Thursday, March 28
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal.

Sunday, March 31
10:00 AM
FAMILY SPRING CELEBRATION an intergenerational service led by Orange Schroeder.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH for all—please bring a dish to share.

Thursday, April 4
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the Meetinghouse.
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND rehearsal.

Sunday, April 7
10:00 AM
WHERE DO I FIT IN?: STORIES OF BEING OUTSIDERS, guided and presented by the 'graduates' of Mark Wagler's storytelling workshops.

Monday, April 8
7:00 PM
SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. (See related story.)

Sunday, April 14
10:00 AM
Spanish Speakers Potluck

Prairie Spanish-speakers meet once monthly, on the first or second Monday, at Prairie's Meetinghouse to share a potluck meal and conversation in Spanish. Our levels of expertise vary greatly! So do our experiences with Spanish-speaking communities. (For some of us, this has been a classroom!) We now have between six and nine persons who attend fairly regularly. Join us for food and fun (and Orton's jokes) in Spanish on April 8th at 7:00 PM. For more information or a ride call Orton Gray, 273-4041, or please call Fredericka Schilling or Mary Mullen at 271-5192.

Sidewalk Safety Check Volunteers:

Mar. 24 Randy Converse

Heterosexual Alert!

Prairie is looking for dynamic or at least well-meaning individuals (lesbian, gay and straight) to help chart the future of Prairie as a Welcoming Congregation. As a result of a stimulating conference in San Francisco that was attended by four Prairie members, we are eager to offer Prairie some structured opportunities to feel more comfortable with gay, lesbian and bisexual people and to help make Prairie more welcoming to everyone. A committee is forming to decide what direction Prairie should take on the process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. We hope to have a very diverse group on this committee. If you would like to lend your ideas, share your fears, or just try to figure out what we are talking about, please call Fredericka Schilling or Mary Mullen at 271-5192.

Women's Web...

Women's Web: A Weaving of Women's Personal & Spiritual Renewal, will be held on April 19–21, 1991 at George Williams College near Lake Geneva, WI. The conference, sponsored by the CMD UU Women's Federation, will focus on women's spirituality and related issues through workshops on Psycho-Physical Education, Storytelling and Spirituality, Native American Medicine Wheel, and Beyond Monotheism among others. Registration is $25 before April 5. Meals and accommodations range from $50 to $95 depending on your choice of dorm or cottage room. Contact registrar Lyn Rund, 117 N. Bridge St. Rockton, IL 61072 (815/624-2003).

Prairie Men's Group

Prairie's Men's Group will meet on Thursday, March 21 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We are reading from New Men, Deeper Hungers, by Tom Owen-Towle (a UU minister from San Diego), with time for exploration of personal and contemporary issues. All men are welcome to join our two hour discussions. For more information, call Dick.

Join Hands In The Dance

Join Hands In The Dance is a regional CUUPs conference with district causes for the Michigan, Ohio Valley, Ohio Meadville and Central Midwest UU districts. The purpose is to develop a grassroots plan for CUUPs activities in each region. The conference will run from April 12th to April 14th. The cost for the weekend is a sliding scale from $99 to $125 per adult (decide what you can afford) and $50 per child, which includes five meals and cabin dormitory accommodation (please bring your own bedding and towels). A sauna is available, and there will be a concert by Kenny & Taipora on Saturday evening. For registration forms/information, contact Dick or Julie Bonser, (608/274-3248) or write directly to registrar David Burwasser, c/o Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. The registration deadline is April 5th.
Each October, Prairie folk gather for a weekend at Upham Woods Environmental Education Center on the Wisconsin River just above Wisconsin Dells. All ages join together for a weekend of activities emphasizing the outdoors, crafts, discussion, and learning. This year, we have reserved the weekend of Oct. 4-6 for the retreat. Please begin planning now to join us. Although costs for meals and cabins are kept as low as possible, you may want to begin saving now towards the cost of the weekend (approx. $43 per adult in a cabin—kids cost less—dorm rooms cost a little more). Some scholarship money is available for those who need a little help—contact president Jallings for more information. Peg Stevenson will be planning the program of activities for the weekend. Contact her at 233-6449 with your ideas and suggestions.

Songs That Have Made A Difference

I am interested in organizing a lay ministry (or just a mini-ministry of 3-5 weeks) on the theme of “Songs That Have Made A Difference.” I became interested in this topic when I watched the Bill Moyers special “Amazing Grace” on public television. I started thinking of songs that have had special meaning to people, such as “We Shall Overcome” in the civil rights movement. I’d like to find several examples of songs for each of the following categories: abolition/civil rights movement; feminism/women’s suffrage; peace movement (any era); labor movement; and (perhaps) personal importance. For the last group, please give the reasons for the selection. I’d like to do this ministry in September. Please send me your ideas on this topic by April 12, 1991. Send them to: Anne Urbanski, 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison, WI 53703.

Birth of the Plague... (or is it GLUUAP?)

A dozen of Prairie’s lesbian, gay and bisexual folk met on a Friday night to share homemade pizza, lively conversation and mutual support. Our gathering gave birth to three hopes for Prairie:

1. Formation of a committee to guide Prairie toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation. We hope to convene a committee of diverse heterosexual, lesbian, gay and bisexual members and friends of Prairie to explore and plan a Welcoming Congregation activities.

