



**From the Administrator,**

Welcome to the January 15 newsletter, published twice a month to our website. We email web links to our list as each issue appears online. If you no longer desire reminders, feel free to tidy up our email list with an unsubscribe message. Keep our website bookmarked for future use.

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I welcome your submissions to this newsletter. Send your events, announcements, photos, and recipes to me.

[Newsletter Submissions \(Contact Us\)](#)

My usual Park Hall hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and by appointment. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. Park Hall Voicemail: 608.643.3131 **Fritz Parks, Editor.**

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

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Jan 19	Painesfest Holiday	Andy & Dee Hall	Voter Suppression & Misinformation
Jan 26	UU Program	Larry Collins	Re-Teaching
Feb 2	Spiritual Roundtable	Susie Tatone	Income Inequality
Feb 9	UU Program	Pema Antoniotti	The Four Opponent Powers
Feb 16	Free Thought Forum	Steve Swallen	Brain Chemistry & Consciousness

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

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation **will meet** next on the second **Sunday, February 9**, immediately following the program. Members are welcome to attend. If you have an issue for us to address, please email Susan Larkin, President of the Board at [larkinarts@gmail.com](mailto:larkinarts@gmail.com) so that it may be added to the Agenda.

## **Painesfest, Potluck, and Positive Actions**

**January 19** will be a busy and exciting day at Park Hall (aka Free Thinkers Hall). The general public is heartily invited to attend all or a part of the day's activities. They begin, with complimentary hot beverages and breakfast snacks, at 10:00 a.m.

On this, its **168th Annual Painesfest Celebration** – honoring Thomas Paine (1737-1809), the English-born American political activist, philosopher, revolutionary, and patriot — the Free Congregation will present **two guest speakers**, followed by **a potluck**, followed by an **informational session on Building Unity** by encouraging the community to vote. All three activities are non-partisan. Come for one, two, or all of the segments. The Free Congregation's Painesfest is the longest-running annual recognition of Thomas Paine in the known universe.

Thomas Paine migrated to the British American colonies in 1774 with the help of Benjamin Franklin, arriving just in time to participate in the American Revolution. Virtually every “rebel” as well as most literate adults read (or listened to a reading of) his powerful pamphlet *Common Sense* (1776), which galvanized the public's demand for independence.

The guest speakers at this year's Painesfest are **Andy and Dee J. Hall**, co-founders of the **Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism**. Their topic is **Voter Suppression and Misinformation in the 2020 Election**. As always at Park Hall, there will be audience discussion following the talk. Childcare will be provided.

Immediately following the discussion, all are invited to attend the Painesfest potluck in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. You are encouraged, but not required, to bring a dish to pass. Plates, silverware, cups/glasses, and napkins will be provided. Partake in a good old-fashioned potluck meal and have a chance to meet new, interesting, open-minded people!

After the potluck there will be an opportunity to learn about how **Building Unity** and **WI Unitarian Universalist State Action Network** (The Free Congregation is a UU fellowship) are supporting communities like ours to promote justice, a sustainable future, and real participatory democracy. For more information about Building Unity or WUUSAN, call Timothy @ 608-630-3633.

## President's Corner

I know many of you are aware of the special 168th Painesfest we are having next Sunday. Because of our advertising we are expecting more folks than usual. We are asking that you sign up for set-up, take-down, or decorating for this special day.

Assignments have already been made for your potluck contribution. We ask that you make a little more than usual for the extra people we will have.

We hope you can make it. The topic of the program alone, Voter Suppression and Misinformation should motivate and Tim Corden, Social Justice Director of FUS, will be here at 12:30 p.m. to talk about Building Unity and getting out the vote.

Since this is coming up next weekend, please let me know if you can help! "The more the merrier"

Here is our suggestion for **potluck contributions** for Painesfest 2020. **Last names S-Z:** entree dishes, **last names L-R:** desserts, and **last names A-K** salads, and breads.

The **Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's We Are Sauk Prairie** lecture series will happen tomorrow, **Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.**, at the **Ruth Culver Community Library, Prairie du Sac**. The featured speakers will be **Dr. Randy Hunt**, Hydrologist, US Geological Survey, and two colleagues, **Dr. Howard W. Reeves** and **Daniel Feinstein**, both of the USGS. Their presentation is entitled: Groundwater Flow and Modeling Contamination at Badger. Free, open to the public, with refreshments.

Turn the page for a photo of our January 12 program, with **Associate Speaker Robin Proud** reading the book **Chester** to our children. In the background is **Susie Tatone**, who provided program music on harp. This was the first Sunday for our Child Education program which will continue on 2nd and 4th Sundays. If you know of a family that would want more information, please refer them to [FreeCongregation.org](http://FreeCongregation.org).



### **Park Hall Events, by Ellen Paul**

This monthly column is where you may follow Park Hall rentals and events. It will be published on the 15th of each month. Our Facilities Coordinator, Ellen Paul will be happy to answer your inquiries about renting. Our website has additional information, fee details, and our Calendar.

January 28, Joyful Path Conscious Communication

February 8, Ancora String Quartet (If anyone would like to volunteer to sell tickets, sell water or other refreshments, greet people at the door, or help clean-up for free admission, please contact Ellen at [eap313@gmail.com](mailto:eap313@gmail.com) or by phone 608-963-8451!)

February 11 and 25, Conscious Communication Classes

February 28-29, Wedding Rehearsal and Wedding

To reach Ellen, ph: 608-957-7499, email: [ParkHallEvents@gmail.com](mailto:ParkHallEvents@gmail.com).



**YOU ARE INVITED TO PARK HALL  
To Hear and To Have a Dialogue With**

**SPEAKERS ANDY AND DEE J. HALL,  
Co-founders of the Center for  
Investigative Journalism**

**Voter Suppression and  
Misinformation in the 2020 Election**

**A free non-partisan event marking the  
Free Congregation of Sauk County's  
168<sup>th</sup> Annual Painesfest**

**Celebrating the life and contributions of Thomas  
Paine, American patriot**

**Followed by a community potluck  
Followed by a Building Unity Sharing of Ideas to  
Encourage All to Vote in 2020**

**Come for one, two or all three segments!  
Come to all or part of day- All are welcome!**

**More information at [freecongregation.org](http://freecongregation.org) and  
on our Facebook page**

**January 19, 2020- Park Hall (aka Free Thinkers Hall)  
307 Polk St., Sauk City**

**10:00 am: Speakers Andy and Dee J. Hall**

**11:30- Community Potluck –**

**Encouraged but not required to bring a dish to pass. Plates,  
silverware etc. provided,**

**About 12:30: Building Unity Session on encouraging all to vote in  
2020**