it was found that Vologda is off limits to Western visitors (yes, the U.S. has the same kind of policies). Organizers are sending initial information on Madison, along with a letter from Mayor Sensenbrenner, and are planning a 2-week Soviet tour in July (estimated \$1500). Volunteers are needed for portrait, Educational, and Fundraising committees. Interested? Call a Friend, Ruth Polly, at 233-4713.

EDDIE CARTHAN IN MADISON

The week of February 20th, ex-mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, Eddie J. Carthan and his wife Shirley will be in Madison. The main event for the general public will be held at St. Paul's University Catholic Center Chapel on Thursday, February 23rd at 7 P.M. There is no charge. Parking is convenient in the Lake Street parking ramp. The event is sponsored by the Madison Support Committee for Mayor Eddie Carthan and is co-sponsored by Madison Urban Ministry and Clergy Laity Concerned.

Carthan will be addressing issues that lead to barriers--legal and illegal--Black leaders face in getting elected and in using the power of elected office to make progressive changes.

In a delta (plantation) town like Tchula these changes are badly needed: 30% official unemployment, 66% of population on welfare, 47% of homes lacking plumbing facilities, located in 10th poorest county in the nation. Eighty percent of the residents are Black. The local people and economy are quite literally at the mercy of the planters and merchants who control the financial and governmental business of the town and surrounding county. They decide ~~wages~~ to be paid to farm labor; who has power on governing boards, hospitals, schools; who holds public office; what decisions those public officials make; whether or not industry is allowed to locate; etc.

Carthan was released from federal prison in November 1983. He is however still without civil rights--to hold public office or to vote. Support committees across the country are continuing to work for his freedom. Carthan and his

family have sacrificed their livelihoods and personal safety to make life better for their community and to show other prospective Black leaders that they must persist. The Carthans have been used as an example of what happens when you 'get out of your place.' They refuse to give up.

Eddie James Carthan will be a part of our nation's history. He's a powerful dynamic speaker who speaks from the heart. Come hear and meet Mayor Eddie and Shirley Carthan.

THANKS TO KANKAKEE U U's

We would like to thank publicly two U U's from Kankakee for their trust and generosity in helping us out when we were stranded on I-57 south on Christmas Eve. Around 5 p.m., as we were traveling south to Lance' parents in Mattoon, Ill., the State Police closed I-57 and all other roads south at Kankakee due to drifting snow and the large number of resulting accidents. We were told to find shelter for the night and try to go south the next day. All the motels were full and the Red Cross shelter wouldn't take us because we had our cocker spaniel. The intake person at Red Cross happened to be good friends with two of the six U U's in Kankakee, a town of 30,000. She called them up and they said they would be glad to put us up for the night. Not only did they do that but they fed us four meals, let us have their daughter's room, and were very friendly. We spent several hours discussing U U societies and activities, especially Lake Geneva. We think that this experience was a real positive affirmation of trust in other people, and shows how we all must love each other enough to be able to exhibit this kind of generosity. So, THANK YOU JOHN AND KAY BEGUEN AND DAUGHTER AMY OF KANKAKEE, ILL.

Barbara & Lance

Many thanks to the local Women's International League for Peace & Freedom for so efficiently listing the many events I wanted to tell you about in this issue. Their Calendar appears on the next page. Thanks to Lee & Alice for reproducing it here. (They also put out the WILPF newsletter.)

Lance Green, Social Action
Chairperson.

Friday
February 17
8:00 P.M.
Pres House
731 State Street

Concert by folk musician Judy Gorman-Jacobs. Benefit for Women's Peace Presence to Stop Project ELF. Donation \$4 - \$6 - \$10.

Saturday
February 18
9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
AFSCME headquarters
5 Odana Court

MAKE A CHOICE FOR LIFE: STOP THE MISSILES. Workshops on progress through peaceful protest, the economics of militarism, voting for peace, the myth of the Soviet threat, and envisioning a world without war. Gwyn Kirk will keynote. Sponsored by the Wis. Coalition to STOP THE MISSILES. Plan to attend!

Saturday
February 18
6:00 P.M.
848 Jenifer

Women's Peace Presence to Stop Project ELF will have a dinner with Gwyn Kirk and show the film, COMMONSENSE.

Monday
February 20
7:30 P.M.
UW Memorial Union

A public meeting to begin planning a city-wide, jointly coordinated nonviolent direct action campaign to culminate in civil disobedience in late spring or early summer to express outrage over the militarization of U.S. foreign policy. Sponsored by Disarmament Now.

