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# Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
2010 Whenona Drive  
P.O. Box 5362 Madison, Wis 53705

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Volume 17, Number 14, August 27, 1980

## CALENDAR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Work day at meeting house

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 a.m.—*Is Marriage an Alternate Life Style?*—  
George Calden, lay minister

2:30 p.m.—Picnic lunch at home of Theron Caldwell,  
1228 Sherman Avenue. Bring lunch and any  
water equipment. Lemonade will be furnished.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10:00 a.m.—*For the Love of Pete (Seeger)*—George  
Calden

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 6

6:30 p.m. Friday through lunch Saturday—R.E. Retreat,  
Avis Parrish's cottage

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:30—Board meeting, at meeting house.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10-12  
Annual retreat at Upham Woods

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:30 p.m.—R.E. Committee meeting at Joyce Crim's



## R. E. CORNER

PLANS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED for each class and we look forward enthusiastically to seeing you and your children on September 7.

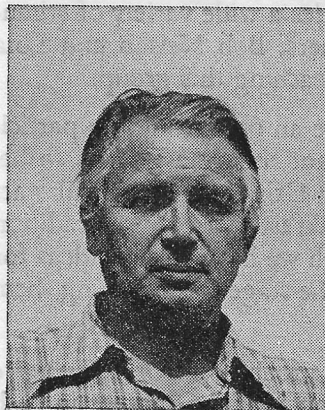
NURSERY AND PRESCHOOL will be in the hands of Helen and Marian Briggs again. A new set of materials for preschool activities obtained from the First Parish Church, Portland, Maine, will add to the variety of experiences provided for this group. Depending on the number of children involved, it may be necessary to ask parents to take

(Continued on Page Two)

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## George Calden Is First Lay Minister



George Calden is Prairie's first layminister this year and will serve through November, with a theme of *Marriage, Music, and Miscellaneous* (in contrast to his earlier theme years ago of *Marriage, Music, and Madness*; he says he has no time for madness now.

Probably best known to Prairie members for his love of music—his mandolin playing, enthusiasm over guitar lessons, and design and completion of our new songbooks—George has wide interests. These include psychology, gardening, fine arts, photography, and dancing. He and his wife Ruth have led a session at Camp Unistar on couple enrichment and disco dancing and have enlivened Prairie parties by teaching disco dancing.

Recently retired from a fulltime practice in clinical psychology, George is now enjoying the freedom to pursue other activities and is the happiest retiree we know. He grew up in Brooklyn, worked in the Post Office during the later depression years, studied Russian, and was trained as a cryptanalyst during WWII, and afterward applied for admission to the Russian Institute at Columbia University (the same class to which Dr. Michael Petrovich of the UW was admitted). George was accepted for a VA traineeship in clinical psychology at the University of Michigan and after completing graduate work there he and Ruth moved to Madison. Of their four children, now grown, three live in Madison.

\* \* \*

Second and third lay ministers will be John Grindrod and Margaret Stevenson. John will lead services relating to medical issues, and Peg will address family concerns.

(R.E. Corner, Continued)

turns so that there will be additional adults available each Sunday to work with this group.

**KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, AND SECOND GRADERS.** Leanna Munson, Megan Kroeger, and Bob Park are the teachers for this group. They will use the Haunting House curriculum, primarily materials that were not used last year, as well as supplements to those. The emphasis in this unit is on helping children "become aware of and appreciate their need for places where they feel at home and to engage in the growing that can go on within them." Although there is considerable emphasis on homes—both people and animal homes—and on creating "homes" for precious objects and for oneself, the theme is expanded to include many other important kinds of experiences.

**THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH GRADERS** will explore the way in which the individual makes meaning out of various kinds of sensations, and the ways in which our perceptions differ and can even deceive us. The UUA kit on the person as the "meaning makers" includes a wide variety of stimulating materials, and the teachers, Bob Nelson and Lola Gregg, are enthusiastic about teaching this group.

**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS** will have an opportunity to participate in deciding what they want their class focus to be, under the leadership of Shirley Grindrod. They will start the year by going out to breakfast together, a tradition begun two years ago. (Although we have various ideas for the group, we won't try to set the stage by describing them here.)

Once a child starts with a group, *regular attendance* is really very important as so much of the content in each class has continuity. It is difficult for the teacher and not so interesting to a child who comes only occasionally.

**REGISTRATION** of each child for church school will be essential. Parents will be given a questionnaire to complete and bring back to their child's teacher.

The annual R.E. RETREAT for teachers and committee members will be held at Avis Parrish's A-frame from 6:30 p.m. Friday, September 5 through lunch on September 6. This is a golden opportunity in a lovely place for everyone to get better acquainted and to polish plans for the fall semester.

