R.E. Corner

All the children in the K-2 and 3-5 classes are helping decorate a sturdy box that we will use for our Sharing Circle, by bringing a picture representing something of special interest to them. This can be one they draw, or found in a magazine, etc. When we finish, our box will show a lot of interesting individual interests. Remember to bring them for Sunday, March 22.

I have just come across a statement by Pablo Casals (in a packet of information sent out by the UUA) and would like to share it with you:

Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and never will be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them—"Do you know what you are? You are a marvel, you are unique. In all the world there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been another child like you. And look at your body --- What a wonder it is! Your legs, your arms, your cunning fingers, the way you move! You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel --- And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is like you, a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work --- We must all work --- to make this world worthy of its children."

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE--MARCH 22
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
7:30 P.M  SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Election of Officers
Ratification of Loan Note from First Society

Send other business items to Aileen Nettleton or other board members

NORTH CENTRAL AREA SPRING MEETING

Come to the North Central Area Council spring meeting! Make a spring pilgrimage to Green Bay, Wisconsin!

"When that April with his shoures soote
The droughts of March hath perced to the roots

Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages."

So Chaucer wrote about the desire to kick up one's heels in April and travel. The sap will be running. Why not join a Prairie caravan to Green Bay for the annual NCAC meetings. Last spring Prairie hosted this conference, our first big hospitality event in our new quarters.

This year the conference will be meeting April 3, 4, 5 in the Green Bay area. There will be social events on Friday night. Saturday will be filled with workshops, a business meeting, a presentation on the two traditions of Unitarianism and Universalism by Robert Hoagland and Peter Scott and, of course, an evening party. A worship service Sunday morning in Appleton will end the conference.

You may choose from a wide variety of workshops:

On Saturday morning--
Humanism and the New Right, Dick Drinon
Extension and Growth, Lori Pederson
The Church and Body Movement, Carol Taylor
Problem Solving in Local Societies, Elise Cade

On Saturday afternoon--
Lay-Led Worship services, Emil Gudmundson
Social Action: Where Is the Action? Bob Swan

Coming to Terms With the Bible, Peter Scott
Religious Education in Small Societies, Laurie Horton

Home hospitality or overnight accommodations is available. Call Ruth Calden, 233-5717 for further details about the conference and for car pooling ideas.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
From President Aileen Nettleton

On Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. (after the morning service), there will be a congregational meeting. A parish poll of Prairie members will be taken to help determine the agenda for the General Assembly meeting in Philadelphia, June 12-18, 1981. If the majority of Prairie members think a particular resolution should be considered at the General Assembly an X will go in the Yes box; if no, an X will go in the No box, or if our congregation abstains, an X will go in the Abstain box. Our vote, along with those from other congregations across the country, will determine which resolutions make the agenda.

Important! There will not be time at the congregational meeting to describe the details of each resolution. For the details please look in your March 1 copy of UU World for the insert TENTATIVE AGENDA. These pages describe the nature of each resolution. Please read these pages carefully before voting on March 22. Bring your copy of the tentative agenda with you. Here's a chance to make our wishes known on a national level.

FROM UUA TO PRO-SEEDS

A special contribution of $50 has been made to our Pro-Seeds fund by the UUA "in appreciation for the hard work, warm spirit, and gracious hospitality extended to us," as Betty Anastos expressed it in her letter. She also mentions that the photograph Marty Drapkin took of the leaders of the R.E. Conclave will probably be in the March 15 issue of the UU World.

We earned $234 for the building fund through all the work time contributed by members of Prairie.

TO PRESERVE RECORD OF PRAIRIE CEREMONIES

The Board has designated the vice president as custodian of materials on ceremonies. We wish to have as complete as possible a record of ceremonies at dedications, weddings, funerals and memorial services, and the chalice presentations. If you have records of such ceremonies, please give them to Warren Hagstrom. (He'll make a copy for you if you like.) In addition it has been suggested that some may wish to have separations and divorces marked by a ceremony at Prairie. If you are interested in coordinating such an event or having one to mark your own such event, contact Warren.
BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

On Sunday evenings in April, a group will meet weekly to consider "building your own theology." The title is from a UU adult education booklet which will be used as the basic text for the group.

Together members will explore and share their religious values; determine what life experiences, what models, and what writers have shaped their thinking and behavior, and become aware of what values from their past each has kept or discarded. Exercises, readings, discussion, and reflection will be used to help each develop a personal "credo".

The first meeting will be held Sunday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Caldens, 4606 Waukesha St. If you are interested in being part of this group, call Ruth Calden, 233-5717, or Dorothy Lee, 255-7526.

