



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 23

- 9:15a.m.--Choir Practice
9:45a.m.--Choir Concert
10:00a.m.--Intergenerational Program
(story elsewhere)
11:30a.m.--Potluck--Fruit & Christmas bread
No oral announcements--use bulletin board.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4:30 p.m.--Christmas Vesper Service,
First Unitarian Society.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 7:30p.m.--Playreaders meet at Pat Watkins.

(Program titles for Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 were not available at press time. Consult your Saturday newspapers for information.)

DECEMBER 23 SERVICE BEGINS AT 9:45a.m.

A very special service is planned for Sunday, December 23, but come early to enjoy it all. During the past month you've probably heard the choir practicing if you came early. Sunday, the choir will give a brief concert starting at 9:45 sharp!

At 10:00 the rest of the festivities will commence with a candlelight procession by Prairie children. (Kids 3rd grade or younger should be accompanied by an adult. Candles will be provided.) Children will also participate in other ways including presenting the "Guest at Your Table" boxes. 

Both children and adults are invited to bring symbolic objects to hang on our ever-green tree. It's become a tradition at Prairie for people to bring something that symbolizes their feelings and to explain its meaning while hanging it on the tree.

In addition there will be several special numbers by the recorder group as well as singing by all. Come knowing that you'll experience something familiar and something unexpected. And plan to stay afterward to share the fruit and Christmas bread potluck.

If you can, please bring candles and holders to place on the piano and around the room. The more the merrier.

R.E. CORNER

NIFTY GIFTY -- What a rousing success!! We had 18 adults helping 46 children make recycled holiday presents. If you want to see the delightful presents ----- well, wait until Christmas. Special thanks to Dayle Haglund, who volunteered to coordinate the whole event, and to all the helpful adults: Linda Nelson, Glenn Chambliss, Fran Remeika, Lynda Lewis, Judy Spring, Metje Butler, Carol Ives, Shirley Lake, Cathy Cole (her kids insisted on returning to Prairie just for Nifty Gifty), Bob Nelson, Brent Haglund, Peg Stevenson (and Dan), Allison McKee, Cathy Butts, and in the nursery Alice Bullen and Aileen Nettleton.

LOST AND? FOUND? -- Missing from the R.E. area are about 35 large posters of famous UUs. The posters are needed for the spring middle school class. If you have any idea where they are, please help us find them.
INTERIM -- On December 30 and January 6

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30

(Continued on page 2)

R.E. CORNER, continued

special interim projects will be held instead of regular R.E. classes. The nursery and child care will continue as usual, but older children will get to do two of the following projects: learn sign language, make a craft project, study the artistic side of photography, or learn to cook a special treat.

SECOND SEMESTER -- Regular R.E. classes resume on January 13 with these new and continuing programs:

K-1-2 Betty Jallings, Bob Park and Anne Reardon will continue to teach The Adventures of Gods Folks, but they virtually rewrote the curriculum to include Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, Thoreau, Jefferson, Barton, Sacajawea, Chief Joseph, Darwin, Potter, and Johnny Appleseed. A special overnight field trip will be held at Parks on May 11 and 12, so save that date.

3-4-5 Taught by Karen Jackson, Al Nettleton and Judy Spring, this class will continue to study Holidays and Holydays with King's birthday (to become a national holiday in 1986), Henry Bergh, Africa Day, UU Presidents, UU Women, UU Day, St. Patrick, NoRuz, Buddha's birthday, Passover, Earth Day, and Japanese Children's Day.

6-7-8 What a treat! This class will study a new curriculum written by our own Dayle Haglund and implemented by Nina Mattarella-Micke, Linda Nelson, and Dave Zakem. "Credo" has the middle schoolers investigating what Unitarian Universalists (especially here at Prairie) believe and how they shape their lives according to their beliefs. Lessons will include a survey of Prairie members' beliefs, why attend a UU church, trinity/unity, Priestley, Ballou, merger, and diversity of beliefs.

Retiring Teachers--Special thanks to the teachers who took so many Sundays to help Prairie youth: Dan Laux (3-4-5), Bob Dopp and Lance Green (6-7-8). Your efforts are appreciated. Come back and teach again soon. Also appreciated are the teachers who will continue the whole year.: K-1-2--Betty Jallings, Bob Park, Anne Reardon; 3-4-5--Al Nettleton and Judy Spring; Nursery--Cathy Butts and Beth Price-Marcus.

