PRAIRIE CALENDAR

SAT
AUG 23
8 PM

BON VOYAGE PARTY for the McElreaths. At the home of the Swan-Friedmans, 2022 Kendall Ave. The party will be an open house; all members and friends are invited. After-dinner wine and dessert will be served. 238-9533

TUES
AUG 26
8 PM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING will be held at the Willard's, 2217 W. Lawn Ave. The Program Committee is open to all who are interested enough to come. This committee is responsible for what happens on Sunday morning. 256-2801

SUN
AUG 31

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for information to be put into the September 4th issue. Your contributions are always welcome! 251-7526

WED
SEPT 3
8 PM

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING at the home of Melinda Roznoy, 2205 W. Lawn Ave. The committee is actively seeking members. 256-5308

THUR
SEPT 4
7:30 PM

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING for the purpose of preparing the budget. To meet at the home of the Nettletons, 645 Sheldon. Membership in this committee is open. Help is needed for the pledge drive. 238-6053

SUN
SEPT 7
10:00 AM

"BINDING TOGETHER" will be the first Prairie program of the year and the initial program of the lay ministry of Richard Perry. The program will serve as a reorganizing day and an introduction to this trimester's programs and questions. (See more below) Church school will begin at this time as well. Coffee will be served. All are welcome to attend. Prairie Unitarian Society, 1806 W. Lawn Ave., 221-1065. The Society is housed in the Portal-Foster Building at that address.

THUR
SEPT 11
8 PM

BOARD MEETING at the Portal-Foster Center, 1806 W. Lawn Ave. These meetings are open to Prairie members and friends. 221-1244
THEATER PARTY sponsored by the Playreading group, will be at the Wilson Street East Dinner Playhouse. Tickets are $9.31. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Reservations should be made by Monday, September 8th. Call Linda Pluim at 836-5547 for information and reservations.

SAT
SEPT 20 7:30 PM
PLAYREADING EVENT see below for more details of this special meeting of the Playreading group.

SUN
OCT 12 5:30 - 7:30 PM
FALL PARISH MEETING at the Portal-Foster Center, 1806 W. Lawn Ave. Potluck supper to precede the business meeting from 4:30-5:30 p.m. More details to follow later.

*****************************************************************************

New Lay Ministers Announced
Terri Laurence, Chairperson of the Lay Minister Search Committee, announced that this year’s lay ministers have been selected. After many hours of discussion and work the committee’s task has been completed. The committee is to be congratulated for their perseverance and concern.

Richard Perry will act as lay minister for the first trimester of the year. Richard will be interviewed regarding his intentions later in the newsletter. The second trimester will be turned over to Joseph Hoffman and the third to Annis Pratt. Joseph and Annis will be interviewed at a later time. The lay ministers are a vital part of the operation of the Society and their efforts are greatly appreciated. We are indeed fortunate that these three people have made themselves available for this important function.

Welcome Richard, Joseph and Annis!

Fall Lay Ministry - Binding Together
In a recent interview with Barbara Willard Richard Perry expanded on his goals and expectations for this fall. “Our first three months will be focused on religion, especially as she is practised at Prairie. I hope to devote time to discovering what we expect of Prairie and Unitarian-Universalism and what we offer. Several people in the group seem to be questioning our "religiousness" (or is it "religiosity"?), and I think we need to face these questions. Are we really a religious group? Should we be?” Richard is primarily interested in religion as a human activity. He does not want to deliver a series of lectures (expect a lot of singing) but wishes to examine some of the "larger" questions. Richard asks, "What are we talking about when we say religion? Is any of our religious heritage useful today? What do others consider religion to be?" In posing these questions Richard does not pretend to know all the answers, neither does he claim to know all the questions. In the process of discussing these issues and others he hopes to function in the role of coordinator. The development of programs will, as mentioned previously, involve music, discussion and possibly drama. Most of all Richard hopes that we can all overcome problems with sensitive words, words heavy with connotations and emotions, and that the resulting feedback from Prairie will be useful and beneficial to all concerned. He hopes that this learning experience will assist us in clarifying our personal beliefs, our purpose as a fellowship and our function among our fellow human beings. We wish Richard the best of luck and welcome him as our first lay minister of the 1975-76 year.

Board Meeting Minutes
The Board met Thursday, August 14th, at the Portal-Foster Center. Discussion of the financial statement disclosed the following facts: As of July
64 percent of what was budgeted had been spent. 72 percent of all pledges made had been received. This means that we are ahead in the balance of payments. We are sending a copy of our financial statement to President Ford.

