... 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.*

*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**

**May 25**
Memorial Weekend Picnic at the Briggs' home on Storytown Road in Oregon. Details inside.

**June 1**
10:00 a.m. Allison Kent presents "The UUSC Promotes Human Rights in Latin America"

**June 8**
10:00 a.m. Mary Mullen "Summer Reading: Book Reviews" Please feel free to discuss books you have read and would recommend to others.

**June 15**
10:00 a.m. Rev. Gordon Gibson, "Small Acts of Great Courage." Rev Gibson serves at a UU church in Elkhart, IN (Many years ago he worked with Prairie as part of a District program, developing some dreams and plans.)

**June 22**
10:00 a.m. Summer Outdoor Service at Picnic Point. No service at Prairie unless inclement weather. See directions inside.

**June 29**
10:00 a.m. To be announced

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**July 6**
Independence Day Picnic. Details to be announced.

**July 13**
10:00 a.m. A Report from Our Delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

**September 12-14**
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society’s Retreat.

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**Next Prairie Fire deadline is**
**Sunday, June 1, 2003**

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**DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, June 1**
"UUSC Promotes Human Rights in Latin America." Allison Kent, UUSC associate, works on women's rights issues with the Pro Mujer Association of Villa Nueva in Guatemala. She will discuss that and other Unitarian Universalist Service Committee work in Central America.

Amidst ongoing news of worldwide destruction, this is a program about our denomination's efforts to improve the welfare of people on our planet. It is also an opportunity to learn, first hand, how our UUSC contributions are spent.
UUSC has a long history of serving peoples in need. One UUSC specialty is to provide crucial help to other service organizations that may have larger budgets but crippling restrictions. A not-so-far-fetched example: If an organization's budget only allows money for ambulances, UUSC may furnish the gasoline.

Sunday, June 8. Summer Reading Book Reviews moderated by Mary Mullen.

Sunday, June 15 The Reverend Gordon Gibson's sermon is entitled "Small Acts of Great Courage." He writes: "Three years ago on sabbatical I continued a process begun while I served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Mississippi, and I collected oral histories of what southern Unitarian Universalists did during the civil rights era. There are high points and low points, but over all it is a record of "small acts of great courage" by housewives, school children -- average people, with a vision far above average inspired and sustained by their religious community."

Gordon Gibson was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He earned degrees from Yale and Tufts, and next week Starr King School for the Ministry intends to confer an honorary doctorate on him. He has served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart since 1985, and will be in town to officiate at the wedding of Ellie Mandt, one of the "young kids" when he started in Elkhart. Prior to Elkhart, Gordon served Unitarian Universalist congregations in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and in Jackson and Ellisville, Mississippi.

Sunday, June 22 We will share our appreciation of the joys and wonders of nature in an outdoor service at Picnic Point. Picnic Point is located on University Bay Drive. You can turn north on University Bay Drive directly off of University Avenue, past First Society, and continue on until you reach the parking lot. There will be signs directing you to where we will meet. In the past we have always found a spot under the trees at a little hill about 200 feet from the main entrance. (The joys and wonders of nature include rain, but not for our service. In case of inclement weather we will meet at the Meeting House.)

Please note: If you have a message for the co-chairs of the Program Committee, please address it to both Dolita Chapru and Warren Hagstrom (dchapru@aol.com, warrenolaf@aol.com). We may live together, but we don't usually read one another's e-mail.

OUR SOCIETY

Prairie Picnic
Submitted by Mike and Norma Briggs

On May 25, the more or less traditional Prairie picnic is at our place, rain or shine.

Arrive any time after 11. Bring a substantial dish to pass (OK, wise guys, with something edible in it). We'll plan on eating around 1:00. Bring your beverage of choice (we'll do coffee, tea and lemonade. There will be croquet and bocce, weather permitting. Also bring lawn chairs just in case. Your own plates and eating irons would be nice but not absolutely necessary. Paper plates and plastic ware will be available.

And please leave the space closest to the house and garage for parking for people who have disabled plates or hangers. Thanks.

Here's how to find us:

From downtown and east side Madison

O Go south on Fish Hatchery Road, crossing the Beltline and going more or less straight out through the suburbs and into the country to a four-way stop sign (about six miles from the Beltline).
O Turn right (County Highway M).
O At the top of the hill, turn left (Blizzard).
O At the end of Blizzard, turn left (Purcell).
O In about two blocks, the road goes sharp right and has a new name (Storytown). Our mailbox (1519) is the 7th on the right, and the driveway is immediately after it. Keep veering to your right -- our house is back up the hill to the right.

From the west side of Madison

O Head out of town on US Hwy 18/151 (Verona
Road). Go past the traffic lights at County Highway PD to the second exit (92).

- At the traffic light at the bottom of the ramp, turn left on to County Highway PB.
- At the four way stop sign, turn left (County Highway M).
- After about three miles, take the second right turn (at the top of a hill) on to Blizzard.
- At the end of Blizzard, turn left (Purcell).
- In about two blocks, the road goes sharp right and has a new name (Storytown). Our mailbox (1519) is the 7th on the right, and the driveway is immediately after it. Keep veering to your right -- our house is back up the hill to the right.

