Vol. 28, No. 15, 9-11-90

The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, September 23. Submit items for September 27—October 11, 1990.

Thursday, September 20
7:30 PM
HOUSING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETS at the meetinghouse.
Everyone welcome. New members needed! Call Jean Matos (255-2209) for more information.

Sunday, September 23
10:00 AM
"MADISON AIDS SUPPORT NETWORK"—Presented by lay minister Orton Gray.
11:30 AM
PARENT COFFEE FOR GRADES 3,4,5. Come and meet the class leaders and find out the program plans for the coming year.

Monday, September 24
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE BOARD meeting at the meetinghouse.

Wednesday, September 26
12:00 N
Channing-Murray lunch at the Union. Look for Unitarian Student Group on Today in the Union.

Sunday, September 30
10:00 AM
"HOSPICE CARE"—Presented by lay minister Orton Gray.
11:30 AM
PARENT COFFEE FOR GRADES K, 1 & 2. Come and meet the class leaders and find out the program plans for the coming year.

Today's Quote:
"Conservative. n. A statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from a liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.
- AMBROSE BIERCE

Special Parish Meeting
The Prairie Board has scheduled a special Parish Meeting for Sunday, September 16, at 11:30 AM. Please plan to attend! (A Quorum is 30 members.)

The agenda shall be whether Prairie should come to an agreement with Head Start to allow them to use our building for their program beginning October 1, 1990. Head Start representatives will be there to present their proposal and to answer questions about their operation.

Coffee Cleanup Volunteers:
The following people have volunteered to clean up coffee cups and the kitchen after Sunday services:

Sept. 16: Alice & Lee Bullen
Sept. 23: Paul Adams & Elizabeth Alexander
Sept. 30: Jack & Betty Jallings

...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
Cakes For The Queen...
Annis Pratt and Nancy Vedder-Schultz will offer a ten week workshop featuring the UUA curriculum “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” beginning Tuesday, Sept. 18th at 7:30 PM at the First Society Meetinghouse. Prairie women are invited to come and experience the empowering effect of women’s spirituality! (Women only, please)

It’s Much Better Than Eating Out!
All members and friends of Prairie are invited to join a dinner circle. Circle Dinners are an important part of Prairie’s social life. Groups of 6 to 12 (or sometimes more) people get together once a month for a quasi-potluck dinner. The location rotates to a different group members home each month. We plan to get groups organized by late September so they can start in October.

You can sign up on Sunday at Prairie (until September 23) or on the form included with the last issue of the newsletter and mail it to Anne Urbansk, 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison, WI 53703. Mail registrations must be received by September 24th.

French Speakers’ Potluck
Anyone who would like to maintain or improve his or her French is welcome to join the French speaker’s potluck group. A small group of us have been meeting for the past seven months in the members’ homes.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 19, at 7:00 PM in the home of Jean Tucker, 2724 Center Avenue. For information, please call Jean at 249-2636 or Linda or Mike Sheehy at 273-3895.

Help Wanted
A. Coffee Maker. Cheerful, reliable person(s) to make coffee for Prairie services on a semi-regular basis (once or twice a month). The job entails arriving by 9:15 AM to make 1 or 2 pots of regular coffee, 1 pot of decaf coffee, and hot water for tea. This can be done by one person alone, but bringing a friend makes it more fun. An alternative, the coffee can be made on Saturday afternoon and set to start on Sunday with timers. We have two people now but both are cutting back on their involvement and we need more helpers!

B. Greeter. Cheerful, friendly reliable person(s) to greet people as they arrive at Prairie on Sunday. Requires no skill except a warm smile, a good handshake, and genuine interest in people. This can be done in conjunction with coffee making or as a separate activity.

Applicants for either position should call Anne Urbansk (258-8269) evenings for an interview. The rewards are substantial, but involve no remuneration of any sort.

Meet The Candidates!
Central Midwest District Trustee elections are coming this fall. We will be electing a representative to the national board of the UUA. First Society will host the two announced candidates, Jean Kapuscik of Hinsdale, IL and Patsy Sherrill-Madden of St. Louis, MO at a candidates forum on Sunday, Sept. 30th, at 1:00 PM. Prairie members and friends are invited to attend.

Upham Woods
Please join our Prairie family for the annual weekend retreat at Camp Upham Woods October 5-7. The weekend promises to include outdoor activities—canoeing, volleyball, new games, etc.—discussions, a talent show, and a meeting of men interested in forming a men’s fellowship along with crafts and nature activities. This is a beautiful spot to share a lovely fall weekend with Prairie friends.

Please contact Peg Stevenson (233-6449) to volunteer as activity leader or helper or to suggest activities you would especially like her to arrange. This weekend is our chance to be together as our Prairie ‘extended family’ and we’d like you all to be a part of it. The registration form is again included as part of this issue of Prairie Fire.

Chicago Art Institute Trip
Reserve your seats now for Prairie’s bus trip to the Chicago Art Institute on Saturday, November 3rd for the exhibit “Poussin to Matisse: The Russian Taste for French Painting”. The trip will include a lunch and shopping stop at Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue’s “Magnificent Mile”. This exhibit includes fifty-one French paintings including works by Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorrain (17th century), Watteau, Boucher, Greuz, and Fragonard (18th century), Vernet, Robert, David, LeBruin, Gerard, Boilly and Ingres (19th century), and Manet, Renoir, Gauguin, Rousseau, Bonnard (19th & 20th century), plus nine outstanding canvasses by Matisse. The works are from Leningrad’s Hermitage Museum and Moscow’s Pushkin State Museum and this is a unique opportunity to view these rarely available masterpieces. The cost of the trip is $35, including transportation, admission fees, and the acoustiguide recorded tour. Paid reservations must be received by October 8th. Send your check (made out to Prairie U.U. Society) to Donna Murdoch, 636 Sheldon St. Madison, WI 53711. For more information, call Donna at 238-0530.

