



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, MAY 13

- 8:30 a.m.--Grades 3,4,5 Trip to Chicago,
Meet at Prairie, bring sack lunch
- 10:00 a.m.--ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR FOREMOTHERS
by Diane Worzala
- 10:00 a.m.--R.E.classes & baby & child care.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

- 7:30 p.m. --Joint meeting of old and new
Boards, at Prairie

FRIDAY, MAY 18

- 6:30 p.m. --Play Readers annual fish dinner
(See story)

SUNDAY, MAY 20

- 10:00 a.m.--Prairie Recognition Service with
Lynda Lewis (Intergenerational)
- 11:30 a.m.--Recessed business meeting
After business meeting--POTLUCK LUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 27

- NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE-- See story for infor-
mation about Canoe Trip.

PLAY READERS ANNUAL FISH DINNER, MAY 18

Join the Play Readers for their annual fish dinner on Friday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. at Bud's House of Sandwiches, 6722 Odana Rd. Their seafood buffet is \$5.95 for all you can eat of fried or broiled perch or cod, plus the trimmings.

A one-act play reading will follow (with dessert & coffee) at Pat Watkins. Join us for either or both parts of the evening. Dinner reservations are a must; call Pat at 262-7960 or 233-5795 no later than Monday, May 14.

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TEACHER RECRUITMENT UPDATE:

NURSERY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Gail Ostler

KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 & 2:

First Semester	Second Semester
1 Bob Park	1 Bob Park
2 Anne Reardon	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____

GRADES 3, 4, & 5

First Semester	Second Semester
1 Judy Spring	1 Linda Nelson
2 Dan Laux	2 Peg Stevenson
3 Al Nettleton	3 John Lewis

GRADES 6, 7, & 8

First Semester	Second Semester
1 Lance Green	1 Nina Matarella
2 Karen Aubrey	2 Dave Zakem
3 Bob Dopp	3 Linda Lewis

EIGHTH GRADE COMING OF AGE MENTOR:

Brent Haglund

INTERIM TEACHERS: Kathy Laux

- 2 Vicki Swetz
3 Martha Fineman
4 _____

SPECIAL ARTS PROJECTS TEACHER:

Shirley Price-Marcus

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: APPLY NOW!

The R.E. Committee has regretfully accepted Dayle Haglund's resignation as R.E. Director. We are beginning our search for a new director. The position will begin July 1. Please call Erin Bosch, 238-6285, or Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053 for information, recommendations, or to express your own interest.

The R.E. Director is a very important role in our Prairie community. Give this serious consideration.

R.E. CLASSES

- Preschool Class (Ages 3,4)
5-13 Activities with Tami Carter
5-20 " " " "
A Place of Ones Own (Grades K, 1, 2)
5-13 Homes in Nature: Trip to a Swamp
with Peg Stevenson and John Lewis
5-20 Recognition Sunday: Intergenerational Service
A Stepping Stone Year (Grades 3,4,5)
5-13 ****Trip to Chicago to the Field
Museum****Meet at Prairie at
8:30 a.m.--Bring sack lunch and
money for a souvenir
5-20 Recognition Sunday: Intergenerational Service
How Can I Know What to Believe?
5-13 Are ethical values absolute?
with Carl Sparrow & Carolyn
Campen
5-20 Recognition Sunday: Intergenerational Service

PRAIRIE CANOE TRIP

The canoe trip will begin Friday evening, May 25, at the village campground in Muscoda. On Saturday morning we will move the canoes to the Lone Rock landing and start downriver to Muscoda at 10:00 a.m. People who cannot come earlier should join us at Lone Rock on Saturday morning. We will stay overnight again at Muscoda, and leave from there for Boscobel on Sunday morning. We will again stay overnight at Muscoda. Monday, we will break camp and return to Madison. Additional canoeing can be arranged Monday for those who are interested.

There are good restaurants in Muscoda for those who don't want to cook, and a motel for those who don't want to camp. Groceries will also be available locally.

Meals will be on your own--it takes too much time for group meals. There will be group activities available (volleyball, and singing and story telling) and there's a few good bars for those who want to party on Saturday. Good weather has been ordered. See you there!

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to announce to all our friends at Prairie our plans to be married! The wedding will be in July/August of 1985 in California after (we hope) we both receive our Ph.D's here at the UW. We are currently searching for a Unitarian Universalist minister and church around the Berkeley/San Jose area, although nothing could ever match Prairie.

Carolyn Campen and Carl Sparrow

NEW OFFICERS, COMMITTEE HEADS PICKED; BUILDING RENTAL PROPOSAL DEFERRED

All nominees for board and committee positions presented by the Committee on Committees were accepted at the annual parish meeting Sunday evening, April 29. The slate of officers follows:

President: Mike Briggs; Vice President: Lynda Lewis; Secretary: Pat Watkins; Treasurer: Mel Micke.

Committee heads: Finance, Carol Dopp; R.E., Aileen Nettleton; Program, Mary Mullen; Social Action, Lance Green; Housing and Property, Rick Ruecking; Long Range Planning, Jack Jallings; Denominational Affairs, Les Lyons.