The meeting was primarily concerned with the details of the operation of the Society. There was discussion of the preparation of the budget, the time limitations and the submission of the budget to the parish at the fall parish meeting October 12th. The Finance Committee will finalize the budget at their next committee meeting. The committee will submit the product to the Board at the next meeting, September 11th.

The new lay ministers were announced. The Lay Minister Search Committee was thanked for their diligent efforts.

David Carson, President, received a letter from the UUA regarding nominations for positions on committees. The Board submitted the name of Aileen Nettleton for membership on the Religious Education Accreditation Committee and Charlie Davidson for the Committee on Population and Environment.

The Board decided to meet September 11th at the Portal-Foster Center at 8:00 p.m.

Wisconsin UUAs Respond

We have received responses from the Fox Valley U-U of Appleton, Marshfield, and the First U-U Church of Mukwonago. Each group has indicated an interest in maintaining contact within the denomination and we encourage interaction with other U-U churches and fellowships as often as possible. We would like to share with you the Affirmation of the United U-U Church of Mukwonago:

Love is the doctrine of this church; The quest of truth its sacrament, And service its prayer, To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve mankind in fellowship, To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine, Thus do we covenant with each other and with our God.

Religious Education Begins Anew

Good morning - another Prairie year! Downstairs a children's world. With many adult facilitators. These are the plans--which we hope to keep flexible to the needs of our kids. In addition to the regular offerings of any good pre-school (paint, books, music, lots of love) a Kind1 Kit, Who Am I which integrates filmstrips, music, and books will be used by Megan Caldwell. Megan will need a helper from among you each week, usually for two-week stints. I'll be calling!

Very proudly we'll use the Beacon Press U-U curriculum entitled The Haunting House for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. The course, year-long, deals with all of the feeling areas of life, no less. Parents of those children will be hearing directly from its teachers--as will the students. Pat Cautley, Tim Diehl, Al Nettleton, and Linda Pluim will be those teachers.

Our 3rd, 4th, 5th grade kids will have Jack Jallings and Marty Urberg and the Human Heritage II kit. It can be described as a guide to discovering our heritage from the ages, our integral place in the life process. It hitches each of us to the universe itself through anthropology and theology. Middle School: half of the Sundays will be totally planned by its members; half will be spent in discussions centered on subjects important and sometimes difficult to discuss when adults are included. These subjects are taken from an Argus Communications curriculum--the adults involved this semester are Mike Briggs and Dorothy Osteraa.

Last Year's Middle School will select an advisor from among you--and plans.
as of this writing, to meet at the same time as our Sunday morning service. They make it look like an LRY will soon be a real part of Prairie. For too long we've been without one of the most exciting parts of any Unitarian group.

--Theron Caldwell, Director Religious Education

Enclosed also please find registration forms for the Religious Education program. If you need more than two forms you may make your own copies or you may call Theron, 255-9974, for extras. Your cooperation in this effort will be greatly appreciated.

Playreading - Starting Up

The Playreaders will begin their regular, monthly meetings in September. Anyone interested in reading a play (or listening) is welcome.

On Saturday, September 20th, the Parrishes will have the first fall playreading at their cabin on the Ridge. Starting time is 7:30 p.m., but Roland and Avis have extended a further invitation: come earlier if you'd like to take a hike, walk, or look around. The Parrishes will be there all afternoon.

Bring something for supper if you want to join in then - about 6:00 p.m. Overnight sleeping space is also available, so you may even decide to bring a sleeping bag.

The Ridge is very scenic and so beautiful. It is located between Mt. Horeb and Blue Mounds. Specific directions next time.

Also, don't forget to register for the Theater Party. We will be seeing Butterflies Are Free. Directions for registering are located in the Calendar on Page 1.

--Linda Pluim, Chairperson

Singles Group Established

The Prairie Singles group has been established for the purpose of bringing together those among us who are non-married at the moment. Theron Caldwell initiated the group by inviting all singles who could be contacted to her home to discuss the possibilities. Then, last Sunday, August 17th, the group met again for lunch, dinner and an afternoon at Pat Cautley's cabin in Juneau County. A lovely event with good feeling from all. Other events will be planned periodically to stimulate more interest in the mutual problems, joys, and interests of non-married folks. All singles are welcome to join us. Please call Theron, 255-9974 with your ideas, interests, requests, etc., and come to our meetings.