Members of the R.E. COMMITTEE include: Shirley Lake and Joyce Crim, co-chairs, Alice Bullen, Carol and Bob Dopp, Lola Gregg, and Holly Loring. They would like to have several additional members and welcome volunteers as well as input from anyone in the Society. An innovation this year is for each class to have one member of the Committee as special liaison with them.

—Pat Cautley, R.E. Director

\* \* \*

The program committee welcomes suggestions for future services. Members of the committee are: Dorothy Lee, Pat Whyte Lehman, Jack Jallings, and Mike Briggs, the latter in charge of the musical part of the programs.

We extend our sympathy to the Carl Martin family and close friends of Nancy Martin, who was recently killed in an auto accident. Nancy has been a Prairie friend whom we enjoyed and appreciated. She will be especially remembered by those with whom she did folk dancing at Folklore Village.

### Annual Retreat Set for Oct. 10-12

The annual PRAIRIE SOCIETY RETREAT has been scheduled for the weekend of October 10-12, 1980, at Camp Upham Woods in the Wisconsin Dells.

The retreat has been an activity of the Society almost since its founding. Camp Upham Woods, located a few miles north of the town of Wisconsin Dells, occupies a beautiful site and is operated by UW Extension. We pay for the meals they prepare, for unheated cabins or heated dormitories, and for their facilities.

Typical activities have included: canoeing (they have canoes, or you can bring your own), nature walks, volleyball, New Games, rather spirited games of Capture the Flag, arts and crafts including macramé and printing, singing, and dancing. We have had discussion groups on everything from environmental problems to interpersonal relationships, to existentialism. Or you can go off by yourself and meditate.

This year Warren and Lois Hagstrom have agreed to coordinate the retreat, with help and advice from last year's coordinators, Mel Micke and Nina Mattarella. Warren and Lois seek your advice about activities for the retreat this year. A brief meeting to discuss the retreat will be held immediately after services on Sunday, Sept. 14.

### Rosemarie Lester Returns to W. Germany

Rosemarie Lester flew back to Frankfurt, West Germany, on August 21. She regretted not having enough time to visit with everyone she wanted to see, but hopes to be back within a year for a more satisfactory visit unencumbered by all the details of getting a dissertation wrapped up. Her study of the stereotype of the black in German popular literature from 1947 to 1977 will hopefully be translated into English so that we all can read it. She says "Auf Wiedersehen" to all.

### Wright-Edwards' in Tucson

We recently received the following message from Ann and Clark Wright-Edwards in a note illustrated with pictures of dalmations and cacti:

Hello Prairians: We finally got our wagon train to Tucson—dalmations, et al, and we are settling down into our home with sights on the city lights and two mountain ranges. Slowly we're getting introduced to desert life at our front door, the latest a five inch tarantula in our driveway the other night. So Clark now goes night walking with a flashlight in one hand and a ladder in the other!

We will look forward to your news in *Prairie Fire*—and will love hearing from you. Our two Tucson friends are gone, but the telephone man was friendly!

—Best from both of us.  
Ann and Clark may be contacted at 3335 W. Sandalwood Drive, Tucson, AZ 85705, (602) 743-7202.

## Work Day Scheduled

In order to get the meeting house and grounds ready for the first meeting of the fall season, Bob Nelson, chair of the building and grounds committee, has announced a work day for Saturday, August 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to volunteer for two-hour shifts. Bring your lunch and beverage.

Equipment needed for the day will be vacuum cleaners, mops, wheelbarrows, and grass seed.

In case of rain the work day will be Sunday, the 31st.

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*Come dance!* Saturday, September 13, 6:00 p.m., Capitol Square at the Equinox Festival's folk stage. Dodie Chapru will lead recreational folk dancing. No experience or partners needed. Children welcome. Y'all come!

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From Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*:

UNITARIAN, n. One who denies the divinity of a Trinitarian.

TEACHERS AND R.E. COMMITTEE MEMBERS,  
PAST AND PRESENT, AND OTHER INTERESTED  
PEOPLE:

The Boston office is asking us to participate in the following questionnaire. Please mail your opinions to Joyce Crim (432 N. Few st., Madison 53703) so a composite can be assembled. Thank you.

What do you want your religious education program to accomplish?

What materials, courses, and experiences in your society are helping to achieve this?

What areas need improvement? — Where are the gaps?  
What is missing?

What are your greatest problems? Where do you go for help?

What is your vision for the church or fellowship as an educating community?

Dorothy Lee is suggesting a Prairies Theater party for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at American Players Theatre, Spring Green, September 12. Ticket price is \$3.00. Contact Dorothy, 255-7526, by Monday, Sept. 8, for reservations and possible plans for eating out.

From Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*:

UNIVERSALIST, n. One who forgoes the advantages of Hell for persons of another faith.

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*A forty year old Linotype, and a turn-of-the-century printing press were used to produce this issue of Prairie Fire. The Linotype, a gift of Madison Rubber Stamp Co., crowds the Bullen garage, and the press keeps company in the basement with several other machines of a bygone day.*