CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
10:00 a.m.--"Around the World Odyssey: a Personal Search" Dave Zakem.
Potluck luncheon following the meeting.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
1:00 p.m.--The Playreaders: Organizational meeting, home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place. Story on another page.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
9:00 a.m.--Pot luck breakfast and report on UUA Annual Assembly, the Bullens.
10:00 a.m.--"If You Know Our Language, You Know Us" Dave Zakem.
12:00 noon--Singles potluck at Prairie with First Society Singles.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
5:30 p.m.--African Dinner.
6:30 p.m.--Zito Dancers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10:00 a.m.--"Africa, the Country We Didn't Learn About in School" Dave Zakem.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
10:00 a.m.--"Sufism, the Flowering of Islam" Dave Zakem.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
10:00 a.m.--"The Cultures of India" Dave Zakem.

THANKS PRAIRIE!

On August 29, the last "Move-a-thon" for ERA was sponsored by the Madison Chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Madison Coalition for ERA. Volunteers from Prairie staffed the six check points and provided encouragement for participants throughout the very soggy day. There were over 100 "movers" who collected approximately $10,156 for the national ratification effort. I appreciated your help, the meeting space, and the use of the tables and chairs for the check points.

Judy Spring
Dave Zakem, our next lay minister will have been at Prairie exactly one year on the day when he begins his ministry. Regardless of how exciting and exotic it may seem to travel around the world and live in other countries, Dave feels that his most meaningful year ever has been the past year through belonging to Prairie.

Dave came into the world at a tender and young age in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where not too much is tender or young. Doubts began to creep in as to the meaning to life when at the age of eight he found his "holy" mother Catholic Church accepted him but condemned his own mother who was divorced and remarried.

The first contact with any hint of religious toleration came on the farm where Dave spent a lot of his life with three elderly people. Come Sunday, Dave would go to his church, another went to the Gospel Baptist Church, another to the Lutheran Church and the 90 year old mother to the barn, since she only believed in "hens laying eggs and plants growing".

Next came college where Dave went from a merit scholar sitting in his high school seat to getting an education in real life "outside of the classroom". Inspite of this Steppenwolf life, an A.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Elementary Education were squeezed out.

Professional life came with 36 first graders in Westphalia, a small, rural (you probably already guessed) German community. Then on to Los Angeles and 46 sixth graders.

It was in L.A. where two young nuns tried to convince Dave to become a priest. He was just beginning to discover what it meant to be human and declined the offer. Both nuns began their own thinking and left the convent.

The next offer came from the Peace Corps, "Now that you have your degree, get your education". This brought Dave to a small group of nomads in Somalia, East Africa, where he lived in a mud and manure hut for a year. After this came Swaziland, where he taught Modern Math and Science in a remote school in voo doo country.

Dave was ready for more "lernin" and got a M.A. in Human Development at Western Michigan in Kalamazoo and almost got a PhD at Syracuse.

But the fragrant Overseas breezes blew Dave to Rafsanjan, Iran, the pistachio capital of the world, where he spent four years as the principal of an expatriate school in a brand new pioneer mining town high in the mountains.

Just over three years ago Dave came to Madison looking for a community with lots of potential. He worked as a volunteer in community projects for a year then became the Training Coordinator for the Dane County Mental Health Services Board until funds dried up. Then after a spell of semi-retirement, he became the Regional Offices Supervisor for the Governor's Ombudsman Program for the Aging and Disabled until this Summer when everything seems to be drying up.

Dave believes strongly in personal freedom and his activities reflect this. He is co-chairperson of Wisconsin Interchange, President of the Wisconsin Intellectual Freedom Coalition, Vice-President of the National Alliance for Optional Parenthood and a board member of the Wisconsin Council on Family Relations. He's active in other groups, too.

Dave likes all kinds of music and has an extensive record collection. He has done photography for several university and agency publications. He has a great interest in various styles and periods of art, especially Islamic art. He is open to new ideas and experiences. He thrives on physical activity.