Intergenerational Service 3rd grade and older will be asked to participate in a candlelight procession on Dec. 23. If younger children want to participate we ask that parents or other adult help each child until the candles are blown out (maybe 5 minutes).

CHANGE THE BYLAWS?

Your Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, created last spring by a resolution at the parish meeting, has begun meeting. The Committee needs your suggestions for changes of the bylaws. Suggested changes should be in writing, but need not be in the form of an amendment; just let us know which section or sections you think need changing, and what changes should be made. Your written suggestions should be given by January 13 to Mike Briggs, Jack Jallings, Pat Watkins or Les Lyons.

CHRISTMAS VESPER SERVICE

Prairie people and friends are invited to attend the Christmas Vesper Service at the First Unitarian Society on Monday, December 24 at 4:30p.m.

The service is a quiet one - of reflection, readings and music. It is one of the few joint services involving the Prairie and First Society. The Revs. Max Gaebler and Carol Taylor provide the readings; George Calden is in charge of the music.

NEW YEAR EVE PARTY AT FIRST SOCIETY

Prairie people and friends are invited to attend a New Year Eve party at First Society's meeting house. (Details in enclosed flyer) Tickets are available from Mary Mullen or at the door.

HELP RACHEL SIEGFRIED CELEBRATE

Come join a festive party to celebrate Rachel's 60th birthday! All Prairie friends are invited for games, dancing, music, food and drinks to come to Prairie on Friday, January 11, 1985, at 8 p.m. A dish of sweets, hors d'oeuvres, or a beverage would be appreciated. This is RACHEL'S BIG BASH!

Does anyone have any leftover white latex paint? Omega School, a G.E.D. preparation center, needs to repaint some bookcases. If you have some to donate, please give me a call at 271-8781. Thanks. Judy Spring

Metje Butler calls our attention to a woodworking shop operated by a profoundly hearing impaired young man and his mother. She has had work done by him and recommends it highly. The shop is located at 2726 Atwood Ave. (241-6673).

SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

Two very heavy boxes of food were delivered to the Salvation Army to add to its 800-bag Christmas give-away. Many heartfelt thanks to you Prairie donors.

If anyone has a bulletin board they'd like to donate to use for Social Action notices, please call me at 249-5979. Lance Green
Social Action Chair

AND SEW FOR PEACE...

Imagine 10 miles of Peace Ribbon wrapped around the Pentagon on August 6, 1985, 40th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Such was the 1981 dream of Justine Merritt, a Colorado grandmother, who wanted "to show that all kinds of people object to the possibility of nuclear war... It occurred to me that a ribbon might be tied around the Pentagon to remind the nation that we love the earth and its people." And so she began asking people to each create an 18" x 36" panel representing "what I cannot bear to think of as lost forever in a nuclear war."

The concept was adopted by several groups,

and is becoming reality. At their July meeting at Purdue University, Church Women United (CWU) joined segments from all 50 states, forming a mile-long Ribbon. At her Denver home, Ms. Merritt has now accumulated over 4 miles of hand-made Ribbon, ranging from the sewn-on handprints of preschoolers to elaborate weaving and embroidery. A 37-panel segment by Wisconsin CWU's is now touring churches in Madison and throughout the state.

Prior to sending the Wisconsin segment to the Pentagon, there will be a peaceful rally May 27, 1985 to wrap the State Capitol with the Ribbon. After the Pentagon wrapping, the Ribbon will be cut into sections; one for permanent display at the Chicago Peace Museum, others to be sent across the country for peace displays.

Gloria Welniak, of WILPF and the State Ribbon coordinator, is conducting workshops on making panels at the Weaving Workshop, 920 E Johnson. Those interested in attending or obtaining instructions may call her at 255-1066. How about a Prairie panel???? Let's meet after a January program! Lance Green

COME AND CELEBRATE!
BRING FRIENDS!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY
900 UNIVERSITY BAY DRIVE

9 P.M. UNTIL ?
(FREE BREAKFAST FOR THOSE
STAYING TO CLEAN UP)

FOOD, FUN, BEVERAGE,
FRIENDS, DANCING

#3 DONATION INCLUDES 2 BEVERAGE TICKETS