PRAIRIE CALENDAR

FRI-SUN  OCT 17-19
FALL RETREAT - UPHAM WOODS  Annual retreat at Camp Upham Woods on the Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Dells. A weekend of nature, community activities, and peaceful meditation. All Prairie friends and members are welcome to join us. Registration has been completed for this event. If you are in need of information call Elizabeth Harald at 233-4454 or Pat Cautley at 255-6157. Directions for finding Upham Woods are enclosed.

SUN  OCT 19  10 AM
SUNDAY PROGRAM  There will be a program scheduled at the Portal Foster Center for those who have decided not to go on the retreat. The program will focus on "A Morning in the Arboretum." Meet at the Portal Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Ave. Please bring your favorite poem or reading about the out-of-doors. There will be singing. If the weather is poor...come to the Portal Foster building anyway. 256-5343

SAT  OCT 18
PORTAL FOSTER RUMMAGE SALE  Each year the Portal Foster parents sponsor a rummage sale to help support the educational program of the students who attend the school. Your assistance in supplying items to be sold and/or your purchase of items at the sale would be greatly appreciated. Please help in this effort by our Portal Foster neighbors. 256-6533

SAT  OCT 25  7:30 PM
PLAYREADING GROUP  The October Playreading will be held at the home of Linda and Ron Pluim, Keewatin Trail (Take Old Sauk Road west of the Beltline for 3 1/2 miles; turn right onto Keewatin Trail; go to the end of the blacktop road; it's the yellow house). Anyone interested is welcome. Come for an enjoyable evening. Questions? Need a ride? Call 836-5547.

SUN  OCT 26  10 AM
"ONE WORLD: A CELEBRATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS & GLEN TURNER"  A program planned and choreographed by the Prairie Social Action Committee. Rita Wlodarczyk, (Mrs. U.N. to some Madisonians) will speak briefly. Please bring spoons and bowls for you and your family. A subsistence meal will be served, and contributions will be solicited for what you would have spent for your noon meal. The donations will be sent to UNICEF. (see more below) 238-1725

SUN  OCT 26
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Date by which I need your information to be placed in the October 30 newsletter.
"THE ROAD OF LIFE AND DEATH: RELIGION OF THE WINNEBAGO" This program has been rescheduled due to a conflict in time arrangements. The program will be led by Mr. Walter Punmaker, a member of the University's Anthropology Department and a Winnebago. Suggested readings are listed below. 1806 West Lawn Ave. 255-6157

SKI EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE Please bring your various kinds of equipment to Prairie, 1806 West Lawn Ave., to trade, exchange, borrow, sell, etc. (This includes downhill, x-country, snowshoes, skates, etc. whether it is child or adult size.) We will make an attempt to arrange that everyone who wishes to participate in winter sports do so regardless of the equipment they now possess, or do not possess. If possible please hand or send an inventory of your proposed equipment to Vivian Meyer before the sale so that we have an idea of how much space, etc. to plan for. Also, we may be able to label some of it to expedite matters. Direct questions to Vivian Meyer. 251-7526

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING will convene at the home of Daniel Willard, 2217 West Lawn Ave. 256-2801

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING will convene at the home of Vivian Meyer, 142 N. Franklin St., 3rd floor. 251-7526

1975 ANNUAL MEETING CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT, UUA will be in Bloomington, Illinois. If you are able to attend part or all of this time, contact Richard Perry at 255-6157. We can defray at least part of your expenses.

"AFRICAN RELIGIONS" More information will follow at a later date.

BOARD MEETING at the home of Aileen Nettleton, 645 Sheldon St. 221-1244

"MYSTICISM" A program led by Dick Bonser. More information will follow at a later date.

"FAMILY PROGRAM" More information will follow at a later date.

"THANKSGIVING PROGRAM" More information will follow at a later date.

PRAIRIE SOCIETY BOARD & PARISH MEET TO DECIDE BUDGET

Finance Committee Reports

The Board approved a budget for the 1975-76 year totaling $7,500 at Sunday's meeting which in turn was endorsed by the membership at the parish meeting Sunday evening, October 12. This budget represents a significant reduction from the budget proposed (endorsed prior to the pledge drive) of $8,180. With the conclusion of the pledge drive, a total of $7,500 in commitments was pledged.

