## Prairie Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>SEPT 7</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
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<td>&quot;BINDING TOGETHER&quot; 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. Church school will begin at this time as well. Coffee will be served. All are welcome to attend. Prairie Unitarian Society, 1806 West Lawn Ave., 221-1065. The Society is housed in the Portal-Foster Building at that address.</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR</td>
<td>SEPT 11</td>
<td>8 PM</td>
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<td>BOARD MEETING at the Portal-Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Ave. These meetings are open to Prairie members and friends. 221-1244</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>SEPT 14</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
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<td>&quot;STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND&quot; (Exodus 2:22-23) A discussion of what religion is or can be, by Daniel Willard and Vivian Meyer. A chance to discuss and examine the issue of the meaning of religion and of religion at Prairie. Coffee and other stimulants will be served. All are welcome to attend. Prairie Unitarian Society, 1806 West Lawn Avenue in the Portal-Foster Building, 221-1065.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>SEPT 14</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>SEPT 20</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>PLAYREADING EVENT at the Parrish's cabin on the ridge. Actual playreading begins at 7:30 p.m. but Avis and Roland have invited us to spend the afternoon, dinner, and even overnight if anyone would like to do so. Please call Linda Pluim, at 836-5547 or the Parrishes at 238-1725 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>OCT 12</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>FALL PARISH MEETING at the Portal-Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Avenue. Potluck supper to precede the business meeting from 4:30-5:30 p.m. More details to follow later.</td>
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### Prairie Bids McElreaths Fond Farewell

Prairie sadly parted company with the McElreaths, who are off to New Jersey to settle into new jobs and experiences. As a remembrance of the event and to celebrate the new opportunities and hopes to be launched by the
move East, a party was held in their honor. Sponsored by the Friedmans, the party took place on August 23rd. All reports indicate that the celebration will be remembered fondly by all concerned. The following is a composition offered in commemoration of the McElreath's participation in Prairie Society:

Ode to Nancy and Mark McElreath

(Although only you could write a proper ode!)

We can't let you leave without recalling
Some of the special things you've done for Prairie -
Much writing when just the right things needed saying,
Such as composing the first innovative newsletter we had
With biographical sketches and interest for all,
And editing it for a long, long time, with much patience.
Writing the lovely farewell statement to Dave and Pat Meyer,
And the description of Prairie (and its history) for newcomers,
With never a split infinitive to be found!
Or creating with Dave the first christening ceremony we ever had,
Teaching the first sex education class for teen-agers,
And coping with bouncy middle schoolers and nurseryites at Portal-Foster and Upham Woods.
Managing publicity,
Chairing the Program Committee,
Investing much in Social Action,
Leading committees tactfully, helpfully, but never imposing decisions upon them,
And always being ready to share the work -
Despite two jobs, two children, and a dissertation to be done!

We thank you heartily. We'll miss you, too.
We don't want to be selfish.
We think New Jersey is very lucky!

-- Your friends at Prairie

Please note that the McElreath's new address will be: Route 518, Rural Delivery #1; Rocky Hill Road; Skillman, New Jersey 08558.

Religious Education Notes

Theron Caldwell, Director, Religious Education, would like to amend her last announcement of the new first trimester teachers. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade kids will have Marty Urberg and Rebecca French as their teachers. Rebecca, recently returned from California, will replace Jack Jallings.

Theron asks that parents please remember to fill out and send in or bring in to the first Sunday meeting of Prairie, the registration forms for each child in Sunday School. If one is not enough, additional forms are available either from Theron or from your child's teacher on the first day of classes, September 7th, at Prairie. The information contained in these forms is very important in planning Sunday activities and making the young people feel more at ease in their respective classes. Thank you for your cooperation.

LRY folks will meet during the regular Sunday morning meeting time. ALL PERSONS 14-18 ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED.

Prairie Songbook To Be Published Soon

Prairie songbirds will sing from a new hymnal this year. Any Prairie member or friend who wishes to express an opinion about additions, deletions, special material, etc. should contact either Barbara Willard, 256-2801 or Vivian Meyer, 251-7526 or 266-2022. Any and all suggestions are welcome. We
hope to make the songbook as representative of our musical values and experiences as possible. We hope to present the finished product by early October if at all possible.

Beacon Books Available
The August 15th edition of the UUA World contains many interesting and varied articles pertaining to the Unitarian-Universalist denomination's affairs and events. However, in addition to this information, this issue contains a special insert regarding books and book reviews from the Beacon Press. There is also an opportunity to purchase Beacon publications at a discount price, with instructions and order forms included. If you do not already receive a copy of the UUA World by subscription, but would like to, please contact Vivian Meyer and she will arrange to have you placed on their mailing list. 251-7526.

