DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE is SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH. Submit notices for the period September 22nd - October 6th.

**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, September 8**
12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Lunch on 'Today In The Union'.

**Sunday, September 11**
No Morning Service. Meetinghouse being renovated.
2:00 PM - PRAIRIE "OLYMPICS" AND BRAT FEST - at the home of Bob and Barb Park on Lake Wisconsin (see related story).
6:00 PM - CHANNING-MURRAY WELCOME RECEPTION at First Unitarian Society.

**Tuesday, September 13**
Primary Election Day - Don't Forget to Vote!

**Thursday, September 15**
12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Lunch on 'Today In The Union'.

**Student Lunch on 'Today In The Union'**

**Saturday, September 17**
8:00 AM - Bus Trip To VISIT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDINGS in Oak Park/River Forest, ILL. Some seats still available as of Sept. 4.

**Sunday, September 18**
PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!
10:00 AM - "SINGING TOGETHER" - coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. This service with and about our song books will be held at Garner Park (on Mineral Point Road one block west of Whitney Way) since the Meetinghouse is being renovated. The singing will be followed by outdoor games (bring your favorite equipment) and a POTLUCK LUNCH!

**Thursday, September 22**
12:00 AM - CHANNING-MURRAY LUNCH at the Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian Student Lunch on 'Today In The Union'.

**Friday, September 23**
5:00 PM - ETHNIC DINNER CIRCLE will meet at Kosta's, 119 State Street, for a Greek dinner. Call Pat Watkins by Sept. 21st to make a reservation. (See related story)

**Saturday, September 24**
7:30 PM - PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Pat Meller, 4526 Crescent Road, to read Agatha Christie's Unexpected Guest or Neil Simon's Come Blow Your Horn. Phone 271-1214 for information or directions. Let Pat know if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, September 25**
This is Wisconsin Extension Sunday.
10:00 AM - "WRESTLE WITH THE WIND - GO FLY A KITE" - coordinated by Dick Bonser. The service will be held at Garner Park (see Sept. 18 notice for location) since the Meetinghouse is being renovated. Learn about the history of kites, then make and (hopefully) fly your own from materials provided (or bring your...
Prairie "Olympics" and Brat Fest

Come to the Parks' home near Lake Wisconsin (see map in last issue) on Sept. 11 for brats, salad, fun and games. Volleyball, badminton and croquet will be set up. There is a rowboat for those who want to try their hand at rowing on Lake Wisconsin. Bring your bathing suits and swim in the lake as well. The fun begins at 2:00 PM and the food will be served at about 5:00 PM. The recommended donation is $6.00 for adults and $2.00 for kids under 12 years of age, but come even if you can't put in that much. Profits from the day will go into the building fund.

Remodeling

The building remodeling is now well underway. Demolition of the first floor of the entry wing took place on August 25th and 26th. The new foundation went in the following Monday and Tuesday and by the end of this past week the underfloor plumbing was nearly completed. Also, digging and cutting through the concrete block for the new basement entrance was started. Next week the plumbing should be done, the subfloor should be in, and the walls and roof should go up.

Drive by the meeting house and check out our new look!

Kite Lovers Needed

Dick Bonser would like to hear from kite lovers and experienced kite builders for help with the September 25th service "WRESTLE WITH THE WIND". If you have unusual kites to display or fly or demonstrate - if you have construction skills to share - or if you want to participate in some other way, please call Dick at 274-3248.

Wisconsin Extension Day

Sunday, September 25, 1988 has been designated Wisconsin Extension Day by the Central Midwest District. The churches in North Area Council and the Southeast Wisconsin Council in Wisconsin will be asked to have a special offering to support the new Extension Ministry in Mukwonago/Kenosha.

This was inspired by the St. Louis Area Council, which founded Emerson Chapel, and the Chicago Area Council, which founded Schaumburg, North River and South Loop - all through special offerings.

Playreadings Scheduled

The Prairie Playreaders would like you to cut out and post the dates and locations of the playreadings for the remainder of this calendar year, as an aid in planning other events such as circle dinners. No formal membership is necessary and no commitment to regular or future attendance is required or implied by your attendance at one or more of these events. Look our schedule over and, if anything strikes your fancy, feel free to join us. Playreading, except for the Annual Fish Dinner evening in May, almost always begins at 7:30 PM on Saturday evenings.


October 29 - A Delicate Balance, by Edward Albee, or Bedroom Farce, by Alan Ayckbourne. Hostess: Pat Watkins.

November 19 - To be announced. Host: Warren Hagstrom.

December 17 - The Price, or My Two Sons, both by Arthur Miller. Hostess: Rachel Siegfried.

