

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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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:00 p.m.--Prairie Men's Group at Prairie

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

7:30 p.m.--Playreaders meet at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon to read Christie's Unexpected Guest or Levin's Critics' Choice. Call: 238-6053.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

10:00 a.m.--CELEBRATION OF LIFE, intergenerational Thanksgiving service.

10:00 a.m.--No R.E. classes except baby & child care.

After Service--Youth Group bowling

5:00 p.m.--Executive Board Meeting at R. Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman Terrace with potluck.

7:30 p.m.--FALL PARISH MEETING at Prairie

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00 a.m.-- CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: THE RATIONALIST AND THE MYSTIC. Is the gap between these traditional antagonists narrowing? by Elisabeth Jones.

10:00 a.m.--Baby & child care available
No R.E. classes but program planned for children K - 8.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:00 a.m.-- SOUND AND SILENCE: THE TUNING OF THE WORLD.

FALL PARISH MEETING NOV. 24, 7:30 P.M.

- Reading and adoption of minutes
- Reports of standing committees
- Report of pledge canvass
- Presentation of 1986 budget
- New business.

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R.E. CORNER

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE: There will be NO R.E. CLASSES for the next 2 weeks. On November 24 all children will be invited to participate in the Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service: COME SEEK, COME SHARE, COME SING. There will be infant care for those too young to participate, but the older preschoolers are welcome upstairs.

Again on December 1, there will be baby and child care -- no R.E. classes -- but a program will be provided for the children. (The adult program is not something children would appreciate.)

NIFTY GIFTY -- Save December 15, from 9:00 to 11:30, for holiday present making for all children.

AYS -- Remember the change of schedule for middle school AYS. On November 24 meet from 5:00 - 7:00 only, no lunch included. AYS will not meet on December 1.

NURSERY HELPERS -- When you volunteer to help in the preschool, it is not necessary to plan activities. Please assist Judy with her scheduled activities by helping kids gather and pay attention to the activities and by helping them with skills needed. On the other hand, if you are working with the babies, feel free to involve them individually or in groups in activities that you know are fun and developmentally sound for the littlest children.

UNICEF MONEY RAISED

A total of \$130 was raised for UNICEF by Prairie young people on Halloween and from adult contributions. This can purchase 200 trowels for community vegetable gardens or enough rehydration tablets for 1,550 children. Thanks to all who helped out.

1985 PLEDGE DRIVE FOR PRAIRIE SOCIETY

Pledges of money are the main source of operations money for Prairie. Eighty three per cent (\$21,453) of the 1986 proposed budget needs to be contributed this way.

The proposed budget emphasizes the programs that nurture our spiritual awareness, sustains the building we gather in, enriches the religious lives of our children, and enables us to communicate together through the Prairie Fire. Please pledge generously.

R.E. INTERIM

Caring adults needed to share with kids 1 or 2 Sundays in January (your choice). You can teach a skill, share a hobby, investigate a special interest with 4-10 kids of mixed ages (K-8). If you would like to spend a little time with some great children, see Mary Beth O'Halloran on a Sunday morning or leave a message at 271-8218.

NEW CIRCLE DINNER GROUP. ANYONE?

If you missed signing up for circle dinners this fall and now yearn to be in a group, take heart.

Why not join two new Prairie members who would like to be in a group. Currently all eight circle dinner groups are at optimum numbers, so a new group will be formed as soon as several people call. Phone Ruth Calden (233-5717) or Dorothy Wetherby (255-3536).

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Yes, we will bowl. The Youth Group will go bowling on Nov. 24. We will leave from Prairie after the service, have lunch at McDonalds, and proceed to Burr Oaks Bowl, 2202 S. Park. Money will be needed for bowling (\$2.00) and for lunch. Youth should be picked up at Burr Oaks Bowl at 2:30.

Linda Lewis has left the Madison area to take a job in La Crosse. The Youth Group will miss her. Erin Bosch has nobly decided to help with the Youth Group. Either Erin (238-6285) or Gail Ostler (241-7105) can answer any questions that you might have regarding Youth Group activities.

