Saturday, May 19
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
WORK DAY AT PRAIRIE.
POTLUCK PICNIC LUNCH at noon.
(See related story.)
6:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS' ANNUAL
FISH FRY at the Mandarin Crab House
restaurant on Odana Rd. Playreading at the
home of Lori and Don Pederson, 70
Oak Creek Trail, afterward. PLEASE
NOTE NEW DATE!

Saturday, June 2
8:00 AM
PRAIRIE BUS TRIP to the Chicago Art
Institute show, Monet in the 90's—
The Series Paintings. Call Donna
Murdock at 238-0530 if you have
questions. (see related story)

Sunday, June 3
10:00 AM
"A PRAIRIE STIR FRY" by George
Calden. (See related story.)

Today's Quote:
Moderation is a fatal thing. Nothing
succeeds like excess.
Oscar Wilde

Channing-Murray
students are especially
invited to join us at
Prairie for Sunday
Service and coffee.
Rides can be arranged!

Vol. 28, No. 10, 5–8–90
The deadline for the next issue of
Prairie Fire will be Sunday, May
20. Submit items for May 24—

Thursday, May 10
12:00 N
CHANNING MURRAY LUNCH at the
Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian
Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.
7:30 PM
HOUSING & PROPERTY COMMIT­
TEE meets at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 13
10:00 AM
"WHO OWNS LIFE?" SIXTH in the
Man, Woman, and Machine lay minis­
try by Mike and Norma Briggs.

Monday, May 14
7:30 PM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the
meetinghouse.

Thursday, May 17
12:00 N
CHANNING MURRAY LUNCH at the
Memorial Union. Look for Unitarian
Student Group on 'Today In The Union'.
Celebrations That Affirm Prairie As A Community

Our Bond Of Union states, in part, that "We... wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community..." Such a community should provide a vehicle for celebrating fundamental changes in our lives that illustrate our common humanity, like becoming parents or passing from childhood to adulthood. Prairie attempts to celebrate these joyful changes through dedication ceremonies for children and by presenting chalices to graduating 8th graders. Both of these celebrations will be a part of the service on May 20th. Please come prepared to share some of your memories of early parenting years or early teenage years. As a memento of the occasion we will be compiling Prairie Books for the children being dedicated. Please choose a poem, essay, or something similar that you would like the children to have in their books.

We're not certain of the exact number of our annual fish dinner on May 1, please mail your pledges, contributions, expense receipts and bills to Prairie's new treasurer, Julia Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive, Madison, WI 53711.

Volunteers Clean Up

The following people have signed up to wash coffee cups, pots, etc. after Sunday services:

May 13: Shirley & John Grindrod
May 20: Alice Bullen & ?!

French Speakers' Potluck

The French speakers’ potluck will meet on Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 PM at the home of Linda and Mike Sheehy, 629 Piper Drive. People with all levels of French-speaking ability are welcome, from those who are fluent to those who are attempting to revive their high school French. Call 273-3865 if you have questions.

Changing the Guard

As of May 1, please mail your pledges, contributions, expense receipts and bills to Prairie's new treasurer, Julia Bonser, 5213 Milward Drive, Madison, WI 53711.

Let's Reduce The Mortgage!

Our second mortgage, held by the M&I Bank, for the new part of our building is due for renegotiation later this summer. In addition, we have to put a new roof on the old part of the building. The cost of the roof, (about $11,000) will take all of our present reserves, followed by a reading of Back to Methusalem, Act I, at the home of Lori and Don Pederson, 70 Oak Creek Trail. We must have your dinner reservation to make ours! Please phone Lori at 833-3139 no later than 6 PM on May 17th. Spouses and friends are welcome, as always.

New Members Wanted!

The Religious Education Committee is looking for at least one new member. The committee meets once a month to plan the curriculum and budget, to find teachers, and to help and support the R.E. Director. To be on the committee it is not necessary to have a child in the program. If you think you are interested, please talk to Linda Sheehy, 273-3865.

Playreaders’ Fish Fry

In keeping with long custom, we'll have our annual fish dinner on Saturday, May 19th, at 6:30 PM at the Mandarin Crab House on Odana Road, to be followed by a reading of Back to Methusalem, Act I, at the home of Lori and Don Pederson, 70 Oak Creek Trail. We must have your dinner reservation to make ours! Please phone Lori at 833-3139 no later than 6 PM on May 17th. Spouses and friends are welcome, as always.

