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

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 p.m.--SERVICE AUCTION AT PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

10:00 a.m.--FROM THE BELLY OF THE WHALE: SAGA OF A BLACK FAMILY by Pat Watkins

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

Noon-3:30 --Prairie Youth Group Lunch & Bowling. See story.

7:30 p.m.--ANNUAL SPRING PARISH MEETING at Prairie. It is extremely important that you attend this meeting No business transacted is official without a quorum, and YOU CONSTITUTE THE QUORUM.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

7:30 p.m.--Meeting for persons participating in May 5 Prairie Creators Service at Mary Mullen's, 4337 Milford. See story.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

7:30 p.m.--R.E.Committee at Prairie

THURSDAY, MAY 2

7:30 p.m.--Men's Group Meeting at Rick Ruecking's 5721 Elder Place. All men welcome to join us.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

10:00 a.m.--PRAIRIE CREATORS, music, poetry, etc. created and performed by Prairie members and friends.

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

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 5

R. E. CORNER

Next Year's Teachers - The RE committee is now recruiting teachers for the fall or for all year. Teachers work in teams of three, but only two of them teach each Sunday. If you have a burning desire to foster Prairie children, please call Aileen Nettleton (238-6053) or Mary Beth O'Halloran (221-8583 or leave a message at Prairie 271-8218). Each class has a well written curriculum from UUA and as much local assistance as you want; you need only commitment and enthusiasm.

Preschool - The children now have a feeling box for identifying objects by touch. They continue with pouring and measuring, cooking, and group development. Of course, they are playing outside now as well - dress accordingly. They have also been playing bear cave, with wonderful sound effects.

K-1-2 - This class has just completed lessons on Albert Schweitzer and Charles Darwin, both Unitarians. They created gorgeous clay animals based on Darwin's travels and study. They will spend April 28 and May 5 talking about the folk hero, Johnny Appleseed. Remember to save May 11-12 for their overnight; details will be sent home soon.

3-4-5 - Though small, this class has been very involved in celebrating Earth Day and in creative activities. On April 28 they will return to Buddha's birthday, and on May 5 they will celebrate Japanese Children's Day.

6-7-8 - The middle school will conduct its survey on April 28; results will be summarized in Prairie Fire as soon as possible. For the rest of the year this group will focus on stating their own beliefs and developing a UU beliefs presentation for others.

PRAIRIE CREATORS WANTED
(COME ON OUT OF YOUR CLOSET!)

Any Prairie person who has ever written a poem, story, or essay, or made up a song, either instrumental or with words, is invited to participate in the May 5th Sunday service. If you cannot attend the planning meeting on Tuesday, April 30, please call Mary Mullen (271-5192) to tell her what you'd like to read, sing or play. (If you're too shy to perform your work, maybe we can find someone else to do it, so please come to the meeting or call.)

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY 9th ANNUAL ART FAIR

On Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., rain date May 12, the Madison Audubon Society will have its 9th annual Art Fair, Show, & Sale. It will be held at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave. There will be refreshments, free parking and admission.

Prairie members Glenn Chambliss and Diane Derouen are long-time, active members of the Madison Audubon Society. They recommend our participation in this most worthwhile and beautiful ART FAIR.

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE TO HOST INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

The Madison Sanctuary Community will host an interfaith service of worship, reflection and reaffirmation on Sunday, April 28 at 3pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road.

The service is open to all. It will include meditations by three speakers on the Biblical foundations of the sanctuary ministry, a celebration of God's love through prayer and music, and a reaffirmation of our common bond with the poor and the oppressed of Central America.

Newcomers and people unfamiliar with or curious about sanctuary are especially encouraged to join with us in our prayers and reflections on the Judeo-Christian roots of this ministry.

A reception will follow the service. For more information call Tom Waselchuk, 257-0688 (days).

CALLING ALL PRAIRIE YOUTH!! RETURN THIS INFORMATION!

Please check the activities you will probably participate in so Gail and Lynda can make plans and/or reservations. Youth will pay their own expenses to cover costs of an activity. Return this information to Gail Ostler or Lynda Lewis by May 5.

