

For Immediate Release

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## **February 22 Equality Project Celebrates Black History Month**

FOND DU LAC—In honor of Black History Month, the Equality Project’s Feb. 22 event will focus on and celebrate the lives of LGBTQ+ people of color 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. All Fond du Lac residents who stand on the side of love are invited to attend.

The evening begins with a 6 p.m. potluck, and will continue from 6:30-8 p.m. with a program featuring educational content about the intersection of race and sexual identity, including the influence of the Civil Rights Movement on the fight for gay rights.

“Much of the progress in gay rights has drawn on the examples learned from the fight for Civil Rights by African Americans,” said Christopher Szymczak, OCUUF Equality Project coordinator. “We will be viewing two very powerful TED Talks that show this influence. We will also examine and discuss a wide range of social issues that affect people of color who also identify as LGBTQ+.”

Vicente Lezama will lead the Thursday evening discussion, and introduce several other area residents who will share information and perspectives representing Native American, Asian and LatinX cultures.

Like the local 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 Project events will focus on LGBTQ+ athletes, religion, and bisexuality.

“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.

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/>.

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