

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to UU Principle 6 The goal of world community with peace, liberty, & justice for all.

Chalice Lighting

...Melanie Davis

If ever there were a time for a candle in the darkness,
this would be it.

Using a spark of hope,
kindle the flame of love,
ignite the light of peace,
and feed the flame of justice.

Land Acknowledgement In countries such as New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, and among tribal nations in the U.S., it is commonplace, even policy, to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the traditional indigenous inhabitants of that land. Acknowledgment is a critical public intervention, a necessary step toward honoring Native communities and enacting the much larger project of decolonization and reconciliation. We offer this acknowledgement, building upon text offered by Luther professors Holly Moore, Anna Peterson, and David Faldet, as well as by the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture in partnership with indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that northeast Iowa was home to

- the Ioway, whose traditional name is Baxoje;
- the Sac and Fox--the Fox's traditional name is Meskwaki;
- the Dakota;
- and the Ho-Chunk (sometimes called Winnebago, though the origin of this name is derogatory, meaning people of the "dirty water");

peoples whose relationship to this land continues today. We acknowledge our sad history of broken treaties and the forced migration of indigenous peoples. We are grateful for the way this land supports and sustains our lives and thus also express our appreciation for the stewardship of this land by its prior inhabitants: indigenous, migrant, and immigrant. May the values of reciprocity and truth-telling still so vital to indigenous culture inspire us as we seek a path of peace and justice in our lives together. I invite you to take a moment for reflection upon the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that have shaped our presence here today and to adopt an attitude of reverence and gratitude for the ongoing resilience of this place and the people who have called it home.

Opening Words

Opening Song *This Train Revised*

...Indigo Girls

It's a fish white belly
A lump in the throat
Razor on the wire
Skin and bone
Piss and blood
In a railroad car, 100 people
Gypsies queers
And David's Star

This train is bound for glory (3x)
(This train)

Measure the bones
Count the face
Pull out the teeth
Do you belong
To the human race

Doctor, doctor, are you unkind?
Do you shock the monkeys?
Cover our eyes with clear blue skies

This train is bound for glory (3x)
(This train)

Here is a dancer
Who has no legs
Here is a healer
(Here is a teacher)
Who has no face
(Who has no hands)
Here is a runner
(Who has no feet)
Here is a thinker
(Here is a builder)
Who has no head
(Who has no back)
Here is a writer
(Who has no voice)
These are the questions
(These are the answers)
Stacked like wood

This train is bound for glory (3x)
(This train)

This train is bound for glory
(This train don't carry my mother)

This train is bound for glory
(This train don't carry my father)
This train is bound for glory now
(This train don't carry my sister)
This train
(This train don't gonna carry my brother)

(Here is a teacher)
(Stacked like wood)
This train don't carry my sister
(Here is a healer)
(Stacked like wood)
This train don't carry my brother
(This is a builder)
This train don't carry my sister
(Gypsies queers and David's Star)
This train is
This train is bound for glory

These are the questions
Stacked like wood
These are the answers
Here is potential gone for good

Reading *A prayer provided by the Council of Christians and Jews, adapted*

God of the past, present, and future,

We remember today the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and all those who have been targeted and killed in subsequent genocides.

We remember those who, having survived genocide, share their stories with us:

We give thanks to You for the lessons of human stories, both in their suffering and in their joy.

We remember those who confronted injustice and saved lives:

We give thanks to You for their example.

Together we acknowledge the sacrifice of those that stood together with those who suffered during the Holocaust and other genocides.

And we affirm that every life is loved by You and sacred.

Yet, during the Holocaust, too many failed to protect their neighbors. Oppression stains Your world and contradicts Your love.

Let us commit to remembering so that, should we encounter similar injustice, we do not become complicit with our silence and inaction but instead do all that we can to prevent such atrocities.

Today and every day we remember.

Amen.

Silent Meditation/Response Your joy is my joy; your sorrow, my sorrow. Together we live our days, together we love this place. In beloved community, we are not alone. ...Ellen Rockne

The History and Memory of Holocaust Perpetrators

...Cheryl Block

Closing Song *A Shturemvind* (A Storm Wind)
(Lyrics are in Yiddish; English translation below.)

...lyricist unknown, music by Sergei Erdenko

Hail falls, hail falls / [Hail] of fire, pitch and brimstone.
As long as Hitler is still breathing / Life cannot be sweet.

The deluge floods in, and pours, and pours / The storm clouds thick and tense.
When all the wretched is washed away / The rainbow will come out.



