DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, JAN. 10TH. Submit notices for the period Jan. 15th - Jan. 28th.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 3
10:00 AM - "EXPLORING UNITARIAN PRINCIPLES": featuring a video with Elizabeth Jones, former Prairiel member.

Monday, Jan. 4
7:30 PM - BOARD MEETING AT PRAIRIE (no meeting in December)

Friday, Jan. 8
5:30 PM - FISH DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at the Avenue Bar, 1128 E. Washington Ave nue.

Sunday, Jan. 10
10:00 AM - "A SELF-CONVERSION TO SECULARISM": with Dan Barker, a former Fundamentalist minister.
4:30 PM - VESPERS SERVICE AT PRAIRIE - Child Care Provided. Finger Food Potluck afterwards.

Monday, Jan. 11
7:30 PM - BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE MEETS at Prairie.

Saturday, Feb. 13
All Day - Cross Country Ski Outing and Building Fund-Raiser at the home of Dave and Marcia Johnson in Coloma, WI.

FINANCE CHAIR NEEDED

For the fourth time this year, the Prairie Board has been struck by a resignation due to work conflicts. This time, our able Finance Chair Pays Glasser is going on foreign lands. If you are a person who wants to keep Prairie on an even keel financially, talk to Pays (251-5427) or to President Mary Mullen (271-5192). The Prairie Board hopes to appoint a replacement at its Jan. 4th meeting.

FISH DINNER CIRCLE

The Fish Dinner Circle will meet next on Friday, Jan. 8th at 5:30 PM at the Avenue Bar, 1128 E. Washington Ave. Everyone is welcome at this monthly event. There are no "members" of this circle which meets at different restaurants each month.

Call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 by 4:30 PM on Jan. 6th for a reservation.

THE ONLY REASON

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist Church! That is to SUPPORT it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because it points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to men and women of whatever race, creed, color, (lifestyle) or place of origin.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost other ministers their jobs. You want to support it because it is a place where children
can come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some "celestial peeping-tom"; where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude, and for love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwells upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with drinking and smoking than with prejudice and war. You want to support it because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice."

- John Wolf, Minister
  All Souls Unitarian Church
  Tulsa, OK

'A Humanist Christmas Exhortation

"That there may be love (I will be loving)
That there may be peace (I will be peaceful)
That there may be joy (I will be joyous)
That there may be warmth (I will be warm)
That there may be kindness (I will be kind)
That there may be friendship (I will be a friend)
When the candle is spent and the yule log, ash, and wreath removed
and the tree stand put away, I shall keep alive in my life
love - peace - and joy
and
kindness - friendship - and warmth.
(At least I hope I do, for if I don't, the season passed me by
without me even knowing it.)"

- Roger Greeley

X - C Skiing

Save Feb. 13th for a special Prairie Event! Dave and
Marcia Johnson invite Prairie folk to visit beautiful wintertime Coloma for a day-long cross-country ski outing. The event is a special building fund fundraiser. More details on this will be printed in a future Prairie Fire.

R. E. CORNER

Preschool and Nursery

On Jan. 3rd and 10th, Sue and Yasmin will be doing crafts and reading some new stories to you. It will be a new year and they will be introducing you to new ideas from your curriculum.

Grades K-6

On Jan. 3rd and 10th, you will be enjoying interim. There will be a variety of activities to choose from on both Sundays. Come early so that you can select your class. Some of the classes are:

Art activities - for all ages.
Knitting - ages 7 and up, bring 88 needles or larger if you have them.
Slides - a slide show for all ages.

Y.R.U.U. ACTIVITIES

Y.R.U.U. activities are open to all Madison area 7th to 12th grade U-Us and their friends. Regular meetings are on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society Meeting House.

A-Y-S to be Offered

A-Y-S (About Your Sexuality) will be offered to 7th and 8th graders at First Society in January. If there are any 7th or 8th graders at Prairie who would like to take the course, please call Alison at 238-3302 for details. Prairie will offer the course to the 5-7-8 grade class some time next year as well.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF PRAIRIE SOCIETY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US--

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Friendly Supper Club

This interracial dinner group will hold its monthly gathering at a new location: Bishop's Cafeteria, 674 S. Whitney Way (at Odana Rd.), on Monday, Jan 4th, at 6:30 PM. This is a place where people of all colors and ages can sit down, relax, and "break bread" together.
"Strange is our situation here on earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that each is here for the sake of others, for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day I realize how much of my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of other people, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving."

- Albert Schweitzer

I am trying out a new **DESKTOP PUBLISHING PROGRAM** for producing the **PRAIRIE FIRE**. Among other things, it makes it easier to incorporate graphics in the newsletter and it allows for a greater variety of type styles and sizes. Please let me know what you think of the new look—Do you like the addition of graphics? Is the type easy to read? Is the type big enough? What changes would you like to see?

Only the best is good enough for Prairie, and I'd like to keep improving the newsletter. Call me, or drop me a note with your comments.

This is your last chance to make payments on your 1987 pledges as a deduction on your 1987 INCOME TAXES. You may also wish to pay your BUILDING FUND PLEDGE early to reduce your 1987 tax burden. If you do make such a payment, please mark clearly on the check what it is for so that it gets credited to the proper account.

**A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!**