Vol. 27, No. 17, 9–26–89
The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, October 8th. Submit items for October 12—October 26, 1989.

Question of the week:
What do you get when you cross an atheist with a dyslexic?
A: Someone who doesn’t believe in dog.
(Contributed by Warren Hagstrom, who tried to blame it on someone else.)

Bible Stories and Other Tales
For the October 1st program, participants are welcome to tell Bible stories and Saints’ stories, or takeoffs on them, that have affected them one way or another. The Saints’ stories have been added to accommodate our members with Catholic roots, some of whom have reminded me of my own Protestant roots (although I can tell about Saint Olaf). Takeoffs are welcomed too. George Calden will read to us from the Gospel according to Woody Allen, about Abraham and Isaac.
- Warren Hagstrom

1990 Canvass Begins
Canvassers are meeting at a potluck supper this week at Pat Cautley’s and will soon be calling on each Prairie member to ask for your financial support for 1990. The proposed budget for the year has been assembled by the Finance Committee and presented to the Board at the Sept. 25th meeting. It will be printed in full in the next issue of Prairie Fire. The Committee strongly recommends that at

...As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another. PRAIRIE’S BOND OF UNION
least $1,000 be set aside each year for a Capital budget so that we will have monies available when big repairs are necessary.

We cannot tell yet what the impact of the presence of Sunrise School will be on our budget as the largest single cost of their occupancy will be in the heat required during the winter. But the estimates of cost were made to balance out their rental, so we cannot count on gaining financially from this rental. Your canvasser will have information regarding your 1989 pledge. Please think about your commitment to Prairie and pledge accordingly.

**HEY! Form a Circle...**

Sign up now for circle dinners! We are now creating the list of interested persons from which the dinner circles will be formed. A signup clipboard will be passed around at Prairie services through October 8th. If you can’t get to Prairie between now and then, please fill in the form in this issue and mail it to Anne Urbanski, 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison, WI 53703.

**Story Tree**

Thanks to Avis Parrish for the idea and contribution, a White Oak tree has been donated to Prairie as a memorial to Louise Vogel, Mary Lou Diehl’s mother. We will have a brief ceremony to plant the tree in the play yard on Sunday, Oct. 1st at 11:30 AM. The White Oak will spread a lovely canopy to provide shade for Prairie. We think it will be a good place for children (and others) to sit for a story hour.

**Fall Work Day Announced**

Come have fun planting our prairie at our fall workday on Saturday, Oct. 7th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. There will also be a few inside jobs for those who prefer painting, etc. If it is pouring rain on Saturday, we will convene on Sunday, Oct. 8th at 12:30 PM instead.

**Lunch will be provided** by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. If you like, bring something from your garden, or elsewhere, for a Prairie muligan stew.

**Attention, all of you who have cared for prairie seedlings over the summer**—now is the time to plant your prairie plants. If you can’t come with your plants on Oct. 7th, please call Diane Derouen, 238-3766.

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**Palestine, Israel, and the Intifada**

Debra Servi recently went with a Madison inter-faith group to the Middle East. They visited Israel and Jordan and talked with several peace groups there. Debra will lead a discussion on the Intifada and recent events in the Middle East at 10:00 AM on October 8th.

**Upham Woods Retreat**

Prairie people and friends will have the opportunity to spend the weekend as a community October 13 to 15. 4-H Camp Upham Woods offers a beautiful natural setting for this annual event. Please join us — REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 2.

Outdoor events include canoeing (canoes available, although you may bring your own), a nature walk, a vigorous hike, and volleyball. Activities of particular interest to children include crafts activities, a visit to the Nature Center, and quiet stories before dinner. Discussion activities include a discussion of some of the things that we learn as we come in contact with other cultures, a discussion of Prairie’s long range plans, and some feminist theology exercises from the UU adult curriculum “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” lead by Julie Bonser.

