



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October 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)

Oct 1 – Speaker, Lorene Vedder

Lorene Vedder will speak to us about bridging the divide through community conversations. She is an organizer of community conversations on various social action topics that are relevant to us locally.

Oct 7 – IF THE SEP 30 Highway Cleanup DATE DID NOT OCCUR

Rain date for highway cleanup – meet at Riverside Park at 10 am.

Oct. 8 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Celebrating the Other”

There are those who do good when it makes the most sense. We’re in a position of safety. We’re in the company of a large segment of society. We won’t be receiving the anger of our family and friends. And yet, it is precisely because it is inconvenient or uncomfortable or dangerous that the strongest need is there. People with no previous involvement came to the aid of Jews, hiding them from the Nazis in World War II and the decade before. Muslims on Morocco saved Jewish temples, and maintained them, when the Jewish population was no longer large enough to have the means to. Indigenous populations in the United States? Continue on, please.

Oct. 8 – Board Meeting after the service

Oct. 8 – Induction of USM into JONAH, Brewery Projekt, Eau Claire, 4 to 5 pm

Oct 15 – Speaker, Autumn Metoxen, Community Connections Manager, Stepping Stones

Autumn Metoxen will inform us about homelessness and food compromised folks in Dunn County.

Oct 22 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Give Yourself a Break”

The world is a dark place. Yet you carry on, or as a friend used to say, “Carry on, brave soldier.” But you reach a point where it all seems too much, too many projects, too many fronts in the battles for a world with peace, liberty, and justice. So what do you do then? Do you give up? Slouch in front of the television with a beer and chips? Or, do you give yourself a break!?

Oct 29 – 10:30 am Service at the UU Fellowship in River Falls. We

have not visited our UU friends at other fellowships in western Wisconsin since before Pandemic. Carpooling available.

Potluck after service. Bring a dish to pass if possible.

DAVE WILLIAMS, Embracing Woke



Recently, I picked up our latest issue of *Mother Earth News* and turned to the notes from the editor, Marissa Ames. Her column was entitled “Defending Diversity,” and recounted responses she had been getting to the prior issue’s focus on agriculture and gardening among what have been marginalized communities.

“Why are you so woke?” one reader asked her, and another wondered what diverse cultures have to do with homesteading. She noted that many complaints “wield the word ‘woke’ and accuse us of being ‘political.’” For at least 50 years *Mother Earth News* has provided its readership with advice, how-to articles and encouragement to

self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Editor Ames seemed surprised she has to defend her periodical for writing about the successes of Black, Indigenous and people of color. She noted what they had to overcome:

“Issues such as redlining, generational poverty, and food deserts are obstacles within many communities, and a majority of those communities consist of diverse races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. Many people have had their access to land restricted. Indigenous Americans, after the Trail of Tears, were often ‘gifted’ inhospitable tracts of land for reservations, and boarding schools removed whole generations from their culture. After Pearl Harbor, many Japanese Americans lost their land when they were forcibly relocated and incarcerated. And Black Americans, though their enslaved ancestors were forced to work the land, were unable to purchase decent property to continue agriculture among free people.”

Just a day after reading that editor’s note in *Mother Earth News*, I picked up the fall 2023 magazine of the Sierra Club. Its editor Jason Mark’s remarks were entitled “Follow the Money.” Mark’s opening paragraph reads: “A funny thing happened on the way to the clean energy economy: The Republican Party turned against free market principles.”

He cites the efforts to dissuade, discourage and in some cases outlaw public pension funds from investing in clean energy companies, rather than in oil, gas and coal enterprises, and notes the aversion to environmental, social and governance standards (ESG). Any interest in those areas, Mark notes, is often branded as “woke capitalism.”

