



## From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of March. You will find contributions from **Dr. Renee Gralewicz, Glen Johnson, Grace Vosen and SP Conservation Alliance**. I think you will find them interesting. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. My usual Park Hall hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. and by appointment. Park Hall Voicemail: 608.643.3131 **Fritz Parks**

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

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Mar 5	Spiritual Roundtable	Chelsey Larson	Free Love, Sex & Polyamory
Mar 12	U.U. Program	Rob Brink	TBA
Mar 19	Free Thought Forum	Renee Gralewicz	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

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. Please see the Zoom instructions on the last page.

## Notes and Events from/for Members, Friends and Community

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation will meet on **March 12, at 11:30 a.m., in the Hall** following the program. If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Robert Larson, President of the Board at [larsonfabrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:larsonfabrestoration@gmail.com) so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

**Members, mark your calendars for this March 18th's Pledge Gala and Bocce Ball Tournament!** The invite is on the next page. Lot's of effort go into this event; thanks to Grace Vosen for layout of the brochures, Glen Johnson for the Treasurer's Pledge information, Nick Schweitzer for the Vice President's letter. Glen & Michael Whaley for stuffing envelopes. We look forward to another delicious potluck supper. Members are asked to attend this event which is crucial to the health of our congregation. The **RSVP for the Gala is on the last page**. Let us know if you can help with Set up or Clean up.

Gala Invitation for our members

# The Value of “Free”



*Light is not everything: if warmth is not also present, the light alone becomes ineffectual. -Eduard Schroeter*

You are cordially invited to join fellow Free Congregation members and friends for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual (with COVID skips) Pledge Gala at Park Hall on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Games!  
Reception!  
Supper!  
And a wee presentation about our finances!

Please join the Free Congregation for a festive late afternoon and early evening of

**Conviviality, Live Music, Games, and Dining**

4:30 Doors Open

5:00 The Games Begin (registration open until 5:15)

*Light snacks, wine & beer available from 5:00 on – contributions welcome*

6:30 Welcome and Toast

6:45 Supper

*There is no theme for the meal this year. Just bring something you would like to share.*

We appreciate your RSVP!  
By mail: P.O. Box 664, Sauk City, WI 53583  
By phone: 608-643-3131  
By email: FreeCongregation@iCloud.com

## Gala Playbill and Anthem March 18

# 13<sup>th</sup> Pledge Gala

March 18, 2023

## “It Happens in This Hall”

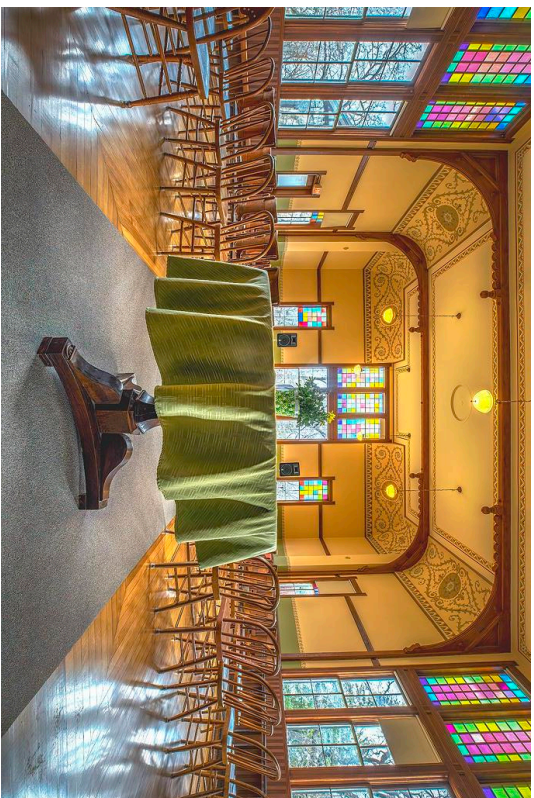


Photo by Randy Bailweg

Historic Park Hall  
307 Polk St, Sauk City, WI

**Free Congregation Pledge Anthem**  
© 2013 Michael Whaley, Jen Logueflower

It happens in this Hall, it happens here today,  
Come together many, here to laugh and play.  
Let's begin it proper, and raise a toast to all,  
Freethinkers everyone, and Masters in this Hall.

