



# 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."

## November 23, 2007



Prairie Fire is the semi-monthly newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. View past issues at [www.uuprairie.org](http://www.uuprairie.org).

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Saturday, November 24

\*8:00 a.m. UU Blood Drive at James Reeb UU Congregation (ends at Noon)

### Sunday, November 25

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

\*10:00 a.m. "We Give Thanks" Thanksgiving Intergenerational service led by Mary Mullen

### Tuesday, November 27

\*2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders meets at Oakwood West

### Wednesday, November 28

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

### Thursday, November 29

\*6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers at the home of Fernanda Leporace, 1338 E. Mifflin St.

### Sunday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

\*10:00 a.m. "Religion's Biology" presented by Russell Gardner

\*11:45 a.m. Parish Meeting with potluck

### Monday, December 3

7:30 p.m. Membership & Hospitality Committee

**NEXT INPUT DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**

### Wednesday, December 5

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

### Saturday, December 8

8:00 p.m. WOW (women's group) meets at the home of Kathy Converse

### Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

\*10:00 a.m. "Ways of Seeing, Part II" presented by Rick Ruecking

\*11:45 a.m. Book Club

\*12:00 p.m. Humanist Union meets for potluck and discussion: "Humanism's Contemporary Challengers: Who Controls Our Public Image?"

### Monday, December 10

7:00 p.m. Housing and Property meeting

### Wednesday, December 12

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

### Thursday, December 13

\*7:00 p.m. Film Group views *The Rules of the Game* at Prairie

### Sunday, December 16

10:00 a.m. Symbol Tree Intergenerational Service led by Erin Bosch and Ralph Tyksinski

\*11:30 a.m. "Who Are UU?" Q&A with Rev. Ralph

(\* = Details follow in this issue.)

## **DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS**

### **Sunday, November 25**

Thanksgiving is just that, a time for giving thanks. Come to this intergenerational service with your list of things you are thankful for. Bring pictures if that will help you show us what you're thankful for. We'll sing some traditional Thanksgiving hymns, share "graces" we may have learned as children or use today, and find a way to celebrate in an active way as well—a craft and maybe even by making a tasty turkey soup out of left-over Thanksgiving turkey. Oh, yes, there will be a story as well.

### **Sunday, December 2**

Religion seems to involve the non-biological "spirit," but this presentation by Russell Gardner argues that brain biology may explain many religious phenomena: these include "communicational states" shared with other animals (for example, charismatic leadership, submission, audienceship), some attributes shared less with other animals such as story-using and ally-using, and some qualities of the medial temporal lobes that foster awe experience that can cause one to feel religious. Karen Armstrong, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Mother Teresa, Teresa of Avila, and Alice Flaherty will exemplify various points.

Born in rural Wisconsin, our presenter Russell Gardner earned his M.D. at the U. of Chicago with further training and experience in psychiatry, psychoanalysis and sleep-dream research in New York City. After chairing Psychiatry at the U. North Dakota, he moved to the U. Texas Medical Branch, where he was Harry K. Davis Professor. He functions in Madison as an artist and writes on psychiatry's basic science and the biology of art and religion. He administers Epidemic Peace Imagery.

### **Sunday, December 9**

Rick Ruecking presents "Ways of Seeing". This second program of a 2-part series walks us down a weedy garden path to speculate on corruptions to "the vision thing"—propaganda, advertising, and madness—before our personal revelations. You'll share the imaginations you dream to

maintain clarity or the nightmares which impede the way of seeing your vision.

A lifelong Universalist, Rick discovered Prairie Society on a Sunday morning when door-knocking the Dunn's Marsh neighborhood on behalf of "Jerry Brown for President". That vision was postponed by the elections of 1980 to 2004 but has been resurrected again by Barack Obama. Rick was Prairie's president during the Growth Workshop of 1984 when the Society deferred 'the ministerial option and a new building' with interim goals for growth which included hiring a paid administrator, organizing the caring committee, and becoming handicap accessible with other building improvements. Since he's incapable of organization, Rick left the construction to others while sharing in the future ways of envisioning ourselves.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **FALL PARISH MEETING SET: DECEMBER 2**

We will have three items up for a vote at the Parish Meeting **Sunday, December 2**. First, the Board is recommending that we retain Ralph Tyksinski as our consulting minister for another full year.

