



# THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie  
*A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

February 2023 Newsletter

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance to one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

## CALENDAR

10 AM IN OUR MEETING ROOM  
(ZOOM CONNECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED)

### Feb 5 – Book Discussion Group “Braiding Sweetgrass”

This is the 2nd discussion of the book and will cover the next two sections: Tending Sweetgrass and Picking Sweetgrass. The discussion will be led by Juliana Schmidt and Sherry Hagen.

### Feb 12 – Service with Dennis Peters, “In the Land of the Giants”

I dreamed I was visiting a successful farming community. It was rich, productive land. The people... All the men were at least a foot taller than I. The women: mostly half a foot taller. I felt intimidated. What was I doing here? They all seemed more capable than I.

### Feb 19 – Speaker from JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope)

JONAH exists to “deepen relationships within and among faith communities and partner organizations to empower people in addressing the root causes of social injustice in the greater community”, to quote their mission statement. JONAH works on such issues as affordable housing, child poverty, immigration, the environment, and mental health.

### Feb 26 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Hermetically Sealed”

This normally means a seal so tight that air cannot go in or out. Let’s use it in a different sense today: a brain hermetically sealed, such that no thoughts or ideas can get out. Or in.



## DAVE WILLIAMS, This is my Song



It has been exceedingly difficult to contemplate the war against Ukraine. Our forefathers fought World War II, hoping to put an end to such evil dalliance by dictators, hoping to bring peace to a Europe and world which had known such infrequent stretches of peace.

As I pondered this recently, I remembered probably my favorite hymn from our Unitarian Universalist hymnal, number 159. “This Is My Song” seems suitable for a world anthem, with its wishes for any who sing it to appreciate the beauty which surrounds us, but to remember that beauty exists in all other lands too. Consider the words:

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace, for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is,  
Here are my hopes, my dreams my holy shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine,  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
O hear my song thou God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

For a moving rendition of this song, Google “Schola Diffusa: This Is My Song.” Schola Diffusa formed during the early days of the Covid 19 pandemic with singers all over the country singing from their homes but blended into an amazing choir. There are other versions of the song out there too—Joan Baez sang it some years back, though she incorrectly called it the national anthem of Finland.

It is indeed a national song of Finland, thanks to the music composed by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). He composed the song he called Finlandia in 1899-1900. With a little research, I learned that the words above were composed by a southern Californian named Lloyd Stone. Stone (1912-1993) was a music major at the University of Southern California who was studying to become a music teacher. Instead, he joined a circus headed for Hawaii, and remained there the rest of his life, writing poetry and songs—I couldn't tell if he remained with the circus. “This Is My Song” was his work in 1934. Stone's poem was set to the music of Finlandia shortly after Stone wrote the words by Ira B. Wilson.

But the song's story doesn't end there. An early Methodist theologian named Georgina Harkness (1891-1974), who had a passion for poetry and the arts, wrote additional verses. Here's her third stanza:

May truth and freedom come to every nation,  
May peace abound where strife has raged so long.  
That each may seek to love and build together  
A world united, righting every wrong;  
A world united in its love for freedom  
Proclaiming peace together in one song.

Sibelius' music is also part of a Christian hymn called “Be Still My Soul”, the words of which were first composed by the German Catharina von Schlegel (1697-1768) in 1752, and set to the tune Finlandia in the 20th century. You can watch a version of this sung by a full church at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, including now-King Charles III and his two sons. The history of “This Is My Song” makes it no less poignant in these troubled times. Would that it might be translated into Russian and sung with conviction just now.

(Note: I owe gratitude to Wikipedia for historical information for this essay.)

[Announcement from Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network](#)

Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network has an upcoming virtual event for all Wisconsin Unitarian Universalists and friends. Could you please share this with your congregation/fellowship? Thank you in advanced!

Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network (WUUSAN) is beginning a book club this month to talk about water pollution. We will be reading "To Be a Water Protector: The Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers" by Winona LaDuke. We will have a launch party on Zoom on January 29th at 4 pm CT with the goal of learning a bit more about one another and talk about the format of this book club! Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/qN5eKHtPjBLJsgCP6>

You can join the book club if you cannot attend the launch Party! We will begin the discussion after the Launch party, so you also do not need to have begun the book by January 29th. Then for the book club discussion, we will discuss the book through guided questions provided by WUUSAN on a private facebook group. That way, YOU can join the discussion as it fits best in your schedule. Excited? Join the facebook group NOW by clicking [here](#). Please send any questions to Kayla Matz, the WUUSAN outreach manager and member of OBUUC at [wuusan.organizer@gmail.com](mailto:wuusan.organizer@gmail.com) or 262-770-5852

[Have content for the next newsletter?](#)

Please email events, news, poems, stories by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next newsletter to [kwiersgalla@gmail.com](mailto:kwiersgalla@gmail.com).

TO APPRECIATE THE  
BEAUTY OF A  
SNOWFLAKE IT IS  
NECESSARY TO  
STAND OUT IN THE  
COLD.

—ARISTOTLE

[UU Buddhist Fellowship Holds Convo in Racine, April 27-30](#)

The national UU Buddhist Fellowship holds regular Convos, and in April of 2023 the UUBF Convo will be held in the Midwest for the first time, with the distinguished Buddhist teacher and climate change activist [David Loy](#), author of [Ecodharma: Buddhist Perspectives on the Ecological Crisis](#). The Convocation will be April 27-30 at the beautiful [DeKoven Center](#) in Racine, Wisconsin. There are opportunities for both in-person and online attendance, as well as a public talk on Saturday, April 29. To learn more and to register (early bird discount closing soon) please visit

<https://uubf.org/wp/convocation-2023/>



**"WHILE I AM OPPOSED TO ALL ORTHODOX CREEDS, I HAVE A CREED MYSELF; AND MY CREED IS THIS. HAPPINESS IS THE ONLY GOOD. THE TIME TO BE HAPPY IS NOW. THE PLACE TO BE HAPPY IS HERE. THE WAY TO BE HAPPY IS TO MAKE OTHERS SO. THIS CREED IS SOMEWHAT SHORT, BUT IT IS LONG ENOUGH FOR THIS LIFE, STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS WORLD. IF THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD, WHEN WE GET THERE WE CAN MAKE ANOTHER CREED."**

**ROBERT GREEN INGERSOLL, 1882**