



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the fifteenth of March. You will find contributions from **Nick Schweitzer**, **SP Conservation Alliance**, **Agrace**, **Max Kade Institute**, and **SPHS GSA**. 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

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

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Mar 19	Free Thought Forum	Dr. Renee Gralewicz	Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
Mar 26	U.U. Program	Robin Proud	Beatrix Potter
Apr 2	Spiritual Roundtable	TBA	TBA

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 **April 9 at Park Hall** following the Sunday program. If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Robert Larson, President of the Board at larsonfabrestoration@gmail.com so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

The adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet on Zoom as usual at **6:30 p.m.** on the fourth Monday of the month, **March 27th**. The topic will be **Man's Inhumanity to Man, Groups against Groups, and Mob Psychology**. Please email Nick Schweitzer, jnschweitzer@gmail.com, if you'd like to receive the material and the zoom invitation.

One last reminder that the **2023 Pledge Gala** will be **Saturday, March 18** with afternoon events and potluck dinner. Members are asked to attend. **Doors open at 4:30 p.m.**

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 13th 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

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 # _____

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](#)

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 at 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](#).

Agrace is seeking volunteers to visit with local hospice patients. Volunteer orientation will take place at Agrace’s **Baraboo office April 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Call **(608) 327-7163** or visit agrace.org/Volunteer to fill out an application.

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

The **Max Kade Institute** is the library and repository for German studies on the U.W. Madison campus. The Friends of the Max Kade Institute publish a newsletter and have occasional activities. They'll hold their **annual meeting on May 6th at the Turner Hall in Monroe**. Check out the program at mkifriends.org, where you can click through to get detailed program and registration information.

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance has cancelled its March 11 workday.

The **Sauk Prairie High School GSA** has a Pride fundraiser, selling shirts & Sweatshirts until Wednesday, March 22. The order form can be found at [Sauk Prairie GSA Fundraiser](#).

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 our website homepage

Other Useful Links:

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

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