Activities for everyone include a Friday evening camp fire (bring something to sit on in case it is warm enough to be outside), a Saturday evening talent show, and a Sunday morning service. Have fun with Biblical charades and Comedy Sports. Bring out those instruments that you haven’t used in years to participate in an informal instrumental workshop with Mike Briggs. Annis Pratt will lead a group for sharing fall poems — bring along your favorite. Bring your camera and participate in a photography workshop.

Peg Stevenson (233-6449) is planning the program; please let her know what other activities you would enjoy, what activities you can lead, and what activities you would be willing to help with.

**Friday Night Video**

Starting Friday night, Oct. 6th, at 7:30 PM, and every first Friday night of the month thereafter, Prairie will show an interesting movie, TV commentary, or other compelling VCR feature. The video showings will be followed by group discussions.

The video presentations will deal with subjects of religious, philosophical, and political interest, generally with a humanistic flavor. We plan to show such features as “Religion and Politics in Central America”, “Exploring Psychic Powers”, “The U.S. Secret Government”, and such movies as “El Norte”, “Salaam Bombay”, “Missing”, and others of similar nature.

At our first meeting on Oct. 6th, we will show the film “Running on Empty”, an excellent movie about a 1960’s couple who participated in a Sterling Hall type bombing during the Viet Nam war, who have since been on the run from the F. B. I.

Come join us at **Friday Night Video**.

George Calden

**Finance Committee Needs Project Manager**

Prairie has found an excellent means of raising money. We assumed the role of Travel Agent, and in the last two years have organized six day trips which have netted Prairie approximately $4,000. Organizing these trips is neither difficult nor terribly time consuming and it can be rather enjoyable, especially the travel portion of the work. The problem is that two people, already overcommitted, are handling all of the details and both of them have physical limitations which make some of the necessary standing and movement difficult. We desperately need a volunteer or two who would 1) serve as the referral when people phone for additional details about the trips (requires someone at home most of the time or with an answering machine and a good telephone personality); 2) receive reservations and mail instructions and confirmations; 3) act as the host/hostess on the bus and make the trip (requires good organizational skills and a winning, people-oriented, outgoing personality. If you are interested in managing this major fundraising activity for Prairie, call Pat Watkins at 262-7960 between 10 AM and 6 PM.
Now that we've explored our summer travels through the display on the downstairs bulletin board, we'd like to next turn our attention to the newly born season of autumn. All members and friends of Prairie, young and old alike, are invited to bring an item to display in this communal effort. Bring a photo, a poem, a painting, a piece of the natural world, anything that (for you) symbolizes or honors this wonderful time of the year.

6-7-8:
On Sept. 17, eight youths and two adults from Prairie's "Church Across the Street" program visited Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. They attended a Sunday morning mass and met afterwards with the pastor for a discussion of Roman Catholic beliefs and traditions. The following Sunday was spent at Prairie talking about ideas and impressions gleaned from the previous week's visit. The next faith system that will be explored will be Judaism. Oct. 1st will be spent at Prairie learning some of the major principles and practices which guide the Jewish faith. The following weekend will feature a visit to a Sabbath service. Erin Bosch is the teacher for this age level.

3-4-5:
This group, led alternately by Sharon Scratthoff and Linda Nelson, is investigating each of the UU principles. So far they've looked into the belief "Each and every person is important" by learning about themselves and each other, taking photos and comparing finger prints.

The other principle covered so far is "Our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together." Mary Mullen joined Sharon for this topic to lead some songs. The group explored the physical space of Prairie, going through each floor via maps of the building and recalling various experiences they've had in the different rooms.

Next week's principle of focus will be "We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in the world."

K-1-2:
The idea of safe and unsafe homes for animals were the themes of the last two weeks for this group. Dean Schroeder led an exploration of the types of homes animals create for themselves, drawing in parallels from human architecture. The following week, Karen Gross led a discussion on endangered species, animals whose homes are no longer safe places for them. Accompanied by recordings of whale songs, the children talked about the all too numerous threatened animals.

