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Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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# PRAIRIE FIRE

... 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.

*From our Bond of Union.*

November 8, 2002

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.*

*The two most recent issues may be seen on Prairie's Web site at <http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org>*

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, November 10

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Rose Smith's second lay ministry on Immigrant Stories.  
11:30 Book Club "The Girl with the Pearl Earring"

**Sunday, November 10**, 9-11 a.m., volunteer training for IHN, Midvale Lutheran Church.

### Saturday, November 16

7:30 p.m. Playreaders, at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon Street.

### Sunday, November 17

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Gabriel Laden's "Doorway to the Soul."

### Sunday, November 24

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Intergenerational program.

### Tuesday, November 26

5-8 a.m. Men's Drop-In Shelter Breakfast

### November 24-Dec. 1

Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale Lutheran.

### Sunday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Winter Reading: Book Reviews by Prairie Folks.

### Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. More Immigrant Stories by Rose Smith.  
11:30 a.m. Potluck and Parish Meeting

### Tuesday, December 24

5-8 a.m. Men's Drop-In Shelter Breakfast

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, November 17, 2002***

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, November 10

Immigrant Stories. This is the second in the lay ministry series coordinated by Rose Smith. Bev Cann and Bob Park will speak about the Canadian experience in their families.

## Sunday, November 17

"Doorway to the Soul." Everyone can learn to use music consciously to cultivate a personal dialogue with Inner Wisdom, to help clear negativity, to build positive energy, and to gather spiritual and practical guidance for your inner and outer life concerns. Through a direct experience of accessing your higher faculties with sound and music, open the heart of your inner life with this creative opportunity. Presented by Gabrielle Laden, a Well-Springs Facilitator, who worked with Kay Ortman.

## OUR SOCIETY

### IMPORTANT -- PLEASE READ Announcement of the Prairie UU Society Fall Parish Meeting

*Submitted by Ken Skog, President*

**The Fall Parish meeting has been rescheduled from November and will be held Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> after the Prairie Sunday Program and a pot luck lunch. This is also a request that anyone with items of business for the Parish Meeting agenda please submit them to Ken Skog by noon Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> --- [kskog@tds.net](mailto:kskog@tds.net) or 273-4813.**

The meeting is being rescheduled to meet the bylaws requirement that we have an announcement mailed to members 4 weeks prior to the meeting with a request for agenda items. I apologize for the delay in getting out this first of two required announcements, and for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Think Back to September 22

*Submitted by Marilyn Ruecking*

When I attend the Sunday service, I collect the offering, put it in an envelope, date it and subsequently deposit the money in the bank. But on Sept 22, I took the envelope out of my purse and put it in a safe place - in my house. In fact, the place is so "safe", I can't find it. So if you wrote a check to Prairie on Sept 22 (the Jean Darling service), please issue another check. When I find the misplaced envelope, I will destroy the checks. Also, I have devised a system that will prevent this from

happening again. You can either send your new check to Susan Hagstrom or put it in the collection basket on Sunday. I'm available at 838-8540 if you have any questions.

### Thank You!

*submitted by the Membership Committee*

We appreciate the efforts of all who work to make Prairie a welcoming place. Thank you Mary Mullen and Barb Park for making coffee in the past weeks. Thanks to KK Anderson for bringing lovely flowers. Thank you, Phoenix Wardell, our reliable cup washer, and Anne Pryor, Sharon Scrattish, and Tracy McClellan for helping clean up after the potluck. And thanks to Kathy Nutter for pitching in where she sees need. We apologise to those whose names we have overlooked. Reminder: you can sign up for volunteer opportunities, upstairs and down, at the greeting table before each service.

### Congratulations!

We celebrate the marriage of new member Kim Schiltgen and James Truog on October 19, 2002.

### Social Action Notes

#### *What's Going On?*

1. On Saturday Nov. 2nd more than 80 people participated in an all day peace conference initiated by the Social Action Committee last April. On the committee's recommendation Prairie voted at its April parish meeting to become the first sponsor of the conference. Ultimately it was sponsored by 12 Madison area faith-based groups. The 13 workshops listed in the last Prairie Fire were all held and the presenters seemed pleased with results. The biggest regret expressed by participants was that the 4 concurrent workshop periods only allowed a participant to attend 4 of the offered workshops. There was also an interfaith gathering for reflection and meditation, featuring readings from different faith traditions interspersed with 5 min. periods of silent meditation, which was open to all. Lunch featured comments from a 6 member interfaith panel, preceded by music from music workshop participants, who also provided music

at dinner. The evening concluded with an address by Rep. Tammy Baldwin on her efforts in Congress in opposition to a rush toward war with Iraq which received a standing ovation, and a moving address by Hannaford-Ricardi of Voices in the Wilderness on Iraq. Ken also spoke on Iraq at Prairie following our Nov. 3rd potluck and showed slides from his trips to Iraq that illustrated the hardships suffered by the Iraqi people as a result of war and United Nations sanctions.

2. What are those boxes for in the foyer? Here's a quick guide for those who may be wondering. There are 2 ongoing collections, one for food pantry donations, and one for JFF donations. (JFF stands for "Joining Forces for Families", located on Allied Drive. JFF donations include toiletries, diapers, winter accessories, blankets, etc.) Also, Shaarei Shamayim occasionally has collections of its own.