Dear Prairie—

By the time you read this, I’ll already be a full fledged Freshman at Macalester College. I just thought I’d write some parting words of thanks before I go. I feel very lucky to have grown up with a church that I actually enjoyed attending, not being forced to go because “it’s what people do.” It’s true that Unitarianism doesn’t have defined beliefs that everyone is supposed to subscribe to. As I’ve grown up, I’ve learned to appreciate that freedom to choose what I do and don’t believe in. Prairie will always be a place where I feel I am welcome, and I
can't wait to come back and see everyone at Thanksgiving!
With much love,
-Jennifer Drapkin (Prairie Kid)

It's Not Too Late!
You can still donate money or time to help with Prairie's new roof. We are still short of the total needed to pay for the construction. Send your check to Treasurer Julie Bonser (marked Mortgage Fund). Call any member of the Housing and Property Committee if you can help with the painting of the fascia and trim. Thanks for whatever help you can give!

Playreaders 1990-91 Schedule

Please cut and post this for future reference. We hope this schedule will help you avoid conflicts when planning other events. The Playreaders meet once a month at members' homes. Everyone is welcome to attend at any event. Neither a commitment to the group, theatrical experience, talent, nor any pre-reading of the play is required. All you need is an enjoyment of literature and theater, an enjoyment of open discussions, and the desire to get together for a social evening. Additional information on dates, locations, and plays to be read will be printed in the Prairie Fire prior to each meeting. Please join us!

Sep. 29 Host: Warren Hagstrom
October No meeting.
Nov. 17 Hostess: Pat Watkins
Dec. 15 Hostess: Rachel Siegfried
Jan. 19 Hosts: Mona & Jack Birong
Feb. 16 Hostess: Pat Cautley
Mar. 23 Hosts: Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast
Apr. 20 Hostess: Margaret Lawrence
May ?? Hosts: Al & Aileen Nettleton (date to be announced)

Channing-Murray, the University of Wisconsin Unitarian-Universalist Student group, meets every Wednesday at noon. Informal Thursday evening dinner meetings are held on the Union Terrace at 6:00 PM. They'll continue to meet on the Terrace as late in the season as weather permits. There's plenty of room and they have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. We're usually done by 7:00 PM.

Wednesday Lunches are held at the Memorial Union. You can bring a brown bag or buy something from one of the Union Cafeterias. These lunches feature frequent guest speakers and we have a number of good ones lined up for the semester. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community.

Channing-Murray has a camping and canoe trip planned for the upcoming weekend of September 14-16. The canoe trip will begin at Mazomanie and follow the Wisconsin River to Spring Green, where the group will camp at Tower Hill State Park. Catherine Ramsey (251-7281) is coordinating the plans, so please give her a call for more information.

Guest speakers/discussion leaders already scheduled are: Cinda LaMar (with a surprise topic) on Sept. 12th and Catherine Ramsey, who will lead a discussion on AIDS on the 19th.

A day trip to Jana and Javid's log cabin near Richland Center is scheduled for Oct. 6th.

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 273-4813.

UU Blood Donors—
Summer is a 'high accident' season. Our Badger Region Red Cross must provide over 500 pints DAILY to 85 hospitals! First Society and Prairie have a joint One-A-Week blood donors Club: we pledge to have 2 people per week donate
a pint of blood. If you CAN donate, please do so this summer and sign the one-a-week club notebook for the "Unitarian–Universalists". If you want more information, please call Pat Meller (271-1214) or Gordon Cunningham (271-1246).

WANTED!
A successor to coordinate Prairie's volunteer service to the Drop-In Shelter. The task involves making phone calls once a month or making announcements at Prairie to secure volunteers. I've been doing this for two and a half years and would like very much to be relieved!
- Lee Bullen

A Point to Ponder
If we are to be properly humble in our use of the world, we need places that we do not use at all. We need the experience of leaving something alone. We need places that we forbear to change, or influence by our presence; places that we accept as influences on us, not the other way around, that we enter with the sense, the pleasure, of having nothing to do there; places that we must enter in a kind of cultural nakedness, without comfort or tools, to submit rather than to conquer. We need what other ages have called sacred groves.
- Wendell Berry

Looking Ahead—
Sept. 30: **CMD Trustee Candidates Forum** at First Society, 1:00 PM.
Oct. 5-7: **CAMP UPHAM WOODS Retreat** for Prairie UU Society at Wisconsin Dells.

Sewing & Alterations Sale Extended
Rachel Siegfried is extending her sewing and alterations sale until October 15. She will take 10% off of your total bill during that time period. For more information or an appointment, call Rachel at 271-2173.

Address Changes—
Faye Glessner has moved to California. Her new address was incorrectly reported in an earlier issue of Prairie Fire. The correct address is:
  Faye Glessner
  1413 Telegraph
  Bakersfield, CA 93305
  phone: 805/872-6357

Prairie friend Pat Lee has also moved. Her new address is:
  Pat Lee
  4330 Melody Lane #207
  Madison, WI 53704-2873

Prairie member Pat Watkins will be moving on Oct. 1st. Her new address will be:
  Pat Watkins
  230 N. Meadow Lane
  Madison, WI 53705

Lawn Mowing Volunteers:
We need to mow the lawn at least once a week during the growing season. Your help is urgently needed! Please contact Jean Matos or Al Nettleton.