

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 12, No. 26
June 30, 1976

Editor: Barbara Willard
256-2801

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

(Remember, there will be no new calendar until late July)

- SUN
JULY 4 Noon WEDDING of David and Barbara Carson's daughter Laurel. See notice below.
- TUES
JULY 13 5 pm. WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT at Natural Bridge DNR reservation. Meet at parking lot. Bring picnic supper. Hike suggested. For further information, call Rachel Siegfried at 271-2173.
- SUN
JULY 25 2 pm WATER FETE AND PICNIC Prairie's annual outing at the Davidsons'. Bring food, boats, equipment suited to having a good time on the lake. Charcoal will be available to cook on. Rain date is Sunday, August 1.
- AUGUST
(DAY UNSPECIFIED) CANCE TRIP? Much interest shown by participants in the June trip in a repeat. If someone can be found to organize one in August, we may bring it off. If interested, call John Lewis.
- WED
AUG 11 7 pm. BOARD MEETING At the house of John Lewis, 2145 Commonwealth. All interested members may attend board meetings, and are encouraged to do so.
- SUN
AUG 29 ()am JOINT SERVICE with First Society, picnic afterward. Topic is to be announced; place is First Church, 900 University Bay Dr.
- SUN
SEPT 12 10 am. SERVICE First meeting of the new church year at Portal Foster.

Wedding David and Barbara Carson invite the adult community of Prairie Society to the marriage reception of their daughter Laurel and Terry Shannon at 12 noon on July 4 at the Carsons' farm, 4341 Vilas Road, Cottage Grove. The family service will take place earlier in the day. Please come bearing only gifts of good will and joy to share with us on this most happy occasion.

PRAIRIE SITE Members who have not responded to the questionnaire are urgently requested to do so. The task force on the Prairie Site is being headed by Lois Young, to whom all forms should return. People who do not respond will be called.
(NOTE) Forms are to be returned to Lois, rather than to Vivian Meyer, which is a change from the directions on them. This is because VIV IS GOING TO LAW SCHOOL IN IOWA! RIGHT ON! (Ed.)

Lay Ministers Ministerial Search Committee is happy to announce next year's ministers: Sept-Nov Mike Briggs, Dec-Feb Warren Hagstrom, Mar-May Pat Watkins. We would like to express special appreciation to all the people who volunteered to serve this year. Prairie is indeed rich to have had more offers than we could take.

Poem (This is a reprint of a poem read at one of Annis Pratt's services this spring. It is from Time in the Rock, or Preludes to Definition by Conrad Aiken.)

Mysticism, but let us have no words,
 angels, but let us have no fantasies,
 churches, but let us have no creeds,
 no dead gods hung on crosses in a shop,
 nor beads nor prayers nor faith nor sin nor penance;
 and yet, let us believe, let us believe.

Let it be the flower
 seen by the child for the first time, plucked without thought
 broken for love and as soon forgotten;

and the angels, let them be our friends,
 used for our needs with selfish simplicity,
 broken for love and as soon forgotten;

and let the churches be our houses
 defiled daily, loud with discord,
 where the dead gods that were our selves may hang,
 our outgrown gods on every wall;
 Christ on the mantelpiece, with downcast eyes;
 Buddha above the stove;
 the holy Ghost by the hatrack, and God himself
 staring like Narcissus from the mirror,
 clad in a raincoat, and with hat and gloves

Mysticism, but let it be a flower
 let it be the hand that reaches for the flower
 let it be the flower that imagined the first hand
 let it be the space that removed itself to give place
 for the hand that reaches, the flower to be reached

let it be a self displacing self
 as quietly as a child lifts a pebble,
 as softly as a flower decides to fall,
 self replacing self
 as seed follows flower to earth.

Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society
c/o 142 North Franklin Street #3
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, Wisconsin
Permit #1604

Ms. Rachel Siegfried
5209 Tolman Terrace
Madison, WI 53711