President's Column

A swarm of native bees moved into a stack of empty bee boxes on my farm a few years ago. They replaced the Florida-bred bees originally placed there, but which did not survive a harsh winter. Other than looking in these days, I do not disturb them. The hive is especially busy this year, as the queen split the colony and led a swarm in search of a new home this spring. The bees are using the long, hot days of summer to increase their numbers and store the honey they will need this winter.

...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

The Oldest and Largest Lay-Led Society in the UUA
In this Prairie Fire, we bid adieu to Anne Pryor. She departs her post as DRE to gather fruitful material in Kentucky for her dissertation. As we remaining workers—no drones here—go about the business of our "hive," we wish her well and strive to use the long days of summer to prepare for the next church year. You can sweeten the nectar by volunteering to teach or co-teach a religious education curriculum. Call Prin Bosch at 238-6258.

The UW Channing-Murray troupe provided us with a theatrical presentation on friendship last Sunday. It was the best of all worlds—fun and thought-provoking. We thank them for their efforts and are reminded of the excellent programming we get at Prairie all year long.

If you and your brood are out collecting your own honey this summer, we wish you godspeed and look forward to seeing you as the days shorten, the heat dissipates, and the flowers fade into fall. Enjoy the season.

Rick Ruecking

Sunday in Sauk

Once again, Prairie is invited to a summer Sunday service followed by a potluck at the Freec Thinkers Congregation of Sauk City. The date is August 13; service begins at 10 am. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck, which starts at 11:30 am, and join the fun at this traditional gathering. The theme for the service is "Summer." If you would like to perform or read on this topic, leave a message for Rick Ruecking at 238-2924.

To reach the church, take Highway 12 northwest from Madison to Sauk City, Turn right on Water Street (just past the bridge over the Wisconsin River), and turn left at Polk Street. The church (Park Hall) is located on a large greenspace at 307 Polk. (Due to road construction, you may need to go one block past Polk and double back to reach the church.)

Summer Musings

The seasonal mood continues on Sunday, August 27 with a program of summer music, poetry, and short prose at Prairie. Contact Rosemarie Lester, 255-7039, if you would like to share a reading. (She will be out of town from August 13 to 23.) If you have an idea for a song or instrumental, talk to Barb Park, 273-8775. Children are encouraged to bring summer artwork that we can display on the walls.

Program Committee

The program committee meets at Prairie on Tuesday, August 8 at 7 pm. If you have suggestions for programs get them to Bob Reuschlein as soon as possible, as services are already planned through October. Bob also asks that lay ministers prepare brief articles on their programs that can be published in upcoming Prairie Fires.

Theater Outing

Pat Watkins is organizing a Theater Party on Saturday, July 29 to Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound" and "After Magritte" at the University Theater. Tickets are $10 each. There is still time to join the group, depending on ticket availability. Call the Vilas Hall box office at 262-1500. Pat suggests you request rows C, D, or E on the right hand side of the theater. Contact Pat, 233-5795, for more information, or if you are interested in doing dinner before the show.

Playreaders

The Prairie Playreaders are one of several social groups available to Prairie members, and participation requires no commitment and no expertise in theater. We meet once a month at the home of a volunteer Prairie host, who chooses the play, assigns the parts, and provides refreshments. We read and discuss the play (and have a lovely social evening). We sometimes also have theater parties. At the organizational meeting at 1 pm on August 12 (home of Pat Watkins), we will choose the dates and locations for the coming year. We invite you to attend this meeting, and to attend a playreading if you have not done so before. It's a fun evening. For more information about the group, contact Pat Watkins at 233-5795.

Monet Excursion

News item: "Claude Monet: 1840-1926" is the largest exhibit ever mounted of Monet's paintings, and contains 159 works from worldwide collections, both private and public.

Prairie Society will be sponsoring a trip to Chicago for this exhibit on Saturday, September 16. We will leave from the Nakoma Plaza Bus Shelter at 8 am and return by 7:45 pm. We will also pick up at South Towne Mall and in Janesville. For $42, we will get door-to-door transporta-

tion to Water Tower Place, where the shoppers among us can disembark. Those who wish to shop and the museum will be picked up at Water Tower Place at 2:30 pm and driven to the Art Institute.