Anne Reardon, Barb Park, and Lee Bullen were elected to the Committee on Committees. Geoff Bonser was continued from the outgoing committee, and one member remains to be selected by the new board.

Barb Park and Les Lyons were designated as delegates to the UUA General Assembly to be held in Columbus, Ohio, June 25-30.

A sense that more information was needed regarding costs and possible conflicts with Prairie's use of the building led to a decision to defer the leasing of the meeting house to the Cornerstone Congregation to a recessed session of the parish meeting to be held May 20, at 11:30, following the regular Sunday service.

Jack Jallings volunteered to be registration coordinator, and Dorothy Wetherby agreed to serve as program coordinator for the Upham Woods retreat Oct. 12, 13, 14.

With an average of 32 children attending R.E. classes each Sunday, the R.E. Committee suggested the possibility of finding either rental space or using the home of a nearby member family for the middle school class.

OUR SYMPATHY TO RACHEL SIEGFRIED

On April 30, after much pain and illness, Rachel Siegfried's brother died. Rachel had traveled to see him the week-end before and returned home to a telegram telling of his death. She returned to Oklahoma for the funeral.

GOING TO NEW ORLEANS FOR WORLD FAIR?

The UUs of First Church, New Orleans, are opening their homes to other UUs from around the world during the World's Fair.

See the poster on the bulletin board at the back of the room for information about this generous offer. Details of whom to write to and other information is provided.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 20

Children in the third, fourth, and fifth-grade class discussed the following letter at Sharing Circle on April 29.

(Letter written in response to the question of a 7-year old girl: "What shall I say when I go to bed?")

Dear Nancy,

You may not have realized it, but when you asked me to suggest a bedtime prayer for you, you raised a very important question. It is a question which people have wondered about for thousands of years. It is a question which many people think they can answer, but they answer it in different ways. It is a question which many other people are not sure can be answered. The question is this: is there a God who can change people and change things if asked to?

Some believe that God can give them presents or make it rain or cure their troubles if they ask God in the right way. Some people believe that asking God for help is a way of feeling closer to God, no matter what happens in response. Some people believe that God will do what is best for everybody and that to ask God for special favors is selfishness. Some people believe that God is the force of nature, so we cannot pray to God any more than we pray to a tree or a stone. Some people believe that we ought to think only about people and not about God at all.

As you learn more about the world and about other's beliefs, you will have to decide what you think about all this. With your parents' help, and with the help of others, you will form your own beliefs.

But you have asked me a question which can't wait until you have learned more and thought more. You want me to suggest a bedtime prayer. I think I can help, if, for the time being at least, you think of prayer not as asking God for favors, but as an honest expression of some of your feelings.

I especially mean three kinds of feelings. Sometimes you feel thankful for nice things which have happened to you. If you express your thanks at bedtime, you may enjoy them all over again. Sometimes you feel sorry for things which you have done or said. If you express your feeling of being sorry before you go to sleep, you may feel much better. Sometimes you have hopes for yourself and other people. If you express your hopes in prayer, you may see what you can do to make them come true.

I am suggesting that each night you make up your own prayer. It could begin "Tonight I am thankful for ..." and then you could think of the most important things you are sorry about. Your prayer could then end with "Tomorrow I hope..." and you could think of

some of the most important things you hope for and think how you can help to bring them about.

When you do this, if you want to pray by thinking you are talking to God, go right ahead. But it doesn't matter as much as it does matter that you really mean what you say. I think you will discover that if you pray like this at night, it may not change God or change things or change other people, but it will change you and change how you think and feel about God and things and other people.

I hope you will want to talk with your mother and father about all this. You may want to talk to your friends of other religions to see what they think. Perhaps you will want to talk to your church school teacher or your minister. But whoever else you talk to, you will have to decide for yourself. How you work out your thinking and feeling about all this may well be one of the most important things in your life. But don't let that scare you. Understanding your feelings of gratitude and regret and hope is a wonderful process.

Thank you for asking!

Your minister,

Christopher Gist Raible

Written in April, 1963 when minister of the Unitarian Church West in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.
Revised in 1981.

Theron Caldwell Ris Exhibition May 12-18

"CHIMERAS" is the title of the exhibition Theron Caldwell Ris is presenting at the 7th floor gallery, Humanities Building, UW, Madison. There will be a reception on May 12, at 8 p.m.

Theron invites Prairie friends to the reception and showing. She also mentions that she will be taking the show to Nashville for a one person show for a month after it comes down in Madison.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

The 1984 Central Midwest District Annual Meeting is a reality on paper; your presence on Nov. 9-10-11 will complete the experience. Historic First Unitarian Church in St. Louis' colorful West End will be the focal point, but Saturday dinner at the Art Museum and a tour of early UU sites in Old St. Louis will add to your pleasure.

Plan to make your stay even better by visiting the Arch, Botanical Garden, and other things unique to St. Louis. Let us know how we could help you combine vacation and meeting, such as reservations and home hospitality. --Rich Vaughn, '84 CMD Planning Committee