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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 22, 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 24**

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Intergenerational program  
brought to you by the RE committee

### **November 24-Dec. 1**

Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale  
Lutheran.

### **Tuesday, November 26**

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

### **Sunday, December 1**

(No Choir Rehearsal)

10:00 a.m. Winter Reading: Book Reviews by Prairie  
Folks. Moderated by Mike Briggs.

### **Sunday, December 8**

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Immigrant Stories Part III by Rosemarie  
Lester and Daisy Peterson on their personal  
experiences of coming to the United States from  
Germany and Switzerland.

11:30 a.m. Potluck and Parish Meeting

7:00 p.m. New Member Orientation

### **Wednesday, December 11**

6:00 p.m. WOW Meeting. Barbara Chatterton  
presents "Eating." Supper followed by movie.

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Program to be announced.

7:00 p.m. New Member Orientation.

### **Thursday, December 19**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck

### **Sunday, December 22**

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Program to be announced.

### **Tuesday, December 24**

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

### **Saturday, December 28**

7:30 pm. Playreaders meet at the home of Pat  
Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane, Madison. Phone  
233-5795. Everyone welcome, please join us.

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, December 1, 2002***

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 1**

**Winter Reading** - Just in time for the holidays, share your ideas of good books to give or receive, or just to read! If you would like to participate, bring an index card or piece of paper with a book title and the author's name and be prepared to speak for 2 minutes about the book. Mike Briggs will be our moderator.

### **Sunday, December 8**

**Immigration Stories - Part III** - Continuing Rose Smith's lay ministry on immigration, Rosemarie Lester and Daisy Peterson will speak about their personal experiences of coming to the United States from Germany and Switzerland.

## OUR SOCIETY

### **IMPORTANT -- PLEASE READ**

#### **Announcement of the Prairie UU Society Fall Parish Meeting and Agenda**

*Submitted by Ken Skog, President*

**The Prairie Fall Parish Meeting will be held Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>** after the Prairie Sunday Program and a pot luck lunch of **finger foods**. The Agenda is as follows:

Approval of minutes of the Spring Parish meeting

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Finance Committee

Approval of 2003 budget

Report of the Long Range Planning Committee

Consideration of proposals of Long Range Planning Committee

Sense of the meeting vote to approve, in general, a process to obtain a minister

If approved, consider and approve details of process  
Consideration of other proposals to meet RE, program, and growth objectives

Committee Reports

### **WOW Meeting**

The next WOW meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 6 p.m. We will begin by having a potluck of foods that we will eat with our fingers, just to try a different tactile experience and to lead into our program which is the movie, "Eating." The movie opens on a group of women gathering to celebrate birthdays for 3 friends turning 30, 40 and 50. During the party, some of the women discuss their attitudes toward food and men and discover hilarious parallels. The movie is 110 minutes in length. Please join us! All women of Prairie and friends are invited. We are a group of wild, wonderful, wise women!

### **Have You Found?**

KK is missing a black jacket which has sentimental value. It would have a comb, tube of vasoline, and a much missed headband (thin, to go under a bike helmet) in an inner jacket pocket. If found in your closet, please call 255-3596. Thanks for looking!

### **Social Action Notes**

*submitted by Paula Pachcairz and Bob Park*

The Social Action Committee is proud to announce that Marilyn and Rick Ruecking, because of their commitment to the mission of the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network, have recently earned the IHN 25 hour award. They have contributed over 25 hours of their time to the effort of providing a safe and welcoming place for struggling families. Congratulations, Rick and Marilyn!

Speaking of the IHN, what a great response we've had from Prairie folks for social action projects! Ten volunteer slots for the IHN week at Midvale Lutheran were filled. Over half of the kids on our Allied-Dunn's Marsh Christmas Wish List have someone signed up to buy them gifts, after only one Sunday, and a few persons made extra donations to that fund. Prairie

responded generously to the request for donations for Thanksgiving baskets for Allied Drive residents. And those boxes in the foyer for the men's shelter, food pantry, and JFF are filling up again. What a group!

The boxes and fact sheets for the UUSC "Guest at Your Table" project will arrive soon. 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 also 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.

Prairie has also been routinely collecting food for the Allied Drive Food Pantry. The demand is about 50% higher now than one year ago. The managers, Anne and Mike Bodden report that the following items are always in short supply, so if you are wondering what to donate, you could choose things from this list:

- Jello (pudding and regular)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Meals-in-a-can (Stew, spaghetti-o's, etc...)
- Juice (Plastic half gallon)
- Macaroni and Cheese & Hamburger Helper
- Muffin Mix & Pancake Mix
- Canned Fruit
- Toilet Paper
- Tuna
- Dehydrated Potatoes
- Jelly
- Cereal (Dry)
- Creamed Soup
- Soda Crackers
- Pasta & Rice
- Syrup
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Corn and Green Beans
- Canned Chili Beans and Pork & Beans

They also could use the tops of computer paper boxes for organizing and storing cans.

## Opportunities

### New Member Orientation

New Prairie members are invited to two new member orientation sessions to be given at the church. At 7:00 Sunday, December 8 - "Our Personal Religious Histories" and at 7:00 Sunday, December 15 - "Prairie and You." The sessions, led by Rick Ruecking, will introduce members to each other, review the history of the denomination and our fellowship, and explain how Prairie functions. These meetings have been popular with new members, and you are encouraged to attend both sessions. Child care will be provided.

