PRAIRIE CALENDER

Sun. 4 Nov: 10 AM. Dianne Remeika introduces Prof. Maurice Zeitlin whose topic will be "What Now for Chile?" Donations will be accepted for political prisoners in Chile.

Mon. 5 Nov: 8 PM. Executive Board meets at Pat Gautley's, 4805 Regent.

Thurs. 8 Nov: 7:30 PM. Social Action Committee meets at McElreath's, 1915 Keyes Avenue. Phone: 256-2085

Sat. 10 Nov: 8 PM. Prairie Party-A Spirited Bash. Come to the Seidl's, 4600 Tonyawatha Trail and bring your own goodies.


Tues. 13 Nov: 10 AM-12 Noon. First sauna of the year, at the Karahal INN. They have agreed to give us the church group rate of $.50 per person, if we come early in the week. Lunch at 12:30 PM. For more information and reservations call Lilo Koehl at 233-7383

Thurs. 15 Nov: 7:30 PM. Program Committee meets at the Perry's, 406 Eagle Heights. Phone: 233-6183

Sat. 17 Nov: 7:30 PM. Playreaders meet at the Pluim's, Route 1, Old Sauk Road, Verona. Phone: 836-5547

Sun. 18 Nov: 10 AM. "A Satire on You and Our Mass Media," a family program with Mark McElreath and the Middle School students.

Sun. 18 Nov: 7 PM. Fall Parish meeting at Portal Foster Home.


!!HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

The following items were left behind at Anokijig by Prairie campers. If you own any of them, contact or stop by at the Parrish's, 302 Greenway, or phone: 238-1725.

1 large, dark blue pullover sweater
1 large white sweatshirt
1 small, red "Door County" zipper parka
1 Camp electric light
1 small, multi-colored pullover sweater
(and possibly a third) choice for each. We'll try to sort the whole thing out and then contact you with what we come up with before collecting the money and ordering the tickets. Unfortunately, we will have missed the first film (A Delicate Balance), so don't include that in your choices. This also means that you will be paying about $0.00 more for each of the other films. The second film will be shown on 14 November; so get in touch with one of us as soon as possible.

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The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in St. Louis, MO, on November 9-11. The subject of the meeting will be: Unitarian Universalism and the American Dream. A flyer and application blank will be posted on the church bulletin board for anyone interested in attending.

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YE OLDE TRADYNGE POSTE

The Fast/Dorney household has a pair of excellent seats for "Two Gentlemen of Verona," the musical to be given at the UW Union Theatre on Monday, Nov. 12, at 8:00 p.m. Unfortunately, what was intended to be a treat turned out to be a disaster, as one of us has a concert dress rehearsal that night. We would like to sell the tickets (and will offer a 10% discount if you request it) so that we can plan another treat at a more propitious time—and we would especially like Prairie friends to have first chance at them. If interested, call 236-4382.

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A young and aggressive group of Valley farm workers won a lot of attention three years ago when its people signed contracts with the powerful growers of Southern California. These workers, led by Cesar Chavez, had struggled for that bargaining position since the fall of 1965—five years later came the recognition.

Today, the Union of Farm Workers, which represents black, brown, and white migrant laborers, are struggling again to renew those same contracts they fought for three years ago. Their boycotts of non-union produce are effective not only in many areas of this country, but in many foreign countries as well.

Credit for effective boycotting in Madison must go to the Madison Boycott Committee, formerly known as the Friends of the Farm Workers. That group of volunteers, headed by one partially-paid union person, keeps a track of the source and price of incoming produce and organizes boycotts against non-union lettuce, grapes, wines, and brandies. Before the OEO collapsed, and with it the Madison "Latin-American Program," these same volunteers were actively assisting the 5000 Chicanos in Dane County. 3000 of whom are below the poverty line.

Chavez has asked, "Is it too much to ask that the poorest people of the country have a measure of justice?" We join the Union in its optimistic cry, "Si se puede!" Therefore, the Prairie Social Action Committee gives its first "Prairie Recognition Award" and a check for $50. to the Madison Boycott Committee. Prairie members and friends should know that such action is taken in the name of the Social Action Committee and with its own funds.

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* * The RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM * *
* * is off to a good start, with children *
* * and teachers already well acquainted *
* * All ages are exploring areas of *
* * values and decision making. Teachers *
* * are: K.Lyman (K-1), B. Perry (2-3), *
* * H.Willard and J. Stroschein (4-5), *
* * M. McElreath and D. Remelka (6-8). Sara *
* * Koehl is in charge of the youngest *
* * set in the nursery. Any volunteers *
* * to help in the nursery on a one-time *
* * basis will be appreciated. Call A *
* * Nettleton at 238-6053. We could use *
* * a small colorful rug and some puzzles *
* * if you have either to spare. Special *
* * thanks for nursery assistance go to *
* * Bonnie, Ginnie, Sarah, and Paula *
* *
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You will all be pleased to know that the UNICEF benefit lunch cleared $46.70. Lots of thanks to Avis, Aileen, Vivian, Hermine, and all of you who contributed so generously.

