



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 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)

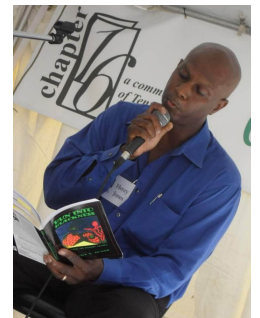
April 2 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Proposed Revisions to UUA Article II: Principles and Sources”

The UUA proposed to redefine our Principles and Sources, which have stood since 1985. It is up to us as members of a UU society to understand the proposed changes, and be prepared to voice our support or concerns. Let’s take March 12 to think about these carefully, and talk about them. (See resources on page 3)

April 9 – No Service, coffee/discussion at Golden Leaf Cafe, Happy Easter!

April 16 – Zoom Service with Henry Jones, artist/poet from Chicago, “Words and Images, the Expression World of Henry L. Jones”

Henry L. Jones is an award-winning poet, artist, and playwright. Jones, the 2021 Poet Laureate of Hendersonville, Tennessee, has published internationally. His works inspired by his African heritage and the Diaspora. He’s participated in fellowships, residencies and visiting artist/writer programs. *Black Skillet Blues: Poetry without Cornbread* is his upcoming book.



April 23 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Bread and Roses”

A textile workers’ strike in 1912 became the genesis for this famous phrase, and for the 1911 James Oppenheim poem it was drawn from. And song. What exactly does it mean? Let’s take a look at how it applies to us, here in our current world.

April 30 – Mini Concert with Nora O’Dea

DAVE WILLIAMS, Undaunted Courage



There's often great pleasure in rereading a book, one read years or decades ago, and re-found, sitting on the shelf, waiting to again provide that pleasure. But sometimes the second reading can be discomfiting, when seen through the lens of one's acquired experiences or sensitivities.

I recently came across my copy of *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*, by Stephen E. Ambrose. Originally published in 1996, somewhat in advance of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery (1804-1806), I found my copy at a used bookstore in 2008.

I recall from that first reading a sense of great adventure, imparted by Ambrose, as the voyagers inched their way up the Missouri River, crossed the Dakotas into eastern Montana, then over the Rockies to the Columbia River and down to the Pacific coast. Through all this territory, their encounters with Native people provided high drama and possible disaster. I'd spent time in Montana at a college summer job, remembered the Lewis and Clark connections, and visited Fort Clatsop, their overwintering spot on the Pacific during a trip to Oregon in later years.

They had amazing adventures, and returned to their embarkation point in St. Louis, having lost only one man, and he to probable appendicitis, not the rigors of the trek. Along the way, they mapped a significant portion of the American west as yet unknown, solidified Thomas Jefferson's rationale for making the Louisiana Purchase, and added to the botanical and zoological knowledge of the nation.

Technically, however, the mission was a failure. Jefferson had hoped to find an all-water route to the Pacific, but one didn't exist. He had hoped the Missouri River had tributaries stretching up into present-day Canada, so he could claim those lands—but those too failed to exist. He also hoped to engage the Native peoples peacefully and awe them with the might of the new nation he led.

And here's the rub in my rereading of *Undaunted Courage*. I was struck by the excessive paternalism Jefferson and Lewis displayed toward the indigenous tribes the Voyage of Discovery contacted. Lewis had worked out a speech (often that speech needed to be run through several translations, ending in sign language to the Native people—Ambrose questioned how much of its meaning ever got through) which informed the Natives that they had a new Great White Father, that he led a powerful nation that they were now part of, and that they needed to trade exclusively with the new nation, and they needed to cease warring with other Native tribes.

Lewis and Clark provided trinkets, blankets, uniforms, occasionally hatchets, but never the guns and ammunition the tribes really wanted. It reminded me of the Dutch purchase of today's Manhattan for \$24 worth of beads and trinkets. The Native people quickly became disenchanted with the goods being "traded."

The voyagers survived largely because of the beneficence of the Native tribes as they passed through tribal territories. And the role of Sacagawea, who accompanied the expedition almost the entire way, is legendary. She smoothed relationships with various tribes, showed them Native skills as they lived off the land, became an interpreter, all while carrying her infant-turned-toddler during the expedition.

Here again comes more disappointment in my rereading. At the end of the voyage, all participants were awarded large tracts of land and some financial pay, except for Sacagawea. Despite having more than pulled her share of work for the expedition, as a woman she didn't qualify for the rewards in Lewis' eyes.