### IS THE U.S. ABOVE HUMAN RIGHTS?

A conference to mark the anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights Saturday, December 7, 2002 from 2 to 8:30 pm. at Agape House, 1046 W. Polk St., Chicago. Organized by UU's for Social Justice. Please call 773-643-8061 or Email [uusjajl@enteract.com](mailto:uusjajl@enteract.com) & [www.uusforsocialjustice.org](http://www.uusforsocialjustice.org).

### Schedule

1:30 -Open for Registration and Socializing

2:00- Opening Remarks

2:15-3:45 Panel: "International Human Rights and the American Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems." Edwin Yohnka, ACLU Communications Director, on "Protecting the Accused in an Age of Terror", and Shayna Plaut, Amnesty International USA-Midwest Region Education Coordinator, on "Safeguarding the Human Rights of the Imprisoned."

4-5:30 Panel A: "Human Rights and At-Risk Populations." Rene Heybach, Law Project Director, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, on "Human Rights and the Homeless" and Jose Olivia, Chicago Interfaith Commission On Worker Issues, on "Human Rights and Immigrant Workers"

4-5:30 Panel B: "Human Rights and Our Future" Stephanie Downs Hughes, Ph.D., U.N. Envoy, U.U. U.N. Association on "The Human Rights of Children and Women" and Gene Horcher, Chair, U.U.S.J. Environmental Task Force, on "Human Rights and the Environment"

6:00-Dinner

7:00-Keynote Address-"Human Rights: Not Just Long

Ago or Far Away" by Doug Cassell, Director,  
International Center for Human Rights.

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Registration: Clip section and next page, complete and  
mail to UU's for Social Justice, 1448 E. 52nd St, P.O.  
Box 144, Chicago, IL 60615.

Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Conference without dinner-\$10\_\_\_\_(\$12 at door)  
Conference with dinner-\$25\_\_\_\_ (submit by 12/2/02)  
Individual sponsors, including dinner (listed at event) -  
\$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Organizational sponsors, includes two tickets with  
dinners (listed in future ads and at event)-\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks, etc. payable  
to "U.U.s for Social Justice." Any profits to  
International Center for Human Rights.

### **Pagan UUs Feast and Celebrate**

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans  
(CUUPs) is a group of pagan UUs from all three  
congregations in Madison. We gather at First Unitarian  
Society to celebrate the solstices, equinoxes and the  
pagan holidays between them. Our next celebration is 5  
p.m. in the West Living Room at First Unitarian Society  
for the Winter Solstice on December 22nd. We begin  
with a potluck supper and then create a participatory,  
earth-centered ritual to honor the season. This is an  
open circle. Men, women and children of all ages are  
welcome, as are any newcomers to pagan traditions.  
Contact: Nancy Vedder-Shults, 231-3362.

### **Alternative Thanksgiving Blessings**

Meditation - *Gary Kowalski*

We give thanks for the earth and its creatures  
and are grateful from A to Z:  
For alligators, apricots, acorns and apple trees;  
For bumblebees, bananas, blueberries and beagles;  
Coconuts, crawdads, cornfields and coffee;

Daisies, elephants, and flying fish;  
For groundhog, glaciers and grasslands;  
Hippos and hazelnuts, icicles and iguanas;  
For juniper, jackrabbits and junebugs;  
Kudzo and kangaroos, lightning bugs and licorice;  
For mountains and milkweed and mistletoe;  
Narwhals and nasturtiums, otters and ocelots;  
For peonies and persimmons and polar bears;  
Quahogs and Queen Anne's Lace;  
For raspberries and roses;  
Salmon and sassafras, tornadoes and tulipwood;  
Urchins and valleys and waterfalls;  
Yaks and yams and yogurt.  
We are grateful, good Earth, not least of all,  
For zinnias, zucchini, and zebras,  
And for the alphabet of wonderful things  
that are simple as ABC.

Prayer - *Kerry Meuller*

Spirit of life, we are joined today in a moment of  
gratitude for a perfect fall day -- for a last blaze of  
sunshine in a sapphire sky, before the rain and snow --  
for gold and crimson leaves, before we are mired in  
piles of slush -- for the moment of peace and  
contemplation in which to appreciate this rare beauty.  
This moment of perfection sharpens our love for an  
imperfect world. We are reminded of the many people  
in the world who are burdened by hunger and pain, by  
sorrow and anxiety, by violence and loss. We pause  
this morning to share our concern and care for the  
people of (*whatever place is currently suffering from  
war or disaster*). May they find comfort and peace,  
and may their burdens be lifted from them.  
Closer to home, we think of (*those in the  
congregation who are suffering or sorrowing*). May  
they, too, find comfort and peace, and may their  
burdens be lightened.  
May we find it in ourselves today to work toward a  
better world. We are energized by the beauty of the  
day. May we make use of that energy to take part in  
the lifting of burdens. May our gratitude find expression  
in the care of others, both near and far. May we find  
ways to bless the world. Amen

**Office Hours for Office Administrator**

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

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on December 7, 14, and 21.**

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