Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

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

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CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 25
12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Check Today in the Union for Unitarian Student Lunch.
7:30 PM - LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE meets at Prairie. (see related story)

Sunday, Feb. 28
10:00 AM - "ECOLOGICAL HUMANISM - LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED" - Lance Green concludes his lay ministry on secular humanism by expounding on these ideas.
11:30 AM - UU Singles meet at First Society in the Annex (see related story).
5:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Monday, Feb. 29
7:30 PM - BOARD MEETING at Prairie.

Thursday, Mar. 3
12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Check Today in the Union for Unitarian Student Lunch. Special guest Alan Newton will speak on the "Peace Tax Fund Legislation".

Saturday, Mar. 5
7:30 PM - PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Jack and Mona Birong, 599 Glen Drive, Madison. The play is entitled Papa is All. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, Mar. 6
10:00 AM - "HITLER ON TRIAL: WAS HE HUMAN?" - The first in Julia Bonser's Lay Ministry series. (see related story)
5:00 PM - YRUU AT FIRST SOCIETY

Thursday, Mar. 10
12:00 AM - CHANNING - MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Check Today in the Union for "Unitarian Student Lunch".

Friday, Mar. 11
7:30 PM - Jack and Betty Jallings will show slides and prints from their trip to India last January. Refreshments will be provided.

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, MAR. 6TH. Submit notices for the period Mar. 11 - Mar. 24th.

Issues For The Future

The Long Range Planning Committee will meet again on Thursday, Feb. 25. Chair Jack Jallings has asked the committee members to think about the following issues for discussion at that meeting.

1. Getting more members and following up on the "fade-away folks".

2. Getting more teachers for R. E.

3. The need for larger committees.

4. The need for a larger operating budget.

5. Where to put more adults at Prairie.

6. The need for professional leadership.
7. Advertising for Prairie.

8. The need to make programs more "accessible" so that people in back can see - using the stage or getting a raised podium.

9. Bylaw changes - longer Board terms, different committee structure.

10. Changing Prairie's bad habits that make us less attractive: cliquishness, crowded lobby area, starting late and in chaos, tacky messiness in the building.

11. "Prairie Myths" - the need for a program and self examination on this topic, to include consideration of these oft-made statements: "We're a friendly, welcoming group, not cliquish." "We don't backstab." "We're tolerant." "We want more spirituality."

(Ed. Note: We should all be thinking about these issues! Our future is at stake.)

Singles Gathering

After service (about 11:30 AM) on Sunday, Feb. 28, singles will get together at First Society in the Annex Building for an "Agape Fest".

Webster defines agape as "love that is spiritual, not sexual, in its nature." Come join us and bring to share, if you wish, a simple edible, such as nuts, cheeses, or crackers. There is talk of going afterward to hear the Riverboat Ramblers.

You may contact Bill Fetzner (273-4843) regarding the singles group or the Agape Fest.

Heard in the Hall

Unitarians get their religion from debating - their most prized asset is their ability to shoot from the lip.

New Lay Minister

Beginning Mar. 6, our Spring Lay Minister will be Julie Bonser. Julie and her husband Dick have been members of Prairie since 1975. She is employed as a Social Worker for Support Network, a unit of the Mental Health Center of Dane County. Julie is on the Board of the Madison Public Library, where she is chair of the Planning Committee. Besides her interest in working directly with people, Julie has an enduring interest in politics which has led her to run for County Board Supervisor in District 7 this spring.

Her lay ministry will deal with two main subjects. The first will be a series of services about what our concept of evil entails. Can we have a moral system without a belief in a 'Higher Authority'? The second subject will be a close examination of a serious spiritual problem - alcoholism. There will also be a musical interlude orchestrated by Warren Hagstrom.

Attention Musicians!

