A NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH HUMANISM

10 a.m. Sunday, the 16th: "A Celebration of Syncretic Humanism: Getting It Together with Music and Poetry". Rebecca French will coordinate program including songs by Mary Gaebler, music, poetry, films—all focused on the topic of humanism.

8 p.m. Sunday, the 10th: "Humanism and the Law". Guest speaker, Melvin Greenberg, local activist lawyer, board member Madison chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, currently on defense team of Karlton Armstrong and the Camp McCoy Three. He will discuss humanism and the law and then answer questions from the audience. Public encouraged to attend—free, of course.

7:30 p.m. Monday, the 11th: Organic gardening and other points of view—with Barbara Willard. Also, how you can use wild plants. Suggested reading: Ruth Stout's How to have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back. Every Monday night at this time, Barbara will share her ideas, suggestions, experiences with others about a practical, sane approach to growing your own foods.

10 a.m. Sunday, the 17th: "The Tragedy of the Commons" with Dan and Barbara Willard conducting the program based on Garrett Hardin's Science article called "The Tragedy of the Commons." Reprints of this article may be borrowed from the Willards. Copies are also available at University area bookstores. Also recommended is Beryl Crowe's Science article "Tragedy of the Commons Revisited."

2 p.m. Sunday, the 17th: Meet at Portal-Foster Center for an afternoon outing with Dan Willard. Destination, as of now, unknown; show up and help decide where to hike, canoe, wander, saunter, grub in the good earth...whatever, an afternoon with nature. The smaller, more intimate the group, the better. Each Sunday afternoon, until the weather turns foul, Dan will conduct some sort of nature feast. Come join him.

7:30 p.m. Monday, the 18th: Organic gardening with Barbara Willard at Portal-Foster

10 a.m. Sunday, the 24th: "Are There Limits to Growth?" Charlie Davidson will conduct a program based on the predictions about the future of the world's resources made by an international group of scholars and businessmen. Recommended reading: The Limits to Growth by Donella Meadows, et al.

2 p.m. Sunday, the 24th: Afternoon outing with Dan Willard.

Friday evening, Sept. 29th to Sunday noon Oct. 1st—ANNUAL PRAIRIE SOCIETY RETREAT

Mark your calendars. See info elsewhere in this Newsletter. Plan to come.
GOING ABOUT RAISING THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF PRAIRIE SOCIETY

Up to the beginning of December, two Prairie Society members--Dan and Barbara Willard--will act as the group's leader: poking, pushing, instructing, listening, cajoling, they will be raising the group's consciousness to a keener awareness of ecological issues, issues which the Willards believe are basically religious and moral. A recent conversation with the Willards yielded these thoughts:

"It's all well and good to go out and bad mouth all the big institutional polluters, but... We're more interested in the personal level of ecology. Essentially it means a lifestyle modification. We're most interested in changing the way people feel about the environment. If we can raise their environmental awareness, then they will scream when they see others doing stupid things to our environment. When you make a personal commitment--doing away with the garbage disposal, building your own compost heap, buying properly packaged items, using less electricity, doing organic gardening--then you can really get mad when someone else does anything less. These issues verge on the religious: We are all part of and the result of the ecological system. I am part of you, and you are part of me: I depend on your actions; and, it becomes very personal. Whether you think man can improve the current eco-system, or whether you think man cannot really change it--this is actually a matter of religion."

Dan Willard is a project associate with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute of Environmental Studies. Barbara Willard this year entered the UW Law School. They have two daughters: Martha, 15, and Nellie, 11. They live down the street from the Portal-Foster Center, at 2217 West Lawn. Their phone number is 256-2801.
ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT: SEPT. 29 to OCT. 1: AT CAMP ANOKIJIG

"Insight to the Outside" is the theme of the annual Prairie Society weekend retreat. Dan and Barbara Willard will conduct the program. They explain that they want to give the positive reasons why people are interested in ecology. They want to help others develop sensitivity to what's natural, to help people "slow down to a natural pace."

Camp Anokijig is located in Sheboygan County, five miles north of Plymouth, Wisconsin. More than 300 acres of woodlands surrounding a 30-40 acre section of Elkhart Lake. Huge main recreation and dining building, several sleeping lodges, and plenty of standing tents. Camp Anokijig is a 2½ hour drive from Madison (see map).

So that as many as possible will come, scholarships to defray overall costs will be available. Dan Willard will disburse funds. Cost for the weekend: $6.25 per family unit for housing, plus $1.25 per person per meal. Five meals will be served: three Saturday, two Sunday. As examples: a single person will pay $6.25 plus $6.25 for a total of $12.50 for the weekend; for a family of four, the cost will be $6.25 for housing and $25.00 for food, for a total of $31.25.

