Vol. 27, #12, June 13, 1989

DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be Sunday, June 25th. Submit notices for the period June 29th – July 27th.

Sunday, June 25
10:00 AM – Jack Jallings’ lay ministry on Fundamental Change concludes with Van Rensselaer Potter, UW-Madison professor emeritus of oncology and environmental studies and author of Global Bioethics. Building on the Leopold Legacy and other books, who will be the final speaker.

Saturday July 29
Save This Date! – Another Fabulous Prairie Bus Trip and Fundraiser to Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry for the Frank Lloyd Wright House and Artifacts exhibit. The price for transportation and entrance fee is $30.00, which must be submitted to Pat Cautley no later than July 10th. More details will be in the next issue of Prairie Fire.

Sunday, June 18
10:00 AM – "FATHER SUN’S DAY: RA! RA! RA!" – an intergenerational service presented by the Madison CUUPs chapter.
11:30 AM – Potluck Dinner – please bring a dish to share.

Monday, June 19
7:30 PM – PRAIRIE BOARD MEETS at the Meetinghouse.

Thursday, June 22
7:30 PM – PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the Meetinghouse.

Friday, June 23
5:30 PM – PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS meet at the Capitol Hill Supper Club, 5164 Verona Road, for the annual fish dinner. After dinner, the group will meet at the home of Rachel Siegfried, 5209 Tolman Terrace, to read a one-act play. Call Rachel for reservations by June 21.

Thanks So Much
Since I’ve just finished my term as your President, I haven’t had a chance to thank all of you personally for your part in making my experience so pleasant. Fredericka, Robin, and I will leave on June 7th for the summer at Camp Unistar near Bemidji, MN, so I want to say a few things in writing.

I truly have enjoyed my 2 years as President of the Prairie Board. It was a challenge, particularly since we made important decisions that required all of us to attend more and longer meetings than usual. As a result, we have a welcoming building and will start sharing it with Sunrise School children June 20th. I felt we had an especially congenial Board the past 2 years. The many parish meetings went better than my wildest expectations. We all cooperated on that. Thanks so much!

Sharing space with Sunrise School will mean adjustments for both them and us. There will be bugs to work out, but the director assures me that everything should be running like clockwork within a year. Best wishes for the summer on this.

Also best wishes on starting our own prairie landscape. I wish I were here to help. Our landscape architect, Rory Nelson, says our Prairie will need the tender care of a couple of people every week this summer — people to pull weeds and to keep the lawn mowed. Our neighbors are pretty concerned about the dandelions and keeping the grass short.

Member Barbara Rames has the idea that we should each “adopt” a 12’ x 12’ section of the grounds to keep weed-free and Rory would be around once a month to direct people who want to learn about prairies while they work. Friend Randy Christianson suggests that people plan to join him before or after Prairie services to dig dandelions. This could be a social occasion as well as a way to commune with our own little section of the earth — AND you can even eat off the place. I’ve had two delicious meals of lamb quarters...
already. They're better than spinach and it
takes less time to gather them than to buy
your greens at the stores. Give Rachel
Siegfried (271-2173) or Jean Matos
(255-2209) a call if you want to take part
in this ground ventures of ours.

Finally, on a more personal note, I was
very pleased to see a number of Prairie
folks at the Gay and Lesbian March on
Madison a month ago. Those of you who
did not attend it or related events missed a
wonderful experience. This was the most
consistently spirited march of any type I've
ever attended anywhere. The unfolding
of the AIDS quilt was moving. Karen
Thompson's speech on disabled and
lesbian rights was a shocker even to some­
one who knew the case from the gay
press. Fredericka and I are looking forward
to sharing some of this with you next year
as we do our half lay-ministry on Lesbian
and Gay Issue.

This summer we'd love to hear from any
of you while we're staff at Camp Unistar.
Our address is Camp Unistar, Star Island
Water Route 51, Cass Lake MN 56633.
Our phone number is 218/335-2692. I
will be the Childrens Program Director,
while Fredericka is Camp Nurse and
lifeguard. Robin will also be helping with
meal set-up and dishes. See you in the fall.

-Mary Mullen

Graduation Celebration

There will be a reception for Casey
Steinau on June 17th at 3:00 PM at the
home of Barb and Bob Park to celebrate
her graduation from Shimer College. All
her Prairie friends, young and old, are
welcome to come. If you need directions,
call Barb and Bob at 608/635-7519.

Prairie's Prairie...

Phase I of our prairie planting is complete.
Thanks to all of you who weeded, hoed,
planted, and watered, the southeastern and
southern sections of our prairie were
seeded on Thursday, June 8. Our apprecia­
tion is also extended to Marlin Sachtjen.
Marlin is losing part of her garden to road
widening and she graciously allowed us to
dig up some beautiful specimen plants of
spiderwort, butterfly milkweed, swamp
milkweed, yellow cone flower and blazing
star for transplanting. This will provide our
prairie with an unexpectedly fast start.
Please observe the green signs requesting
that you stay off the newly planted areas
until the roots have a chance to develop
and stabilize the soil. If we can keep the
weeds under control in the rest of our site,
and if we can get and keep the weeds out
of the southwestern portion of the
proposed prairie, we will plant this final
section this fall or next year (Phase II).