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The RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE is beginning to plan programs for the second half of the year. Any special ideas on what you'd like for your children should be given to Maida Fineau, Sydney Mannering, Ron Plum, or Aileen Nettleton.

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I'm particularly irritated by "encounter freaks" who insist that all of life should be encounter. Since they have learned to become excellent "encount-ers," they make use of every occasion to engage others, in emotional confrontations. It's a wonderful way of "one-upping" another person, all under the guise of being "real and genuine." These "freaks" cry: "copout" to any aspect of life that does not include personal encounters. Involvement in social action movements is high in their order of "cop-outs." Moral commitments to society are viewed as an escape from the all consuming passion for turning in to our precious egos, and from locking horns with others in emotional duels. Surely, there are values in life besides "feeling our feelings"—like making music together.

George Calden

P.S. Several people have asked when the couples communication program will start. I've been waiting for my stint as lay minister to end before beginning the program. There'll be a further announcement in the December Newsletter, and we will probably begin shortly after Christmas.

The FALL PARISH MEETING, as mentioned in the calender, will take place at 7 PM on Sunday, 18 November. According the the by-laws of the Prairie Society, any amendments to those by-laws must be distributed and in the hands of all members at least two weeks prior to this meeting; i.e., by Sunday, 4 November. THEREFORE... if you wish to submit an amendment for consideration at this meeting, please forward it, in writing, and exactly as you wish to make the change, IMMEDIATELY, to Rosemary Dorney, 2127 Regent Street. Phone: 238-4382.

You are directed to the PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER of 1 October 1973, for the proposed amendment submitted by Nancy McElreath.

Also, on the agenda at the Parish meeting will be (1) the proposed budget for the current fiscal year, and (2) the election of a new Religious Education Committee chairman (to replace Aileen Nettleton, who resigned to take Theron Caldwell's position as Director of Religious Education). Members are invited to offer any other items for inclusion on the agenda. Contact Roland Parrish.

Beginning on 1 November, the Cinema Theater on Atwood Avenue, will begin showings of The American Film Theater, a series of eight outstanding stage shows put on film. The plays being shown are: A Delicate Balance, Rhinoceros, The Homecoming, Butler, Luther, Three Sisters, The Iceman Cometh, and Lost in the Stars. Unfortunately for many of us, the tickets can only be purchased for the entire series at the price of $36.00. For those of you, like myself, who can't afford to expend either the time or the money for the whole series, the PLAYERS have considered the purchase of one or more series tickets to be shared among several people. If you would be interested in seeing one or more of these films, contact Pat Watkins or Naida Finane. Let us know how many films you would like to see, for how many people you would like them, and give a first and second
Fritz Perls, the founder of Gestalt Therapy, has had a strong influence on the field of psychotherapy as well as on our culture. In dealing with the emotional problems of his patients, Perls scorned the rational search for the causes of our behavior. He disdainfully dismissed "talking about" our problems and feelings. He viewed "aboutism" words and intellectual talk as one big cover-up, and a waste of therapy time.

"Lose your mind and come to your senses" was Perls' injunction, to patient and therapist alike, to stop merely talking about our feelings and motives. Instead, he urged people to tune in to themselves—their feelings, gestures, bodily movements, or dreams—and then to express or act out these emotional states. Perls was very action oriented. To him, one experience was worth 1000 words. He was a great psychotherapist.

Perls was also the major figure behind the encounter movement. He was Esalen's leading guru. His stress on the "here and now," on bold confrontations, on immediate, honest self-disclosures, on being less phony, has inspired the encounter growth centers throughout the country.

I have no bones to pick with the uses of encounter in psychotherapy or in the promotion of emotional growth and intimacy, despite the fact that the encounter movement has been unable to police itself adequately to prevent abuses by untrained leaders. But, I do have misgivings about some aspects of the encounter culture.

Too often, marathon groups, encounter weekends, or intensive workshops turn out to be more of a "treat than a treatment." They are effective at stimulating instant, intimate relationships or quickie "peak" experiences. They fall short, however, in promoting sustained long term people to people relationships. Like astronauts returning from the moon, people face a "re-entry" problem of dealing with the daily problems of ordinary living, away from the hugging, the crying, the rages and ecstasies of the encounter weekend. Like the psychedelic drug experience, you get turned-on fast, but you have to face the sobering tomorrow. Of course, the encounter turn-on is far healthier than the LSD turn-on. But, there is still the problem of adjusting to the non-turned-on world afterwards.

I also take issue with the anti-rational position taken by some encounter leaders. Tuning in to our feelings and expressing ourselves spontaneously are all to the good. But, I question whether ideas, reflections, and our other rational faculties are necessarily inimical to self fulfillment or to sensory enjoyment. Some people even derive a deep sensory pleasure from intellectual exchanges and inquiries. Albert Ellis, another psychologist, has moved in the other direction from the "lose your mind" advocates. He has stressed rational thinking as his major instrument for self actualization. Ellis' gods are Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, and Bertrand Russell.