We are further requesting that the parish formally expand the Consulting Minister position to half time, and increase the salary accordingly. Most of you are aware that Ralph has been donating just as much time as we are actually paying him for. The Board feels that he should be compensated appropriately for his service to the congregation. We will ask the parish to authorize the Board to negotiate a new contract with Ralph from June 3, 2008 (when the current contract expires) through May 31, 2009. As part of the negotiation, we would be reviewing his charges with input from the congregation.

We will be suggesting a number of bylaws changes, the most important of which is to make the Communications Committee a standing committee with representation on the Board. We always have several items on our Board agenda that would benefit from input from that committee, or in which we end up requesting their assistance. As a community that wants to grow, Prairie needs

vibrant and effective communication within our society and from our society to the wider world. Proposed changes will be posted on prairienews.

The task force on "Good Relations" (formerly known as "Right Relations") will be asking for a vote accepting the latest draft of the document describing the covenant we are making with each other as members of our Prairie community. This document has been revised multiple times, and has been worked on by a couple of Prairie standing committees as well as the task force. Its purpose is to help us be conscious and deliberate about how we treat one another so as to create the "beloved community" we want Prairie to be. The draft will be made available at Prairie later this month and distributed on the "prairienews" group. Please read it, consider carefully, and give any feedback to members of the task force: Yvonne Hiebert, Nancy Schraufnagel, Mary Somers and Ralph Tyksinski.

*Rachel Long, President*

#### **BLOOD DRIVE MOVES TO JAMES REEB**

The Red Cross Blood Drive for **Saturday, November 24** will be held at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2146 East Johnson St, Madison, rather than at Prairie. All are welcome to participate between 8:00 a.m. and noon. For further information, contact Gordon Cunningham, 230-3367.

#### **NEXT PRAIRIE ELDERS ON NOVEMBER 27**

Prairie Elders meets **Tuesday November 27**, 2:00-3:50 p.m., in the Nakoma Room, Heritage Oaks Building, Oakwood Village West.

Topic: How can individuals help meet the immediate needs of Iraqi people? Share your knowledge, bring clippings, print information from a Web site, consult an expert—or just come, listen and toss around ideas.

A July 2007 Oxfam report estimates that four million Iraqis regularly cannot buy enough to eat. Seventy percent are without adequate water supplies. Twenty-eight percent of children are malnourished, compared to 19% before the 2003 invasion. Ninety-two percent of Iraqi children suffer learning problems, mostly due to the

climate of fear. More than two million people—mostly women and children—have been displaced inside Iraq, have no regular income and are running out of coping mechanisms. A further two million Iraqis have become refugees, mainly in Syria and Jordan. A comprehensive report is available at [http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/bp105\\_humanitarian\\_challenge\\_in\\_iraq\\_0707.pdf/download](http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/bp105_humanitarian_challenge_in_iraq_0707.pdf/download)

Our monthly topics alternate between a current issue and a "show and tell" topic. Last month's topic about becoming UUs engendered fascinating stories of our searches for truth and meaning. Curiosity was a common theme.

Typically, we begin and end our gathering with casual conversation. The Nakoma Room is open at 1:30 for those who wish to come early to visit. Participants are welcome to come and go as necessary for appointments, rides, chair attendants, etc.

**REFRESHMENTS:** If convenient, please bring a small handful of snacks to pass and your own beverage cup.

**ABOUT US:** Prairie Elders aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU Members and Friends over 65. We also welcome other UUs who live in the facility where we meet.

For directions, rides, parking and further information please contact Donna Murdoch 238-3802. Rosemary Dorney 238-4382 or Rose Smith 233-3363.

#### **SPANISH SPEAKERS ANNOUNCES MEETING**

Spanish Speakers will meet for potluck and conversation, **Thursday, November 29**, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Fernanda Leporace, 1338 E. Miffiin St. For directions or information, call Fernanda at 772-0931 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

#### **HUMANIST UNION DISCUSSES HUMANISM'S PUBLIC IMAGE**

On **Sunday, December 9**, we will hear Doleta Chapru's presentation on Humanism's Contemporary Challengers: Who controls our public image? She will review contemporary groups and individuals who specifically define humanists as enemies to be loathed and feared.

