PRAIRIE CALENDAR

TUES-SUN
JUNE 24-29

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY annual meeting in Minneapolis. Don't forget that Theron Caldwell is our official representative to this meeting. For more information regarding the events scheduled for this meeting see the June 15th issue of the UUA World.

SUN
JULY 6

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE date by which we need all your input for the next issue of Prairie Fire.

SUN
JULY 6 2 PM

WATER FÊTE save this day to spend with the Davidsons at their lakeside home for our annual mid-summer get together. More information below.

TUES
JULY 8 8 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at the home of Chairperson Dan Willard, 2217 West Lawn Ave. This is an open committee and your suggestions, help, etc. are welcome in planning for next year's programs.

THUR
JULY 10 8 PM

BOARD MEETING to be convened at the home of the Davidsons, 2210 Waunona Way.

SAT
AUG 2

PLUCKERS GO PUBLIC at the Madison Public Library on West Mifflin Street; time to be announced at a later date.

SUN
AUG 3 5 PM

PRAIRIE-SITE PICNIC save this date for the joint Prairie Society-First Society picnic. (Aug. 10 is the alternative date if the 3rd is rained out.) This will be a potluck picnic and we hope to fly some kites. Additional details will be furnished later.

Water Fête
The annual Davidson-hosted water fête will include swimming, boating, canoeing, and sailing - your boats, the Davidson's boats, borrowed boats, etc. Come anytime after 2 PM to 2210 Waunona Way to spend the day if possible. Bring a picnic supper - there will be beer and soft drinks furnished at a nominal price. Stay as long as you like. If there is rain on the 6th the date for the water fête will be moved back to July 13th. All Prairie members and friends are welcome.

Lay Minister Search Committee Meeting
Although it is too late to go there was a meeting of the Lay Minister Search Committee on Monday, June 23rd. However the members did wish to let others know so that if you are interested in the results of that meeting you may call Terri Laurence or Dan Willard for details. Hopefully, in the future more notice will be given as all such meetings are open. Incidentally, in the last issue of Prairie Fire a mistake was made - Terri Laurence, not Dan Willard, is the Chairperson of this committee. Sorry about that Terri.

Board Meeting Held
The last Board Meeting was held on June 12. Details in the next issue of Prairie Fire.
Boyce Totz Announces Beginning of Yoga Classes
For information about beginning classes call Boyce at his new phone number 255-8647.

A Rainy (But Fun) Solstice Party
Once again a Prairie function was dampened by rain but not by poor spirits. The party held at the Carsons' home flourished regardless of the wet weather. Rosemarie Lester, back from a year in Ohio, was in attendance and added a special homecoming glow to the proceedings. Rosemarie will be staying with Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St.

Willard Champions the Cause of Weedies (no pun intended, of course)
During the past week Barbara Willard, recently admitted to the Wisconsin Bar, has been involved in legal proceedings to prohibit the use of herbicides in the city's lakes for weed control purposes. Barbara, on behalf of Environmental Decade, has been involved in writing briefs and questioning witnesses in an attempt to prevent the Department of Natural Resources from permitting the use of herbicides whose effects are either unknown or detrimental. In this effort Barbara had occasion to cross examine both Hermine Davidson, of Prairie Society and owner of lakeside property, and Orie Loucks, who gave extensive technical testimony based on his experience with the Lake Wingra project. Hermine through her testimony made it clear that forking the weeds onto the shore to be picked up by the city was far more desirable than pouring chemicals into the lake. Hermine, who is past 50, does this herself. We suspect there are a few red-faced, if brawny, pro-chemical advocates out there who might possibly be shamed into admitting that forking weeds, though harder than spilling chemicals, is less dangerous than playing Russian Roulette with herbicides.

Briggs Family to Leave Madison
Mike and Norma Briggs and family will leave Madison for a 4-week stay in England during the month of August. We wish them bon voyage and hope to see them this fall.

Unistar Vacation Ends Happily
Vivian Meyer returned from Camp Unistar in Northern Minnesota this week. She found it, as usual, a most pleasant experience. Vivian encourages families and singles alike to visit Unistar and share in a very special community feeling found there. Vivian was welcomed home by her family with the news of the birth of a son to her brother and his wife.

Prairie Society Officialdom
The next issue of the Prairie Fire will contain a page listing all the chairpeople of the Society involved in standing committees, appointed committee positions, special service or interest groups, etc. We hope that this up-to-date publication will be placed in a safe place (e.g. the Prairie Directory, your bulletin board, etc.) in order that you're informed as to who to contact in case you need information or assistance.

Heavy Thoughts (cont'd)
It seems that the Lay Minister Search Committee and the Program Committee are both in a stage where they must decide the structure and content of the coming year's programs. Some mention has been made of the matter of religion. It would seem incumbent upon us to inform a prospective lay minister or program coordinator just how much religion we want in our programs. This is an issue, however, which is often ignored, repressed, resisted or openly fought (depending upon the forum, personnel in attendance, etc.). Nevertheless it is a rather blunt, and one would think, obvious question to be asked in preparing the programs we Prairie members and friends will consume next year. Some feel religion will be "forced down their throats" if we even attempt to discuss the issues which call for moral, ethical judgments, or decisions of conscience. Others feel that the programs we appreciate most are those which are hollow of religious overtones or which touch on "heavy issues" without coming to any conclusions, without taking any action, without any persistent discussion of the same issue or those programs which allow us to interpose our intellectual or emotional defenses to avoid religious issues. Why does that word "religion" strike fear and anger in the hearts of so many Unitarians? I still haven't quite figured out the solution to this question but I would certainly welcome a chance to get some feedback or response on that theme. And I don't think the Social Action Committee or the Program Committee is the place to refer my question. I think the place is Prairie Society on Sunday mornings. Care to join me?

--Vivian Meyer