

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Paisley Harris at (920)251-2373, OCUUF Social Just Now Committee chair
Christopher Szymczak (920) 979-6278, OCUUF Equality Project coordinator
Lisette Aldrich at (920)251-0835, OCUUF president

April 26 Equality Project Focuses on Understanding the “B” in LGBTQ+

FOND DU LAC—The Equality Project’s April 26 meeting will examine the “B” for bisexuality in the LGBTQ+ community, from 6-8 p.m. at Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 19 3rd St., in downtown Fond du Lac. The Equality Project is a monthly gathering to educate, support, and take action to achieve equality for LGBTQ+ persons. The evening begins with a 6 p.m. snack and light potluck, and will continue from 6:30-8 p.m. with a program featuring Fond du Lac resident Misty Gedlinske, founder of the recently created Fond du Lac Pride Alliance, a community outreach effort connecting local LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies with services, resources, and welcoming organizations. All Fond du Lac residents who stand on the side of love are invited to attend the April 26 Humanity Project event.

“We welcome Misty to present ‘When Invisibility is Not a Superpower,’” said Christopher Szymczak, OCUUF Equality Project founder and coordinator. “She will provide the definition and meaning of bisexuality and how it compares to other types of same-sex attraction and relationships. She will also address the individual and societal impacts of biphobia and bisexual erasure, in terms of physical and mental health, interpersonal relationships, parenting roles, and medial representation.”

Gedlinkse will also provide an overview of bisexual involvement in the LGBTQ+ rights movement and provide suggestions on ways to improve visibility and inclusivity within both the cisgender/heterosexual and the LGBTQ+ communities.

“Fifty-two percent of LGBTQ+ individuals identify as bisexual, yet we are often a silent, invisible, misunderstood majority,” Gedlinkse said. “Our orientation is generally assumed as either ‘straight’ or ‘gay’ depending on the sex or gender of our partners, although neither label is accurate for us.”

Gedlinske is a Fond du Lac resident originally from Asheville, NC. Her professional career includes more than a decade in local government administration as a municipal clerk. She currently is completing the Moraine Park Technical College Leadership Development Program and will transfer to UW-Green Bay to pursue a degree in non-profit management. In addition to founding the Fond du Lac Pride Alliance, she is the founder of Fond du Lac Dogs in Parks.

Like Open Circle’s Humanity Project, with its goal of getting past race as a barrier, The Equality Project aims to remove gender and sexuality as barriers in understanding each other, and to improve

relationships across the community. Upcoming Equality Projects are scheduled for May 24 and June 21; topics will include the compatibility of religion and LGBTQ+, changes in policy under the current administration, and a summer celebration of LGBTQ+ pride events.

“We have embraced radical hospitality,” said Open Circle President Lisette Aldrich. “Open Circle is a welcoming and safe place for all folks, a sanctuary. This supports the core idea that first grabbed me in my religious education in my childhood: Love One Another.”

Unitarian Universalists strongly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the spiritual practice of welcome is a very important part of UU faith communities. For 25 years, congregations have worked hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of UU faith communities. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of individuals’ identities, backgrounds, and experiences. The Equality Project is in its second year of programming and support by Open Circle UU Fellowship.

Open Circle Sunday services are at 10 a.m.

Follow Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Open-Circle-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-115997188421362/> and on the web at <http://www.ocuuf.org/> . Also follow The Equality Project on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/equalityprojectfdl/>.
