**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 5  February 28, 1984

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4**

10:00 a.m.--**FINAL CHOICES**--Panel discussion: Mary Lou Munts, Rick Ruecking, Marybeth Plane, and Arnoldus Goudsmit (see story)

10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care

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

7:30 p.m.--Workshop/discussion on "Final Choices" home of Shirley Czoschke, 2320 Rowley Ave

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7**

7:30 p.m.--Prairie Board Meeting at Bonser's 5213 Milward Dr.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10**

8:00 p.m.--Theater Party: University Theater production of Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, tickets: $4.50. (see story)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11**

10:00 a.m.--**FROM DIFFERENT TRADITIONS**--by Diane Worzala, new Lay Minister

10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care

7:30 p.m.--Another "Final Choices" informal discussion

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

10:00 a.m.--**THE USE AND ABUSE OF HISTORICAL TRADITION: THE IRISH EXAMPLE**--by Diane Worzala--Music and literature that have instilled nationalism and sectarianism.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25**

10:00 a.m.--**OUR ETHNIC HERITAGE**--Diane Worzala

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

7:30 p.m.--The Playreaders will meet at the home of Helen & Arnoldus Goudsmit (the intern at 1st Society), 4909 Whitcomb Dr. Call 274-2122.

**DIANE WORZALA TO BEGIN LAY MINISTRY**

How the way we conduct our lives is affected by the kinds of traditions in which we grew up will be examined in the lay ministry series which begins March 11. Diane Worzala is a historian now on an honorary fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. She has taught classes both at the UW and at Notre Dame University. She wrote her doctoral thesis on the British and Irish women's movements while at England's Cambridge University.

She plans to present all her topics herself, with one exception: a discussion of Jewish traditions, with a guest speaker. She also welcomes contributions from Prairie people. The series will consider both the positive and the undesirable effects of our adherence to traditions.

The first title will be "From Different Traditions."

Diane attended our meeting on rock music and was interested in the amount of intense pro and con reaction it produced. She hopes her series will provoke a similar response.

**NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MARCH 11**
FOCUS ON OUR PRIMARY CLASS

The teaching team for our primary grades class--Peg Stevenson, Bob Nelson, and Nancy Hartog--have planned and prepared an outstanding series on the handicapped for our children. February 19, Barb Park visited this lively group of six, seven, and eight year olds with child-sized crutches, braces, and wheelchairs. Allison McKee visited on February 26, sharing her experiences in working with the blind. The third and final Sunday in this unit will be March 4. Problems of being deaf will be the focus of the discussion, with a look at sign-language and the Bliss symbols. Barb Park will assist again with this program.

After the adult program on March 11, please join the middle school class for a look at the slide show they have prepared. It will be shown on the stage.

RECOGNITION AWARD

The recognition award this month goes to Karen Aubrey, who has designed and stitched our new R.E. News Banner. Watch the banner each week for ideas to discuss with your children in the car on the way home from Prairie. Thank you, Karen!

PRESCHOOL CLASS (Ages 3-4)
March 4 Silhouettes with Tami Carter
" 11 Making books with Tami Carter

A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN (Grades K - 2)
March 4 Thinking about being deaf with Nancy Hartog & Barb Park
" 11 Thinking about dying with Nancy Hartog & Peg Stevenson

A STEPPING STONE YEAR (Grades 3 - 5)
March 4 Moses with Dan Laux
" 11 Continuing discussion about Moses with Norma Martin

HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE? (Grades 6-8)
March 4 Putting together the final slide show with Jean Campbell and Leslie Oakes
" 11 Get acquainted with Carolyn Campen & Carl Sparrow

FROM THE CLIP BOARDS

KITCHEN CLEANUP
March 4 D. Wetherby & Anne Reardon
" 11 J. Novak & N. Lynch

BUILDING CLEANUP
March 4 B. & J. Jallings
" 11 ?? & ??

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS
March 4 Sharon Scrattish
" 11 Pat Cautley

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

The Arkansaw Bear is a children's play at the University Theatre on Friday & Saturday March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. This play, presented by the Theatre for children and young people is designed especially for elementary school children as an allegorical presentation of death. The little girl's grandfather is dying and she is helped to understand why. I especially recommend it for children in the K - 2 Sunday School class as we will be talking about death later in March.