Various aspects of Culture and Personality will be the focus of Dave's ministry. Details on the ministry topics can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

--Sue D'Nim

PLAYREADERS

The Playreaders will have a pot-luck organizational luncheon meeting on Saturday, September 19 at the home of Pat Watkins, who will supply the baked ham. We will select our plays and dates for the coming year, decide on a possible theater party, and discuss a playreading of Inherit the Wind for an upcoming Sunday service. We hope to see both old members and newcomers. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 16 to coordinate food. Call Pat at 262-7960 or 233-5795. If the weather is good, we'll meet picnic style (bring a blanket or lawn chair).

Pat Watkins
LAY MINISTRY SERVICES

Dave Zakem's lay ministry will focus on aspects of culture and personality. The first service on September 13 will explore Dave's inside view of the life in Somalia, Swaziland and Iran.

The second service on September 20 will be, "If you know our language, then you know us". This service will look at various language and communication processes. Many difficult and sometimes amusing situations arise from not understanding the communication system being used by someone. People attending the service will be asked to share some of their "communication" experiences.

The third service on September 27 will be, "Africa, the country we didn't learn about in school". A little known but very exciting history of Africa will be presented along with glimpses into the cultural life. African crafts will be on display.

On September 26 at 5:30 P.M. an African dinner will take place in the meeting house followed by a presentation on African costumes and culture by Ufusu Akyea and the Zito Dancers. The Zito Dancers will fill you with exotic, driving rhythms. A contribution will be requested to help cover costs.

"Sufism, the flowering of Islam" will be the theme of the service on October 4. The service will cover a brief development of Sufism. Then people will join in Sufi dancing.

October 11 will have "The Cultures of India." The myths, legends and unique history of India will be presented.

"Personal Turning Points" will be the theme on November 15. After a discussion on personal turning points, some Prairie members will share their personal turning points.

November 22 will mark the last service in Dave's ministry. This will be focused on Prairie. Many people ask about what it means to be a member of Prairie and "what do Prairie people believe in?" This service will bring together words which have meaning to Prairie members in "The Prairie Book of Inspiration". Bring some words which you find meaningful. Be prepared to share these words in the service, if you would like. An actual book will be compiled which will be a way to share the essence of Prairie with other people.

LAY-MINISTRIES TO COME:

Lee and Alice Bullen will conduct a series of programs based on the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.

We are approaching the subject from the point of view that though the document was a milestone in human history, that it was incomplete when it was adopted and is still developing; that throughout the years of the country's existence there have been tragic lapses in its observance.

We would like to intersperse discussion periods coordinated by ourselves with talks by people in this and nearby communities who have strong concerns for particular rights intended to be guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The American Bill of Rights as it exists today has to be brought together from all its sources—a compendium derived from the original Constitution, the first ten amendments, and the subsequent amendments. When this operation is performed, it is like bringing together the scattered works of a great master of painting, sculpture, or music. Design and harmony emerge. In all the world's history there is nothing to compare with the pledges of human rights and freedom that have been worked into our charter of government at the great moments of national history."

Irving Brant, author of The Bill of Rights, Its Origin and Meaning

Beginning in March, Barbara Park's lay-ministry will be based on materials available from U.U.A.: Unity in Diversity--The Differences that Unite Us.

CALLING ALL SINGLES

We'll be enjoying a potluck lunch here at Prairie at 12:00 on Sunday, September 20, along with single folk from First Society. Bring a dish to pass, and join in lively conversation with old and new friends. We will no doubt be talking about everything and anything, but I hope we can also discuss the kind of singles group we want and how to achieve it.

Les Lyons

If you have any sewing which you'd like done--I'm offering my talents. I've had lots of experience in altering women's clothes, slip-covering and straight sewing. 217-2173.

Rachel Siegfried

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20