Discussion will focus on publicizing humanist values and upholding those values through legal action.

As usual we will start with a potluck lunch at noon, with the presentation starting about 12:20 p.m. and discussion winding up about 1:30 p.m. If you can't join us but would like to hear the program later, check the bottom of our Events page at <http://humanist.madisonwi.us/events.htm> for a link to an MP3 file of the program.

### WINTER BOOK CLUB MEETINGS PLANNED

The Prairie Book Club meets after the Sunday service on the specified dates, usually starting about 11:45 a.m. Participants bring food to share. We meet in the "couch room" downstairs. Anyone is welcome, whether you have completed the book or not. For more information, contact Mary Mullen, 298-0843, or [mmullen\(at\)chorus.net](mailto:mmullen@chorus.net).



Upcoming Prairie Book Club selections, December to February:

**December 9** — *Timebends*, Arthur Miller's autobiography.

**January 13** — *Call It Sleep* by Henry Roth is about three years in the life of an immigrant Jewish boy in New York in the early 20th century. The author is said to borrow from James Joyce. Henry Roth wrote this book, then didn't publish another for 60 years.

**February 10** — *Murder in Amsterdam* by Ian Buruma is about the murder of the Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh and also delves into how Islam treats women (suggested by Donna Murdoch who, I believe, has read the book. Read some background on Van Gogh and a review of the book at [http://www.salon.com/books/review/2006/09/27/buruma/index\\_np.html](http://www.salon.com/books/review/2006/09/27/buruma/index_np.html).

### PRAIRIE MOVIE GROUP VIEWS *THE RULES OF THE GAME*

The Movie Group will meet at Prairie at 7:00 p.m., **Thursday, December 13**, to view *The Rules of the Game*. This 1939 film by Jean Renoir has been ranked in several lists of the top ten movies ever. It is a satirical look at upper class French society as World War II is dawning.

Bring snacks to share and a hunger for a good film.

### WHO ARE UU SESSIONS PLANNED

Who wrote the Seven Principles? Are UUs theists? Where does UUism fit into history? Can one be a Buddhist and a UU too? If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, you may have such questions as these and more.

Following the service on **Sunday, December 16**, Rev. Ralph will be on hand to supply answers and give an overview of the rich heritage of Unitarian Universalism. Gatherings will be in the couch room downstairs at Prairie.

### REV. RALPH'S RUMINATIONS

As I have referred to the humor of Garrison Keillor in several of my Sunday service

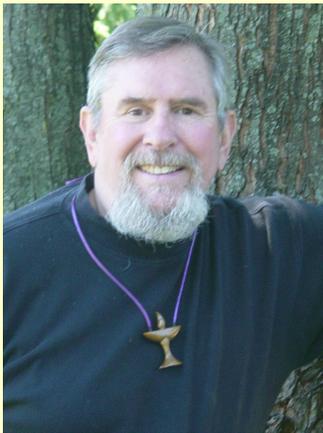


reflections, I should also mention that he has made some pretty good theological observations. He loves to mock our Unitarian practices and I must admit that I'm not always comforted by his "digs" about us because they can cut "close to the bone."

He tells of the Unitarian missionary who received a vision to "go west and convert the Indians to Christianity by the means of interpretive dance." He talks about the Unitarian Channel on cable TV, "which is what the fishing channel would be like if they didn't actually put the fish hooks and lines in the water, but just sat around and discussed whether or not there really are fish." He says that arguing with a Unitarian Universalist "is like wrestling with a pig. Pretty soon you realize the pig likes it."

One of Garrison's most telling observations about Unitarian Universalists is that we don't believe in

sin, only in “failures to communicate.” As UU’s, most of us have no place in our belief systems for a doctrine of sin in the fundamentalist sense of sin as acts that condemn one to eternal damnation and a burn-in-hellfire sense. Many of the UU’s that I know, however, do acknowledge that our ways of speaking to one another can be received as hurtful and disrespectful.



For the past two years a document on defining “Good Relations” has been developed by a Prairie member’s Task Group. A draft of this document was recently reviewed by the Board at its November 18 meeting. No action was taken other than to continue the “process” of developing its statements.

As a religious community, Prairie has high goals and aspirations.