Since many fewer (5) than the required
sixteen neighbors objected, we received
our natural lawn permit from the City of
Madison with no problem. In the last
week, one neighbor has expressed
enthusiastic support for the prairie — to
the extent of volunteering for watering
chores — and another kindly transported
our weeds to the city composting station.

So that all of us will feel comfortable living
and working with our prairie, we need to
follow a few general guidelines:

Mowing: In order to establish a nice
leak clean line separating the turf areas below
the trench from the prairie above, turf
should be mowed regularly and cleanly
right up to the edge of the trench. Until
the southwestern section is planted to
prairie, it should be mowed whenever the
turf is mowed.

Weeding: Weeds should be pulled,
getting as much root as possible. Tools
and bags are in the backyard shed. Highest
priority areas for weeding are the new turf
below the trenches, southwestern section
of proposed prairie, and the two planted
prairie areas. The prairie, however, should
be weeded only from the edges until after
mid July. If you uncover stones while
weeding, toss them into the trenches.

Watering: If we don't get a soaking
rain at least once a week during the first
month, newly seeded areas should be
watered 1-2 times a week for about two
hours. After July 15th, watering can be
discontinued unless the summer is as hot
and dry as it was last year.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered
for these jobs. A few more weed pullers
would be helpful. If you have any questions,
please contact Diane Derouen
(238-3766) or Jean Matos, (255-2209).

Note: A looseleaf booklet or poster
illustrating the specific prairie plants that
will bloom in our prairie would be a nice
accompaniment to our prairie project.
It would also serve the very practical purpose
of helping weeder distinguish the weeds
from the prairie plants. If any artists and/
or photographers are interested in taking
on such a project, please contact Diane
Derouen.

-Diane Derouen and Rory Nelson

New Addresses...

Jim Novak has moved — His new address is:

James Novak
2001 E. Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 249-5576

John Ohliger, who was married on May
6th at Prairie, writes that he and Chris will
move to Springfield IL on June 17. He
expressed his thanks to the Fellowship
for 15 years of support and friendship and
added that he hopes to return to Madison
in a year or two. His new address is:

John Ohliger
730 W. Jefferson St. #1
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217/522-6473

Summer Program

Although the regular RE program has
ended for the season, activities are
available for both preschoolers and older
children every Sunday that we meet at the
meetinghouse during the summer. For
most of the Sundays, Terry Krause will
continue with the preschoolers. The older
children's mornings will be facilitated by
different adult volunteers. If you would like
to spend a morning sharing an interest or
game with Prairie's children, please sign
up at the meetinghouse or contact R. E.
Director Anne Pryor.

Couches

The R. E. Committee can no longer
overlook the rather raggedy nature of the
couches in the middle school room. We'd
like to replace them with some having less
apparent wear and tear. If you or anyone
you know has a couch you'd like to get rid
of which is in fairly good condition, please
contact Aileen Nettleton or another
member of the R. E. Committee.
Puppet Stage
There is a nice wooden puppet stage, currently in the preschool room, for which we would like to find a new home. If anyone would like it, please contact Anne Pryor or Aileen Nettleton before the end of June. (Ed. note: What about donating it to the Stage Coach Players or the City’s Summer Recreation Program?)

House Sitters Needed!
Carol Fishbaugh and Andrea Lawrence are seeking a house sitter for the last week in June. The person must like animals, as the two dogs and two cats are not going out of town with their owners. If you are interested, call Carol or Andrea at 845-5615 after 6:00 PM.

Prairie’s R. E. Director, Anne Pryor, needs someone to housesit during the first two weeks (more or less) of August. The task includes care of a dog (a very easy-going fellow) and two cats (also very mellow). The house is over by Cherokee Marsh, is right on a bus line and has a pool for those hot summer nights. If you’re interested, contact Anne at 244-7099.

Socially Responsible Buying
Mr. Don Pelz, in Ann Arbor MI, publishes a guide entitled Socially Responsible Buyers Guide: How to Keep Nuclear Weapons Out of Your Daily Life. This guide is sponsored by the Covenant for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. It identifies the 50 publicly held U. S. Corporations with the largest contracts for nuclear weapons systems. It also identifies consumer products sold by these corporations (e.g. batteries: unacceptable – AT&T, GE Perma-Cell, Marathon; acceptable – Duracell, Mallory, Panasonic, Ray-O-Vac, Nite Hawk). The buyers guide was updated as of 12-88. Previous versions are reasonably accurate. If you have an older version and want to replace it with the latest version, send a letter to Don Pelz, 2406 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, and enclose a check for $1.50 payable to the Covenant Fund. If you don’t have a copy and want one, make the check for $3.00 payable to the Covenant Fund.

Quote of the Week
“We need an adequate defense, but every arms dollar we spend above adequacy has a long-term weakening effect upon the nation and its security.”
General Dwight D. Eisenhower

It’s Warmup Time!
Prairie member Anne Urbanski and her husband Lee are inviting Prairie people to a housewarming party at their newly purchased and somewhat (mostly) moved into home at 317 N. Baldwin St.

Date: Saturday, July 8th
Time: 7:30 PM until ?

Anne and Lee will provide beer, soda, mixers & finger food. Additional food and/or beverages are welcome. Please park on Baldwin Street but not in the private parking lot across from their house.