Mark your calendars now for April 29th, 1989. The Playreaders will be sponsoring a bus trip to the Milwaukee Repertory Theater for the 5:00 PM performance of Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock, followed by dinner. The price of the trip has yet been determined but will be significantly less than the Chicago trips. More information will be printed in future issues of Prairie Fire.
Alternative Dinner Circles

The Fish Dinner Circle and the Ethnic Dinner Circle are alternatives to the usual Circle Dinner groups for people who don't like to cook or who have no room to entertain. Unlike the regular groups, it is not necessary to 'join' or 'belong'. Just call and add your name to the reservation list for any night you want to attend. The groups, arranged by Pat Watkins, go to a different ethnic restaurant every other month and, in between, go to different local restaurants for fish dinners. The dinners are held on a Friday evening at 5:00 PM. At the first dinner (see Calendar) those present select the restaurants for the coming year.

The first dinner this year will be held at Kosta's on September 23rd. Please call Pat Watkins at 262–7960 between 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM by Wednesday, September 21st to make a reservation.

Please do not come without a reservation! These restaurants are crowded at this hour and cannot expand our area beyond what we have reserved.

Circle Dinners

These are groups of six to twelve persons which meet once a month for dinner and fellowship at the home of one of the circle. Circles are organized each fall, but new members can be added any time.

A few of you have already called Pat Watkins to be part of a Circle Dinner - enough, in fact, to enable her to begin establishing the first groups. If you are interested and have not called, please do so right away so that the rest of the circles can be started. We especially encourage people who are new to Prairie to join a dinner circle. It is a wonderful way for you to get to know us, and it is equally wonderful as a way for us to get to know you! You need not be a member of Prairie to join a dinner circle. In fact, joining a circle is a good way to find out if you'd like to become a member of Prairie. Please call Pat Watkins at 262–7960 between 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM to sign up for a circle dinner group.

Upham Woods Retreat

It's been a LONG, HOT SUMMER - so rejuvenate your spirit by attending the annual retreat at Camp Upham Woods. The dates are October 21 – 23, 1988. There will be the usual Friday evening potluck supper, events for adults and youths, the highly rated talent show, etc. Details of the program will appear in the next Prairie Fire. Please fill out the registration form and return it no later than October 5th. Everyone is invited to participate in planning and leading events.

For the time being, questions/suggestions may be directed to Pat Meller at 271–1214.

Lay Ministry

I will be leading a Lay Ministry this fall titled "Living the Interdependent Web." This series will explore each of the Unitarian Universalist principles adopted by the UUA in 1985:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Although formally principles which the member congregations of the UUA "covenant to affirm and promote," I believe that these hold for individuals as well by virtue of their joining an organization with such purposes. One of the questions to be considered is whether this is in keeping with the long standing UU tradition of not requiring belief in a specific creed for membership.

I will be borrowing heavily from an adult education series published by the Unitarian Universalist Association on the principles. It is great to have this help. I have also found that there is a lot to read on the subject and that there is a constant barrage of events happening every day which cause me to reflect on the UU principles.

A UU society is certainly not an Electric Monk (Dick promised to print an excerpt elsewhere), but is different from most other religious organizations. It is our principles which set us apart.

-Al Nettleton

New Tradition Sought

During the fall Lay Ministry I would like to start a new tradition for Prairie - beginning meetings with quiet contemplation while listening to music. This was one of the things which originally attracted me to UU societies and I find our style of noisy assembling disruptive and counter-productive.

This fall, music will be started at 9:50. You are invited to get your coffee (or tea) and sit and listen. Meetings will begin promptly at 10:00.

-Al Nettleton

Song Books Need An Overhaul

Prairie's collection of song books are getting old. Old not just in terms of the condition of the books, but also in terms of the quality of the originals used to print the book and the language used in some of the songs. The UUA is redoing its Hymn Book, and we should be redoing ours. Volunteers are needed to make up the committee that selects the songs, locates good copy for the printer, and ensures that the language is "politically correct".

Contact Warren Hagstrom at (238–4970) if you are interested in working on this project.
Budget Time is Coming

All standing committees should be preparing their 1989 operating budgets. The budget proposals are due to the Finance Committee no later than September 18th. Please mail or give your committee's proposal to Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705, on or before that date. Don't be late - the committee has a terrific amount of work to do on the budget after the proposals are all in and they do have deadlines to meet before the fall Parish meeting.

Quote Of The Week

"The Electric Monk was a labor-saving device, like a dishwasher or a video recorder. Dishwashers washed tedious dishes for you, thus saving you the bother of washing them yourself, video recorders watched television for you, thus saving you the bother of looking at it yourself; Electric Monks believed things for you, thus saving you what was becoming an increasingly onerous task, that of believing all of the things the world expected you to believe."


Budget Time is Coming

Murray Picnic at Devils Lake State Park on September 25 in the afternoon. See you there!

