

# Cookies sweeten the pot for Hoxie United Methodist

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Cookie lovers got their fill at the United Methodist Church in Hoxie cookie sale on Wednesday.

For the past 15 years, ladies at the Cross and Flame Parish have baked cookies and sold them before Christmas as a way to raise money for a variety of projects.

"We send kids to camp, send college students a gift box during finals and do kitchen improvements," said Harriett Richardson.

Co-organizer of the event, Richardson joked about the cookie sale's beginning.

"The late Opal Spillman had this idea," she said. "Well actually we

both read it in a magazine and thought it would be fun. We did it a couple years in conjunction with the annual soup supper, but that didn't work because people would walk in and smell cabbage and soup smells and not the cookies."

Richardson said she served as chairman many of the past 15 years, handing the reins over to Jan Andregg two years ago.

While originally in a Sunday School room, Richardson said moving the event into the large community room of the church has allowed a larger variety of cookies. Usually having eight tables full of cookies, each buyer receives a plastic glove and plastic carry carton and is allowed to pick and choose

cookies at \$6 per pound.

The proceeds of the sale not only benefits Methodist youth for functions outside the community, it allows the ladies to honor those who have worshipped along side them in the past.

"Another thing we do is take a carton of cookies to Methodist shut-ins," Richardson said.

Making the sale even more fun is buyers are given an opportunity to put their name in for door prizes. Decorated cookie jars or party plates are among items given away, and last year's prizes were sleighs decorated with ribbons and filled with an assortment of, what else, cookies.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press  
LaDeane Reese, left, helped Jan Andregg put cookies on tables for the 15th annual Methodist ladies' cookie sale Wednesday at Cross and Flame Parish of the United Methodist Church in Hoxie.

# Celebrating the holidays politely

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Courtney Kuehn went to a Hmong wedding and — surprise! — tradition dictated a toast to her old college roommate, Paul Purdy went to synagogue with a Jewish girlfriend and accidentally stood for the Mourner's Kaddish.

Such trans-cultural encounters are common in a nation under many gods, especially this time of year when celebrations often involve friends from other faiths. Questions come up. Is it OK to serve pork at a holiday party? Should my Buddhist friend get a Christmas card?

Religious etiquette guides offer some answers.

The books, including "How to be a Perfect Stranger" and "Multicultural Manners," focus on issues far weightier than recognizing salad forks. Inside, is advice on how to be sensitive to other faiths and cultures. A few examples:

- Do wear white at a Hindu funeral, (it's the faith's symbolic color of mourning)
- Don't order a beer at a Muslim wedding reception (Islamic law forbids alcohol)
- Washing of the feet, symbolizing Jesus' love for humanity, is optional for guests at a Seventh-day Adventist ceremony
- During Hanukkah, which begins at sundown Friday, you light a shammash and eat a sufganiot (one is a candle, the other a doughnut).

The advice is especially useful in a nation becoming more diverse. Changes in U.S. immigration law during the 1960s allowed more non-Europeans into the country, increasing the presence of minority faiths.

"Clearly, there are dramatic changes that have taken place in our country in the last 50 years," said Stuart M. Matlins, a co-editor of "Perfect Stranger" and editor of companion guides for weddings and funerals.

While exact statistics are difficult to calculate, there are thought to be more than a million Hindus in the United States, at least several million Buddhists, and several million Muslims and Jews. Even the nation's dominant faith, Christianity, is far from monolithic. Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists and Episcopalians each have distinctive practices.

Cultural collisions are unavoidable.

Albany resident Purdy, raised in a Christian home, went to synagogue in October with his then-girlfriend's family for Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, when he inadvertently stood for the mourning prayer. He realized his gaffe and sat down again quickly.

Purdy's interfaith philosophy is "if you're paying attention, you'll do OK." But the guides are for other people who want to make sure, or for the curious.

Kuehn, from Lakeville, Minn., was close enough to her Hmong friend to be one of those called upon to make a traditional toast around a big table at her wedding. She still wonders whether her all-English good wishes came across to the Hmong-speaking guests.

"I'm not sure if everyone understood me," she said.

More Americans are seeking help to clear up the cultural confusion.

"Perfect Stranger" went into its fourth edition this year and has sold more than 75,000 copies, Matlins said. Barnes & Noble is promoting the book for the holidays on the religion-themed tables in its stores.

"Multicultural Manners" is in its second edition and has sold more than 50,000 copies, said author Norine Dresser, who more recently wrote "Come As You Aren't! Feeling at Home with Multicultural Celebrations."

The books share retail shelf space with guides less concerned with interfaith how-to, but with explaining faiths like "Jewish Holidays, a Brief Introduction for Christians" or "Understanding Islam and the Muslims."

Authors say the books meet complementary needs — for people to understand their neighbors and for people to have their faith understood.

Consider the popularity of religious "open houses," events that give humanizing glimpses behind the doors of synagogues, churches and mosques. American Muslims, in particular, have been opening their doors with a sense of mission since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Islamic Center of Long Island, which has been inviting people for many years, shows a 30-minute film on Islam and lets visitors watch prayers. Habeeb Ahmed, president of the Westbury, N.Y., center says the first five minutes can be a little tense for visitors, but they are soon at ease. If a female visitor lacks a head covering, "that is not a big deal."

That kind of flexibility seems crucial on the path to understanding.

Dresser mentions a widely distributed e-mail satire about a hapless human resource director who renames the Christmas party a "holiday party" to include Jews, then must accommodate Muslims fasting for Ramadan, a drumming circle for goddess worshippers, and so on until she is driven insane.

While it's not that extreme, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., changed its staff Christmas party to a holiday party, and then finally to a year-end appreciation event.

Curtis Powell, vice president for human resources, said they take care to complement the Christmas tree with other decorations representing other faiths. And if they serve pork, it's on a separate table.

Dresser says it's hard to please everybody, though a little understanding goes a long way.

"I would still have the end of year party, and if there was a Christmas tree, no big deal," Dresser said, "And if somebody wanted to put up a candelabra for Hanukkah, that would be fine with me."

On the Net:  
Islamic Center of Long Island: <http://www.icliny.org/>  
Norine Dresser: <http://www.norinedresser.com/>

[www.norinedresser.com/](http://www.norinedresser.com/)  
Skylight Paths Publishing: <http://www.skylightpaths.com/>



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656

## Schedule of church services

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, [www.colbyberean.com](http://www.colbyberean.com/); Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Rev. Carroll H. Morony, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867. Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Christmas program followed by potluck dinner

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/>

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER**, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: [fcclcolby@st-tel.net](mailto:fcclcolby@st-tel.net)

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at [www.trinitycolby.com](http://www.trinitycolby.com)

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

# Cubans mark anniversary

HAVANA (AP) — A top executive of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) helped Cubans celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the capital's first Protestant house of worship, giving a sermon in which he urged all Christians to do more to eliminate global inequality.

The Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, the Presbyterian stated clerk, spoke in both English and Spanish to hundreds of followers and diplomats at the Dec. 10 ceremony in central Havana. Delegations from Florida

and Washington D.C. were also present.

"A better world is possible," said the U.S. clergyman. He said Christians must work toward creating a planet where everyone has a dignified life and enough to eat and drink.

Kirkpatrick first came to Cuba 20 years ago. He spoke of the history of the church, which was inaugurated in 1906 and hosted the founding of the Cuban Council of Churches in 1941, the membership organization for Protestant groups in the country.

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