Our Unitarian Universalist principles affirm “the inherent worth and dignity of every person . . . compassion in human relations . . . acceptance of one another . . . respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part.”

The document: “A Covenant of Good Relations” was developed and crafted to face squarely and intentionally the challenge of relating to one another in ways consonant with our high ideals.

The intention of a “Covenant” is to simply serve as a set of promises we make to one another about how we treat one another. It can serve as a reminder of *how* we want to relate to one another. Ultimately, *how* we are is inseparable from *who* we are. No matter who we think we are or what we think is important, *how* we are is what shows up. It’s how we are remembered.

The word “covenant” comes from the Middle French “covenir” to agree (lit. “to come together”). As Prairie goes forward in the coming months we will be continuing to engage one another in the serious work of visioning. Hopefully, we can continue to share our deepest longings for the future of our congregation, and this may include

honoring some of our proudest moments, but also may include some of our more frustrating memories. We should be listening to one another with open hearts and open minds. The Covenant of Good Relations may serve as a helpful guide for doing the work of mindful communicating, and striving to “come together” around a future for Prairie UU Society that is achievable and sustainable.

Glad to be journeying with you,

*Ralph*

## **DRAFT OF THE COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS**

What follows is the 11/19/07 draft of the “Covenant of Good Relations” for our society. We will be asking for a vote embracing the covenant by our society at the Parish Meeting on **December 2**. We will likely continue to fine tune the wording, and invite you to give suggestions to the current task force members Yvonne Hiebert, Nancy Schrafnagel, Mary Somers, and Ralph Tyksinski. The latest draft will be distributed at the meeting.

*Rachel Long, President*

## CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

Preamble: This Covenant of Good Relations is Prairie UU Society’s written expression of our Society’s commitment to create an environment where members and friends treat each other well. We agree that being a community means that we are committed to respecting and caring about each other.

Serving Our Prairie Community—We work in service to each other and our congregation with the goal of fostering a warm, safe and energetic community.

Behaviors:

- o Encourage people to make choices that balance their needs with the needs of others
- o Inform each other about opportunities to serve
- o Emphasize generosity and humor
- o Honor and acknowledge the service of others

- o Use organizational processes that are fair and honest
- o Support new approaches and growth
- o Use the bylaws to make decisions

Caring for Our Community—We work to use our hearts and hands to help each other in life transitions and family crises and tend to our relationships.

Behaviors:

- o Work on our relationships with everyone in the community
- o Want and work for things that others value, as well as what you value
- o Acknowledge and support caretakers among us
- o Look for places where there are gaps and fill in or help find someone to do it
- o Create an environment where people feel comfortable in making their needs known.

Welcoming and Hospitality—We work to welcome all who enter, extending our welcome to providing hospitality, which nurtures people's bodies and spirits.

Behaviors:

- o Greet people warmly: visitors, guests and regulars
- o Participate in programs which help a new person get involved
- o Create materials that will help people to know us

Embracing Diversity—We accept people with diverse religious, ethnic heritage and cultural traditions, and political leanings, class traditions, generational experience, gender orientation, ages, and ability differences.

Behaviors:

- o Respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person
- o Regularly practice engaging with others who are different from us
- o Examine oppression of minority groups and racism inherent in our culture
- o Challenge bigotry in all its forms

Listening and Speaking—We listen and speak with respect and attention.

Behaviors:

- o Honor people's feelings and points of view even if you disagree
- o Allow others to complete their thoughts without interrupting.
- o Allow all voices to be heard
- o Speak without blame or judgement
- o Ask questions to understand
- o Speak from your own experiences and not for others
- o Avoid gossip
- o Show civility and appreciation toward program presenters.

Transforming Conflict and Disagreement—We work to have respectful relationships, and strive to resolve conflicts.

Behaviors:

- o Discuss our differences
- o Stay engaged with each other through difficult conversations
- o Hold ourselves responsible for hearing all sides
- o Work to dispel judgmental attitudes that demean or dismiss another in thought or deed
- o Honour each other's emotions
- o Trust that we are all doing what we think is right

Forgiving and Reconciling—We see forgiveness and reconciling as a way to stay connected and create a safe community.

