

For Immediate Release

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## **Open Circle UU Fellowship hosting screening, discussion of film ‘Milk’**

Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will host two Equality Project events the week of May 22 at the fellowship, 19 3rd St., in downtown Fond du Lac.

Monday, May 22, will feature a screening of the movie ‘Milk’ from 6-8 p.m., complete with theater-style snacks. The 2008 film, nominated for eight Academy Awards and winner of Best Actor and Best Original Screenplay, stars Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, the nation’s first openly gay man elected to a notable public office as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 for his political and government activism. May 22 is Milk’s birthday.

Thursday, May 25, will feature a social with refreshments from 6-6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion of the life and death of Harvey Milk and his importance to the gay community, as well as current gay politicians’ importance in dismantling anti-gay and creating anti-discrimination legislation. The evening will wrap up at 8:15 p.m.

“Many members of the LGBTQ community look to Harvey Milk’s life as a turning point in both our activism and our acceptance as citizens,” said OCUUF Equality Project Coordinator Christopher Szymczak. “It felt fitting to share a movie about his life on his birthday. We hope our community will attend both programs to learn about and celebrate this remarkable human being.”

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.

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.

“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.

June 8 will mark the final Equality Project event before a summer hiatus. This evening will feature a potluck, a discussion of local pride and information about Pridefest 2017 in Milwaukee.

Open Circle Sunday services are at 10 a.m.. Follow Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Facebook and on the web at <http://www.ocuuf.org/> . Also follow The Equality Project on Facebook at [fb.com/equalityprojectfdl](https://www.facebook.com/equalityprojectfdl), or gmail at [equalityprojectfdl@gmail.com](mailto:equalityprojectfdl@gmail.com).

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