Based on last year's experience of actually receiving only 87% of the amount pledged, cuts were made to bring the budget in line with pledges to present a balanced budget for '75-'76. The proposed budget and final budget with cuts outlined are as follows:

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**SUN**

- **Nov 2** 10 AM
  - "THE ROAD OF LIFE AND DEATH: RELIGION OF THE WINNEBAGO"
- **Nov 2** 11:30 AM
  - SKI EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE

**MON**

- **Nov 3** 8 PM
  - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

**THUR**

- **Nov 6** 7:30 PM
  - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**FRI-SUN**

- **Nov 7-9**
  - 1975 ANNUAL MEETING CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT, UUA

**SUN**

- **Nov 9** 10 AM
  - "AFRICAN RELIGIONS"
- **Nov 16** 10 AM
  - "MYSTICISM"
- **Nov 23** 10 AM
  - "FAMILY PROGRAM"

**SUN**

- **Nov 30** 10 AM
  - "THANKSGIVING PROGRAM"
The final budget represents the bare minimum needed to carry on the program. It may result in some reductions of services such as coffee provided for Sunday services. (For example, you may be asked to contribute to a coffee fund in the future.) The funding base of several committees has been reduced which may limit their potential for action. Funds for the primary components of the Prairie program, the lay ministry and religious education, have been retained as originally proposed.

Concern was expressed by both the Board and the parish that a final accounting of last year's pledges showed a significant deficit and that the trend was reflected in the current pledge commitments received. The Finance Committee was directed to raise additional funds through increased pledges, additional pledges, and other fund raising activity to assure funding of Prairie operations in the face of inflationary pressures. In light of the tight budget, it will be especially important for all to meet their pledge commitments in the coming year. Quarterly financial statements will be sent to assist you in keeping your pledge up-to-date.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so in the near future. Those who have made a pledge have already made a commitment to Prairie. However, in view of the austere budget, perhaps we should collectively reexamine our original pledge commitments.

All in all the Finance Committee does appreciate the efforts made by all who have pledged. Basically we have contributed according to our means, especially considering inflationary factors. The Finance Committee hopes to follow the tradition of keeping a "low profile" while continuing to provide funds necessary to the program.

--Finance Committee
Aileen Nettleton, Chairperson

Ministerial Musings

The fall lay ministry is half complete. The first half has concentrated on our values and our identity as Prairie Society and as Universalist-Unitarians. The second half will concentrate on broadening our awareness of the variety of religious expression and the unity of religious value.

The first half seems to have been well-received. I'm glad the programs have turned out so well. I'm surprised and a bit disappointed that, while people have found the material interesting, no one has expressed interest in working on the Denominational Affairs Committee. This committee functions to develop and maintain ties with other Unitarian-Universalist individuals and groups. These ties could be in the coordinating of joint projects (social action, celebrative, or whatever), sharing resources (people, programs, ideas, and
materials), or the expanding of our circle of friends. Our church extends beyond the Prairie ghetto and Madison, and this committee helps keep the doors and windows open. Contact me if you have an interest and an hour or so a month.

--Richard Perry
Lay Minister

NOTE: Richard reminds us that there are some readings which may help us prepare for the program dealing with Winnebago religion:

Paul Radin, *The Winnebago Tribe*
Paul Radin, *The Road of Life and Death*
H.H. Jackson, *A Century of Dishonour*

STILL ANOTHER NOTE: The Prairie Shape-Note Singers (being 13/15 Prairie folk) walked off with second place at the World Dairy Expo Silo Singers’ Contest in group competition.

**Upham Woods Travel Directions**

The following is the recommended route to Upham Woods: From I90-I94 take Exit No. 87 (Hwy 13) to Wisconsin Dells off of interstate. Go to stoplight (Hwy 12). Take a left on Hwy 12, go to the top of the hill. Take a right on County Hwy A. Proceed approximately 2 miles. Go under railroad overpass. The Camp is located at the bottom of the hill on the right. Good Luck!