Here's a quick way to get there: go to Milwaukee, turn north at the downtown interchange and take Hwy 141 (north to Sheboygan). Stay on 141 to the Grafton interchange, continuing on Hwy 57 till it crosses Hwy 23. Hwy 23 goes to Plymouth. Turn west here (or a little further north where "J" cuts across 57) and go a couple of miles where "E" runs north. Turn north, and begin looking for the Camp Anokijig sign on the left. Here's a map:

Bring yourself, family, snacks for Friday night, towels, sheets and blankets, and ye ole tooth brush. Everything else will be provided.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE APPLICATION BLANK. Return it to Betsy Roberts by Sept. 24. If you have any questions, call Betsy at 238-6030. Return application promptly.

NAME ________________________________ Phone No. ________________________________

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE YOU ARE APPLYING FOR

I need a ride to camp for _______ persons. I need a scholarship of at least $ _______ in order to come to camp. I agree to be part of necessary work details (washing dishes, babysitting, water safety, etc.) _______ Yes _______ (There is no space for "No's" because everyone coming to camp will be put on working party list to make the dirty end of the stick democratically available to all.) I can be called to bring treats for evening snacks _______ Yes.

RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO BETSY ROBERTS RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO BETSY ROBERTS PLEASE!
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION by Theron Caldwell

In the belief that life is a continuum and childhood not preparation for personhood, but probably the most vital part of it—AND mindful of the Prairie People's majority vote for both curriculum and community, we in Religious Education are terribly proud to tell of our fall plans. The Society is rich in people resources; take the semester teachers and plans, for example:

Marcia Birong will be with the Nursery age (all year!) to give our youngest a single adult to recognize each Sunday, to know each of their particular needs and for them to know her warmth. She'll need some parent help; she will contact you. Kindergarten and first graders will be handled by Sarah Clark and Jerry Stromhein. They will adapt the UU curriculum "Men the Meaning Maker" for this age group; picking up understanding, meaning, feelings from what people say. Their hope: the importance of the person to the group and how much fun it is to be part of Prairie will be a very visible part of the agenda.

Sydney Mannerling will build her sessions for the second and third graders from a course titled "Hello People". Again, the hope for recognition of self, group-empathy growth. Or perhaps the title of the best seller: I'm OK--You're OK consciousness! With the 4th and 5th graders will be Paula Klinka using her sessions on the "Decision Making" Unitarian curriculum. The possibility for a cohesive group here will be facilitated by much interaction in the making of group decisions, examination of individual decisions, values. Jane Hennatt and Alan Caldwell and the middle school youngsters (6th, 7th, 8th) will use the new Beacon St. kit: "Person to Person" which, in the words of its author, "aims to help recognize that meanings are in people, not words... to put the commune into communication."

To those who note and groan at the stress on group, individuals, feelings—and little on fact, good old heritage, let us say, please...patience. We respect, and will do much with these this year. But of more screaming importance now is an internalization for each child of their importance to us; what's in the Prairie Society for them.

Other Announcements:
Sign up for Circle Diners at the first Sunday meetings or contact Elinor Loucks.

The first meeting of the playreading group will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place, Madison (Phone: 233-5795). We will read James Baldwin's Blues for Mister Charlie.

LRY News: Meet regularly Sunday Morn 6-9 p.m. Ben Caldwell will coordinate LRY program scheduled for Oct. 8th. Will go bike-hiking to campout in late October.

Program Committee meeting 7:30 p.m., Sept. 28 at Rosemary Dorney's, 2127 Regent

Social Action Committee meeting 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18 at Rebecca French's, 2313 Keyes

"There is, for each of us, the need to learn and grow—and grow, of course in terms of our own consciousness of what our education is about. There is however, an even deeper need to find one solid core of concrete action and specific dedication, one neighborhood, with just one group of children and with one deep dream of love and transformation."

Jonathan Kozol, Free Schools

(Please fill out separate forms for each child; extras at church!)

Child's Name: ______________________

Parents' Name: ______________________

Home Address: _______________________ Telephone: ______________________

Child's Age: _______ Grade in school: _______

Please, a word about past Church School experience if any:

Child's talents, major interests, any problems we should know of:

Children whose parents are knowledgeable, involved in the Church School will profit more from it; we have them bit more than an hour a week. But the hour can extend into, enrich the week if you know more of what went on. Please tick interest areas.

1. Assisting in classes (which ages; if experienced, tell us): __________

2. Assisting with transportation for field trips: __________

3. Assisting with special events, projects (cooking for a holiday, plays, music, what is your "thing"?): __________

4. Helping with a social event (party, cook-out, etc.) __________

5. An idea you may have, not mentioned above: __________

I understand my child may leave the church on supervised walks but will need special permission if vehicles used.

Signature: ______________________

Please bring to Society Meeting Sunday or mail to:

Theron Caldwell, Director, Religious Education
1228 Sherman Ave.
Madison, Wis. 53703