**Raising Voices in Thanks**  
*Submitted by Barbara Park*

Many thanks to the choir for an excellent season. Special thanks go to Doleta Chapru and Dan Proud for directing and keeping the choir going while I was away this winter and spring.

**Rachel Has Moved**  
*Submitted by Marilyn Ruecking*

Rachel Siegfried has moved to Oakwood Village. She now resides at Oakwood Gallery, Room 418. Her new telephone number is 238-7739. Please mark the change in your directory.

**Help Wanted**  
*Submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee*

To date, the most affordable and commodious site we have found for the next Prairie building is at the Fitchburg Center. The committee doesn't want to stop looking, especially in view of the genuine concerns people have expressed about relocating to Fitchburg.

This is an appeal for assistance. Between now and the date of the parish meeting on June 1, please let us know if you can think of any sites, with or without existing buildings, that might work for Prairie, and let us have as many details of the site as you can (address, price, type and condition of existing building(s), if any). Barbara Chatterton is continuing to check properties listed for sale, but if you or your friends or neighbors know of any possibilities, please share them with the committee via me. Thanks for your help.

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**Local Invitation**

**Nominations Sought for Community Awards**  
*Submitted by Nancy Schraufniagel*

OutReach, Madison & Dane County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community center, is seeking nominations of individuals, organizations, and businesses who have made outstanding contributions to our LGBT communities. Awards will be presented at OutReach's Eleven Annual Community Awards Banquet, to be held Wednesday, July 16, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

Nominations are a means of acknowledging some of the people whose work--sometimes visible, sometimes not--makes such a remarkable contribution to Madison's LGBT community. A committee of community members reviews the nominations and selects award recipients. Past award winners, OutReach staff and board members are not eligible.

Award categories are David Runyon Memorial Man of the Year, Susan Green Memorial Woman of the Year, Business or Organization of the Year, Ally of the Year (non-LGBT individuals or groups that support the LGBT community) and OutReach Volunteer of the Year. The nominations committee also will entertain nominations in other categories, such as special recognition for individual service. Nomination forms are available at OutReach (600 Williamson St, 255-8582) or on-line at www.outreachinc.com. Nominations must be received by May 31, 2003.

Mailing Address: OutReach Inc.  
600 Williamson St, Suite P-1  
Madison, WI 53703
Prairie Fire Reminder

Remember that through the summer months the Prairie Fire is issued only one time per month. Please keep that in mind as you consider information that you would like to get to other members in advance.

The deadline is the first Sunday of each month. The next deadline is June 1st.

For your Consideration

An excerpt from Jonathon Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach (Submitted by Wendy Williams)

It was morning, and the new sun sparkled gold across the ripples of a gentle sea.

A mile from shore a fishing boat chummed the water, and the world for Breakfast Flock flashed through the air, till a crowd of a thousand seagulls came to dodge and fight for bits of food. It was another busy day beginning.

But way off alone, out by himself beyond boat and shore, Jonathan Livingston Seagull was practicing. A hundred feet in the sky he lowered his webbed feet, lifted his beak, and strained to hold a painful hard twisting curve through his wings. The curve meant that he would fly slowly, and now he slowed until the wind was a whisper in his face, until the ocean stood still beneath him. He narrowed his eyes in fierce concentration, held his breath, forced one... more... inch... of... curve... Then his feathers ruffled, he stalled and fell.

Seagulls, as you know, never falter, never stall. To stall in the air is for them disgrace and it is dishonor.

But Jonathan Livingston Seagull, unashamed, stretching his wings again in that trembling hard curve—slowing, slowing, and stalling once more—was no ordinary bird.

Most gulls don’t bother to learn more than the simplest facts of flight—how to get from shore to food and back again. For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it was not eating that mattered, but flight. More than anything else, Jonathon Livingston Seagull loved to fly.

This kind of thinking, he found, is not the way to make one’s self popular with the other birds. Even his parents were dismayed as Jonathan spent whole days alone, making hundreds of low-level glides, experimenting.

He didn’t know why, for instance, but when he flew at altitudes less than half his wingspan above the water, he could stay in the air longer, with less effort. His glides ended not with the usual feet-down splash into the sea, but with a long flat wake as he touched the surface with his feet tightly streamlined against his body. When he began sliding in to feet-up landings on the beach, then pacing the length of his slide in the sand, his parents were very much dismayed indeed.

Jonathan nodded obediently. For the next few days he tried to behave like the other gulls; he really tried, screeching and fighting with the flock around the piers and fishing boats, diving on scraps of fish and bread. But he couldn’t make it work.

It’s all so pointless, he thought, deliberately dropping a hard-won anchovy to a hungry old gull chasing him. I could be spending all this time learning to fly. There’s so much to learn!

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on June 14, 21 & 28.
Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933