Please remember also to observe the rules outlined in the last newsletter in order that we may return to Upham Woods in the future, that the natural beauty remain in tact and that we respect eachother.

**U. N. Program Has Extra Meaning to Prairie**

The October 26th program will be a celebration of the special efforts for world peace and unity made by the United Nations. But the celebration has additional meaning for those who knew and loved Glen Turner. Glen, who died last August, was a friend of Prairie for many years and spent much of his lifetime teaching and promoting one language for the whole world - Esperanto. When we come together to pay tribute to those who work to achieve universal understanding we will set aside a special place in our hearts for Glen Turner. We had in our midst such a person, committed to one world for all of humankind.

**Work Party at Portal Foster**

Special thanks go to Roland Parrish, Housing and Property Chairperson, and Alan Nettleton for their efforts on behalf of Prairie Society in the upkeep of the Portal Foster Center. When a work party was planned at a time which made it difficult to notify members, Roland and Al pitched in to assist in the special maintenance work set forth by the Portal Foster parents on this occasion. Thanks for representing us!

**Ted and Rebecca Clark Visited by Proxmire**

In an apparent effort to learn more about the potential for energy conservation in specially insulated housing, Senator William Proxmire will visit the Clark's insulating operations. Rebecca reports that Sen. Proxmire called upon them in an attempt to learn more about the method they use, foam insulating, to conserve heat energy in houses. The Senator will play an active role in helping to insulate some houses to gain experience in the matter. Proxmire will be spending Tuesday, October 14th with the Clarks as a member of their insulating crew. The visit will be covered by the media as well as by our own Richard Perry, who was asked to film the events on behalf of the firm which manufactures the insulating foam.

**UUA World Contains Special Supplement**

Once again the UUA World contains information supplied by the Beacon Press regarding books available from Beacon. Some of these pertain to the turmoi...
in education, some are advertised as gift ideas for the holidays, some are valuable curriculum supplements and most are interesting from a variety of perspectives. Check it out.

The UUA Directory will be available in December. This is the 1976 directory for the entire denomination.

LRYers may be interested to learn the names and policies of the new LRY officers. This is also in the World.

For those who have a special interest in gun control, there is information available from the UUA Washington Office regarding handgun control. The information is free. Write: UUA Washington Office; 100 Maryland Ave.; Room 106; Washington D.C., 20002.

If you do not now receive the UUA World (free of charge, incidentally) on a regular basis and would like to, please contact Vivian Meyer, 251-7526, and she will add you to the mailing list.

Congratulations George! ••• Happy Trails Ruth...

George Calden's do-it-yourself marriage counseling book, Marriage: I Count - You Count, has been accepted for publication by Argus Communications Press. Expectations are that the book should come out in February, 1976.

Ruth Calden has been visiting Betsy Roberts for one week in Hazard, Kentucky. Perhaps we can tap Ruth for an article when she returns.

Program Committee Requests...Help!! Help!!

A significant number of our fellow parishioners have voiced the following concerns:

1) Please walk quietly when you go for coffee (tennis shoes may help).
2) Please monitor your own kids before, during and after family services. Juice will be provided for church school age kids at family services.
3) Please, no smoking, in Portal Foster Center. Not only is it annoying to sinus sufferers and those who want to live 14 to 20 years longer (depending on whether you are a man or a woman) it's illegal as well.

--The Program Committee

Upham Woods Present Opportunity to Meet

Beyond the special wonder of really meeting and talking to people in a relaxed situation, Upham Woods has often provided Prairie people with a chance to meet and talk at length about special topics which interest them. This year is no exception. Informally, three groups have expressed the hope that they may get together while at Upham Woods. Barbara Carson would like to start a group interested in studying religious issues and reports that she has been encouraged by the positive feedback she has received. Barbara hopes that Upham will provide the setting to initiate such a meeting of interested persons.

Theron Caldwell, coordinator of the Singles group, also hoped that the Singles might be able to meet briefly to discuss some activities.