Thursday
February 23
7:00 P.M.
St. Paul's Chapel
723 State Street

Eddie Carthan, ex-mayor of Tchula, Mississippi will speak. (See article in newsletter).

Saturday
February 25
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
The Moontree
401 Wisconsin Ave.

Moving Beyond Despair. Confronting the reality of our lives on the nuclear precipice. From giving up to digging in . . . winning clear. Call 256-5115 for details. \$20-\$30. Limited enrollment.

Saturday
February 25
4:00 P.M.
First Unitarian Society
Meeting House

Memorial service for Gehrta Amlie. The family has requested that flowers be omitted and has suggested that memorial contributions be made to WILPF.

Sunday
February 26
5:30 P.M.
Jody Schmitz's home
3548 Valley Ridge Rd.
Middleton

Potluck dinner and meeting to plan agenda for the March planning meeting.

Wednesday
February 29
11:54 A.M. - noon
Elizabeth Link Peace Park
Gilman & State Streets

Silent vigil for six minutes (length of time it takes Pershing II missiles based in West Germany to reach their targets in the Soviet Union). To be repeated the last day of each month until the missiles are removed from Europe. Wear green ribbons and bring signs that say STOP THE MISSILES.

Wednesday
February 29
6:30 - 9:00 P.M.
State Historical
Society Auditorium

Panel discussion on the Global Women's Peace Movement. The panel will feature representatives from regional and national women's peace camps. Part of an International Women's Forum sponsored by the Wis. Student Assoc. - Women's Affairs Directorate.

Saturday
March 3
8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
St. Paul's Chapel
723 State Street

THE NEXT STEP. A grassroots training seminar on political action. Your organization and the '84 elections: what you can (and cannot) do about it. \$10.00 per person. Sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility. Contact Buzz Merrick (257-4963) for more information.

MIDWEST DISTRICT UU REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISES BOARD ON PLANNING.

Sid Peterman, field representative to local societies for the UUA-Central Midwest District met with the Board recently to discuss the status of Prairie Society and our proposed loan from the Veatch Foundation. He provided much practical and sound information for us to share.

Sid asked us to consider Prairie as a three-year-old society. He contends that once we accepted the obligations of a building, the nature of our society changed. Patterns that worked for the old society may not be successful for the new. We have brought with us a style and habits that must evolve to continue the success in a new modality.

Money and Prairie Society...can they be spoken of in one breath? The UUA estimates the cost of a full-service society (and we are one) at \$1.00 to \$1.10 a day per member. The average pledge to UU societies is \$418 per family. He noted that our budget contains expenses but not income. And he told us the way money is collected gives an impression of welcomeness to new people. Sid said that research shows the health of societies is higher where regular donations are taken. He suggested that the symbolism of a collection plate (or announcement of welcome donations) keeps conscious the need for the means of operation and extends that welcomeness to newcomers. It is a tangible way people can measure our worth. If a society collects more than 80% of its revenue from pledges (and we collect 90-95%) it is probably not expanding the knowledge of the "faith." Satisfied with the experience of our discovery, we are unwilling to extend ourselves to others.

Programming is an intentional action by the society. The programming will determine the constituency. He cautioned that the constituency should not create programming exclusively for itself. He told us our pamphlet rack sends a mixed message to newcomers. That a person might assume the need to support all the issues presented before they could feel comfortable as a member. UU is rapidly growing as a denomination, and each society needs structured growth. If we wish to capture our share of that growth, and not impair the morale of our current membership, we will all have to be participants in the decisions and the effort. We will have to expand our programming to include interest areas that are outside the mainstream style of our present congregation. He suggested we add an area of extension activity in preparation for Madison's third church.

We may only be able to decide upon our ultimate size by forming a new society. Sid reported that the average Protestant church is 128 members and that the myth is that churches need be small for intimacy--that everyone knows everybody else. Our speaker felt that there is greater possible intimacy in a group of 150 members than 75 members. Reasoning that people can not be intimate with 150 people, the members will divide into cells of special need--there being more possibilities in a larger group. Certain levels of population are inefficient. At 625 members, the costs of additional staff needed is too great compared with the ability to pay. A society with up to 200 members is possible only without professional help, but the burnout rate (of involved members) is very great. The 200 member size group is a threshold level we were cautioned to avoid. Ideally there should be about 10% unoccupied seats to encourage new participants. After that, for some reason, a plateau is reached, dissatisfaction seems to set in, and a downward trend develops.

We were proud to point to our consistently high attendance rate as a measure of our group. Sid asked us to consider both loyalty and commitment, and to consider our "membership" as including those who participate in ways other than Sunday meetings (the total membership would probably be twice our average attendance). Loyalty is translated into commitment through communication and by allowing every member opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the society. Since our faith has no creed, one of the reasons to go is to be in the company of our friends. This loyalty is not the same as commitment of service and funds.