YOUTH GROUP T-SHIRTS

T-shirts are available through YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). They come in assorted colors and sizes and are priced at \$5.00. Any youth wishing to order should let Gail Ostler (241-7105) know by November 24.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1

SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

Cans of food have slowly started to collect in the box in Prairie's lobby to feed Madison area people who are in need. They will be given to an organization such as the Salvation Army for distribution. It would be nice if we could have a significant contribution to help with Thanksgiving meals, but the need goes on and whatever is collected will be appreciated after that holiday.

We have recently printed copies of the Delhi Declaration, a plea issued in January of this year by the leaders of six Third World countries: Raul Alfonsin, Argentina; Rajiv Gandhi, India; Miguel de la Madrid, Mexico; Julius Nyerere, Republic of Tanzania; Olaf Palma, Sweden; and Andreas Papandreu, Greece. The Declaration appears as an insert in this issue of Prairie Fire. Please read it and consider signing a statement of support, to be forwarded to the Beyond War organization for them to tally and report at their Five Continent Spacebridge Dec. 14.

The Spacebridge will be a satellite hookup between the six countries whose leaders made the Declaration. They will be honored in the 1985 Beyond War Award Ceremony.

The broadcast will be presented at James Madison high school Dec. 14, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Tickets to the event will be sold for \$6.00, adults, and \$4.00 children and senior citizens. Leland Bullen

DISCOVERY TOYS

For anyone who missed the Discovery Toys display, Arlene Ferguson and Vickie Swetz will be taking orders until December. Prairie receives 24% of sales.

FROM THE CLIPBOARDS:

Kitchen Cleanup
Nov. 24--George and Ruth Calden
Dec. 1--Larry and Sherryl Robinson
Snacks
Nov. 24--Mary Beth Plane
Dec. 1--Fredericka Schilling

Nursery

No volunteers for next two weeks

SEX CLASS A SUCCESS

Eight adults are meeting weekly with facilitators Dan Laux and Mary Beth O'Halloran to use the "About Your Sexuality" curriculum as a basis for study. The discussion has been free flowing and challenging on the topics of: the purpose of AYS, language, same sex friendships, opposite sex friendships, and lovemaking.

Did you take part in the sports activities? _____

would you like more _____ less _____ or about the same _____ amount of this activity?

What activities would you like to see take place at future Upham Woods Retreats? _____

Camp Upham Woods staff have expressed a willingness to change the menu to accommodate our specialie wants and/or needs. What special needs or desires do you have concerning the meals at Upham Woods? _____

We learned this year that we could have a BRUNCH on SUNDAY morning instead of both breakfast and lunch. Would you be in favor of this meal option? _____ Why or why not? _____

What problems did you observe at this year's retreat that you would like future committees to watch out for? _____

What do you suggest as a solution for this (these) problems? _____

If you are willing or interested in planning and managing future Upham Woods retreats, please give us your name, address and phone number below:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone Number _____

DELHI DECLARATION

FORTY YEARS AGO, when atomic bombs were blasted over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the human race became aware that it could destroy itself, and horror came to dwell among us. Forty years ago, also, the nations of the world gathered to organise the international community, and with the United Nations hope was born for all people.

ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY, over the last four decades, every nation and every human being has lost ultimate control over their own life and death. For all of us, it is a small group of men and machines in cities far away who can decide our fate. Every day we remain alive is a day of grace as if mankind as a whole were a prisoner in the death cell awaiting the uncertain moment of execution. And like every innocent defendant, we refuse to believe that the execution will ever take place.

WE FIND OURSELVES in this situation because the nuclear weapon states have applied traditional doctrines of war in a world where new weapons have made them obsolete. What is the point of nuclear "superiority" or "balance" when each side already has enough weapons to devastate the earth dozens of times over? If the old doctrines are applied in the future, the holocaust will be inescapable sooner or later. But nuclear war can be prevented if our voices are joined in a universal demand in defence of our right to live.