Work Day at Prairie

A Prairie work day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 19th from 9:30 to 3:00 PM. We need a big turn out of people to work at planting more prairie plants, cleaning out the outside drains, vacuuming the lobby walls, cleaning all the chairs, dusting those obscure corners, etc. There will be a POTLUCK PICNIC LUNCH at noon. Please bring something to share. Beverages will be furnished.

Don’t Miss The Chicago Art Institute Tour

The next fundraising tour is to the Monet in the 90's—The Series Paintings Exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute on Saturday June 2. This is an unusual opportunity as the exhibit is only being shown in Boston and Chicago in the US before moving to London. The cost, excluding lunch, is $85.00, which includes admission to the Art Institute.
and the Acoustiguide Recorded Tour of the exhibit. The deadline for reservations is May 14. Our price for this tour is much less than is advertised elsewhere ($55–$65) so available seats are expected to go quickly. Reserve yours right away!

Send your checks, made out to Prairie UU Society, to Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon St., Madison, WI 53711. Call her at 238–0530 if you have questions.

Last week in...

Preschool...
Lots of play opportunities were available for the preschoolers last week. Anna Nettleton also read several stories to them and helped them make a collage about spring. This week, found them making May Baskets.

K-1-2...
Last week, Dean Schroeder focused the class on immigrants from China, Japan and Southeast Asia, which, for several students, included their friends at school. They talked about Chinese food and customs and read Eyes of the Dragon. Then they made pictures of dragons complete with glitter and pears. They finished with the story Tikki Tikki Tembo.

The following week Karen Gross focused on “the web of life”. After looking at several story books on the topic, the group went outside to look at different parts of the environment. Then they drew pictures of what they had seen (rocks, trees, grass, etc.) and linked each together with string, as in a web. “It was fun doing it”, said Heidi Bosch.

3-4-5...
A week ago, this group looked at the unseen aspects of nature, first with magnified photos of ordinary objects which made them look extraordinary.

Then the film The Powers of Ten continued that theme, but expanded it also, making our every day world seem miniscule in relation to the cosmos. Sharon Scrattish then helped the group construct vegetable hanging gardens—carved root vegetables that could hold water and then sprout.

This week, Linda Nelson acted on Marcia Johnson’s request for pictures from magazines. The kids cut out photos of people, sports and animals to send to Marcia and Dave in Paraguay. Then they went outside to the stump circle to play Nature Pictionary. They were joined by Mike Briggs and his accordion, much to their delight.

6-7-8...
Thanks to the early morning taping efforts of Greg Nettleton, this group watched several televangelists last week, Oral Roberts being one. The kids were especially struck by the constant requests for money, often euphemized as “seed”. The other most outstanding aspect of the show was the testimonies of personal miracles.

The following week Mr. Abdulcadir Sido spoke to the group about growing up as a Muslim in Somalia. In his school he learned Arabic by writing on a wooden slate with homemade ink and also memorized the Quoran. His entire extended family prayed 5 times a day, with each prayer time being preceded by a ritual washing of hands, face, feet and arms. Peg Stevenson leads this group.

How Did We Do?
The Religious Education Committee is in the process of evaluating the past year’s program. The Committee welcomes any comments from parents with children in the program or from any other interested adults. Please contact Linda Sheehy, Ken Skog, Alice Bullen, or Maria Ogren with comments.

Soviet Teachers to Speak
Tanya and Guennadi, Soviet citizens now living in Madison’s Link Friendship House and teaching the Russian language to students and adults, will share their backgrounds and experiences, in their homeland and in the U.S., at a World Federalists meeting on Wednesday, May 16, at 7:30 PM, at the Red Cross building, 4660 Sheboygan Ave.

They will also discuss the importance of People to People Diplomacy and the development of friendships and understanding as one of the best routes to peace. Guests are welcome. Bring your friends. There is no charge for admission and plenty of parking is available.

The Social Action Committee has ongoing projects in the following areas (and we need your help in all of them):
- The Drop-In Shelter for homeless men (we staff it on the 4th Monday of the Month.)
- The Once a Week blood donors club (Red Cross Blood Bank.)
- Recycling (containers are in the garbage can area in back.)
- Food pantry (we collect food for 2 families in our neighborhood. The collection box is in the foyer outside the men’s room.)