Those who wish to go directly to the Art Institute will be taken there after the first Water Tower stop. Anyone who wishes to shop at Marshall Fields or Carson, Pirie Scott in the Loop (two blocks from the Art Institute) will be dropped off there. The bus and all passangers will leave for home at 4:30 pm from the Art Institute.

If you are interested in making this trip, contact Pat Cautley. Checks should be made out to Prairie UU Society and given or sent to Pat, with a notation on the check stating where you wish to board the bus in Madison.

Pagan Ritual

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS), which recently reformed in Madison, is actively celebrating the solar holidays and launching a discussion group. Lammas, or Lughnassad (the halfway point between the summer solstice and vernal equinox and the first harvest festival of the season) will be celebrated from 2 to 5 pm, on Sunday August 6 with a family-oriented potluck gathering at Wingra Park. Afterward there will be a ritual at the Arboretum's Wheeler council ring, a few blocks west of the park. Bring a dish to pass, percussion instruments, and something which symbolizes the harvest for you. For information call Kelly Kearns at 249-0619.

From the DRE

This is my first opportunity to address you as your director of religious education. I am looking forward to serving Prairie in this capacity. Anne Pryor has been showing me the ropes. She has done such
a quality job here for the last six years, that much of what has been done will continue.

We will be introducing a teen program this year. K.K. Anderson of First Society has been interested in teaching a joint Sunday curriculum at Prairie. After meeting Monday, July 24, the teen program has a lot of potential. K.K. will be utilizing the "Life Issues For Teens" (LIFT) curriculum. We will be inviting First Society teens to participate.

Most of the teachers needed for the '95-'96 year have committed. There are a few spots to fill. K-1-2 in particular. So if you are called over the next few weeks, we need you. I look forward to meeting with all teachers this month.

Although I don't know exactly what "Nifty-Gifty" is (yet), I am told that saving natural items (dried plants, pressed flowers, etc.) and recyclables is important. So I hope members will keep "Nifty Gifty" in mind as we end the summer of '95.

In future issues of the Fire, I will outline upcoming events and news. Meanwhile, there are a few dates to keep in mind. On August 27, the program committee is scheduling an end of summer picnic and would like children/teens and others to submit poetry, prose, and art about this summer. I encourage children and teens to participate. It sounds like a great way to end the summer!

After the farewell to summer service, the RE committee will be having an informal potluck. This will be an opportunity for me to get together with teachers before the curriculum year begins.

On September 10, the 1995-96 RE Program begins!

—John Brian Paprocke

Broken Hoop

Does anyone know how the basketball hoop downstairs broke? It's a popular toy, and it would be nice to have it replaced by whoever was involved in it's breaking. Contact Anne Pryor about it, or just fix/replace it on your own. Thank you.

Social Action Meets

Prairie's Social Action committee will meet at the meetinghouse at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, August 22. Nancy Graham will chair the meeting. At its July meeting, the committee decided it wanted to be more active and more connected to the congregation in its activities. To this effect, members of the committee will be developing a congregational survey to determine which political issues are most important to Prairie members and friends. The committee then hopes to organize letter-writing activities around these issues and also to organize groups of people to actually visit the Madison offices of our Congressmen and make our feelings known.

In addition to continuing Prairie's efforts with the Allied Drive Food Pantry and the Grace Episcopal Men's Homeless Shelter, the committee hopes that Prairie can get more involved with the Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood. Several committee members and other Prairie people attended a community picnic sponsored by the Allied Drive Neighborhood earlier this summer. Those attending were Paula Pachiarz and Carl Wacker and their daughters, Toby and Judy; Bob Steinhofer, Fran Zell, and Mike Sheehy. Call Fran, 233-0213, if you can take a turn in August. The shifts are 7:30 to approximately 11:30 PM on the fourth Monday and 5:00 to 8:00 AM the following Tuesday morning. The evening shift includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing milk and cereal.

Benton Shelter

Thank you, Prairie members and friends. You have responded enthusiastically to our renewed call for volunteers to staff the Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter on our fourth Monday of the month shift. July volunteers included Thomas Wordell, Fran Zell, Karen Gross, and Mike Sheehy. Call Fran, 233-0213, if you can take a turn in August. The shifts are 7:30 to approximately 11:30 PM on the fourth Monday and 5:00 to 8:00 AM the following Tuesday morning. The evening shift includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing milk and cereal.