AS A RESULT of recent atmospheric and biological studies, there have been new findings which indicate that in addition to blast, heat and radiation, nuclear war, even on a limited scale, would trigger an arctic nuclear winter which may transform the Earth into a darkened, frozen planet posing unprecedented peril to all nations, even those far removed from the nuclear explosions. We are convinced that this makes it still more pressing to take preventive action to exclude forever the use of nuclear weapons and the occurrence of a nuclear war.

IN OUR JOINT STATEMENT OF MAY 22, 1984, we called upon the nuclear weapon states to bring their arms race to a halt. We are encouraged by the world-wide response to our appeal. The international support we received, and the responses of the nuclear weapon states themselves, have been such that we deemed it our duty to meet here in New Delhi to consider ways to further our efforts.

THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES have a particular responsibility for the dangerous state of the arms race. We urge them to join us in the search for a new direction. We welcome the agreement in Geneva on January 8, 1985, between the Soviet Union and the United States to start bilateral negotiations on "a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms—both strategic and intermediate range—with all the questions considered and resolved in their inter-relationship" We attach great importance to the proclaimed objective of these negotiations: to prevent an arms race in space and to terminate it on earth, ultimately to eliminate nuclear arms everywhere. We expect the two major nuclear weapon powers to implement, in good faith, their undertaking and their negotiations to produce, at an early date, significant results. We will follow their work closely and we expect that they will keep the international community informed of its progress. We stress that the agenda for and the outcome of these negotiations is a matter of concern for all nations and all people.

WE REITERATE OUR APPEAL for an all-embracing halt to the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. Such a halt would greatly facilitate negotiations. Two specific steps today require special attention: the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and a comprehensive test ban treaty.

DELHI DECLARATION

OUTER SPACE must be used for the benefit of mankind as a whole, not as a battleground of the future. We therefore call for the prohibition of the development, testing, production, deployment and use of all space weapons. An arms race in space would be enormously costly, and have grave destabilising effects. It would also endanger a number of arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

WE FURTHER URGE the nuclear weapon states to immediately halt the testing of all kinds of nuclear weapons, and to conclude, at an early date, a treaty on a nuclear weapon test ban. Such a treaty would be a major step towards ending the continuous modernisation of nuclear arsenals.

WE ARE CONVINCED that all such steps, in so far as necessary, can be accompanied by adequate and non-discriminatory measures of verification.

A HALT TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE is at the present moment imperative. Only thus can it be ensured that nuclear arsenals do not grow while negotiations proceed. However, this halt should not be an end in itself. It must be immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces, leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the final goal of General and Complete Disarmament. Parallel to this process, it is urgently necessary to transfer precious resources currently wasted in military expenditure to social and economic development. The strengthening of the United Nations must also be an essential part of this endeavour.

IT IS IMPERATIVE to find a remedy to the existing situation where hundreds of billions of dollars, amounting to approximately one and a half million per minute, are spent annually on weapons. This stands in dramatic contrast to the poverty, and in some cases misery, in which two-thirds of the world population lives.

THE FUTURE OF ALL PEOPLES is at stake. As representatives from non-nuclear weapon states, we will not cease to express our legitimate concern and make known our demands. We affirm our determination to facilitate agreement among the nuclear weapon states, so that the required steps can be taken. We will seek to work together with them for the common security of mankind and for peace.

WE URGE PEOPLE, parliaments and governments the world over to lend forceful support to this appeal. Progress in disarmament can only be achieved with an informed public applying strong pressure on governments. Only then will governments summon the necessary political will to overcome the many obstacles which lie in the path of peace. The World Disarmament Campaign launched by the United Nations represents a very important element in generating that political will.

FOR CENTURIES, men and women have fought for their rights and freedoms. We now face the greatest struggle of all—for the right to live, for ourselves and for future generations.

FORTY YEARS AGO, in Hiroshima and San Francisco, the horror of nuclear war was matched by the hope for peace. We would like this year of 1985 to be the year when hope begins to prevail over terror. We dare to hope that by October 24, 1985, the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations, we might see the first concrete steps to avert the threat to the survival of humanity.