He stated that the function of lay-leadership is to communicate decisions to the congregation. They will, by their attendance, concern, or contributions, make the ultimate decisions. For example, Prairie Fire is our instrument of communication. To request monies specifically for its support sends the wrong impression to those on the periphery of Prairie Society. They may lose feelings of loyalty to our group and we their decision for commitment.

We discussed effective ways of raising funds. Service auctions, church dinners, special outings, "every-member canvassing," and the creation of special funds. Some people will give to a capital fund, but not to a program budget. Give people a number of options for serving and giving. He suggested we begin an endowment fund by requesting members to bequest \$1000 gifts in their wills. This

(Continued on next page)

would not greatly affect other heirs and would give our society substantial means in the future. He suggests maximum communication about the needs of the society (including money) and an expansion of opportunities for giving. When the board does not communicate, the few control the knowledge of money and this induces negative feelings. An ongoing dialogue will keep fiscal matters from being considered in a "crisis" atmosphere.

Our guest had this to say on the question of a loan for windows. The UUA and the Veatch Foundation are in the business of supporting member societies and not in the business of giving loans per se. They have a limited (\$3 million) total amount to work with. Our current loan costs them about \$5000 a year to service because the interest rate is below commercial levels. If we were to request a loan, Veatch will need to consider whether: we are doing all we can to raise the money with pledges at 2/3 the national average; are we a good credit risk to the UUA; how much of a capital fund drive will we do for the loan; how in need are we; and finally, does the congregation support the need for a new loan. He suggested we have a capital fund raising campaign and then think about renegotiating the entire loan. (He also hints that we should do more long range planning as well.)

Sid Peterman's presentation was much more lively and positive than this brief text. He saw some "fascinating problems" for Prairie Society in the future and left us sure we could resolve them. I hope this generally summarizes the thoughts of our guest.

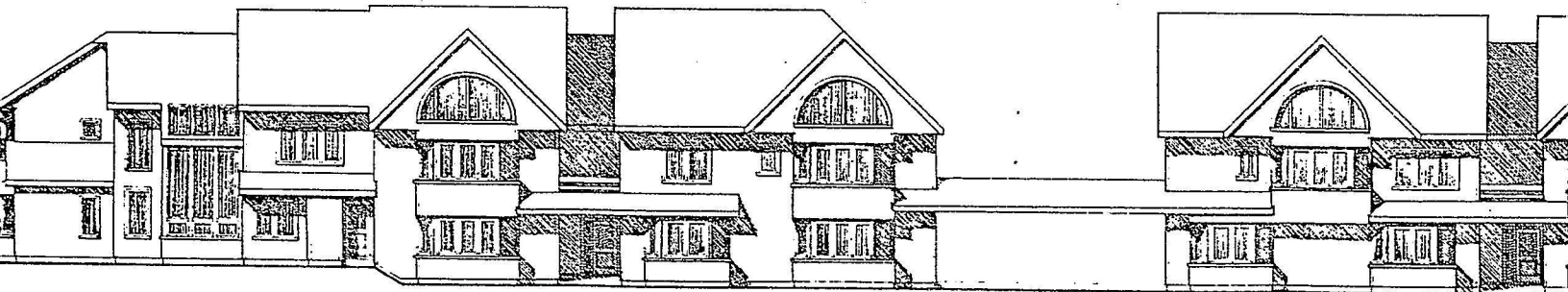
MADISON GROUP WILL ATTEMPT MODERATE INCOME, CROSS CULTURAL CONDOMINIUM PROJECT

Housing Collaborative, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that hopes to assist Madison in efforts to integrate neighborhoods with a specific proposed project at 2 North Allen St. The project has been developed to facilitate moderate income households in securing quality housing through the self-help construction process.

The site, one block from West High, will be developed as 14 condominiums. The units vary from one bedroom to three bedrooms plus loft. The costs will be between \$44,000 and \$74,000. A 10% down-payment is required. Construction will start this spring. The units are being pre-sold now.

It is important to incorporate the future owner builders in the process within the next month. Each condominium is designed with them. Vogel Bros. will build the structure and the mechanicals. The participan-builders will work about 20 hours a week for the remainder of the year to complete the units. Their sweat equity will add value to the units.

Char Thompson, Coordinator of the project, requests readers' help in spreading the word about the project. Answers to questions or brochures about the project can be obtained by calling him at 251-3919.



NORTH ALLEN STREET (EAST) ELEVATION