



# 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 23, Number 5, February 26, 1985

### CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 3

10:00 a.m.--THE FUTURE: WHERE DO WE GO FROM  
HERE? Prairie members speak on  
their visions.

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

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

10:00 a.m.--REFUGEES: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE  
Guest speakers: Mariellen and  
Harry Kuehn.

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

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

6:45-8:30p.m.--Prairie Youth Group swimming  
at Memorial High School pool,  
50¢ per person, questions,  
call Linda Lewis, 271-2173.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 p.m.--By Laws Committee, home of Pat  
Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

10:00 a.m.--DISCOVERING OURSELVES AGAIN

Guest speaker, Ilda Thomas, Direc-  
tor of Centro Hispano.

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

#### MONDAY, MARCH 18

5:00-7:00p.m.--Program Committee at 2320 Row-  
ley, potluck, call Mary Mullen  
for details, 271-5192.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

1:30-4:00p.m.--Prairie Youth Group will cook  
treats for bake sale on 3-24  
on coffee table, questions  
call Linda Lewis, 271-2173.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

7:30 p.m.--Spring Parish Meeting at Prairie

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PLEASE CALL 838-8055

### R.E. CORNER

Nursery -- The little ones will continue  
measuring, pouring, and cooking activities.  
They will also have adult fantasy play by  
setting up a post office with all its letter  
and package handling activities. More art  
projects will be occurring in the next few  
weeks as well.

K-1-2 -- On March 3 this class will con-  
clude its study of Civil War personalities  
with Clara Barton, a Universalist. On March  
10 they will begin a three week series on  
Sacajawea and Chief Joseph.

3-4-5 -- On March 3 this group will contin-  
ue to study Holidays and Holydays with UU  
Day. On March 10 they will take a break to  
create their own celebration.

6-7-8 -- The Middle Schoolers will examine  
their UU beliefs and values by studying Uni-  
tarianism on March 3 and the UU merger on  
March 10.

Discovery Toys -- Thanks to Arline Ferguson  
and the Prairie people who bought toys from  
her, we can now purchase \$16 of educational  
Discovery Toys for the R.E. program. Thanks  
Arline, for the donation.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome our most recent new  
members: Sandy Klippel and Carolyn Schueppel.  
They live at 3713 E. Karstens #3, Madison,  
53704. Telephone: 249-1421.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MARCH 10

## DODIE CHAPRU BEGINS A NEW LAY MINISTRY: 3-10

Twenty-two years ago Dodie Chapru, B.Mus., MST, MOM, undertook a "longitudinal study" in parent-child relationships which is not likely to be completed within her lifetime. To date, results indicate that good times, good friends and a rowdy dog are major contributors to the welfare of the subjects (N=2).

Dodie was a member of a Congregational-Unitarian church in Fort Collins, Colorado during her college years at Colorado State University. When she and son Paul came to rural Wisconsin they became "mail order Unitarians" through UU's Church of the Larger Fellowship. They joined Prairie after moving to Madison in 1975.

Dodie describes herself as "a woman of many interests, one of which may lead to a profession if I live to be 150!" Her talents include accordionist, singer, music teacher, barber, teacher of English as a second language, recreational folk dance leader and, currently, administrative staff member in the School of Social Work "where I've met a lot of neat people."

"Many Faces of Madison," the theme of Dodie's Ministry, reflects her life experience and interest in diverse populations. Dodie grew up in Riverton, Wyoming where her childhood was enriched by the friendships of Mexican-American and Arapahoe classmates. After college Dodie ventured far from home to work as a chamber maid in a hotel in the Austrian Tirol. Two years in Vienna acquainted her with students from throughout the world. Two years of occupying the "Stehplatz" in the Vienna state opera may account for the fact that Dodie now has a sit-down job.

In Madison Dodie spent many delightful sessions volunteering as an English teacher to Chinese scholars and has been active in multicultural activities on the Madison campus.

As accordionist for the "Ethnic Connection," a Prairie-affiliated folk music group, Dodie has performed for a number of human service and educational organizations including Off the Square Club, Lechayim (an organization of older adults sponsored by Jewish Social Services), retirement centers, Girl Scouts, Self Help Gardeners, the board of the Madison Community Health Center and students and tutors from the Madison Literacy Center.

Although she thrives on the cultural contacts of a city, Dodie's favorite place is in the woods. A canyon in the Wind River Mountains is her spiritual home.



## CLIPBOARDS

### Kitchen Cleanup

March 3 Ruth & George Calden  
" 10 ? & ?

### Nursery Helper

March 3 Barbara Golden  
" 10 McKee  
R. E. Snacks  
March 3 Carol Ives  
" 10 Lindy McGraw

## REFUGEES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Ten years ago Mariellen and Harry Kuehn committed themselves to sponsoring a Southeast Asian refugee family. The family is now happily settled in Madison and in a position to assist other family members.

