PRAIRIE CALENDAR

FRI
JULY 11 7:30 PM
PLAYREADING GROUP meets at Lilo Koehl's home, 3907 Fern Court. Call Lilo for further details.

SUN
JULY 20
PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE date by which we need all your input for the next issue of Prairie Fire.

SAT
AUG 2
FLUCKERS 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.

General Assembly News

The following is an eyewitness report on the proceedings of the UUA General Assembly, as told by Theron Caldwell:

"In this summer of flame fanning for patriotism, I came away from last week's General Assembly with a burning gladness, pride, which is reality tested—which I'll own anywhere before anyone. It's fine to be a part of this denomination.

Opening day in Minneapolis—Minister's Day, technically. Brilliant minds. Toronto's Leonard Mason intricately developed an attack on human arrogance, praising "excellent normality" which he traced for it's respectability to golden Greece—"hubris", it was called then. Humility was a part of this excellence but there was none of it at all in Dr. Mason's conclusion that Christianity is, after all, the logical life style to meet our present and threatened cataclysms. I heard others agree that day; when they differed, he gave good food to nourish dissent.

Then several days of plenary General Assembly. Long meetings, often dull but always meaningful to someone. Incidents. Margaret Hansen, Moderator from California. Perhaps 60. Her stout and deep apology to the Assembly for introducing a secretary as a pretty thing. "There is so much to learn and I DO so want to learn it."

In that assembly we voted to support, for a year and a half, a Boston Office of Gay Concerns--by a clear majority. The arguments were both thoughtful and heated, patronizing and respectful from both sides. It was during this time, I think, that someone reminded from the floor that to listen to those with whom we disagree is basic to us. No, that was in response to one woman's statement against the right to choose abortion. No matter—it applied to both and we heeded it usually.

The Youth Caucus could not vote for the most part; that cost $40 in registration fees. But they met daily and their spokesperson was articulate and forceful in making their points.

The last sessions concerned General Resolutions—stands we vote to take
on world issues for today and tomorrow. I'll just speak of one now. It was
titled "Humanitarianism and Population Control." No aid, it specifies, from
our country to those who are not working concretely toward population control.
The arguments were well backed on both sides. We chose, in the greater number,
to re-affirm our humanitarian values. That is, to reject a lever to coerce the
under-fed of the world. And to re-voice our belief in human potential every-
where to determine what is good for themselves with self-respect and dignity.

U.U.'s travel under a wide umbrella indeed. Get rained on some, smashed
in the middle too. But last week was good in pouring down on us a knowledge
that we are very much in there together whatever the weather."

--Theron Caldwell, Director, Religious Education for
Prairie and your Grateful Delegate to the
U.U. General Assembly

Another Water Fête Success

Once again the Davidsons have provided Prairie people with a beautiful
atmosphere for our midsummer party. There was a great deal of catching up to
do, good conversation, good people, good weather and of course sailing. In
all the experience was truly delightful—we think we speak for all who attended
when we say a sincere thank you to all the Davidsons for this annual treat.
Incidentally, July 12th will mark Hermine's 65th birthday--Hermine adds that
she will be damned if she breaks her neck on Martha's strange sailing machine
at this stage in the game!

Prairie Board Meets

The Prairie Board is busily planning for next year's events. Diane Miracle,
Secretary, has been on vacation, thus more details will be added when the
Board minutes from the July 10th meeting arrive.

Washington Island Campout News

All participants report that the invitation to the Pratt's cabin in Door
County was well appreciated. The island was of course beautiful, however,
the company was equally pleasant and all had a great time. A special thanks
to the Pratts for inviting us to join them!

Prairie On the Move...