_____ Horseback Riding	Saturday afternoon, May 11
_____ Picnic/Potluck (Families may come)	Tuesday, May 28, 5-8 p.m.
_____ Dane County Bike Trip with lunch	Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
_____ Camping Trip, Gov. Dodge State Park	Sat./Sun., July 20-21 (Nettleton's will chaperone with Lynda and Gail).
_____ Recreational Afternoon to plan year's events	Sunday, August 25, Noon-4 p.m. Picnic potluck lunch, planning and playing.
_____ Weekend Trips to UU CON-CON UU district societies host	CON-CON INCLUDES WORKSHOPS & recreation planned by youth steering committees. One adult chaperone accompanies every 5/6 youth.
_____ Monthly Bake Sales after Sunday Services	Ingredients: 1 chaperone sets up & supervises 3 Prairie youth each time 2 hours on Saturday to bake, cleanup 2 youth on Sunday to sell food (Even though chaperone and youth sample heartily, profits run 300%.)

_____ Please list any other ideas you have for activities you enjoy or ways you would like to raise funds for your organization.

CHECKING IN WITH PRAIRIE YOUTH

Eighteen Prairie youth and their friends brought high spirits and lots of food to their recent Spring Party/Overnight. Thanks to Bob Dopp who joined Lynda and Gail to chaperone the event.

Thanks to Casey Steinau whose insistence and persistence got a Prairie Youth Group off the ground last fall. Casey was concerned because she noted that we have a large group of youth. She wants them to enjoy sharing activities with other UU youth.

Thanks to parents who have volunteered to help with youth activities this year, especially Bob Nelson, Marty Drapkin, and Bill Fetzner.

Names and addresses of Prairie Youth have been sent to national UU youth services. They will soon be receiving the youth newspaper, SYNAPSE, and other interesting UU information. Extra copies of SYNAPSE are on the back information table.

PRAIRIE YOUTH GROUP: LUNCH & BOWLING

On Sunday, April 28, from noon to 3:30pm, the Prairie Youth Group will meet for lunch at McDonalds and then go to the Burr Oaks at Park Plaza for bowling. They will leave Prairie at 11:45 and are to be picked up at 3:30 at Park Plaza. The cost will be $2 plus lunch. Call Gail Ostler, 241-7105.

PRAIRIE CONTRIBUTES TO CLOTHING FUND

Responding to an appeal for money to ship clothing for refugees from Central America who are now at the Texas border, Prairie members contributed $23.00 at the April 21st service.

CLIPBOARDS

KITCHEN

April 28	Fredericka Schilling & Mary Mullen
May 5	Les Lyons & Cindy LaMar
" 12	Dayle Haglund & ?

NURSERY

April 28	Aileen Nettleton
May 5	Lindy McGraw
" 12	Diane Derouen

SNACKS FOR R.E.

No one signed up!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judy and Ken Skog of 626 Orchard Dr have recently signed the Prairie Membership Book. Their children are Erica and Katie. Please add their names, address and telephone number (273-4813) to your Prairie Directory.

HAGLANDS ON THE MOVE. . . .

We'll be living temporarily at 1343 Spaight St until our July 1 move to Sylvan Ave. Our May and June phone number is 255-6928. Brent & Dayle Haglund

KITTY LITTER, ANYONE?

We purchased a lot of kitty litter at a very good price. Two of our cats died, and our one remaining, very elderly cat has got quirky and won't use it. (There's nothing wrong with it!) We will be happy to undersell virtually any store in town. We can sell it by the 10# sack or in larger amounts. Please call me if interested. Rosemary Dorney 238-4382

To our friends —

From Erica Napoli and Marty Prapkin

As you may or may not know, we're tying the proverbial knot on Saturday, May 18th. We're having a small family wedding and then a party that night starting at 8:00 at Prairie Unitarian Society, located at 9010 Whenona Drive in Madison. This will feature edibles, drinkables, dancing, possibly a stand-up comic and God-knows-what-else.