We’ve all heard, according to Florida governor Ron DeSantis, that Florida is where “woke goes to die.” His efforts to whitewash Black history studies, curb Disney’s support of the LGBTQ+ community, and a host of other efforts, all to combat the “woke agenda,” are frequently reported in the media. There’s a scene in the television drama series *West Wing* when candidates are running for the presidency that Jed Bartlett will soon vacate. The Democratic candidate is played by Jimmy Smits, and the Republican candidate by Alan Alda. In one of their debates, Alda throws a disparaging charge at Smits, calling him a “liberal.” Smits’ response is instructive:

“What did Liberals do that was so offensive to the Republican Party, Senator? I’ll tell you what they did. Liberals got women the right to vote. Liberals got African- Americans the right to vote. Liberals created Social Security and lifted millions of elderly people out of poverty. Liberals ended Segregation, Liberals passed the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act. Liberals created Medicare, Liberals passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act. What did conservatives do? They opposed every one of those programs. Every one. So when you try to hurl that word ‘liberal’ at my feet as if it were something dirty, something to run away from, something that I should be ashamed of, it won’t work, Senator. Because I will pick up that label and I will wear it as a badge of honor.”

Perhaps it’s time we embrace the “woke” label just as Smits’ character embraced the “liberal” label. Perhaps we need buttons, or banners, or billboards even, saying “WOKE, AND PROUD OF IT!”

Mark Your Calendars! Samhein Service at Jack and Sherry Hagen's Nov 5

The Samhein (pron. Sah-when) service will take place again at Jack and Sherry Hagen's back yard. The address is 1613 Mathews Street in North Menomonie. This service reflects on the harvest, those who have gone before, and marks the beginning of Winter. Dress warmly, bring a lawn chair.

Book Discussion is Coming in 2024

USM's next book choice is Happiness is A Choice We Make by John Leland. We will begin the discussion at our church building on January 7, and continue through April or May. Get your book online or through the Menomonie Public Library or Dragontails, DT Menomonie.

Upcoming Speakers

The programming committee has been busy! Speakers and events with a focus on social action are planned through the end of 2023. In November we will host Lynn Buske, executive director of JONAH, and in December we will have a visit from representatives of the Milkweed Foundation. If you have ideas for a presentation, please contact Juliana, anoldsweetsong@hotmail.com or 715-505-3525 or talk to her after a service.

Quote for Gabor Mate:

"Knowing oneself comes from attending with compassionate curiosity to what is happening within. To really get to know yourself, you must be open to the possibility that the "real" you is not altogether a positive person. We are convinced that at our core, we are good and decent, altruistic even. This may not be the case. At my deepest, I may be a jealous, vindictive, petty, selfish being. If so, this has likely arisen from unfortunate life experiences. It doesn't have to remain this way. It can be rewired and changed, but not until we accept it for what it is.

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.

You are welcome to attend:

- Full Moon Ritual and Drumming Oct 1 at 6 pm
- New Moon Ritual and Tarot Reading Oct 15 at 6 pm
- Full Moon Ritual and Drumming Oct 29 at 6 pm

At Jack and Sherry Hagen's in Menomonie
RSVP sherryhagen0115@gmail.com

A note from Greg A Quinn , County Veteran Services Officer, Dunn County Veteran Service Office:

"The Dunn County Veteran Services Office has 295 active claims in process with the Federal Veterans Administration to assist Veterans and dependents with benefits they've earned through military service. Currently the Veterans Administration reports that Dunn County is the home to 2,607 Veterans. Of these Veterans many are in need of support and assistance to navigate the complex VA Health Care and benefits system. Veterans always welcome community support and appreciation for the many sacrifices they have made in service to our country. Please consider showing appreciation to local Veterans that are most in need with a small gesture in the form of a Christmas Card. These gestures brighten their day and let them know they are not forgotten and are in the thoughts of many."

Because the Veterans Office will not be able to share addresses due to confidentiality, I will collect the signed Christmas cards and deliver them to the office to be labeled and mailed from there. Drop off your cards at UU by Sunday, November 19. In this way, we are able to show them that we thank them for their service.

Henry L. Jones' poetry

Henry L. Jones' poetry and art are part of the anthology IN FULLNESS OF THE WORD: BLACK AMERICAN POET LAUREATES (5TH Woman Books). This publication of 22 poets made history by becoming the first ever book of Black Poet Laureates. It's contains poetry by the them as well as their biographies. IN FULLNESS OF THE WORD is available on Amazon and other book online outlets. Ask for it at your local bookstore. It's \$25.00. To obtain an autograph copy from Jones, send \$25 plus \$5 (for shipping) to Jones at cashapp \$Det13 or Venmo henry-jonesartsguy. Include your mailing address.