Announcements

Thank you to our guest speaker today: Dr. Anna Peterson is a scholar, writer, editor, teacher, and doula. She is associate professor of history at Luther College where she researches and teaches within the fields of immigration history, women's and gender history, social history, and indigenous history with a geographic focus on Europe, Scandinavia, Norway, and the U.S. She also maintains an active presence in the local and regional birth communities, where she practices as a birth doula and co-leads the Decorah Breastfeeding Support Group. ❖ Thank you as well to our service leader, Karen Esterl. ❖ After our gathering today, please treat yourself to a little something, and we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for January-February is *The Raptor Resource Project*. RRP's mission is to preserve and strengthen raptor populations, expand participation in raptor preservation, and help foster the next generation of preservationists. To donate to the plate recipient, see Decorah UU Giving, below. Or, if sending a check, please note "Share the Plate" in the memo line. Donations may be mailed to Decorah UU, PO Box 382, Decorah, IA 52101.

Decorah UU Auction Follow-up - Thank you for your support of our annual Decorah UU auction fundraiser! In total, our live and silent auctions raised \$3,125.50! Our fellowship has donated auction proceeds to Community Action Corporation's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program since 2013. This year Decorah UU will donate \$1,600 to LiHEAP and an additional \$200 to CAC's Weatherization Assistance Program. THANK YOU! If you haven't yet paid your auction "bill" please do that soon! If you have questions, you can contact Beth Wahlberg at bethwahlberg@gmail.com or Julie Ohde at littleredkayak@gmail.com.

Decorah UU Covid Precautions for In-Person Services, when we resume again

- Masks are required for everyone at this time.
- Please join the service remotely if you:
 - are unvaccinated;
 - have any signs of illness now or in the last five days (feeling "bad," cough, runny nose, fever, headache, body aches, intestinal symptoms, loss of taste or smell, etc.);
 - have known exposure within the last week;
 - have increased vulnerability;
 - are uncomfortable gathering in public.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a Decorah UU Board member. Board members for 2021-2022 are Julie Ohde (Chair), Beth Wahlberg (Treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Lynn Pleggenkuhle, and Lyra McKnight.

Next Sunday, January 30 - No service.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Carolyn invites others to join her in the creation of a *Decorah UU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee*. If you are interested, please email Carolyn at carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees - The next meeting of the Board is **Thursday, February 10**, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please let Otter know so that we can send you the Zoom link.

Share-the-Plate Recipients - If you'd like to suggest a 501(c)(3) organization as a possible recipient for Share-the-Plate, please send your idea to any Board member or to Otter.

Decorah UU Support - As we continue to find our way through this challenging time, please remember: **if you need help**, let Otter know via phone 563-387-6050 or email otterdreaming@gmail.com. We'll all need support of one kind or another during this time. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Decorah UU Giving - We deeply appreciate the gracious gifts of our members and friends, whether given on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis. We understand that present circumstances and uncertainty may affect your ability to make a financial commitment to Decorah UU. Know that we value your "gracious gifts" to our fellowship, in whatever form they may be. **Decorah UU has set up online payment primarily for donations you might otherwise make in person at fellowship.** Go to our [Decorah UU](#) homepage and click on the "Give Online" button, which will take you to the Giving page. There, you'll find the "Donate" button which will send your payment through PayPal. You do NOT need a PayPal account. You'll be asked to choose whether your donation is for **Share-the-Plate** or for **Decorah UU**. You can only choose one, so if you want to donate to both, you will have to repeat the process. You can use a debit or credit card. Below the "Donate" button on the Giving page, you may also consider two options for recurring donations. Donations can also be mailed to PO Box 382, Decorah, IA 52101.

Decorah UU Service Archive - Did you miss a service we conducted by Zoom? Or did you attend but would like to watch it again? You can! Go to [Decorah UU](#). There are two links to our new YouTube channel: a small YouTube icon in the upper right and a button in the middle that says "Watch past services on YouTube." Once on the YouTube channel page, you can choose the service you want to watch. We will try to post the link within one week of each service. Tip: If you want to see the bulletin or other information about the service, you can click on the SERVICE ARCHIVE button on the homepage. From there you can click on a service and then the "read more" link.

Member Emergency Fund - Unforeseen troubles come our way from time to time. If you or someone you know in the fellowship could use some help, please let Otter know. We may be able to provide support or short term monetary assistance. Confidentiality will be respected.

Decorah UU online - For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or go to our [facebook](#) page.

Mail Cheer - Green Iowa Americorps has made a program for people who feel isolated during the pandemic. To give or receive these friendly letters, call *Green Iowa Americorps* at 563-293-5075, or visit the *Decorah & Winneshiek County Mutual Aid Network*.