3. We're adding a 3rd box in response to a request from the Men's Drop-In Shelter, which we provide breakfast for once a month. It will have an increased need in the next few months for winter aids: lip balm, long underwear, mittens, socks, hats, scarves, coats, etc. It is also asking for donations such as little bottles of cologne, inexpensive watches, personal schedules, wallets or other items to give as gifts.

You may have noticed that donations for the JFF box and the Drop-In shelter box are similar (except for the diapers!). Whatever you can spare for either organization will be appreciated.

### ***What's Coming Up?***

In the coming holiday season, The Social Action Committee will be offering Prairie opportunities for service both locally and globally. Interfaith Hospitality Network: From November 24 through December 1, Prairie will again join with other churches to help out several homeless families. As a buddy church, we will be helping out at Midvale Lutheran, the host church. (Please see the related announcement about volunteer training.) This is a good opportunity for the whole family to volunteer together. You can call Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806 for more information or to sign up now for one of the

volunteer tasks.

*Guest At Your Table:* This is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's best-known program. This month you will be asked to take home a box and a brochure and place them where you and your family customarily share a meal. When members of your family place money in the box over a period of weeks, and find out from the brochure about programs that money will be applied to, each person will be linking up with others worldwide to address critical human rights issues. This year the money you contribute will go towards organizations advancing the rights of women in countries like India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mexico. You will be helping to improve the lives of children in Burma and Guatemala, and helping children here in the U.S. who are being punished by unfair welfare reform programs. Please look for the boxes and brochures at upcoming services.

*Allied Drive Wish List:* For the past several years, Prairie members and friends have purchased Christmas gifts for children in the Allied Drive community. The Social Action Committee receives the names of 10 children and their wishes. Then, Prairie individuals who wish to participate choose a name and purchase a gift for that child. Another option is to make a contribution towards the wish list and request that the SAC do the shopping. Talk to Paula Pachciarz if you would like to help with this year's wish list.

*November and December Shelter Breakfasts:* We provide breakfast at the Men's Drop-In Shelter once a month (see calendar). Folks are needed to buy and deliver groceries (SAC will pay) and to show up at 5 a.m. to cook and serve the breakfast. This can be a very rewarding activity. Call Paula to volunteer.

### **R.E. CORNER**

#### **Religious Education Happenings**

Fall Frolic. Larry Nahlik's slides. Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Chalice history and making chalices. Samhain and Dia de los muertos. What an incredible month of learning, discovery and fun! And, we're not

stopping! The RE program is gearing up to write a Covenant for all youth and adults who work with them. We will also be discovering what feels like a safe space for learning and put our ideas in writing.

Thanksgiving's Intergenerational Service is also near-November 24! The RE Committee is beginning the brainstorm process for this service. Some ideas are: making gratitude journals in small groups, doing a moving gratitude meditation, having a visual display of what we are grateful for, singing together, having the youth collect gratitude statements from adults and hang them around the room, doing a couple of readings from journals of the time the pilgrims arrived in North America. Do you have ideas? We would love to hear them and try to incorporate as many as possible! Please call an RE Committee member with ideas or email Kristi, DRE, with thoughts. Kristi's phone is 278-1975 and her email address is KSKoak@aol.com. You can also contact Anne Urbanski and the Koester-Jess family.

### **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

Some families have been donating much appreciated items to the RE Program. Thank you to the Koester-Jess family for the sweet, new dolls in the preschool room and for the game Twister! Also, thank you Jani Koester for loads of cool craft supplies, glue sticks, markers, colored paper...! And thank you, Jani, for hauling the big box around until it made its way to Prairie! Thank you to Rosemary Lester and Mary Somers for snack contributions and to Ruth Calden for the delicious Bread of the Dead and book loan. All donations are appreciated! Apologies to any folks who may have been missed. Know that your gift is being well used!

## **Opportunities**

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network Training for Volunteers**

On Sunday, November 10 from 9-11 a.m., at Midvale Lutheran Church, the Interfaith Hospitality Network is

offering a training for volunteers. Both previous and potential volunteers are strongly encouraged to participate in this training if you haven't already done so. Call 238-7119 for more information.

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service Choir at FUS**

FUS will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Eve service in collaboration with James Reeb, Prairie, and Sauk County UU Societies. Dan Broner, the Music Director at FUS invites all singers to join the choir for that service. The choir will be singing Aaron Copland's "The Promise of Living." Rehearsals are Wednesday, November 20 and/or November 21 at 7:00 p.m. Scores will be available. Please call Dan with any questions at 233-9774 x21 or e-mail him at [danb@fusmadison.org](mailto:danb@fusmadison.org).

### **FUS Friday Noon Musicales**

The following Musicales will be presented at FUS from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.:

November 8 - Ancora String Quartet  
November 15 - The Monroe Chamber Trio  
November 22 - Roscoe Mitchell and Friends

Brown-bag lunches are welcome. Admission is free.

### **UNICEF Sale**

*Submitted by Linda Sheehy*

On Sunday, November 10, Helen Findley will be selling UNICEF cards, calendars, toys, and decorations at Prairie. She will be in the foyer at Prairie both before the service and afterward.

### **Office Hours for Office Administrator**

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

You are welcome to call or stop by during those hours or by appointment. Please direct e-mails to me at [webet@chorus.net](mailto:webet@chorus.net).

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious  
Services will be on November 9, 16 & 23rd.**

**Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**