Rosemarie Lester, recently returned from Ohio, joined us at the Davidsons
and announces that she will be living at 4805 Regent Street at the home of
Pat Cautley. Betty and Jack Jallings are vacationing in Hawaii. Doug McNeill
announces that he will be married soon. Doug is marrying Donna Gane, an expert
specializing in medical recordkeeping. The couple plans to reside in Vermont,
at RFD #1, Box 90A, Richmond, Vermont 05477. Pat Cautley is vacationing at
Camp Unistar this week. The week's topic is "Celebrations, Rites and Ceremonies
or The Fire We Can Light" led by Emil Gudmundson, UUA Interdistrict Representa-
tive. Pat promises to report on the events of that week and their relationship
to Prairie. Martha Willard leaves for King's Point, New York and points East
around July 13th, to begin her education at the Merchant Marine Academy. Though
Martha leaves behind her devilish sailing device, she has packed her waterings.
Elizabeth Harald also is ignoring Horace Greeley's advice and going East.
Debbie Doob Park is having a baby soon. Certain of our youth were initiated
at the Davidsons' in preparation for receiving their chalices. Among the
immersed were Nellie Willard, Kim Loucks, Megan Caldwell, Sara French, Lori
Pratt, and Carolyn Briggs, who received her chalice without immersion. The
initiates were asked questions bearing on their belief in immersion without
consent. Robb Davidson, Bill Laurence and Eric Hagstrom officiated at the
mass baptism. Hermine announces that all the lost and found items not claimed
this summer will be brought to the first Prairie Sunday meeting this Fall.
Janet Mannering and Faith Pratt are at Hilltop horseback riding camp for three
weeks. This is their first camping experience. Lori Pratt is going wilder-
ness camping in Colorado. The Loucks are going to survive in the Yukon for
approximately three weeks beginning July 22nd.
Barbara Willard has hung out her shingle with Ken Herr as an associate in the
law firm....Ann Seidl moved to the basement and lost 5 pounds (call Ann for
further details)....The Carson’s daughter, Laurel, visited for 4 days from
Washington D.C. where she is an official with the USDHEW as a health planner.

**Our First Ad! - Business Is Picking Up**

Mabel Hokin writes:

FOR SALE - Sofa, 100” long, muted aqua and gold
$35; Gold drapes, lined, 69” long - 1 pair triple
width, $10; 3 pairs double width, $7 each, 1 pair
1 ½ width, $5. All very good condition. Call
257-7019 evenings.

**The Bicentennial - Lost, Stolen or Sold?**

In light of the bloom of plastic Uncle Sam banks and red-white-and-blue-
striped bowling balls, we thought that a timely comment about the Bicentennial
was in order. We have received information regarding the UUA Bicentennial
Committee from the Chairperson, Oren A. Peterson. In part he states: "...do
we Unitarian Universalists have a statement to make to our fellow citizens
about the basic issues behind the Revolution, issues which influence our hopes
and values even today?...It is our task to broadcast the news that the
Revolution is unfinished and is continuous. I feel that if our nation is to
survive, this message must be heard and understood." Prairie might wish to
take to heart the issue of the meaning and symbolism of the Bicentennial as
a means of reviewing our progress and the road ahead. At the very heart of
the Bicentennial is not which town has the biggest simulated attack on the
Boston Commons, but what our ancestors meant America to symbolize and how we
have, and more importantly, how we have not completed that Revolution.
Inherent in any discussion of the meaning of America is freedom vs. slavery,
privilege vs. deprivation, war vs. peace, man vs. woman, urban vs. rural, etc.
None of these issues have been resolved nor have we really begun to scratch
the surface regarding the responsibilities incumbent upon the richer, freer,
more powerful old world in its relationship to the Third World. All are a
part of our heritage, more so perhaps than the parades and the Horatio Alger
saleshearts of memorabilia commemorating the year 1976. What can we do as
Unitarians--what are we willing to do as Prairie Unitarians?

"God Talk" (Cont’d)

In lieu of a personal statement at this point I would like to present,
gratefully, the opinion of another in our midst. In a short note to me
Robert Hoagland poses both a question and an answer: "...There must be
someone in the Society with an academic background who has a definition of
religion which dates 1775? Such as a pervasive, intelligent mood, which
permeates the actions and thoughts of an ethical (what ethics?) individual...."

I welcome reactions to Mr. Hoagland’s thoughts and plan to add my own
thoughts on the subject, somewhat at length, next week. I truly hope that
Mr. Hoagland has started a trend. I believe that it was a Supreme Court
Justice who said that one of the most important safeguards of freedom is
the protection of the free traffic of ideas in the marketplace. I welcome
any and all comments on all subjects and will print whatever comments are
forthcoming (within reason, a ten-page limit please).

--Vivian Meyer

**Board Provides Update**

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a listing of the Prairie
Society Committees and the Chairperson or Contact for that committee.
PLEASE Clip And Save This List. Paste, bubble gum, staple, sew it to
your directory or other relatively safe place for future reference.

**Are You Single?**

If you are interested in forming a Singles Group contact Theron Caldwell
at 255-9978. We may be able to arrange some activities for non-married folks.
 ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED - RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society
2217 West Lawn Ave.
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Frah Remeika
5900 Lacy Rd.
Madison, WI 53719