Be well, keep well, think free, with good cheer sing we.  
Rapid flow the wine and beer, now ye drink most heartily.  
Friendship, fun, and feasting, our festivity,  
Join thee arms with one another, clasp thy hands mightily.

It's happened in this Hall, it happens still today,  
A light from overseas, a beacon here to stay.  
Coming o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,  
Down the river valley, to Park Hall they'd go.  
Seekers one and all, none among them great,  
None above the other, equal they did meet.

Knowledge, Reason, Nature, Music, Light, and Song;  
Lifted are all folk on earth, fortified and strong.  
Beauty, Truth, and Virtue seek we vigorously  
With hearts that we hold open, and thoughts that we hold free.

It's happened in this Hall, it happens here today,  
Though turmoil knit our brow, we rise above the fray.  
Freedom hath its cost, and Time exacts its toll,  
We pledge our faith as one, with hearts not less than full.

Knowledge, Reason, Nature...

So the pledge comes round, to you, to me, to all;  
Bind us one to other, and pray, answer the call.  
Those who've pledged before, have furnished our estate,  
Let us be as they were, Masters of our Fate.  
As the pledge comes round, answer shall we all,  
For only thus become we Masters in this Hall.

Knowledge, Reason, Nature...

Volunteers are needed for the **Sauk Prairie Food Pantry** on **Saturday, April 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Please RSVP with Fritz.

**Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance** will present the next **We Are Sauk Prairie Lecture** on **Thursday, March 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The **SPCA Annual Meeting** will convene **ata 6:00 p.m.** and the lecture will follow. This month's speaker will be **Dr. Alison Duff, USDA Forage Research Ecologist.** The public is welcome at the meeting. Ruth Culver Community Library, 540 Water Street, Prairie du Sac. Zoom attendance is available with pre-registration: [Click to pre-register for Zoom.](#)

The Free Thought Forum on March 19, will welcome **Dr. Renee Gralewicz, Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women Outreach Coordinator** for the **Waking Women Healing Institute.** Dr. Gralewicz, retired US Army Major and Fulbright Scholarship recipient, taught at UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities. She served on the **Brothertown Nation Tribal Council.** Since retirement, her energies have been put into understanding, teaching, and sharing information about missing and murdered indigenous peoples.

From Renee: “No matter the acronym, violence against indigenous peoples across Turtle Island is a crisis. The US Department of Justice found that American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average. Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among 10-24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age. **There are many factors that brought us to this crisis but the foundation of those factors is colonization.** The intentional violence enacted by Europeans in the name of their countries and their gods was spread across the globe. The arrogance of them and many of their descendants allowed the violence to continue across the centuries... Below are a few videos about the current MMIR crisis...I caution you though, these stories can weigh upon your heart and spirit. Watch with caution, watch with you medicines surrounding you, watch with the intent to take action to help stop the violence.”



[Indigenous Women Keep Going Missing in Montana](#)

[Vanished: America's Missing Indigenous Women](#)

[Missing or Murdered Indigenous People Information and Resources](#)

[Unmasking the Hidden Crisis...Solutions to Ending the Cycle of Violence](#)

**YES!  I'll/We'll be there for the Reception & Dinner!**

# Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # Children \_\_\_\_\_

*Regrets*

**I'd/We'd like to help:**

Set up for the event (4:00pm or by arrangement)

Clean up after the event (approx. 8:30-9:30pm)

Provide a main dish

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Reply to Fritz at Park Hall: phone and voicemail: 608-643-3131;  
email [FreeCongregation@iCloud.com](mailto:FreeCongregation@iCloud.com); Box 664 Sauk City, WI 53583

### 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.

Instructions to join the meeting by telephone are on this same web page.

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](http://FreeCongregation.org) our website homepage

Other Useful Links:

[Unsubscribe to Newsletter List](#) use the form below newsletter links.

[Sign up for Newsletter List](#) use the form below newsletter links.

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.