Our music service this year will be held in early May and will feature the music of Stephen Foster. (It fits into Julie's lay ministry, since he died in 1864, age 38.) Essentially all of his compositions are songs with piano accompaniments, but I hope players of strings and wind instruments can find or make arrangements of them for their instruments. We will need some voices for solos and duets, and accompanists for them and the congregation of piano, organ, or guitar. Contact me if you wish to perform and if you want suggestions on particular pieces. I hope we can present to the congregation aspects of Foster's music containing beauty they may not have anticipated. His life can give a picture of bourgeois life in the upper Ohio valley in the antebellum period.

- Warren Hagstrom

Kitchen Cleanup Schedule

Feb. 28 Tom & Cheryl Robinson
Mar. 6 Jim Novak & Pat Cautley
Mar. 13 Judy Skog & Diane Knott
Mar. 20 Linda & Bob Nelson

Absolute Last Chance

"Entertainment '88" books are still available from Finance Chair Pat Cautley through Sunday, Feb. 28th. Prairie's general fund will receive $5 for each book sold at $25. There are coupons for restaurants, theatre and movies, car rentals, and many other items. You just can't miss with a deal like this! Call Pat at 238-5373 to reserve your copy.

Building Fund Progress Report

The Building Fund Committee reminds all Prairie Folk that their pledges to the Building Fund are due to be redeemed this month. While we have done very well for a small society, WE NEED MORE MONEY! Please, examine your bank balance and your heart and, if you can, increase your pledge.
Many members and friends have already paid their pledges - receipts to date for the Building Fund amount to $14,675! Only $70,325 to go!

Travels in Tibet

Philip Golden, a graduate student in South Asian Studies at the UW, will offer a slide presentation at Prairie on Wednesday, Mar. 2, at 7:30 PM. Philip toured Tibet in 1987 with Gesha Sopa, his professor. There will be no admission charge.
- Lee Bullen

Prairie Artist on Display

Betty Jallings will have one of her sculptures on display at the Wisconsin Regional Art Program Workshop, which will be held at the Wisconsin Center on Mar. 5, 1988.

Camp Unistar Flyers Are In!

Where but Camp Unistar can you spend one full week for $142 including home-made food, lodging, stimulating programming, extensive leisure and waterfront opportunities? This UU family camp located on Star Island in Cass Lake, MN (about 20 miles from Bemidji) runs from June 11 until August 27.

Pick up a blue flyer on the back table at Prairie.

By the way - Prairie members Fredericka Schilling and Mary Mullen will be on the Camp Unistar staff this summer.

and now... Son of Summer Assembly!

In order to allow more people to experience a Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, a second week at Lake Geneva, WI is being offered this year. The time is Sunday, July 17 - Saturday, July 23. Although smaller (max. 120 persons) than the long-established UU Summer Assembly at Lake Geneva during the week of July 4, this second week will include theme speakers and a full program. Like LGSA I, the second week is meant for everyone - families, singles and children. The theme is Spirituality: Celebrate the Human Family! Carolyn and Tom Owen-Towle, co-ministers of First Unitarian Church in San Diego, CA will be Theme Speakers. Brochures will be available soon at Prairie.

Art Institute Trip Planned

The Prairie Finance Committee is planning a special fund-raising trip to the Chicago Art Institute on Saturday, April 23, to view the special Georgia O'Keefe exhibit.

The bus will leave the Prange-Way parking lot on the South Beltline at 8:00 AM on April 23, arrive in Chicago about 3 hours later and drop us off at the Art Institute, where we can visit many exhibits and eat lunch in one of several lunchrooms. We will be admitted to the O'Keefe exhibit at 2:30. The bus will leave the Art Institute at 4:30 PM for the return trip to Madison. The bus will be air-conditioned and will have a restroom.

The cost of the entire trip (excluding lunch) will be $30. Please tell your friends about it. This is the only special trip to the O'Keefe exhibit on a Saturday that we know of. Get your reservation in early to be sure of space. Send your reservations (with check made out to Prairie UU Society) to Prairie, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711. Include name, address, and phone # of everyone included in the reservation. Receipts will be mailed out promptly with additional information. Any young person under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Reservations must be received at Prairie by Monday, April 4, since we must send them in to the Art Institute ahead of time. For more information, contact Pat Cautley at 238-5373.

