

Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 Whenona Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53711

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

Prairie Smoke (Sieversia flora)

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DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST. Submit notices for the period
August 25th - September 8th.

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 14

No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

Thursday, August 17

7:30 PM - PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING at the
home of Julie Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive.

Sunday, August 21

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!
No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

Saturday, August 27

1:00 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS POTLUCK AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING at the home of
Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place. (See
related story.)

Sunday, August 28

No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

4:00 PM - Potluck Picnic and Theater Trip - at APT in
Spring Green (see related story).

Monday, August 29

7:30 PM - PRAIRIE BOARD MEETING - location to be
announced.

Sunday, September 4

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!
No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

Sunday, September 11

No Service currently scheduled. Meetinghouse being
renovated.
PRAIRIE OLYMPICS - at the home of Bob and Barb Park
on Lake Wisconsin (more details to follow).

Saturday, September 17

8:00 AM - BUS TRIP TO VISIT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
BUILDINGS IN OAK PARK/RIVER FOREST,
ILL. (See related story)

Sunday, September 18

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!
No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

Sunday, September 25

No Service currently scheduled.
Meetinghouse being renovated.

October 21, 22, & 23

Upham Woods Retreat - mark your calendars!

Additional Fundraising Planned

The past three months have been an exciting - but also frustrating - time for Prairie. As you should know from past issues of **Prairie Fire**, our scaled-back remodeling project was put out for bids a second time in June after the initial bids were rejected for excessive cost. Five contractors submitted new bids, but only one bid was within our required price range. After considerable discussion, the Prairie Board voted July 25th to accept that bid with several modifications, which were presented in detail at a special parish meeting held on July 31 at the Grindrods' picnic.

A construction contract has been signed and the remodeling project is under way. A mortgage loan for \$65,000 has been arranged with M & I Bank of Hilldale and is expected to increase our operating costs by not more than \$700 per month, beginning approximately October 1. This would increase our 1988 operating budget requirements by \$2,100 - a sum which was not included in this year's budget. To meet this increased cost (and to raise funds that could be used to pay for some of the important projects that were eliminated from the original plans or to reduce the mortgage), we are planning a number of events that will enable us to have fun while raising money. These include the following: a "Fun Olympics" at Bob and Barb Park's home on Sunday, Sept. 11; a "Las Vegas Fun Night" organized by Jack 'Poker Face' Jallings and Dick 'Blackjack' Bonser; a series of bean dinners alternating with spaghetti dinners in November; a White Elephant Sale; and several bus tours to architectural and artistic attractions.

Bon Voyage Party for the Stevensons

The Stevensons (Rod, Peg, David and Daniel) will soon be leaving for Japan where they will spend a year working, learning and teaching. There will be a Bon Voyage Party at the home of Al and Aileen Nettleton, 645 Sheldon Street, on Friday, August 12, at 8:00 PM. Please bring a drink or appetizer to share. Everyone is welcome!

A Bash for Dave Zakem

Dave will be talking about his Peace Corps experience in Belize and showing slides on Saturday night, August 20th, beginning at 7:30 PM. Please bring drinks, finger food, and any contributions to Dave's work in Belize to the Calden's at 4606 Waukesha St. For suggestions about contributions, see Dave's article elsewhere in this issue. If you have questions, call 233-5717 for information.

Get Acquainted Picnic

August 27th at 1:00 PM is the time, Pat Watkins home

(2419 Norwood Place) is the place. The reason? - Playreaders' planning and fellowship.

The **Prairie Playreaders** are one of several social groups available to Prairie members, and participation requires no commitment, expertise, or experience in theater. We meet once a month at the home of a volunteer host, who chooses the play, assigns the parts, and provides refreshments. We read and discuss the play and have an enjoyable social evening. We also have theater parties one or more times per year, and a fish dinner party in the spring to cap off the winter's events. At this planning meeting, we choose our dates and host(ess)s for the coming year. If you would like to join, or are merely intensely curious about the kind of people who would read a play aloud instead of going to see it performed, please join us at the picnic on August 27th.

August 28th is the Twelfth Night for Prairie

Prairie Society is once again scheduling an excursion to American Players Theatre. The featured performance this year is "Twelfth Night", one of the Bard's better known comedies. The play begins at 6 PM. Reservations are due by August 1 and the tickets will cost \$10.00 (of which less than \$1 will go to the Prairie Building Fund). There will be a potluck picnic before the play, starting at 4:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass, your own place setting, and your own beverage.

Please mail your checks (made out to Prairie Unitarian Society) to Bonnie Grosnick, 6820 Park Ridge Drive, Madison, WI 53719, by August 1. Call Bonnie Grosnick at 273-4553 for further information if you have questions.