Behaviors:

- o Acknowledge our own imperfections and accept those of others
- o Take action to forgive others by initiating contact, asking for help as necessary and utilizing available services, e.g. peer mediator, the minister, district resources.
- o Forgive ourselves
- o Offer and accept sincere apologies
- o Strive to keep relationships in good repair

May we, as Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, strive to live up to this commitment through practicing the use of these attitudes and behaviors.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW...ERIK SCHROEDER

We will be featuring some of our Religious Education “graduates” periodically to give an update on some of their lives and the role Prairie UU and the religious education program has played for them. Erik Schroeder, son of Orange and Dean Schroeder, kindly agreed to an “e-mail interview.” I think you will appreciate reading Erik’s reflections and learning about his current work. (Aileen N.)

### Where are you today and what are you doing?

I live in Chicago and work as Marketing Manager for Chicago Children's Theatre. I've also maintained a performing career as an actor and drummer. I remain active by running marathons and doing triathlons.

### When were you in Prairie RE and what are some of your best recollections about being part of the RE program at Prairie, including your “younger” years?

I was in RE from elementary through High School (so approximately 1986 -1999). I have many happy memories including overnight retreats, circle dinners, field trips to numerous 'churches next door', and countless Sundays gathering with good friends. As far as the younger years go, I don't remember a whole lot, but I always enjoyed the craft projects during the holidays. The symbol tree and the intergenerational services during the holidays were also fun. I think at one point we made a 'time machine' out of a cardboard box to take us to different time periods in the history of Unitarianism. “The Church Across the Street” was a memorable year, encountering exotic religions from Quakers (down the street from my house!) to Buddhists (in Deer Park).

### In what ways do “Things you learned in RE” have an impact on your life as a young adult?

In RE and at Prairie I learned the importance of a community and the roles that faith, spirituality and elders play in that community. Respect was another big thing I learned. Respect for people's differences, and respect for their beliefs. My perspective on the world is based on that respect; the way I treat people and interact with my surroundings.

### Tell a bit about your “route” to your present work in theater.

I've always been involved in music, from piano lessons to Madison Children's Choir, to my dad setting up his old drum set for me in our attic. I began to express my theatricality as early as Kindergarten (I often arrived in costume), but my first appearance on stage was the summer after my freshman year in high school when my dad suggested auditioning for The Savoyards production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. After being in numerous productions in Madison and at college, I discovered that the nomadic lifestyle of an actor was not for me. When I found out that I could work for a theatre without having to move around, I took that route and did internships (in theater administration and marketing) at The Madison Repertory Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, and Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago. After graduating from St. Olaf College in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts (I started as a music major and then broadened my focus), I moved to Chicago to take a job at Lookingglass, and then a marketing position at the newly founded Chicago Children's Theatre, where I've learned the ins and outs of nonprofit family arts marketing. The arts have remained at the forefront of my focus because it's something compelling that I can get behind. Life is about interactions with people, and artists are some of the more interesting folks to work with. Almost everyone I know in Chicago is an artist, musician, actor or dancer.

### What else can you share with Prairie friends?

Never stop learning. Many of my most important lessons in life have been learned by doing, not by being taught. If you want to find out about something, people are your best resources. Talk to people. Conduct informational interviews. By interacting with people, you teach them as you learn from them. RE provides a unique learning environment that is interactive (promoting dialogue) and experiential (in units like church across the street). Also, remain active. Run. Learn to swim. Go for a bike ride (wearing a helmet).

## FALLING INTO FALL

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! "Thanksgiving?" some of you may ask. Yes, Thanksgiving, remember that holiday? I've been noticing that this special holiday is slowly being replaced by early Christmas shopping and holiday displays. I'm happy to know Prairie will still be celebrating this thankful holiday this coming Sunday.



Last month RE students celebrated another holiday: Deepavali or Diwali. This is the Indian Festival of Lights, a time where the Hindu gods prevail over the darkness. We lit various lights to chase away the dark spirits. After our candle light dinner we played flashlight tag and then Karen Deaton lit fireworks outside. Later several of our young people carved pumpkins while the rest watched a movie.

The night ended with a bedtime story for the younger children and another movie for the high school students. This Fall Frolic was very different from previous years. The majority of the 23 participants was in grades 1-6 and stayed overnight. I would like to send a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all who volunteered on that very busy night: Erin Bosch, Karen Deaton, Anne Urbanski and Aileen Nettleton. I would also like to thank all those who were brave enough to spend the night: Mary Mullen, Patty Stockdale (who also made breakfast the following morning) Randy Converse and Karen Deaton. Thank you so very much for dedicating your valuable time to RE.

