



# THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie  
*A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

## April 2024 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 A.M. IN OUR MEETING ROOM  
(ZOOM CONNECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED)

**April 2 – VOTE!** Find your polling place and hours at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

**April 7 – Field Trip to Hay River KTC Buddhist Meditation Center in Ridgeland.**

John Samuelson (aka Lama Tsultrim Yeshe) is a Buddhist monk. We will visit his retreat in Ridgeland, which is 30 miles north of Menomonie. There will be a carpool signup circulated. We will leave the USM parking lot at 9 a.m. and return after the service/meditation session, which ends at about 11:15 a.m. Plan to take your shoes off before entering the retreat. Follow the Hay River KTC Buddhist Meditation Center on Facebook and Instagram, @HayRiverKTC.

**April 14 – Service with Dennis Peters, “The Weather” followed by the USM Board meeting.**

Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. Have you noticed that? I know, it seems silly to speculate about that. But there are so many things to think about here. The blast of snow, rain, and ice that occurred in late March was a good instigator for this conversation. And yes, climate change does come into the conversation, but not as the only topic!

**April 19 & 20 – Alano Club of Menomonie Thrift Sale.**

Volunteers are needed to set up, work during the sale, and assist with clean-up. Please see the sign-up sheet and flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**April 20 – Highway Clean-up.**

Nine people are needed to participate in the Highway Clean-up, 10 a.m. to Noon. (We usually end much earlier.) Our rain date is April 27. Meet at Riverside Park. Dress for the weather and bring gloves. RSVP to Sherry at [sherryhagen0115@gmail.com](mailto:sherryhagen0115@gmail.com).

**April 21 – Poet Henry Jones will appear by Zoom.**

Henry Jones is a playwright, artist, activist, and actor living in Tennessee. He is an Art Wire Fellow and Converge Fellow. Jones will read his works as part of the observance of National Poetry Month. He is the first Poet Laureate of Hendersonville, Tennessee. You can view Henry's presentations on YouTube, @spreadingcolor.

**April 28 – Service with Dennis Peters, “Who is Your Favorite Superhero?!”**

No really, I'm serious! Some of you will say, “Stick to serious topics.” When you think about it, this is really serious. Superheroes are imbued with as many positive traits as we can come up with. They are who we would want to be if the world allowed extraordinary actions beyond the realm of physics. Come with me to a far-off world, and let's consider the possibilities!

## DAVID K. WILLIAMS, Aversion, Hostility, Disdain, Fear

Catchy title there, wouldn't you say? Unfortunately, those words that form part of a definition of xenophobia are becoming all too prevalent in today's American discourse. The topic of immigration brings out too many stereotypes and way too much emotion centered around aversion and hostility to, disdain for, or fear of foreigners.

Bruce Peterson is a senior district judge in Minnesota and teaches a class on lawyers as peacemakers at the University of Minnesota Law School. He authored an article entitled "Xenophobia? Immigration?" in the March 10, 2024, Minneapolis Star Tribune. Peterson reviews some recent charged comments about immigrants, who have been labeled criminals, poisoners of our collective national blood, drug smugglers, or terrorists.

Immigrants are much less likely to be jailed, Peterson notes — 60% less likely than Americans who have been here several generations. Immigrants are much more likely to be employed, married, and in good health as well. They are hard workers, often willing to take any job, often jobs disdained by other Americans, because they see it as a way to rise out of the poverty they may have fled getting to our shores.

Peterson also dismisses the drug smuggling charge, reporting that in 2021, of 1.8 million migrants arrested at our southern border, just 279 (0.02%) possessed any fentanyl.

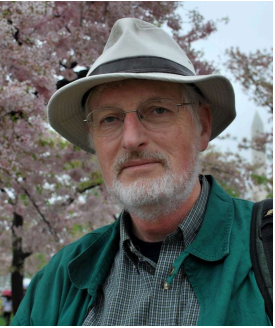
"The 1951 U.N. Refugee Convention was a shining example of the world's determination to rise above xenophobia," Peterson wrote, though the U.S. finally got around to adopting it 16 years later in a more expansive form called the 1967 Protocol, and which was finally codified into domestic law in a 1980 Refugee Act. We haven't always been the fastest to the table.

Which seems ironic, in that, unless you have Native American ancestry, you too are a beneficiary of immigration. My father's parents came in 1901 and 1905 from Germany, part of a wave of European immigrants during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. My mother's family had come a few generations earlier. All of them would be considered economic refugees, leaving hopeless financial conditions for their futures in their home country and following a dream of a better life in America. Arriving with virtually nothing in those first years of the twentieth century, my grandparents through hard work had saved enough to buy their own Illinois farm 40 years later. That would have been a head-scratching impossible dream had they stayed in Germany. And their story is hardly uncommon.

Peterson uses the term "begrudging" to describe our American compliance with laws that promise asylum. Our current backlog in the asylum adjudication system is now over 3 million people, he reports, with likely processing taking anywhere from three to 10 years.

"I am not advocating for open borders," Peterson wrote. "We need the infrastructure — and the stomach — to turn a lot of people away." He concludes that "even if circumstances do not permit most current migrants to be accommodated like my forebears were, they are just as deserving of respect. Let's fund, operate, and talk about our immigration system like we mean that."

That sounds resoundingly like our first principle of Unitarian Universalism, which asks us to respect the ultimate worth and dignity of every person, no matter where they came from, what they look like, or what language they now speak. The strength of America has been our ability, though often with that begrudging willingness, to assimilate a wide panoply of peoples. Would that our Congress might follow that first principle.



## **Volunteer Opportunities at Cairn House**

Cairn House, Stepping Stones' new shelter, is seeking individuals to fill a variety of volunteer positions. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter. You can also visit [steppingstonesdc.org](http://steppingstonesdc.org) and click on "Volunteer."

## **JONAH Schedule**

Follow JONAH on Facebook to find out more about training, events, etc.: [facebook.com/JONAHCV](https://facebook.com/JONAHCV).

## **USM Needleworkers**

Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Golden Leaf Café USM needleworkers meet to chat and relax with their fiber projects. They can teach you how to knit, crochet, or tat. All are welcome.

## **The Unitarian Society Seeks Your Support**

Our annual meeting of the Unitarian Society of Menomonie is coming on May 5, 2024. At that meeting, among other activities, we'll adopt a budget for the 2024-25 church year. To do that, we seek the financial support of our members and friends through the pledge form attached to the end of this April newsletter.

if you haven't already, please take a few moments to consider what level of financial support you can pledge for the next year, and what other ways you can support our fellowship with your time and energy.

For those of you who still need to turn in a pledge form, there is a copy at the end of this newsletter. Please return completed forms ASAP to Dave Williams or mail to our post office box:

Unitarian Society of Menomonie, PO Box 214,  
Menomonie, WI 54751.

Thank you for your help in sustaining our Unitarian Society of Menomonie.

## **Article II and USM**

On March 17, the congregation met and discussed the proposed change to UUA's bylaws which is slated to be voted on at General Assembly in June. It was unanimous that USM does not favor the proposed change which would eliminate the UU principles as part of the UU bylaws.

## **Resources from Curt McNamara's Presentation on Sustainability**

Evolution for Everyone, by David Sloan Wilson (2007)

The Handover: How We Gave Control of Our Lives to Corporations, States, and AIs, (AI) by David Runciman (2023)

Pro Social: Using Evolutionary Science to Build Productive Equitable and Collaborative Groups, by Atkins, Wilson and Hayes (2019)

Regeneration: Ending Climate Crisis in One Generation, by Paul Hawken (2021)

A Brain for All Seasons, by William Calvin (2002)

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by the United Nations: [/sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)

Our World in Data: [ourworldindata.org](https://ourworldindata.org)

Ministry for the Future, by Kim Stanley Robinson (2021)

How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy, by Jenny Odell (2020)

## **Have content for the next newsletter?**

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

**Unitarian Society Of Menomonie**  
**2024-25 Time And Talent Pledge Form**

*“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, 2024 through June 30, 2025

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 (which?) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Assist in the following areas:
  - Create an annual budget.
  - Serve on the Program Committee
  - Serve as Membership Coordinator
  - Provide child care if needed
  - 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
- Backup the Secretary if absent
- Serve as a Greeter

Please return this form ASAP to Dave Williams or mail to: Unitarian Society of Menomonie, PO Box 214, Menomonie, WI 54751. Thank you for your help in sustaining our Unitarian Society of Menomonie.



# Cairn House

at Stepping Stones

**Are you a people person? Do you enjoy cooking?**

***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

Cairn House, Stepping Stones' new shelter, is looking for volunteers to visit with guests. Daytime and substitute overnight shifts available. We are also looking for folks to prepare meals on the weekends.

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE REACH OUT OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION!**



715.235.2920, ext. 203



[j.bendel@steppingstonesdc.org](mailto:j.bendel@steppingstonesdc.org)



[www.steppingstonesdc.org](http://www.steppingstonesdc.org)

# Alano Club of Menomonie Thrift Sale

## Friday & Saturday, April 19 & 20, 2024

### We need your help!

To **donate items**, please bring them to the club by April 16 and put them in the basement.

### Please sign up to volunteer

Set-up at 5 p.m., April 16-18	Take down 3 p.m., April 20
Working the days of the sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  Friday:    Saturday:	Put up and take down signs  Friday 7 a.m. put up:    Saturday 2 p.m. take down:
<b>Please put your name next to the things you will provide for use. Bring to the club by April 17.</b>	
Clothes racks (how many?):	Tables (How many and size?):
Bags	Hangers

Please leave completed forms in the Alano Club kitchen. Thank you!

**Indoor**  
**Thrift Sale**

**Friday, April 19 &  
Saturday, April 20, 2024**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Alano Club**

**105 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Menomonie, WI 54751**

**715-308-3411 (leave a message)**

**Most items are \$1.00 (unless otherwise marked)**

**To donate, please bring items to the Alano Club by April 16.**

**All proceeds go to the Alano Club of Menomonie**