

# Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

... As the prairie stretches out to the horizon, it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to the horizon and be one with the natural world and with one another. PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

Prairie Smoke (Sieversia flora)

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Volume 25, Number 17 - Aug. 25, 1987

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE WILL BE SUNDAY, SEPT. 6TH. SUBMIT NOTICES FOR THE PERIOD SEPT. 11TH - SEPT. 24TH.

## CALENDAR

### Friday, Aug. 28

6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY DINNER at the Ginza Restaurant.

### Saturday, Aug. 29

#### ORIENTATION/TRAINING FOR R.E. TEACHERS

### Sunday, Aug. 30

9:00 AM - POTLUCK BREAKFAST  
10:00 AM - "WORDS FROM BEHIND BARS": writings of jail and prison inmates. Marty Drapkin.

### Monday, Aug. 31

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING at the Meeting House.

### Thursday, Sept. 3

12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH MEETING at the Memorial Union.

### Sunday, Sept. 6

\*\* NO POTLUCK THIS MORNING \*\*  
10:00 AM - "REMEMBERING OUR TEACHERS" by Dorothy Wetherby

### Thursday, Sept. 10

12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH MEETING at the Memorial Union. Guest Speaker: Rev. Scotty Meek, Interim minister at First UU Society.

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### Friday, Sept. 11

7:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY WELCOME RECEPTION at the Beefeater Room in the Memorial Union

### Sunday, Sept. 13

9:30 AM - R. E. REGISTRATION downstairs in the R. E. area.  
10:00 AM - "UNFOLDING A DREAM": led by Lynda Lewis  
11:30 AM - POTLUCK LUNCH  
2:00 PM - Prairie BOAT TOUR on Lake Mendota (see story)

### Wednesday, Sept. 16

6:30 PM - KICKOFF DINNER for the Every-member Canvass (see related story)

### Thursday, Sept. 17

12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH MEETING at the Memorial Union. Guest Speaker Midge Miller will speak on Faith & Citizenship.

### Sunday, Sept. 20

10:00 AM - To be announced  
11:30 AM - POTLUCK LUNCH  
1:00 AM - SPECIAL PARISH MEETING (See Related Story)

## Channing-Murray Dinner

David Glickman, UUYAN, Los Angeles, CA, will be Channing-Murray's guest at dinner on Friday, Aug. 28th. We're meeting at the Ginza of Tokyo restaurant at 6:00 PM and after dinner, we'll go dancing or whatever else the group decides to do... Call Cinda at 238-9884 for more information, or if you need a ride to this event.

## Remembering Our Teachers

Some of us are professional educators, others of us spend much of our time instructing people informally. We are all teachers in one way or another. Each of us has also been shaped by unforgettable teachers in our past. The service on Sept. 6th will be a time for sharing memories of other school years, of ourselves as students, and most especially memories of those teachers who made a difference in our lives.

## Unfolding A Dream

### A Celebration of the Constitution

Prairie Society will join with others in communities throughout the nation as our first fall service on Sept. 13 celebrates the bicentennial of the signing of the Constitution. A potluck lunch will follow the service.

Songs and memorable excerpts from speeches and events that shaped and changed our basic political document will highlight our service. Lynda Lewis and the program committee are arranging the service, which features participation by many Prairie members.

As our Constitution evolves from its creation through its changes by amendment and interpretation, it reflects and inspires our dreams about a liveable existence for the individual and for groups in our pluralistic society. Prairie members will have the opportunity to share their views about "original intent" and how we now evolve in a political democracy.

## Boat Tour Set for Opening Sunday-

This is your chance to see the sights on beautiful Lake Mendota. We are reserving the tour boat for Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2:00 PM. The tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. The one hour tour leaves from the Memorial Union and includes Picnic Point, Maple Bluff, and Tenny Park. The tour is limited to 32 people, so sign up early by calling Faye Glessner at 251-5427.

## Back by Popular Demand

We are planning to issue a revised Prairie Cookbook for those people who missed getting one of the first editions, those who are new to Prairie, and for relatives who have been coveting your copy of the first edition for years.

We will be making corrections to recipes already published and taking out those recipes from commercially published books (copyright difficulties, you know) so let us know of any changes that should be made.