Williams, continued

We Unitarian Universalists have a special reverence for Thomas Jefferson, considered one of us. He was a prodigious thinker, uncommon early leader of our nation, but flawed in his approach to slavery, and certainly to the Native peoples of the new nation. He expected Lewis to send tribal chiefs back down the Missouri and on to Washington, DC, so they could be impressed with the power and civilization of the country of their new Great White Father. And how much of subsequent attitude toward and treatment of Native peoples stemmed from this early view of Native Americans? To be fair, these attitudes were hardly peculiar to just Jefferson and Lewis.

Undaunted Courage is still a worthy book to read, or reread—I'm just surprised how much I either missed in my first reading, or glossed over in the excitement of the adventures of the Corps of Discovery. I'm grateful for this whole new perspective on a piece of history, while saddened at the attitudes of Jefferson and Lewis, and how those attitudes played out in their contacts with Native peoples. Heroes they were in many ways, but with clay feet.

Save the date - Highway Clean Up

May 13th at 10 am. Rain date May 20th. rsvp sherryhagen0115@gmail.com

Poetry Reading Thursday April 17 from 6-7pm

At Dragon Tale Books (Other poets will also be featured)



Annual Meeting May 7 - Mark Your Calendars!

Our annual meeting is May 7 at 10 am. At that meeting, members of the board are elected, a budget is adopted, and we review the past year. If you are willing to serve on the board, please contact Juliana, 715-505-3525. There will be a potluck after the meeting.

Proposed Revisions to UUA Article II: Principles and Sources

Resources for March 12's discussionThe pdf from the study group can be found [here](#). Please read it, and please attend on March 12. Also, check out other online resources, such as:

- <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>
- <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/about-article-2>
- <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/charge>
- <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/resources/small-group-ministry-guide>

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS MAY 7 AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Unitarian Society of Menomonie bylaws require an annual meeting each May and ours is set for May 7, 2023. There are several items of business at the annual meeting, including election of some offices and most importantly, approving a budget for the next program year.

At the end of this newsletter is a pledge form. Your review of the form, and your response, are both vital to the continued functioning of the Society. The first part is a financial pledge form, on which you can tell us what level of monetary support you will offer next fiscal year (Our fiscal year begins July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024). The other is a time and talent pledge form, whereby you can indicate the different ways you're willing to help keep the Society active and vibrant.

Please print the form out, complete both parts, and mail it to Dave Williams, Treasurer, Unitarian Society of Menomonie, P.O. Box 214, Menomonie, WI. 54751 by March 10, 2023. You could also email it back to Dave at williamsda@uwstout.edu. The board will then use all the responses to plan a budget and the work of the fellowship. Thank you!

Have content for the next newsletter?

Please email events, news, poems, stories by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter to kwiersgalla@gmail.com.

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MENOMONIE
2023-24 TIME AND TALENT PLEDGE

“All members are expected to make a contribution of record in the form of financial, service or other donation, on a yearly basis.” USM Bylaws

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

I understand that financial commitment is essential to the life of our Unitarian Society of Menomonie, and I pledge \$ _____ to the USM for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

NAME _____ DATE _____

TIME AND SERVICE COMMITMENTS

In addition to my financial commitment, I will also do the following (check all that apply:

___ Serve as a member at large on the USM board

___ Serve as an officer on the USM board for a 2 year term

___ President. ___ Vice President ___ Other Office _____

___ Assist in the following areas:

___ Create an annual budget. ___ Backup the Secretary if absent

___ Serve on the Program Committee

___ Serve as Membership Coordinator

___ Provide child care if needed ___ Serve as a Greeter

___ Facilitate a service.

___ Participate in Affinity Groups (quilting, needlework) _____

___ Provide articles and items of interest for the newsletter

___ Take photos of events for newsletter and website

___ Help with management of the USM website

___ Assist with social action activities (which?) _____

___ Serve as a liaison to the Alano Club

___ Host a summer program (which?) _____

___ Assist with set-up and take-down for Sunday meetings

___ Lead a book discussion or other program (Which?) _____

___ Assist or lead a special event program

___ Help with Adopt-A-Highway cleanup (twice yearly)

___ Organize the annual family Holiday Gift program

___ Provide coffee (regular and decaf) for meeting coffee hours