Preschool and Nursery

On Feb. 28, Sue will be telling you about New Guinea. She will read The Man Who Went to the Moon and How the Mosquitoes Came which are stories from New Guinea. There will be an art project to do that goes along with the stories.

On Mar. 6, Sue will not be with you. Yasmine will have a chance to tell you about Somalia and share some of the language with you.

Grades K-1-2

On Feb. 28, Marcia will share the story of Sacajawea with you. Sacajawea was a Shoshone Indian who lived in the Rocky Mountains. As a girl, Sacajawea was captured by the Minnetaree Indians and forced to live with them. Marcia will have an activity for you to do after she shares the story with you.
On Mar. 6, you will continue to learn more about Sacajawea and her expeditions with Lewis and Clark. Sacajawea traveled many miles with these two men as she lead them through new territory.

**Grades 3-4-5**

On Feb. 28 and Mar. 6, Peg will be sharing her knowledge of Japanese holidays with you. Peg and Dan have spent time in Japan and will be living there next year so their knowledge of holidays in Japan is extensive.

**Grades 6-7-8**

The middle-schoolers have signed the Celebrate Difference Covenant, and continue to discuss religion in the news.

**Y R U U ACTIVITIES**

All Prairie 7th to 12th graders and their friends are invited to participate in the joint Prairie - First Society Y.R.U.U. youth group. Regular meetings are on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society Meeting House. The Jr. group (7th - 9th grades) meets in the West Living Room and the Sr. group (10th - 12th grades) meets in the Annex. Call Diane Derouen, Y R U U advisor, at 238-3766 for more information.

Stop by the new Prairie Y R U U bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs in the meeting house to see news of local, district and national Y R U U activities. There are some interesting summer conferences planned for several locations such as Star Island, N. H. Prairie youth are encouraged to add photos, announcements, etc. to the display.

Many thanks to Jim Novak for donating the croissants which Anna Nettleton and Yasmine Sido sold on Feb. 21 after the service. The money, along with donut profits from other Sunday sales is used to support Y R U U retreats, district conferences and other local Y R U U activities.

**The Mountain...**

is a Camp and Conference Center near Highlands, NC which offers a number of programs for RE Directors and staff as well as a series of youth camps tailored to age groups ranging from 6 to 18 years. For details on the sessions offered during 1988, please see the bulletin board at Prairie.

**Be Where the Ideas of March?**

The Program Committee has programs planned for each Sunday during March, April and May. The Committee is now looking for ideas and persons who are interested in presenting services during the month of June. An idea sheet is located on a clipboard at the back of the auditorium. You may also call Jim Novak at 249-4474 or Julie Bonser at 274-3248 to volunteer time or ideas.

Peg Stevenson is looking for someone to help organize the Spring (Memorial Day Weekend) Canoe Trip on the Kickapoo River. Please call her at 233-6449 if you are willing to help.

**Notes on 'Views on Religion'**

On Feb. 7, Lance Green shared the results of the 'Views on Religion' survey. Rev. Tony Larsen presented a sermon on Jan. 10 at First Society which seems to speak to some of the views expressed in the survey. (For a complete copy of the sermon, call or write First Society.)

To paraphrase, Larsen starts out by saying that what he has to say would be heresy in some Unitarian Universalist circles. He spoke about the issue of religious education for our youth. "Oh, I know, I know. You want your kids to make their own choice. You don't want to push your beliefs on them. You don't want to shove your religion down their throats like perhaps your parents shoved theirs down yours. You want your kids to be free." He goes on to say that he agrees with all of those statements, but feels that we should at least "plug" our religion when we talk to our children. "Tell your kids what you believe and why. And listen to their beliefs. And tell them why you belong to a Unitarian-Universalist Church. And - heresy of heresies - tell them you hope they'll be Unitarian Universalists when they grow up too. That's right. Of course you'll love them whether they do or not. And of course they should feel free to leave or stay. But this is a good religion, and it's doing good things. And it's going to need people to keep on doing good things. And there's nothing wrong with telling your kids you hope they'll keep up the good work. Is that so wrong?"