We would also like to include new creations from our Prairie Chefs, (remember that dish we raved about at the potluck) so send them in! Also, we will need some more artwork and quotations. Contact Faye Glessner (251-5427) or Rachel Slegfried (271-2173) if you can help with the awesome job of getting the new edition ready to print. Please submit your new recipes and/or corrections to either Faye or Rachel by Sept. 30 at the latest.

## Canvass Volunteers Needed!

The Finance Committee needs about 25 volunteers to contact 4 or 5 members each for their pledges for 1988. This will be a small time commitment on your part, but one that will ensure Prairie's ability to carry out programs for the next year. If you are willing to help out, come to the Kickoff Dinner at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, September 16th. For more information, call Faye Glessner at 251-5427.

## HELP! HELP! HELP!

### Housing and Property Chair Needed!! Membership Chair Needed!!

Housing and Property Committee Chair Pat Meller has found that she cannot continue her duties as chair, though she will continue as a committee member.

Membership Committee Chair Rita Reffner has also found it necessary to resign.

If you are interested in either position, call President Mary Mullen at 271-5192.

## On Sabbatical

Galen and Rose Smith, Prairie members from Whitewater, left on Aug. 24th for a year in Wales and England. Friends wishing to write to them can reach them between September and January, 1988 at:

Bryn Derwen

Bethesda

Gwynedd

N. Wales, U. K., LL57 4YW

and between January and August, 1988 at:

Binswood Croft

Binswood End

Harbury

Leamington Spa

England, CV33 9LN

## Special Parish Meeting

### NOTE TIME CHANGE!

A special Parish business meeting will be held on Sept. 20 at 1:00 PM following a potluck meal after the morning service. Childcare will be provided. The revised agenda is as follows:

1. Election of:
  - A) Housing and Property Committee Chair.
  - B) Membership Committee Chair
2. Consideration of the report of the Long Range Planning Committee on space needs alternatives. Decision by the Society on whether to proceed with remodeling or another course of action. (THE REPORT IS ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE OF PRAIRIE FIRE)
3. Discussion of the proposal that Prairie have a minister.

The President reminds all Prairie friends and members that anyone may speak at a Parish Meeting, but that only members may vote.

## R. E. Corner

### A CHANGE FOR PRAIRIE?

This past Spring, some of you may have read an article in the "UU WORLD" concerning UU children. The article, written by the president of the UUA, addressed the issue of UU children and how they are (or are not) made part of the UU community. He pointed out that only 10% of children raised as UU's are UU's as adults. UU children tend to drift away from the organized worship community as they get older. Many of the 90% who drop out join other churches, and some UU children even go so far as to become "born agains". It was pointed out that this drift begins as children get towards the high school age. UU children do not have the formalized youth organizations and are not offered many of the "rites of passage" that seem to bind other children to their faiths. In addition, he pointed out that children have a very peripheral role in most UU congregations.

In an effort to help curb such a drift at Prairie, the R. E. Committee began looking at some alternatives that might help our children feel as though they are a more integral part of Prairie and might move them toward wanting to remain UUs. Youth programming was looked at and plans are being made to develop our youth activities. At the same time, it seemed to the Committee that if Prairie were to aim such an effort at children only as they reached middle school and high school age, the seeds of dropping

out might already be firmly rooted. Therefore, the Committee began looking at the broader issue of how to firmly integrate all Prairie children into the UU Community.

After much consideration, a plan was adopted. The Committee felt that if all Prairie children were part of each Prairie service, they may indeed begin to feel a greater commitment to their faith tradition. It was the committee's view that if all children (except those in the nursery and pre-school groups) were to become a part of the first 10 minutes of each service, the children and adults at Prairie might gain much.

The Program Committee was approached and agreed to a trial period for this plan. Beginning September 13 and continuing until October 18, all R. E. children will sit with their families at the beginning of each service. They will be present for and participate in the welcoming, lighting of the chalice, reading the Bond of Union, an opening song, - whatever kicks off the service. This portion of the service will not be altered in any way so as to be specifically child-centered. Instead, it is hoped that children will become more familiar with and develop an appreciation for our adult traditions.

Parents of all R. E. children are encouraged to be at Prairie at 10:00 with their children during these five trial Sundays. On October 20, the Program committee will evaluate the change in the service and decide whether or not it should continue.

(Ed. Note - Should the kids have a say in the evaluation of the trial period?)