Likewise, Vivian Meyer hopes to present the ski enthusiasts with some concrete information and solicit the members for commitments to help with some aspects of organizing the group.

It should be a pleasant weekend and these groups will be only a portion of the groups which will meet to add stimulation and interaction to our meditations.
The controversy over humanism which swept the Unitarian and Universalist denominations revealed a greater common concern than had been apparent. "The Humanist Manifesto," of 1933, issued at the depth of economic depression, was the work of ministers, professors, and other leaders who expressed a renewed faith in man's ability to overcome the multitude of problems facing him.

The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. The time is past for mere revision of traditional attitudes. Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs. Religions the world over are under the necessity of coming to terms with new conditions created by a vastly increased knowledge and experience. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit humanism. In order that religious humanism may be better understood we, the undersigned, desire to make certain affirmations which we believe the facts of our contemporary life demonstrate.

There is great danger of a fatal, identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problems of human living in the twentieth century. Religions have always been means for realizing the highest values of life. Their end has been accomplished through the interpretation of the total environing situation (theology or world view), the sense of values resulting therefrom (goal or ideal), and the technique (cult), established for realizing the satisfactory life. A change in any of these factors results in alteration of the outward forms of religion. This fact explains the changefulness of religions throughout the centuries. But through all changes religion itself remains constant in its quest for abiding values, an inseparable feature of human life.

To-day man's larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievement, and his deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion. Such a vital, fearless, and frank religion capable of furnishing adequate social goals and personal satisfaction may appear to many people as a complete break with the past. While this age owes a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for to-day must be shaped for the needs of this age. To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present. It is a responsibility which rests upon this generation. We therefore affirm the following:

- First: Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.
- Second: Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process.
- Third: Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.
- Fourth: Humanism recognizes that man's religious culture and civilization, as clearly depicted by anthropology and history, are the product of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural environment and with his social heritage. The individual born into a particular culture is largely molded by that culture.
- Fifth: Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values. Obviously humanism does not deny the possibility of realities as yet undiscovered, but it does insist that the way to determine the existence and value of any and all realities is by means of intelligent inquiry and by the assessment of their relation to human needs. Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method.
- Sixth: We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought."
- Seventh: Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant. Nothing human is alien to the religious. It includes labor, art, science, philosophy, love, friendship, recreation—all that is in its degree expressive of intelligently satisfying human living. The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.
- Eighth: Religious humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life, and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist's social passion.
- Ninth: In place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a co-operative effort to promote social well-being.
- Tenth: It follows that there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.
- Eleventh: Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability. Reasonable and manly attitudes will be fostered by education and supported by custom. We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.
Bicentennial Corner

"I believe in one God and no more, and I hope for happiness beyond this life. I believe in the equality of man; and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy."

--Thomas Paine
(from The Age of Reason)

Tongue-in-Cheek Department

"The one thing that is wrong about this case is that your Honor cannot find against both parties to this suit. From the standpoint of personal merit neither of them ought to win. Neither of them came into court with clean hands, and I have doubts about their feet. But Anthony has paid the taxes for many years on the property, and in so doing has contributed to the revenue of the State and County. This is playing the part of the good citizen, a part that is new to him and set awkwardly upon him, and one that startles the community with its novelty. But since he is playing this part he ought to be encouraged in it by being permitted to win this suit. When you find one doing right for the first time in his life, the thought of discouraging him revolts the judicial conscience."

--John H. Atwood

Twelfth: Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists aim to foster the creative in man and to encourage achievements that add to the satisfactions of life.

Thirteenth: Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world.

Fourteenth: The humanists are firmly convinced that existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate, and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently co-operate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.

Fifteenth and last: We assert humanism will: (a) affirm life rather than deny it; and (b) seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from it; and (c) endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all, not merely for the few. By this positive morale and intention humanism will be guided, and from this perspective and alignment the techniques and efforts of humanism will flow.

So stand the theses of religious humanism. Though we consider the religious forms and ideas of our fathers no longer adequate, the quest for the good life is still the central task for mankind. Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement. He must set intelligence and will to the task.

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