For ticket information call 262-1500.
Peg Stevenson

SERVICE AUCTION COMING AT PRAIRIE

Reserve Saturday, April 14 for an evening social and service auction at Prairie. Everyone will have an opportunity to offer some service for your bids. Prairie President, Mike Briggs will cook and serve your dinner party or brunch. Keep watching this space for further offerings.

FIRST UNITARIAN SQUARE DANCE & POTLUCK

Potluck at 6:30 p.m. (bring a dish to pass and your own table service) followed by FOLK DANCING at 8 on Saturday, March 10, at First Society.

KRISTINA SPRING SENT VALENTINE GREETINGS TO PRAIRIE SAYING, I MISS YOU! We miss Kris and Judy, too. We love the teddy bear, Kris.
FINAL CHOICES

This title has a triple function for us for the next few weeks. It is the title of an excellent booklet prepared and published by a committee at First Unitarian, copies of which have been graciously made available for purchase by Prairie people. This booklet compresses into 28 pages an inventory of the decisions that need to be made and vital information made available at the time of any individual’s death. It includes several questionnaires the completion of which can spare one’s survivors both needless expense and anguish. In fact, I am convinced that making clear choices about issues like organ donations and cremation vs. burial is one of the most effective ways you can act in order to be sure that those you love will continue to feel your love after your death. The booklets themselves will be available at $2 each through Aileen Nettleton.

Next Sunday morning we will be hearing from a panel (title: Final Choices) which will include our own Mary Lou Munts, Marybeth Plane, and Rick Ruecking (each of whom is being generous with both time and personal privacy to share something of their own family’s experience with particular griefs) and Arnoldus Goudsmit, a Unitarian intern minister, who recently retired from a career as an oncologist.

Then at 7:30 the next Sunday evenings, you are not only invited, but urged to attend an informal gathering at which we will wrestle together with any of those questions that the booklet presents us with for which being in a supportive group will be helpful. (Putting the booklet in one’s desk drawer with empty blanks would indeed be an empty exercise.)

As a quotation in the booklet says, "No one likes to think about death... However death is inevitable, and to the extent possible, the fear of it must be overcome. Acceptance of death as a natural ending to one’s earthly existence frees an individual to fully enjoy life." D. Wetherby

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The Committee on Committees will start meeting soon to nominate active members for elective offices and to solicit lay ministers for the next Prairie "church year." If you would like to suggest someone for a position, or are interested in a position yourself, please get in touch. Les Lyons

LIVING WILL BILL IN LEGISLATURE

AB 513, which has been amended and reported out unanimously by the Senate committee, makes it possible for adults to choose to direct the withholding or withdrawing of intrusive medical procedures that serve only to prolong the dying process when a patient is in a terminal condition. As amended, the only situation in which the effect of such a declaration would be temporarily suspended would be during the third trimester of pregnancy, if the fetus is diagnosed as being viable.

AB 513, as amended, differs in three crucial respects from the version of the bill that was passed in 1983 by the Assembly. That version would have totally precluded from any such choice every pregnant woman, from the moment of the diagnosis of her pregnancy, regardless of any possibility of the survival of a child. Also under the Assembly version, 14 days would have to elapse after the persons signing the document before the living will could be honored and the intrusive procedures removed. And finally, the Assembly version would not have allowed the individual’s personal preference to die naturally to be honored unless and until two physicians agreed that death would certainly occur within 30 days, regardless of the application of intrusive procedures. This last limitation by itself, almost certainly would have made the declaration a practical nullity in all but a minority of extreme cases.

The Senate committee version makes it possible for Wisconsin citizens of every age, who are concerned about being able to make informed choices about one’s own medical care, to unite. Each individual’s right to be the ultimate decision maker when it comes to choices about medical treatment--about the essential integrity of one’s own body--is so vital that it deserves to be legislatively affirmed. The AB 513 that came out of the Assembly totally failed to serve that purpose. The amended version, unanimously reported out by Sen. Thompson’s committee, deserves support for going a long way in protecting an essential freedom of choice.