These, then, are more statements, like those made on the survey, in support of our community here at Prairie.

- Alison McKee
Food Donations Urgently Needed!

Please help us to help our neighbor. We are collecting food for a family of five - a mother and four children, two of which are teenagers. These people are living near the meeting house. They need and appreciate our assistance.

Volunteer Coordinator Wanted

Lance Green has been arranging for Prairie folks to help at the Drop-In Shelter since February of 1986, and he would like to give someone else the chance to do this service. It involves making phone calls, putting announcements in the Prairie Fire, keeping simple records and occasionally contacting the shelter. If you might like to try this, please call Lance at 249-5979.

Social Justice Workshop

There will be a U-U National Workshop on Social Justice at the Howard Inn in Washington, D. C. from Sunday, April 17 through Tuesday, April 19. This will be UUA's only national social responsibility gathering this year. There will be panels and small group sessions, opportunities for lobbying members of Congress, and a reception for invited UU members of Congress. Travel expense and youth subsidies are available. The registration fee is $100 for adults and $55 for youth, and the registration deadline is March 27, 1988.

Two dinners and two lunches are included in the registration fee. For further information, see the bulletin board at Prairie.

Friendly Supper Club

The "Friendly Supper Club" will meet again at 6:30 PM on Monday, Mar. 7, at Bishop's Cafeteria, 674 S. Whitney Way. Bring/make a friend of another color.

Take Up The Song

The Hymnbook Resources Commission of the UUA invites you to join in the process of creating our new Hymnbook. We seek to create a hymnbook that is both conservative and radical: conservative in preserving the best hymns of our tradition, radical in providing a wide range of new worship material, giving fresh expressions of our religious faith. We seek both music and readings for worship, particularly on themes which are under-represented in the present hymnbook: Aging, Death and Dying, Easter, Feminine Imagery, Intergenerational Worship, Martin Luther King, Jr. observances, Multi-cultural Tunes and Musical Styles, and Music for Holidays and Holy Days.

For more information on the criteria for submissions, the deadline and the place to send materials, please consult the brochure TAKE UP THE SONG, posted on the bulletin board at the back of the auditorium.

Looking Ahead...

The Central Midwest District UUA Convocation will be held on Saturday, May 7, 1988, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Park, Illinois. The theme will be "Unitarian Universalist Visions and Values: Faith and Belief" and the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Laurel Hallman, Parish Minister, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas. Her sermon is entitled "So Great A Cloud of Witnesses: Images of God for Our Time". The Convocation will feature the second annual CMD Choir, conducted by John Giles, and a nine piece brass ensemble. The fee for the Convocation will be $25.00 including lunch. Home hospitality will be available for May 6th. Many sessions and workshops on topics related to faith and belief are offered, including:

- Unitarian Universalist at Home
- Opening the Heart to other Religions
- Modern Universalism
- Humanist Spirituality
- Spirituality and World View
- Paganism
- Emerging Masculine Spirituality
- Process Theology
- Religion and the Young Child

Garage Sale Date Set

The Prairie Garage Sale, a Building Fund fundraiser, has been set for May 7, 1988. Check out your attic and garage for those "nearly perfect" and "used but plenty good" items to donate for the sale. The event will be managed by master garage salesman Henry Pratt, who wants to hear from you if you can help organize and staff this great money-making event. Sub-committee positions of great prestige and light work load are still available. Contact Henry Pratt at 233-7540 if you'd like to help. Items donated to the sale are, of course, tax deductible.