## No One Runs on Empty

Currently, only 4% of the nation's population gives blood, but someone needs blood every 12 seconds. One out of five hospital patients receive blood.

The Red Cross especially needs donations before the Labor Day Holiday, so join with the Prairie One-A-Week Club and donate regularly. Remember to sign the Club Book for Prairie.

If you have questions, call Lynda Lewis (271-2173) or the Red Cross (233-9300).

## Report from the Long-Range Planning Committee

During the fall, 1986 Parish Meeting, the members of Prairie passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the Members of Prairie recognize that a serious shortage of space exists for the Religious Education program; and

Whereas, the Members of Prairie recognize that the meeting house lacks handicapped access; and

Whereas, the Members of Prairie recognize that a restructuring of the entry wing to eliminate the multiple floor levels and to incorporate a kitchen, office, cloak room, and restrooms may be possible if the front porch area over the heated store room is incorporated; and

Whereas, the restructuring of the entrance wing could free up the existing kitchen as uninterrupted RE space and that a small kitchen and restroom can be constructed in the basement; and

Whereas, the inclusion of an office in the restructuring could result in some increase in adult meeting room space;

Therefore be it resolved that the Prairie Board is directed to contract for architectural services for preparing a detailed design for the building restructuring.

The Prairie Board assigned the responsibility for selecting an architect and developing a plan to the Long-Range Planning Committee. The committee has been actively working since January to develop a proposal to be submitted to Prairie members for consideration.

With the advice of architect Edward Solner, the committee is making the following recommendations to the Board.

The Board's recommendation will be made to the membership during the special Parish Meeting on September 20th. (Detailed plans are available at Prairie.)

It is recommended by the Long-Range Planning Committee that the remodeling of the Prairie Meeting House be done according to the plans prepared by Edward Solner. This would involve adding approximately seven feet to the south and fifteen feet to the east sides of the current entrance wing; relocation of the entry doors from the east to the south; incorporation of a kitchen, office, restrooms, and storage room around a new entry hall; handicapped access both to the front and rear of the building; inclusion of both a kitchenette and restroom in the basement; and conversion of the existing kitchen to a RE classroom; and

That a parking lot be constructed with handicapped parking stalls and that both the front and rear entrances to the building be ramped for handicapped access and the yard be appropriately landscaped; and

That Prairie establish a budget for the remodeling and construction of \$85,000 (including demolition, construction, landscaping, parking, architect fees, and contingency) and commence fund raising; and

That Prairie continue the services of Edward Solner for the preparation of construction drawings and, upon approval of the final drawings, obtain bids for the construction and remodeling. When bids are received, the Board is then directed to contract for remodeling and construction, if fund raising and financing has been successful.

The advantages of Prairie accepting the recommendation of the LRPC are the meeting of the objectives set in the resolution above. All objectives have been met in the design prepared by Mr. Solner (the committee recommends keeping the stage and room currently used as an office for the present). In addition, the plan provides for off-street parking. The potential disadvantages are cost, the loss of lawn space to parking, and a disruption of Prairie during construction.

Alternatives to remodeling which the Society may wish to consider are:

Making no change: This has the advantage of low cost. The disadvantage is not meeting the objectives of the resolution.

Remodeling on a less ambitious scale: If the office, storage room, and air lock entrance were dropped and the entry hall reduced in size, it would be possible to build on the present foundation. This option would cost nearly as much as the full remodeling, since the roof would still need to be replaced to obtain the necessary ceiling height, the parking would still be required by the city, and the costs of demolition and landscaping would be equal. Mr. Solner estimates that the budget for this option should be about \$70,000.

Attempting to find another building: The advantages could be a more convenient location, more space, the presence of handicapped access, etc. A disadvantage may be that another building could not be found or would require remodeling to meet Prairie's needs.

Building a new building: This option would be the most expensive (starting at about \$400,000, for the same number of square feet as the present building). The major advantage would be construction designed specifically to meet our needs. The disadvantages would be cost and the difficulty in finding enough land in a somewhat central location.

Purchase of a house for additional RE space: Houses in the neighborhood sell for between 40,000 and \$60,000. Part of a house might also be rented by Prairie to defer costs. The disadvantages of this arrangement come mostly from the physical separation of the children from the adults.