We're heading into our busiest time of the year: the holiday season. RE teachers, students and the committee are busy planning out the events for the month of December.

On **December 2**, the high school class will learn about the religious holidays for the month of December: Christmas, Chanukah, Winter Solstice and Eid al-Fitr.

**December 9** is our annual Nifty Gifty. This is a delightful occasion where our young people make gifts for family and friends. There will be 10 tables set up downstairs with a different craft to be made on each one. Everyone will have the chance to go to each table and make a "nifty" gift. Afterwards they can wrap their gifts in holiday paper and

place it in a bag for safe keeping until it's ready to be open.

**December 16** is our annual Symbol Tree service. This will be a time to place a symbol on the tree and tell others what it means to you.

**December 23** is our Christmas Intergenerational service. Our young people will meet downstairs for a nice cozy celebration. Stories will be read and there will be cookies and hot chocolate.

If you would like to take part in our holiday celebration please let me know, we would love to have you!

*Rebecca Malke (YREC)*

[youthcoordinator\(at\)uuprairie.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@uuprairie.org)

## NOVEMBER RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- 24 —Guru Tegh Bahadur martyrdom (Sikh)
- 24 —Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)
- 25 —Christ the King (Christian)
- 26 —Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
- 28 —Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)
- 30 —St. Andrew's Day (Christian)

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWS

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK BULLETIN

Did you know? Thirty families in our programs were able to spend Thanksgiving at home with their families this year because they have moved from homelessness to housing with IHN's help. And countless more from years past are celebrating another holiday season in their homes. We are thankful to each one of you who made that possible. Your gifts of time, food, funds and household items have truly made a difference.

A mom who has just moved into housing, and has just gotten her first full-time paycheck, shared a thank you that really made us count our own blessings. "I'm so glad you have pots and pans for us at IHN" she said, "because I love to cook,

but I can't buy any pots and pans this month because I had to buy a trash can." How wonderful that those of us who have never had to make those kinds of choices can make life a little better for families who must. We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

### **NEW UU-UNO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The UU-UNO has offered the position of Executive Director to Mr. Bruce Knotts. He will begin on January 1, 2008. Bruce brings an extensive background in international relations to this position and is eager to apply his experience to the challenge of the Executive Director.

### **UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS**

To purchase UUSC holiday cards, visit <http://www.uusc.org/holidaycards>.

Three beautiful new UUSC holiday cards are now available. Proceeds from the sale of holiday cards help UUSC advance justice and work for basic human rights in the name of UU principles.

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### **JOURNEY TOWARDS WHOLENESS NEWS**

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#### **National Conference Call on World AIDS Day**

Hello, UU Global AIDS Community. Our fall 2007 national conference call takes place Sunday, November 18, at 5.00 PST. Call number 309-747-2540, access code 237-704. ( Remember to adjust for your local time!)

Our conference calls are a unique opportunity to connect with other UU's who are active in addressing the devastation caused by the global AIDS pandemic. We will have updates on plans for World AIDS Day on December 1st, and on advocacy efforts on behalf of the PATHWAY bill and PEPFAR legislation, and I will be reporting on what UUGAC is doing at the international level including the recent conference of the ICUU (International Council of UU's.).

Good thoughts,

*Ann Pickar, Chair, UU Global AIDS Coalition*

#### **Beacon Broadside to honor Veterans with Week-long Coverage**

Beacon Broadside is publishing stories by and about vets of three wars that honor their service and give voice to their experience and concerns.

Beacon Broadside is an extension of the mission of Beacon Press. It provides a forum for essays, news items, and dispatches from Beacon authors, authors who serve as advisors or friends of the house, staff and others. The blog is also a forum for discussion, with all posts open for comments by readers.

*Susan Leslie, UUA Director for Congregational Advocacy and Witness*

### **PRAIRIE WEB SITES**

Society Home Page: <http://uuprairie.org/>

News Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/>

Views: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/>

Social Action: <http://socialaction.madisonwi.us>

Humanist Union: <http://humanist.madisonwi.us>