Enrichment reading (other titles available by calling Ruth or Dorothy:
Frankl, Viktor Man's Search for Meaning
Eisley, Loren The Immense Journey
McLendon, James William, Jr. Biography as Theology
Keen, Sam and Fox, Anne Valley Telling Your Story

A PRAIRIE COOK BOOK

Prairie is planning—after last—to put together a cookbook. Hopefully all those wonderful dishes we have experienced in circle dinners will find their way into it.

We are planning to bind it in such a way that after the initial purchase through ProSeeds to Prairie, additional pages may be added over the years.

Avis Parrish has agreed to coordinate the collection of recipes. They may be mailed to her or placed in a labeled basket at the rear of the meeting room. Metje Butler will coordinate art work to illustrate the recipes. Prairie artists will be asked to contribute the illustrations.

Peg Stevenson will coordinate a discussion group for parents with young children at Prairie. Prairie non-parents are requested to volunteer to babysit for the children in their homes.

Boyce Totz, in preparation for moving to Mineral Point, has landscapes, still lifes, and a few abstractions, done in acrylics and water colors, on sale at half price. Call for an appointment, 255-8647.

FROM THE CLIPBOARDS

BUILDING CLEANUP
Mar. 15—Rachel Siegfried, Gail Osler
Mar. 22—Shirley & Jim Lake
Mar. 29—????
Apr. 5—Joan Hall, Rita Refner

SNOW SHOVELING
Mar. 15—Rod Stevenson, Mel Micke
Mar. 22—Les Lyons, Norma Briggs
Mar. 29—Ruth Calden

COFFEE MAKING
Mar. 15—Judy Spring
Mar. 22—Alice Bullen
Mar. 29—Ruth Calden

KITCHEN CLEANUP
Mar. 15—Cathy Cole, Dave Zachem
Mar. 22—Judy Spring, Dave Zachem—
Mar. 29—Aileen Nettleton, ???

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: EL SALVADOR

On Page Four appears a statement drawn up by the Social Action committee protesting the government's involvement in the bloodshed in El Salvador. The statement was signed by 45 members and friends of Prairie during the March 8 service.

Lee Bullen printed this week 5000 leaflets announcing a protest meeting sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity With People of El Salvador. The meeting will be held March 26 at the U.W. stock pavilion.

TAX WORKSHOP

Mike Briggs will call those interested in the tax workshop to set up time and place. If other people are interested, contact Mike before Sunday evening (workshop will be some time next week).

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Rick Ruecking and Sven Midelfort, who signed our membership book on March 1.

LAST CHANCE!

The final polka, waltz, schottische dance session will be held Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. at the meeting house.

The Committee on Committees is still seeking suggestions for nominations to the Board and is especially interested in volunteers for and suggestions of potential lay ministers. If you have ideas, pass them on to Dick Bonser, Norma Briggs, Carol Dopp, Warren Hagstrom, or Joan Hall.
A STATEMENT ON EL SALVADOR

We, members and supporters of the Social Action Committee of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, Wisconsin, are outraged that our Government has been, and still is, sending military and financial help to the ruling junta of El Salvador.

Statements by former Ambassador Robert White and the recent report of the Congressional investigating group confirm that the United States Government has issued misleading information on the situation in El Salvador. The truth is that combat forces controlled primarily by the junta have been waging a relentless campaign of torture, murder and mutilation against landless farmers, religious and professional leaders, academics, journalists, labor organizers and other supporters of moderate reform. Documented atrocities include the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the rape, torture and murder of American missionary women, the massacre of eight hundred impoverished refugees encamped near the Honduran border and the extermination of many thousands of other civilians. Our own Government has contributed to these crimes by supplying the junta with money and combat equipment and by training so-called counterinsurgency forces.

There are frightening parallels between the activity of the United States in El Salvador today and in South Vietnam in the early nineteen-sixties, particularly the presence of armed "advisers" and "technicians." We are dismayed by the prospect that such military intervention will lead to a large-scale war, this time in Central America, of the kind that ravaged southeast Asia.

The conflict in El Salvador must be resolved peacefully and as soon as possible. We therefore applaud Representative Robert Kastenmeier and other Members of Congress who oppose military aid for El Salvador, and we strongly endorse House Bill HR 1509, which would prohibit military assistance, sales, and credits to the junta. For the sake of world peace we need to help all people attain freedom and improve the quality of their lives. A first, decent step will be to ease the suffering of the Salvadoran people by refusing to support the regime that rules them by terror and violence.

It is imperative that all nations, including the United States, halt the flow of arms to El Salvador and cooperate in promoting political reconciliation, social and economic justice, and democratic freedom. We urge the United States Government to set an example by sponsoring negotiation between leaders of the junta and the Democratic Revolutionary Front in a place where they will be safe from assassination. We hope this process will, in time, lead to free elections and self-determination for Salvadorans.

Leslie Lyons
Chair, Social Action Committee