Their own candle ceremony, songs, games, and snacks are a part of each Sunday morning for this group.

Preschool:
Anna Nettleton has been the sole teacher for this level so far this year. There are typically only 1-3 children per morning, so far the children have made their own place-mats, made murals of their families and, as the highlight of the month, created their own ant farms. Come down and see the tunnels!

Parent-Teacher Coffees
The parents and teachers of children in the K-1-2 group met on Sept. 24th for a very informative and supportive sharing session focusing on the children, the "Place of One's Own" curriculum, and the Prairie RE program in general. The schedule for the parent-teacher coffees for the other levels are as follows:

Preschool: October 1st.
3-4-5: October 22nd.

- Anne Pryor
R. E. Director

Share With Our Neighbors
There are two families in our immediate neighborhood that need our help to be properly nourished. Please bring your donations on any Sunday and place them in the small room outside the Men's room. If you have food and the Meeting House isn't open, or if you have fresh or frozen food, please call Shirley Grindrod. She will take it to the families.

March in April?
Did you miss the march in April? Are you even more concerned about reproductive rights than before? Do you want to be counted in the Capitol?

Mobilize for Women’s Lives
Washington, D. C.
November 12, 1989

Buses will be leaving from Madison. The cost will be $85. Contact the N.O.W. at
Change of Address
Prairie member Rosemarie Lester has moved to:

904 Spaight Street
Madison, WI 53703

Phone #: 255-7039

Please correct your directory with the above information.

Looking Ahead—
November 16-19: YRUU/UU-UNO Youth Conference on Disarmament.

Host Family Needed—
Dean and Orange Schroeder are looking for a family with a teenager to host a Danish teenager, Pernille Bengtson, for the 1990-91 school year. Pernille is an enthusiastic, outgoing young woman who speaks excellent English. Dean and Orange feel she would have the best American experience in a home with kids her own age (16). If you are interested, please call Dean and Orange at 256-8813.

Shape-Note Singing
Scheduled
There will be a day of Shape-Note singing on Saturday, Nov. 4, 1989 from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM at St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave. The event is free, but a voluntary donation will be requested to help meet expenses. For more information, call Jim Page at 255-3245. Everyone is welcome.

Cider, Anyone?
If you have a cider press, we have the apples. (Actually, if two or three families get together, we might rent a press. It’s fun for the children.) If you’re interested, call the Hagstroms at 238-4970.

Circle Dinner Signup Form

Name(s)_________________________Phone #_________________________
Address_________________________Preferred # in group______________
& ZIP_________________________Preferred night (F/S/Sn)______________

Do you want children in your group?________Do you plan to bring yours?________

Is Alcohol OK?__________________Any other beverages required/forbidden?(list)________________

Do you have special food requirements (e.g. vegetarian) or other considerations?________________

Please send this completed form to Anne Urbanski, 317 N. Baldwin Street, Madison, WI 53703
I DIRECTIONS TO UPHAM WOODS

From the NORTH on I 90-94:

Use Exit 85 (US 12/WI 16). Turn East on 12/16. Turn left on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From the SOUTH on I 90-94:

Use Exit 87, Wisconsin Dells (WI 13 North). Turn left at the first stoplight on US 12/WI 16. Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From the EAST on WI 16 or WI 23:

Follow 16/23 through the City of Wisconsin Dells (several stoplights) Cross the Wisconsin River. Turn right on US 12/WI 16 (next stoplight past River). Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From Baraboo, etc on US 12:

Follow US 12 through the Village of Lake Delton to the intersection with WI 16/23. Continue straight to the top of the hill. Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

Note: When coming this way you will pass a road labeled County A while still in Lake Delton. Be sure you pass the intersection of US 12 and WI 16/23/13 before you turn on County A.

Note to TRUCKS:

The RR underpass on County A has a clearance of 12'2". Taller trucks should turn off of US 12/WI 16 on to 60th St. Turn right on County N. Upham Woods is on the left in .8 mi.