

About The Free Congregation...

This congregation began as the *Freie Gemeinde von Sauk County* on October 21, 1852 when “80 Germans of Sauk City and the surrounding area” signed a written “call for organization.” Its founders—most of whom came to America from the German states and principalities after the failed liberal revolutions of the 1840s—were seeking freedom to practice their beliefs, express their thoughts, and search for the truth without interference from government and church authorities.

In 1884 these men and women erected a new meeting hall in a wooded lot on the edge of Sauk City. This was, and is, Park Hall, which we are so proud to be residents and caretakers of today.

Of the more than 200 Free Congregations established in America by freethinking German immigrants in the 19th century, ours is the sole survivor. Most were overcome by the First World War and the pervasive anti-German prejudice that accompanied it. In 1937, yielding to the persuasion of its younger members – and with another war against Germany looming in Europe – this congregation adopted English as its official language. Only a dozen or so Free Congregations survived World War II. In 1955, faced with declining numbers and an aging membership, this congregation affiliated with the American Unitarian Association, a movement for liberal religious thought and practice. In 1961 the Unitarian Association and the Universalist Denomination merged, and we took on the name that we bear today: The Free Congregation of Sauk County – a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Today, and for as long as we can imagine, we will faithfully recognize and celebrate our dual heritage of Free Thought and Unitarian Universalism.

Our values and the diversity of our heritage are reflected in the programs and services that we hold at Park Hall. The 2nd and 4th Sunday programs generally follow a UU order of service. These include reflections by our Speaker, a visiting UU minister, or other guest. There is also Religious Education for children and youth on these Sundays. The first Sunday of the month we hold a roundtable Spiritual Reflection Hour on a variety of topics. The third Sunday is our Free Thought Forum, in which a guest presenter engages an historical, cultural, philosophical, or social issue of special significance to this free religious community.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County—
a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

July 27, 2008 11:00 am

“Music that’s Meaningful”

The Joint Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist
Congregations of Southern Wisconsin



A Warm Welcome to:

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
First Unitarian Society of Madison
The Unitarian Congregation of Rock County

and to our guest artist:

Kathleen Otterson

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Order of Service

July 27, 2008 ♣ 11am

Das Leben ohne Musik ist einfach ein Irrtum,
eine Strapaze, ein Exil. —Friedrich Nietzsche

Prelude —Jack Holzhueter, piano

Welcome —Glen Johnson, FCSC President

Opening Words —Andrew Kerr, FCSC Speaker

*Candle Lighting

*Art thou troubled? Music will calm thee
Art thou weary? Rest shall be thine
Music, source of all gladness heals thy sadness at her shrine.
Music, music ever divine.
Music, music calleth with voice divine.*

*When the welcome spring is smiling,
all the earth with flow'rs beguiling after winter's dreary reign,
sweetest music doth attend her,
heavenly harmonies doth lend her,
chanting praises in her train.*

—George Frideric Handel

"O Salutaris" G. Rossini (1792-1868) from *Petite Messe Solenne*

—Kathleen Otterson

"On the Religious Value of Music" —Andrew Kerr, Speaker

Offering "Gods" by Ned Rorem; words by Walt Whitman

—Kathleen Otterson

Music that's Meaningful

**Die Gedanken Sind Frei* —Annette Kuhlmann, Free Congregation
of Sauk County

**Our Friendly House* Kenneth L. Patton, 1951 —First Unitarian Society

—Prairie UU Society

**This Little Light of Mine*

—James Reeb UU

Congregational Dialogue

Closing Words

—Andrew Kerr

"Sure on this Shining Night" Samuel Barber; words by James Agee
—Kathleen Otterson

** Please stand as you are able.*

Mezzo soprano **Kathleen Otterson** is Music Director at Christ Presbyterian in Madison, Voice Instructor at Edgewood College, and runs a private voice studio. Kathleen sings frequently as a guest artist with choruses and chamber groups around Wisconsin, specializing in oratorio and art song. She has appeared in concert with the Oshkosh Symphony, Edgewood Chamber Symphony, Rockford (IL) Bach Festival, and the UW Madison Choral Union. Opera credits include principal roles in numerous UW Opera productions, and appearances with the Madison Opera and Madison Savoyards. An enthusiastic proponent of the art song recital, Ms. Otterson performs regularly with New York City-based pianist Jamie Schmidt.



Very Special Thanks to Jack Holzhueter for always seeming to have four unbelievably versatile hands to lend to the Free Congregation.

Thank you to Rev. Ralph Tyksinski, Rachel Long, Mary Mullen (and others) at *Prairie Society*; Pamela Johnson and Nick Schweitzer at *First Society*, and Chris Limburg at *James Reeb*.

And to all of YOU for sharing your songs, stories, good company, and fine food with your friends in Sauk City.

(Let's eat!)

O Salutaris Hostia by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868), from *Petite Messe Solennelle* (1863)

O Salutaris Hostia is from the last two verses of *Verbum Supernum*, one of the five Eucharistic Hymns written by St. Thomas Aquinas, (1225-1274), at the request of Pope Urban IV (1261-1264) when the Pope first instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi in 1264. The prayer was used most commonly at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**O salutaris Hostia
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur, fer auxilium.**

**Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria:
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.**

O saving Victim, open wide
The gate of Heaven to man below;
Our foes press on from every side;
Thy strength supply; Thine aid bestow.

All praise and thanks to Thee ascend,
For evermore, bless'd Three in One.
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.

translation by Edward Caswall

Gods by Walt Whitman (1819-1892), from *Leaves of Grass* (1900)

Lover divine and perfect Comrade,
Waiting content, invisible yet, but certain,
Be thou my God.

Thou, thou, the Ideal Man,
Fair, able, beautiful, content, and loving,
Complete in body and dilate in spirit,
Be thou my God.

O Death, (for Life has served its turn,)
Opener and usher to the heavenly mansion,
Be thou my God.

Aught, aught of mightiest, best I see, conceive, or know,
(To break the stagnant tie—thee, thee to free, O soul,)
Be thou my God.

All great ideas, the races' aspirations,
All heroisms, deeds of rapt enthusiasts,
Be ye my Gods.

Or Time and Space,
Or shape of Earth divine and wondrous,
Or some fair shape I viewing, worship,
Or lustrous orb of sun or star by night,
Be ye my Gods.

Sure on this Shining Night Text by James Agee (1909-1955),
from *Permit Me Voyage* (1934)

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars.