



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of December. You will find contributions from Susie Tatone, Jenni Walsh, Eleanor Chiquoine, Ellen Paul, Prairie UU, and Building Unity. I think you will find them interesting. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. My Park Hall hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and by appointment. Park Hall Voicemail: 608.643.3131 **Fritz Parks**

Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:10 a.m.)

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Dec 22	U.U. Program	David Butler	The State of the Union
Dec 29	5th Sunday	All welcome	Work Day at Park Hall
Jan 5	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Toxic Femininity: Mean Girls

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs at our newly restored Park Hall. We have masks available. Childcare is provided each Sunday; Child Education classes meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom.

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation will meet on **January 12 at Park Hall at 11:30 a.m.** If you have an issue for us to an address, please email **Susie Tatone**, President of the Board at statone01@gmail.com so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

What I Believe Now (WIBN), our monthly adult discussion group, will meet on the fourth Monday of the month, January 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. January's topic is **Helping Others**. Please email **Jenni Walsh**, walshjenni77@gmail.com, if you'd like to receive the questions, quotations, and zoom invitation.

The Freethinker Congregation is in need of lamps for special events. If you have any working extra floor or table lamps, please drop them off at the Hall. If you need someone to pick them up, please contact Jenni Walsh, walshjenni77@gmail.com. Your donations are much appreciated and will add ambiance to our hall events.

Winter, Holidays, Solstice...

The Free Congregation of Sauk County will be celebrating these and more at a family-friendly multicultural event at Park Hall, on December 21 from 10 am to 9 pm.

All events are free except for the lunch offerings and a German Dinner. Good will offerings will be accepted.

The day begins outside with **horse drawn wagon rides** from 10-1 by Foster's Belgium Bottoms, an **outdoor bonfire** with free hot beverages and kids activities from 10-5.

Meanwhile, inside in the main Hall, there will be numerous offerings:

10-10:30- Intro to the Free Congregation;

10:30-11:15- **Irish Music**;

11:15-12:15- **Hispanic music and dance**;

1-1:30- **Scottish bagpiper and dancers**;

1:30-2- **United Church of Christ carolers**;

2-3:00 **Indigenous music and dance**;

3-3:30- **Madison Maennerchor**;

3:30- 4- Presentation on **Indigenous food**;

4-4:30- **Kwanzaa** presentation;

4:30-5- Presentation on the **Winter Solstice**. There is no admission fee but good will offerings will be accepted.

Lunch offerings (11-2) downstairs, with prices set by the vendors, will be tamales, German sausage and sauerkraut, indigenous fry bread, tacos, and a wild rice dish, American pizza, soda, bottled water, soda and German beer as well as holiday cookies and German treats.

From 5-7 pm downstairs, there will be a **buffet style German Dinner** with sauerbraten, spaetzle, red cabbage, and German potato salad, German beer, wine and or bottled water. The cost is \$20. Reservations can be made by calling 608-963-8451 or you may pay at the door. Seating is limited.

Finally, there will be a **Polka Dance** featuring the **Polka Dots Band** from 6-9 pm upstairs. Again, this will be free with good will donations accepted.

Sponsors/donorsPrairie for this event are Sauk Prairie CommUNITY Acceptance Now, Friends of Sauk City History, Tools of Marketing, Consumer Cooperative, Meyer Insurance, Piggly Wiggly, Riviera Bowl and Pizzeria, Dorf Haus, Konkle's Tree Farm, Festival Foods, and individual anonymous donors as well as supported, in part, by a grant from from the Sauk County Extension Education, Arts and Culture Committee and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

Come and join in to make our first **Celebration of the Season** a festive success on December 21! See the poster below. Please share where you can.

Presented by
Free Congregation of Sauk County

CELEBRATION *of the season*

Saturday, December 21, 2024
Park Hall, 307 Polk St., Sauk City

A Family-Friendly Multicultural Celebration of the Holidays & Winter

NO ADMISSION FEE - FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

10 AM - 1 PM | HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES

10 AM - 5 PM | MUSIC, KIDS ACTIVITIES, DANCE, CAROLING, PRESENTATIONS,
WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE WITH FREE HOT DRINKS
(HOT CHOCOLATE, HOT CIDER AND HOT GERMAN WINE)

11 AM - 1 PM | LUNCH OPTIONS DOWNSTAIRS
(*Vendor Pricing*)

Mexican, German, Indigenous, American Pizza

5 - 7 PM | GERMAN DINNER CATERED BY THE DORF HAUS
\$20 - Sauerbraten Meal, Includes Spaetzle, Red Cabbage, German Potato Salad
& Beverage (Bottled Water, Beer, or Wine)
Reserve by Calling (608) 963-8451 or buy at the Door. (Limited Seating)

6 - 9 PM | POLKA DOTS DANCE- GERMAN BEER ETC. FOR SALE!
No Admittance Charge! Free Will Donations Accepted



CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON SUPPORTED IN PART, BY A GRANT FROM THE SAUK COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE AND THE WISCONSIN ARTS BOARD WITH FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN* ON ALL PUBLISHED MATERIALS. PUBLISHED MATERIALS INCLUDE PUBLICITY, PROGRAMS, BOOKS, DVD'S AND ADVERTISING.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS/SPONSORS -

SP CAN (SP Community Acceptance Now), Friends of Sauk City History,
Tools of Marketing, Consumers Cooperative, Meyer Insurance Agency, Piggly Wiggly,
Riviera Bowl and Pizzeria, Dorf Haus, Konkle's Tree Farm,
Festival Foods, Individual Anonymous Donors

Historic Park Hall, the meeting place of the Free Congregation of Sauk County since the mid-1880's, has lovely portraits on the walls of their storied building. For over 100 years, large, elegant portraits of men who had "made a big difference" in how humans understand their place in the world, men who had challenged conventional assumptions about the roll of religion in society, graced the walls of our building, men like Copernicus, Guttenberg, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thomas Paine, Germany's Goerte, Schiller, and more.

These men were significant, and deserve honor. However, there were no portraits of equal size of that portrayed women who had challenged the narrow role given to women in society. The Congregation concluded it was time to give more women a place of honor on our walls.

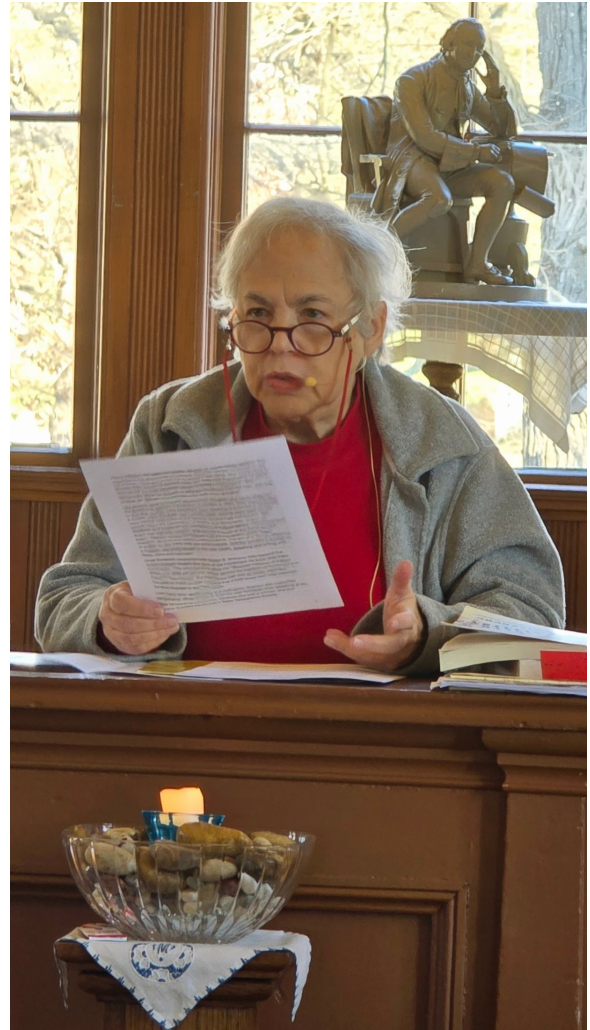
So this year, the Free Congregation of Sauk County has installed portraits of 2 women on our walls: Mary Wollstonecraft, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

This photo shows the Congregational Committee members who helped with this project: (from left, back row: Eleanor Chiquoine, Nick Schweitzer, Robin Proud, Melanie Weller, and (in foreground) Chelsey Larson.



The latest work on hall portraits was the feature of Sunday, December 8's U.U. Program. Our newest portrait honors **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**. Associate Speaker **Robin Proud** gave a biographic presentation of Stanton and member **Ellen Paul** read her speech about Stanton's keynote from the **1848 Seneca Falls Convention for Women's Rights**

Photos by Eleanor Chiquoine



Robin Proud



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Ellen Paul

Building Unity and **Wisconsin UU State Action Network** (WUUSAN) are partnering to promote Peace, Justice, Sustainability, and Democracy throughout our state. Currently we are working to bring UU's and other justice-seekers from all over Wisconsin to the statewide "[January Unity Gathering](#)" (click this link))in Madison on January 11 & 12, 2025. For more information call Building Unity at 608-630-3633

The **Prairie UU** congregation will once again hold an informal **potluck brunch & carol sing** on Dec. 25, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Anyone is welcome.

Diane Matzke provides **Mindfulness Meditation Teachings** in the hall, generally each Wednesday. Sessions start at 6:30 p.m. and last one hour. All welcome. Free will donations accepted. **There will not be a session on December 25.**

How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.

1. Go to the Sunday Programs tab of our website:
<http://www.freecongregation.org/sunday-programs.aspx>
2. Refresh the browser page.
3. Click the "**Join Our Zoom Meeting**" link in RED TEXT.

The "**Join Our Zoom Meeting**" link will not be visible until 15 minutes before our meeting; typically this is 9:55 a.m. for a 10:10 a.m. meeting. Early birds will see the option to "**Join a Practice Zoom Meeting**". Refreshing the page after 9:55 a.m. should reveal the active meeting link.

We publish twice a month to our website. We email announcements to our list as each issue appears online. If you no longer desire email reminders, feel free to tidy up our email list with an unsubscribe message. Keep our website bookmarked for future use.

FreeCongregation.org our website homepage

Other Useful Links:

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I welcome your submissions to this newsletter. Send your events, announcements, photos, and recipes to me. [Newsletter Submissions](#) use the Contact Us form at bottom.