Hiromisha Day

A Hiroshima observance will be held in Madison on Saturday, August 5, sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility and WILPF (The Women's International League of Peace and Freedom). Organizers need help planning the event. If you are interested, contact Betty Jalings.

Blood Donors

As of June 30, Madison UU blood donors have given 70 pints. If the three Societies gave three times the one-a-week goal, our total for the half year would be 78 pints. In 1994, we missed by just one pint. Let's keep giving. Laurie Larson of Prairie reached two gallons of giving with her June donation. Hours at the Sheboygan Avenue center are noon to 4 pm on Monday; noon to 6 pm on Tuesday; noon to 7 pm on Thursday; 9 am to 1 pm on Wednesday and Friday; and 8 am to noon on Saturday. —Barbara Rames

Food Pantry

It's peanut butter sandwich time, or is that tuna salad? Both peanut butter and tuna make good contributions to our entryway basket that holds our gifts to the Allied Drive pantry. Any non-perishable food is welcomed.
Work Wanted

Thomas Wordell is looking for work and welcomes all leads. He has a degree in Hospitality Management from MATC and has many computer and office skills as well. Talk to him after the service or call him at 271-8365 if you can help.

Thanks for Pulling

We want to thank those who helped at our rug pull party in June: Barbara Rames (two hours of hard labor and wonderful conversation), Fran Zell, Mike and Norma Briggs, Rosemarie Lester, and Marilyn Peters. Thanks to all.

—Kay Frazier and Jose Rodriguez

Wild Herb Walk

Laurie Larson has rescheduled her class on edible and medicinal wild plants for Saturday, August 12, 1 pm, at Indian Lake County Park (Meet in the first parking lot).

All are welcome, including children, whether or not you bid on this at the service auction earlier this year. You just need to pay $6 per person to Prairie and let Laurie know you are coming, 249-9761.

The class will be held regardless of weather. Call Laurie for further information.

Women's Gathering

There are still places available August 3 to 5 at the Summer Gathering at Camp Ronora organized by the Women and Religion Committee of the UUA's Central Midwest District. Deadline to apply is August 1. Call Beth Ligouri at 708-991-4062 or Leslie Evans at 708-381-3604 for further information. The camp is located near Watervliet, Michigan.

Ride Share: Karen Gross plans to attend this event and is looking for other Prairie women interested in sharing a ride with her. She will drive. Call her at 259-0556.

UU's on Line

Those of you who have access to the Internet may be interested in joining the "UUS-L," a lively and very active ongoing discussion among UUs in the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. To join this list, send a mail message to LISTSERV@UBVM.Buffalo.CC.EDU. The body of the message should read:

SUBSCRIBE UUS-L Your Name. You'll receive a return message indicating you are now subscribed to the list.

I suggest you also send a message to LISTSERV saying: get UUS-L digest.

Otherwise you'll be delayed by messages. See you on the Net!

—Anne Urbanski

Yard Worker Needed

I need a strong person to help me with a couple of yard projects. I'm willing to pay $10 to Prairie Pro-Seeds for each hour of your efforts. Contact Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173.

Writing Class

Fran Zell will teach a writing workshop on Saturday, August 5 at The Writers' Place, 122 State Street. Entitled, "Writing by Heart," the workshop is for fiction and nonfiction writers who wish to call upon memory to enhance their work. For more information about this and other Writers' Place programs call 255-4030 or talk to Fran, 233-0213.

Upham Woods

Save the date. Our annual all-congregation retreat at Camp Upham Woods, near The Dells, has been scheduled for the weekend of November 10 to 12. We need volunteers to help with registration and program planning.

Office Hours

My office hours at Prairie continue to be irregular this summer because of the monthly newsletter schedule and because of my other work commitments. Generally, I am here after 3 pm on Monday afternoons when there is a newsletter to get out, and most of Tuesday. On non-deadline weeks this summer I am here for two or three hours whenever I can fit it in. If you have items for the newsletter or other reasons to contact me, it is best to do so at Prairie. Leave a written message in the newsletter box or leave a phone message if I am not here. I can not be responsible for items I receive at home (via mail or phone) or information you may tell me if you happen to run into me at the grocery store, or something. I am only focusing on The Prairie Fire when I am at the office. Thanks.

—Fran Zell