Bon Voyage Party for the McElreaths

As announced above, a party will be arranged for the McElreaths by the Swan-Friedmans to bid farewell and celebrate a modern miracle: employment. Mark McElreath has been offered a position as Assistant Professor at Rieder College in New Jersey. Please come to the open house celebration at 2022 Kendall Avenue, 8 PM, Saturday, August 23rd.

Request For Action

Barb Dykert would like to discuss the possibility of a Prairie group camping weekend over the Labor Day holiday. Because this is the last 3-day fair-weather holiday Barb felt it would be a good chance to arrange such an outing, perhaps similar to the Washington Island event of earlier this summer. Any suggestions regarding camp sites, food arrangements, or driving arrangements should be directed to Barb at 271-5120.

Prairie Activity

Diane Remeika is on an extended vacation to California; Melinda and Nellie are back from a trip to the eastern U.S. and Canada; the Briggs are in England; Rebecca French has returned from California; and Martha Willard's address is: Box 559, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York 11024.
Someone inadvertently left some stainless steel utensils at the Prairie Site after the picnic August 3rd. If this sounds like yours please call the Perrys, 255-6157.

Erica Caldwell is vacationing at Disneyland in California. Erica won the vacation in a drawing contest sponsored by a local merchant.

Wants and Needs

Vivian Meyer is trying to find a home for a beautiful, long-hair, gentle, loving cat. The cat, Russian, (she looks vaguely like Breshnev) is fantastic with kids and one of the few silent-meowing cats to walk the earth. She is about 1-½ years old and very pleasant company. Vivian would take Russian herself except her two cats would go on strike. Please adopt her if you can. Call Vivian at 255-7526.

David Carson wishes to sell a part of the farm he and Barbara have recently purchased. It is an 8-acre farm of which he would like to sell two acres to include a 4-bedroom, older, two-story, single-family farm house surrounded by orchards and a garden. The 2-acre section also includes a two-story barn and two smaller barns. The farm is across Vilas Road from the Carson's present home. The price is $35,000 and arrangements for purchasing are flexible. For more information call David at 221-1244.

As I See It

In the next newsletter I would like to present a discussion of religion without God—possible or impossible? Because this newsletter is lengthy I will content myself with the collection, below, of illustrations and verse.

"But I see no harm in living a lie. That's where the Unitarians and I part company."

--from The New Yorker
DO YOU EVER PRAY, LUCY?

THAT'S KIND OF A PERSONAL QUESTION, ISN'T IT? ARE YOU TRYING TO START AN ARGUMENT?

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK YOU'RE SOMEBODY PRETTY SMART, DON'T YOU? I SUPPOSE YOU THINK...

YOU'RE RIGHT... RELIGION IS A VERY TOUCHY SUBJECT!

---from *The Gospel According to Peanuts* by Robert L. Short

At this moment
I am all alone.
No heart knows what my heart feels
No lips capture what my lips long to say
No eyes read the message of my face
No ears reassure me that I have been heard.

What do I want you to say?
Some magic word of love
To take my sadness away?
I asked too much
Something no one can give.
Perhaps it is enough to know you care.
Perhaps enough.

---from *Faces In the City* by James Kavanaugh
PRAIRIE U-U SOCIETY

Church School Registration

(PLEASE FILL OUT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH CHILD IN THE FAMILY!)

Child's Name _______________________________ Parent's (ts') Name(s) _______________________________

Home Address ___________________________________________ Phone # __________

Child's Age & Year in School ___________________________

A word about past church school experience, if any: ________________________________________________

Child's talents, major interests, -- and do please share any problems with us which will help us be right for them:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

To function well, which is the only way to function, our Sunday program needs the active help of all parents and many other adults. Please check interest areas:

1. Assisting or teaching classes (which ages; if experienced tell us): ______________________________

2. Assisting with special interests, projects (cooking, plays, music--tell us your thing?): ____________

3. Helping with social event (party, campout, etc.): _____________________________________________

TRIP PERMISSION:

I hereby give permission for my child ______________________________ to participate in any activity which may be planned by the church school during its regular hours. For longer trips, special notification will be given. I waive any and all claims against the Prairie Society for any accidents which may occur.

Date: __________________ Signature: ________________________________

Please bring this sheet to Prairie Church School Meeting Sunday, or mail to:

Theron Caldwell
Director of Religious Education
1228 Sherman Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Additional Comments?:
Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society
2217 West Lawn Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Fran Remeika
5900 Lacy Rd.
Madison, WI 53719