Barbara Carson Opens School of Ballet
While perusing a recent issue of the Madison Capital Times we noted that there appeared an announcement of the opening of the Carson School of Ballet, Artistic Director, Barbara Carson, former Prima Ballerina with the New York Civic Opera. Classical ballet training is offered for students 8 years of age and older - classes limited to 14 students; beginners, intermediate and advanced. Phone 221-1244 for more information, audition and registration procedures. The location of the studio will be 3536 University Avenue, Madison, (one block east of Hilldale Shopping Center). We wish the best of luck to Barbara in this demanding artistic enterprise.

Mime To Be Presented
Reid Gilbert, a special friend of Prairie, will present "Mime With Reid Gilbert," a Wingra School benefit. The presentation will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 27th, at the First Unitarian Church, 900 University Bay Drive. A very special treat and delightful way to spend a Saturday afternoon, to be sure.

Religion Without God?--Possible, Impossible, or Unitarian?
Some days ago I was browsing in the Madison Public Library and came across an old friend, Harry Emerson Fosdick. In a rush of nostalgia I recalled a time in high school when I entered a speech contest to deliver part of a speech by Fosdick entitled, "A Christian Conscience About War". I chose it because the speech, originally delivered before the first League of Nations assembly in 1925, seemed so relevant to the anti-war movement of the 1960s. In any case, I came across another work by Fosdick called As I See Religion. One of the chapters was "Religion Without God?" Funny--I'd never thought of it that way, the idea intrigued me so I took out the book. Fosdick, a Christian to the hilt, examines Humanism as a religion and his understanding as to the implications of "man as the measure of all things." Briefly he states:

...What does matter to us...day in and day out, is the value of personality. How much we ourselves are ultimately worth, what possibilities we may reasonably believe resident in human personality at large... this is an intimate, penetrating matter which affects daily living. To say that personality is the child of the Eternal Spirit...is one thing; to say that personality is a chance spark struck off from physical collisions is another. Let no humanist content himself with pretense in this matter: that difference involves prodigious ethical results..

He continues his commentary by blasting those who would hope to find an "easy out" by thrusting all responsibility and initiative for human failings
on a belief in God, on stereotyped concepts of right and wrong, etc. I believe that Fosdick intends that humans have a great and very special potential to do right by each other and their natural surroundings, that this potential can only be attained by taking a Christian attitude toward our lives—that is a rigorous and unceasing questioning of the ethical outcome of our relations and actions, and a moral developed with care and concern by which we may evaluate these acts. He rejects traditional Christianity as dogmatic and marred by discrepancies between pronouncement and action. Instead he hoped to create a code of daily applications of the teachings of Jesus Christ, which included his belief in the ultimate victory of peace and goodwill for the children of God all over the earth—a cause for which he struggled all his life.

--Vivian Meyer

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WHEN I WAS YOUNG (Words & Music by Peggy Seeger)

When I was young, I loved a lad and gaily we was wed,
I knew no greater pleasure than to follow where he led,
But when he went away to war, 0 sorrow be to me,
For you cannot follow soldiers bearing guns across the sea.

They made him leave his wife and child to march in foreign lands,
Can they make him stalk a stranger with a bayonet in his hands?
What kind of men can force a man, who's married, to agree
To take the lives of men with wives in lands across the sea.

I know no field more barren than this life I walk alone,
I know no sorrow greater than to see our growing son,
Will he, too, become a lively man till other men decree
That he lie still, as his father does, in a grave across the sea.

Were I the wind I'd bring the clouds to lands that need the rain,
Were I a bird I'd sing of things that comfort men in pain,
Were I a statesman leading men in near or distant lands,
I'd pass a law that only tools of peace be in our hands.

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I'LL GET YOU, CHARLIE BROWN! I'LL GET YOU!
I'LL KNOCK YOUR BLOCK OFF! I'LL...
WAIT A MINUTE! HOLD EVERYTHING!
WE CAN'T CARRY ON LIKE THIS! WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO ACT THIS WAY!

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH PROBLEMS... PEOPLE HURTING OTHER PEOPLE...PEOPLE NOT UNDERSTANDING OTHER PEOPLE...
NOW, IF WE AS CHILDREN CAN'T SOLVE WHAT ARE RELATIVELY MINOR PROBLEMS, HOW CAN WE EVER EXPECT TO...

POW!
I HAD TO HIT HIM QUICK... HE WAS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE!

--from The Gospel According To Peanuts by Robert L. Short