From time to time, we also do letter writing after the service on topics of concern and sometimes pass the hat.

For more information on any of this stuff, call Judy Skog at 273–4613.

Fellowship of Reconciliation
The Fellowship of Reconciliation will hold its national conference “Celebrating Our Past: Charting the Future” on July 4–8 at Lake Geneva. Part of the conference will also be a special opportunity for people aged 15–23 to meet with Soviet youth from the Russian Orthodox Church. This program will
**Foster Care Needed!**

“Jonathan,” a 10 year old boy, is in need of respite foster care every other weekend and in emergencies. He is intelligent, likes animals, and is very interested in the natural sciences and fishing. “Jonathan” does display some behavioral challenges; however, he responds well to clear consequences and a structured environment.

A foster parent can be single or a couple. Someone who is accepting and has an understanding of Paganism and Goddess religions is needed. Foster parents are part of a professional team working together to meet “Jonathan’s” needs. Reimbursement will be $35 a day. Please call Retta Kanthak at Dane County Human Services, 273-6642, for more information.

**Native Plant Sale**

The Friends of the Arboretum will have a native plant sale on Saturday, May 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the McKay Center (1207 Seminole Hwy.). The sale will include about 70 varieties of woodland and prairie plants as well as some trees and shrubs. All plants are guaranteed to be native Wisconsin stock and are not dug from the wild. Information will be provided with each plant.

**They’re Flying The Coop Again...**

And they have a house for rent (cheap!) from June 11 to August 17, just ½ block from Prairie. Talk to Mary Mullen or Fredericka Schilling at 271-5192 for details.

**Wanted to Buy**

Inexpensive 3 speed Women’s bicycle. Call Cinda LaMar at 238-9884.

**National Hemlock Society**

Mr. Don Shaw, vice-president of the National Hemlock Society, will be holding a forum at First Unitarian Society at 12:30 PM on Sunday, May 20th. Prairie folk who are interested in learning more about the Hemlock Society are specifically invited to attend.

**EMERGENCY (non-business) telephone calls are a bother to our neighbors, but can be received at 608/988-4479. Non-emergency calls will be charged to you.**

As there is no nearby canoe livery, please make arrangements to get your own canoe. Rutabaga in Madison rents canoes and tiedowns so that the canoe can be put onto your car roof without a rack. Rates are reasonable, but reserve ahead with a deposit as this is likely to be a very busy weekend for canoe rentals. For canoeing in Wyalusing, canoes may be reserved from the concession the day before (State Park number 1/996-2261. If you have further questions, contact either Rick Ruecking (238-2924), Ken Skog (273-4813) or Frank Ilits (251-6788).
Saturday 10:00—Wisconsin River: We'll meet at the mouth of the Green River at the public boat landing at the Woodman Recreation area, just off State Hwy. 133 (at the L in a circle on map #2). We will spot cars down-river at Millville (8 miles) and/or at Bridgeport (13 miles). There will be copies of the canoe map for all. Saturday night, we'll have a potluck dinner.

Sunday 10:00—Lower Kickapoo: We will put in at Steuben (at the L in a circle on map #3) and spot cars down-river at Plum Creek (11 miles). This will involve a little more driving but should be pretty as the Kickapoo winds its way through the Wauzeka Wildlife Area. The Wisconsin can be windy at this time of year and the Kickapoo offers more sheltered canoeing. There will be copies of the canoe map for all. Sunday night, we'll have a potluck dinner.

Alternative: For those who are interested, there are canoe trails through the sloughs at Wyalusing State Park. There are 6 and 10 mile loop trails that do not require spotting cars.

Directions to the Ruecking Farm:
The Ruecking farm is 85 miles west of Madison on Route 18/151 (Verona Road). Stay on Route 18 (careful! at Dodgeville Route 151 turns south, and in Fennimore Route 18 makes two turns). West from Fennimore, mark 16 miles from the Prairie du Chien mileage sign to an Historical Marker (Military Ridge Road) and sign for “Badger Camp”. Turn right (North) and make no more turns for 3 miles (some gravel) to a large gray brick house, “STONE APPLE FARM”. WELCOME!