For further information on these events, call Cinda LaMar at 238-9664.

R. E. CORNER

This Fall there will be a delay in the start of R.E. classes because of the remodeling of the building. As soon as our new space is ready, classes will resume as usual. In the meantime, we encourage all families to participate in the coming intergenerational programs planned by the program committee. The committee has worked hard to come up with programs that will be suitable for all ages, so bring your family and share in the fun.

Nursery and Pre-School

Sue Azad and Yasmine Sido will be back with you again to share more of the Growing Times curriculum. There are many activities planned and you will have a chance to be both inside and out during the coming months.

K-1-2

Marcia Johnson and Lindy McGraw will be back with you this Fall to share new ideas from A Place of One's Own. You will have a chance to do building projects, hear stories and do lots of art with both Marsha and Lindy.

3-4-5

This year you will explore a new curriculum, Time Travelers, with Betty Jallings and Pat Cautley. You will have a chance to look at many of the belief systems that have been used by many peoples throughout history. A few exciting field trips are also in the works.

6-7-8

This year Erin Bosch and Jean Matos will be your teachers. You will be working with the Church Across the Street curriculum which is a favorite of all of those who have participated in the past. With this curriculum, there are lots of opportunities to visit other churches and places of worship to see how others worship.

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 October.

-Judy Skog

Report From G. A.

Dear Prairie Friends:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you as a Delegate and to attend my 3rd General Assembly. Being in Palm Springs for a week wasn't all that bad!

The General Assembly journey started with my running into Glenn Chambliss at the Madison airport. As Glenn and I were going for a cup of coffee at Chicago's O'Hare, we bumped into Peg Stevenson so all three Prairie folk went out for a drink! Speaking of small world ... Mary Beth O'Halloran was attending her first GA and had a room directly across from Betty and Jack Jallings. Betty carried the Prairie Banner during the first night's Opening Ceremony Banner Parade. Jack and I cheered Betty on from our comfortable chairs situated where we had a grand view of all the banners.

Some 2,200 participants attended General Assembly, including 600 delegates. 450 congregations were represented. The Plenary Sessions were scheduled at various times during the week (rather than always early morning) and I found them much easier to attend. Three resolutions were adopted and became part of the UUA official positions: support housing for the homeless, the human
right to die, and the move against censorship in public education. Among the churches and fellowships voted into membership was the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines, a society with a long tradition of Unitarian beliefs.

My favorite experience was attending an early morning American Indian worship service held in a desert park. We were to meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 AM. I fell out of bed at 5 AM, raced to the elevator, raced back to my room to grab my camera, jumped on the elevator expecting I would be the only one to show up. There stood 90 fellow UU’s, including Mary Beth. We walked single file, in silence, about a mile to the park where we held a very moving service. We returned about an hour later, again walking single file in silence.

General Assembly is an exciting and spiritually uplifting week of sharing. It is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. Part of the fun is seeing old friends and meeting new friends. This year with Betty and Jack, and Mary Beth, and several other friends from previous years, I felt more centered and connected. It is a great feeling to meet with friends at the end of each looong G.A. day/evening.

Next year, General Assembly will be held at Yale University, New Haven, CT, and in 1990 it will be in Milwaukee. See you there.

—Cinda L. LaMar

Looking Ahead...

The 1990 General Assembly will be in Milwaukee! 300 to 400 workers will be needed to ensure the success of the Assembly. Planners, go-fers, ushers, child care givers, drivers, tellers, registrars, and many, many more. It’s not too early to begin planning for our society’s role in that Assembly. If you’re interested in volunteering for something or you have ideas for what Prairie could do, contact Denominational Affairs Chair Anne Urbanski.

Free Apples!

Warren Hagstrom has several trees full of apples free for the picking. Contact him at 252-6585 to make an appointment.
UPHAM WOODS RETREAT
October 21-23, 1988

REGISTRATION FORM

We have just begun to formulate the program for our annual retreat to Upham Woods. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services / ideas is invited to contact Pat Meller at 271-1214 in the evening.

FEES FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND
(includes two nights & 5 meals)

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FEES FOR PART OF THE WEEKEND
(calculate meals/lodging separately)

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CABIN LODGING -- bring towels, sleeping bag or blanket and pillow.

DORMITORY LODGING -- linens, blankets, pillows & towels provided.

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SUBTOTAL: All Weekend

MEAL COSTS

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Add $1.50 per person for facility use fee

ALL WEEKEND TOTAL COST

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Fees and Registration Forms must be received no later than Wednesday, October 5. Send them to: Jack Jallings, 4761 Schneider Drive, Oregon, WI 53575.

**Youths are persons from 7 to 18 inclusive. Pre-schoolers are one-half the youth rate.**