The Senate is scheduled to debate the bill Thursday, March 1. If the Senate passes the amended version of the bill, it will go to a Conference Committee which will attempt to rewrite the bill in a way which will be acceptable to both houses, after which it must be reconsidered by both. There is still time to communicate with legislators regarding your opinion.
SANCTUARY FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES

It is a pleasure to report that the pancake lunch benefit brought in more than $200 in support of Mary Mullen's trip to Texas with the border advocacy group. Many thanks to everyone who helped, or ate or donated.

That same day (February 19), Madison's second public sanctuary project was launched with an impressive and moving service of welcome for the Gonzales family from Guatemala: Rogelio and Maria and their children Brenda, Uri, Carlos and Camilo. Four congregations are collaborating in sponsoring the sanctuary: Bethany United Methodist Church, the Beth Israel Center, Covenant Presbyterian Church and The Community of John XXIII. A number of other congregations, groups and individuals have endorsed the project.

At the reception after the inauguration I was asked whether Prairie might want to decide whether to sponsor a sanctuary project if not by ourselves then jointly with several other local congregations. Of course, I couldn't say that we would or would not, but I do think it is a question we should ask ourselves. In the past year we have given a lot of support to the sanctuary project at St. Francis' House and to border advocacy, but isn't it also fair to say that our participation in sanctuary has been only peripheral? Do we have what it takes—time, money, personal commitment and courage to become centrally involved?

Les Lyons

DELEGATES TO U.U. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

If you would like to be one of Prairie's two official delegates to the U.U. General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, in late June, let Mike Briggs know. If more than two people want to be delegates, we'll have an election at our general meeting on April 29.

ATTENTION ALL "DANCING FOOLS"

Prairie's turnout at the Madison Dance Room on February 17 was GREAT. At least 10 Prairie people came and we had a terrific time. Let's do it again on March 2. See you at Room 3R, Circle Center, after 9 p.m.

Anne Reardon

WANTED--A GOOD HOME FOR A NICE CAT

I know a very sweet, loving female cat who needs to be adopted. She is between 1 and 3 years old, recently spayed and is black and white with gold-green eyes. I've been helping nurse her after she almost froze to death in January. If interested, please call Anne Reardon at 271-1110 home after 8 p.m. or 271-2771 at work.

NEW DIRECTORIES AT PRAIRIE

The 1984 Directories are finished and can be picked up at Prairie--one to a family, please. If errors are found or changes in address need to be made, they will be published in Prairie Fire. There are blank pages at the back of the directory part for revisions. One omission and one change need to be listed already:

Hernandez, Monica
765 Mayhew, Selery A
Madison, WI 53706

Zakem, Dave: delete business phone

THEATER PARTY ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 8 p.m.
Join us at the University Theater production of Tom Stoppard's Travesies with a stop afterward at Porta Bella on Frances St. Tickets are $4.50. For more information, call Pat Watkins, 233-5795 or 262-7960 (days).

VOLUNTEER WANTED
Gardner--no experience needed--to design and maintain the flower bed in front of Prairie this summer. See Dick Bonser or Fran Remeika.

THANK YOU
Pat Watkins would like to thank all the wonderful Prairie folks who were so kind and so supportive at the time of her dad's death.

ROSSINI'S "STABAT MATER"
The Madison Symphony Chorus and Orchestra will perform Rossini's Stabat Mater Saturday, March 3, at the Madison Civic Center at 8 pm. Rachel Siegfried, Rosemary Dorney and Shirley Lake are chorus members.

WOMEN: THE MISSING CHAPTER IN WISCONSIN POLITICS
You are invited to attend a program on March 5 at 7 p.m. at the State Historical Society, titled: Women: The Missing Chapter in Wisconsin Politics. The speakers will be Dr. Andrea Nye, UW-Whitewater, and Midge Miller, Virginia Hart, Ruth Doyle and Esther Luckhardt who will discuss women's role in government. There will be a 9 p.m. reception at OLD FRIENDS above Gino's, 540 State St. This program is sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus of Wisconsin and the UW-Madison Women's Studies.