Please come to our party.

Don't worry about either an RSVP or a gift.

MINUTES

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

APRIL 1, 1985

Present: J. Jallings, L. Lyons, R. Sigfried, J. Spring, D. Wetherby

The meeting began at 7:40 pm with Rachel's report on attendance. On March 17, the room was arranged with the podium on the north side of the room. Ninty-two chairs were set up; seventy- nine people were present. The following week the podium was on the stage. Ninty-two chairs were set up; seventy-seven people attended. This count was related to the concern expressed at the last meeting as to whether or not Prairie was making the best use of existing space.

The committee then reviewed the reports from the RE, Finance, and Program committees, as well as the Sid Peterman report from the fall of 1983.

The Finance report had two long range aspects: endowments and building fund. Les will ask Finance to develop recommendations for discussion on 4/28.

The RE report indicated that the major long range problem is space. There is an average of 32 children attending each Sunday. Judy is to ask the RE committee about the division of classes next year and to find out if the cost of renting space needs to appear in next year's budget.

Dorothy will ask the Program committee to narrow their long range plans.

The committee then developed three scenarios for the 4/28 meeting. These are "freeze" (deliberate non-growth), unplanned growth, and planned growth.

I. "Freeze"
   - A. Assumptions
     1. "Freeze" means a deliberate plan to limit growth
     2. We have reached or are close to optimum size for our present conditions.
   - B. Physical Space- Do nothing except for modifications for safety and RE lavoratory. Result might mean a waiting list for membership and RE.
   - C. Organization- Freeze approach might result in higher rate of leadership burnout.
   - D. Program- Changes could be made in program format that would discourage growth, such as changing the program to an earlier hour, passing the donations basket, and reducing the quality of programs.
   - E. Finance- Even if growth were frozen, we would still need more money for building improvements.

II. Unplanned Growth
   - A. Assumption: This implies that we continue as we have been doing, that is, planning at most only one year at a time and not being particularly concerned about the rate of growth.
   - B. Physical Space
     1. Space will limit growth both upstairs and downstairs.
     2. Both the upstairs area and the downstairs will be at

capacity within the next one to two years
3. Modifications for safety and a children's lavoratory are needed. One estimate for the lavoratory puts the cost at $600-700.

C. Organization- Doing nothing will probably leave us in a reactive position. That in turn may force us to take a step backward to the freeze position or forward to consciously planned growth.
D. Leadership- Doing nothing may lead to burnout because of crisis management and the lack of "new blood".
E. Program- No change in quality but building space might need to be used more effectively.
F. Finance- We would need more money to respond to problems as they arise and would probably have less time to raise it in.
G. Membership- We would probably continue to grow at the current rate of 5-6% a year. This may lead to a higher turnover of visitors and a higher turnover rate in RE.

III. Plannned Growth
A. Assumptions
1. We would need to make a decision about the rate of growth.
2. Space can't be added at the same rate as membership. Space is added in large jumps while membership increases gradually.
B. Physical Space- Options for increasing physical space to accomodate growth may include one or more of the following:
1. Use current space more effectively
2. Modify current structure slightly
3. Add on to current structure
4. Buy a new building
5. Build a new building
6. Encourage the formation of a new U-U group
C. Organization- Increased membership may require changes in the bylaws.
D. Leadership- Paid staff may be necessary to accomodate needs and activities of more members.
E. Program
1. Format may need to be changed to limit discussion.
2. A regular program for new U-Us may need to be added.
F. Finance- Larger sums will need to be raised for expansion.
G. Membership- Depending on the rate of growth, a membership drive may be needed.

Rent?

In preparation for the 4/28 meeting, Jack volunteered to ask how the expansion plan worked for the Quakers and Les will develop some figures projecting membership growth at different rates. It was thought that the above alternatives would be presented 4/28 and then left open for discussion that evening. Further discussion should take place through the summer; this could occur through circle dinner groups and/or special membership meetings in preparation for the fall vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J Spring

Judy Spring