During the past ten years close friendships were formed and the Kuehn's learned a great deal about the refugee process, disengagement from a culture, and the reclaiming of cultural roots.

Their concern lies not only with the family they sponsored but with current needs of refugee populations throughout the world.

Mariellen and Harry will share with Prairie members anecdotes of their sponsorship experience and will provide an update on the process and status of refugee communities, at Prairie's March 10 service.

The Kuehn's concern with refugee populations is an outgrowth of their Lutheran faith which encourages acceptance of all people ("God didn't make any junk."), commitment to social action and an "obligation to be responsible adults and use the gifts given us."

Harry is Assistant to the Bishop of the Southwest District of the American Lutheran Church and is working on a graduate degree at UW-Madison.

Mariellen, who "went to college to meet Harry and married him 25 years ago," recently completed a Ph.D. in Social Welfare. The Kuehns have two children.

## FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR PRAIRIE

If you would like to add your ideas to a financial plan for Prairie, join us March 5. We will develop strategies discussed at the Growth Workshop last fall. Time: 7:30 p.m. Place: 5010 Marathon Dr. Any questions, call Carol Dopp, 238-7419.

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Dodie plans to share some of her "City Connections" in support of Prairie's quest to "deepen our emotional responsibilities, sharpen our ethical awareness, and broaden our sense of social responsibility."

## DISCOVERING OURSELVES AGAIN

In her home Country, Uruguay, Ilda Thomas grew up admiring the United States and came here 26 years ago when she married an American missionary.

In her words, "When I first came with my husband I wanted to identify with the U.S. and found myself denying my roots."

Plunged into an unfamiliar culture, Ilda eventually felt "uprooted, isolated, no sense of belonging" and "a need to find home again."

"It was not until we moved to an area where there were Hispanic peoples that I discovered myself again."

Now, as the energetic director of Madison's Centro Hispano, Ilda proudly claims "I don't need to deny who I am anymore. I can work for my people because I now what they are experiencing."

Centro Hispano serves as a resource center for the wide diversity of Madisonians who share Hispanic heritage and a common language. Their number is increasing in Madison as it is throughout the nation.

Between 1970 and 1983, peoples in the U.S. of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American descent increased from nine million to nearly sixteen million.

For Madison's Hispanic newcomers, Centro Hispano, funded by United Way of Dane County, helps to lessen feelings of isolation and serves as a bridge between Hispanic and non-Hispanic Cultures.

Ilda Thomas will share some of her personal and professional experiences and will also discuss the situation of her brother who is being held a political prisoner despite efforts of Amnesty International and other groups. Her program will be presented at Prairie on March 17.

## JU ORIENTATION

The current series on Unitarian Universalism will conclude this Sunday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of George and Ruth Calden, 4606 Waukesha Ave. In this third and last meeting we will be hearing about Prairie, how it works, and its future, from some of the people involved in activities such as religious education, finance, social action and program. Everyone is welcome, even if you missed the earlier sessions of the series.

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Wanted: Can anyone lend a portable desk top cassette player? Call Pat Watkins, 262-7960

## SANCTUARY FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES

It is almost two years ago now that Prairie, out of concern for the welfare of refugees from civil wars in Salvador and Guatemala and opposition to U.S. Government policy denying asylum to these people, voted unanimously to endorse and support the public sanctuary project of St. Francis' Episcopal Church. As an endorsing congregation we have contributed, from time to time, toward the financial and other needs of the refugees in sanctuary there.

Throughout the U.S. there are now at least 210 sanctuary sites, more than three times the number there were in 1983. In Madison, the movement has expanded to include a second site and a growing number of endorsing congregations of many denominations.

The government, in its recent mass arrests of sanctuary workers and its prosecution of Jack Elder and Stacey Merkt, was perhaps intending to intimidate and suppress the movement, but there is no evidence of this happening. For its part, the St. Francis' congregation has responded by voting overwhelmingly to reaffirm and continue its sanctuary project.

It would seem to be an appropriate time for us at Prairie, too, to do some soul-searching about our role in the sanctuary movement and to declare ourselves publicly: As for me, I hope we will reaffirm our endorsement and support. I'd like to hear from anyone with an opinion. Les Lyons

## CHANNING-MURRAY

March 10, Sunday evening at 5 p.m. Channing Murray potluck dinner and program will present Ruth Stock and a slide show of her recent trip to China. If there are any questions or you need a ride, call Cindy, 238-9884.

On March 14, Thursday noon, Channing-Murray lunch at the Union will have Amber K. and Catelaine speaking on the Old World Religion. Check "Today In the Union" for the room number. Lunches begin at noon and usually end about 1:30. Everyone is welcome.

## CIRCLE DINNER SUBSTITUTE

Do you have a guilty conscience when you know your dinner group is counting on you to bring the wine, etc., and you can't attend the dinner? Pat Watkins will substitute for you and supply your food contribution if the dinner is in the city limits, and she hasn't another engagement. Call Pat at 262-7960, (days).