2. Video Night at Prairie. Prairie members and friends of any and all sexual orientations will be invited to view videos related to gay lesbian and bisexual issues followed by the discussion which Prairie folk are noted for. We will be showing movies which have been in the theatres as well as low budget documentaries sharing the lives of people living with AIDS or lesbians raising children. Watch the Prairie Fire for future plans or call Fredericka Schilling (271-5192) if you have a burning desire to see a certain movie and discuss it with your Prairie friends. Recent feature films we could show are Desert Hearts, Longtime Companion, or Personal Best.

3. Social Group for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. We hope to keep meeting on a somewhat regular basis to offer support for members and friends of Prairie who are in a sexual orientation minority. We have not yet come up with a name (PLAGUE—Prairie Lesbian And Gay Unitarian Enclave—is esoteric if not downright depressing! GLUUAP—Gay and Lesbian UU's At Prairie—isn't much better.) so why not join us at our next meeting on Sunday, April 28 and help name our group. We will meet for potluck lunch after the Sunday service. We will divide into taking size groups and discuss the topic of your choice so bring a dish to pass and an idea for a topic.

At noon, every Thursday at 6:00 PM, and once a month on Sunday at 6:00 PM for a dinner and program evening.

Wednesday Lunches are held at the Memorial Union. You can bring a brown bag or buy something from one of the Union Cafeterias. These lunch sessions feature discussions led by one of the students, with each one who wishes taking a turn. The lunches are also open to UUs from the community. Check ‘Today In The Union’ for the Unitarian Student Group room location.

Informal Thursday evening dinner meetings are held at the International Food Court next to Kinko’s on University Avenue at 6:00 PM. Fifteen to twenty people usually attend. There’s plenty of room and they have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. They’re usually done by 7:00 PM.

Secret Friends

This popular program concluded with a potluck and party on March 17th. All in attendance had a good time. Those friends who missed this get-together are encouraged to arrange to spend time with your secret friend when you can.

Program News

6-7-8

The middle schoolers led a thoughtful and provocative program for the Prairie congregation on March 17. Using controversial T-shirts as a focus, the morning program was a discussion of students’ rights to free speech. This group is led by Andrea Lawrence, Karen Gross & Marty Drapkin.

3-4-5

This group is currently exploring the beliefs and practices of Unitarian—Universalists. They have focused on cooperation and the merging of the
make the difference in the life of a child. Call Deena Williams at 273-6600 for more information on how you can help children through foster parenting.

**Food Pantry Items Needed!**

When you do your shopping each week, please buy a food item for the food pantry and bring it to Prairie. Here’s a list of what’s really needed:

- Infant formula (SMA brand)
- String beans
- Cream corn
- Soup (all kinds)
- Tuna fish
- Spam (if?)
- Crackers
- Baked beans

**Special need:** we need to collect $40 per month for the next few months to buy ‘Similac’ for a needy mother whose child is allergic to SMA. She will exchange with us an equivalent amount of SMA to donate to the Allied Community Food Pantry.

Food items should be things you would like to eat! Infant formula is always needed. Bring your donations to Prairie and either put them in the box near the men’s room or give them to me. Cash donations are always welcomed—I can buy whatever is most needed that week! Please try to make a weekly donation—I will see that it gets to the Allied Community.

- Fredericka Schilling

**Looking Ahead—**

**April 5-6:** “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Workshop”, a leader training program. Unitarian Church West, Brookfield, WI. Contact Janet Nortrom, OMD Women and Religion Committee, 414/964-3764.

**April 12-14:** Join Hands In The Dance is a regional conference and district caucuses for the Michigan, Ohio Valley, Ohio Meadville and Central Midwest UU district chapters of CUUPs. For registration forms/information, contact Dick or Julie Bonser, (608/274-3248) or write directly to registrar David Burwasser, c/o Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. The registration deadline is April 5th.

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**April 21:** Annual Spring Parish Meeting and potluck, at the Meetinghouse.

**May 4:** Reception to Honor former Congressman Bob Kastenmeier, 5-7 PM at Ovens of Brittany on the Square, 1 S. Pinckney St. (2nd floor of the ‘glass bank’). NO CHARGE!

**May 11:** Central Midwest District Visions and Values Conference: Sing My Joys, Cry My Woes, at the Unitarian Society of Geneva, IL.

**June 17-19:** Fort Lauderdale, FL, UU Women’s Federation Biennial Convention “The Radical Quest: Honoring Our Diversities, Connecting Our Circles.” Contact the UU Women’s Federation, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. 617/742-2100 ex.692.

**June 20-25:** Hollywood, FL, Youth Caucus at the General Assembly, contact General Assembly Office, 25 Beacon St., Boston MA 02108. 617/742-2100.

**July 27-Aug. 2:** Port Townsend, WA, Leadership School for UU youth (15-18) and young adults (18-30). Contact Edmonds UU Church, 8109 224th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026. 425/778-0373.

**August 19-25:** Ocean Park Camp, WA “Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) Continental Conference (Con-Con).” Contact the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. 617/742-2100.