The Wright Stuff

This fascinating fundraiser will benefit the Prairie General Operating Fund. Prairie is sponsoring a guided bus trip and tour to the Oak Park and River Forest, Ill. buildings designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. The trip will not be advertised to the general public until August 20, so the Prairie and First Society folk can have first priority for reservations.

The trip will leave from the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot in Madison by air conditioned bus at 8:00 AM on Sept. 17 and will stop for lunch at about 11:00 at the Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. The bus will leave the Mall at 12:30 and will arrive at the Frank Lloyd Wright home in Oak Park by 1:15 PM, where our tour guides will meet us for the guided tour of the Wright home and studio. Our guides will then lead us on an informative one hour walking tour of the historic district of Wright homes. A guided tour of the Unity Chapel will follow. Our pilgrimage will conclude with a unique experience, as our guide boards our bus for a trip through both Oak Park and River Forest, to view all of the Wright buildings which

were inaccessible on the earlier walking tour (there are a total of twenty-eight Wright buildings in the area). We will leave Oak Park at 5:00 PM, make a brief (15 minute) stop at the Belvidere Oasis to pick up a snack, and arrive back at the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot at 8:15 PM.

The price of \$34.00 includes all transportation costs; entrance to the Wright home, studio and Unity Chapel; the walking tour and bus tour of Oak Park and River Forest, and all tour guides. Meals are on your own. For guaranteed seating, mail your check for \$34.00, made out to Prairie U. U. Society, to Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place, Madison, WI 53705, by August 20th. After August 20th, the contact person will be Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace, Madison, WI 53711. Reservations will continue to be accepted through Sept. 10th or until the trip has been filled, whichever comes first. If you cannot reserve prior to August 20th, you should probably check with Rachel at 271-2173 prior to mailing your check to be sure seats are still available.

CHANNING-MURRAY NEWS

This summer, Channing-Murray will NOT be holding the Thursday lunches at the Memorial Union.

Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners on the Memorial Union Terrace. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:15. Look for us near the Union Theatre steps. For further information, call Cinda LaMar at 238-9884.

SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

Food Collection

We've had to suspend food collection this summer for the 2 families near the meeting house. This is partly because Mary Mullen is out of town (she takes them the food) and partly because of the remodeling. Mary discussed this with our "clients" before she left. Mary returns the end of August, so you can contact her with donations then, or wait till the Meeting House is back in business in September.

- Judy Skog

Alternatives to Addiction

'Alternatives to Addiction' is a support and study group for people interested in a non-theistic approach to overcoming addictions is meeting every Tuesday. It meets from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. If you are interested or want more information, call Julie Bonser at 274-3248.

Help Belize Stay Independent!

My Peace Corps work in Belize is focused on helping the country achieve greater self reliance. Since independence in 1981, the Belizean government has been promoting more self reliance. The country does have an excellent primary school curriculum developed by CARE and other non-governmental organizations. The curriculum is an activity-based process approach to education. The government curriculum is much like the Mayan people's own cultural form of personal education through community involvement. Creativity and critical thinking are encouraged.

I work in a teacher training program for a small Mayan village in northern Belize. Our greatest need is for beginning level reading books, high interest children's storybooks, preschool picture books and storybooks. We also need general materials for stimulation such as simple toys, games and puzzles. I have set up a resource library in my house. Children, parents, and teachers may borrow the materials. My work has already had a terrific impact on the community. The parents prefer the process approach to education. Once the parents saw what a difference a more participatory approach could make they joined in and wanted to learn things too.

Material or financial contributions will be greatly appreciated and will contribute to the furthering of Belizean independence. I will be in Madison until the end of August. Any materials that you might have just gathering dust will be eagerly put to good use in my community of San Pedro. Any contributions can be brought to the Calden's house.

I know that many Prairie people contribute to further peace and understanding. This is a chance to have direct contact with the person who will be using your contributions.

- Dave Zakem

Recycling

Thanks to all of you, we've had a good year for recycling. I've taken about 500 pounds of jars to the Response to Hunger Network. That's about 5 or 6 car loads. We've also turned in the following: plastic - 40# (since spring only), newspaper - 136#, glass - 1,542#, aluminum - 92#, tin - 36#, lead - 28#, brass - 3#, sheet iron - 82# (thanks, Metje). Our total contribution to the budget was \$46.55.

We've had to suspend collection until the remodeling is finished. I'll put the containers back sometime in September and will let you know where to find them in a later issue of Prairie Fire.

Just a reminder: we are only recycling aluminum, glass, plastic, and newspaper. Call me at 273-4813 if you need details.

- Judy Skog