

November 27, 2022

Notes from the Music Department

Thank you, Danika Gibson, for doing double duty as our live streaming expert and for leading us in song. You are much appreciated!

A young Erik Satie (1866-1925) wrote the **Gnossiennes**, a suite of short piano pieces, in 1890. **Gnossienne** is a made up word though it may have derived from "Knossos" and perhaps was inspired by slow dances of the Ancient Greeks. These pieces are unconventional in form, not fitting comfortably within the genres of piano music that existed in that era of French music. The **Gnossiennes** have a profound beauty and elegance, all imbued with a haunting air of melancholy or unease while seeming to have no distinct beginning or ending. They signaled the evolution of a new musical language at the start of the new century.

Ian Riddell (1968) adapted the words of this traditional Buddhist metta meditation for our "**Filled With Loving Kindness.**" A former Wisconsinite, Riddell began his UU journey as a music director before becoming an active UU minister, serving in several areas of California.

Carl Seaburg (1922-1998) was a Universalist minister, scholar, writer, editor and long time member of the staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our ***Singing the Living Tradition*** hymnal lists seven hymn texts either written or adapted by him including today's "**Find a Stillness.**" Seaburg envisioned "one united world, one cooperating human race, one enriching love, one common religious impulse."

The **UU Choir** meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. Join us as we prepare music to share with the congregation approximately once a month. Right now, we are beginning the preparations of music for our annual Christmas Sing, Sunday, Dec. 11 and for Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Can't read music? No problem - neither can most of the musicians on this planet. No audition is required - just bring your good ears and a desire to be a part of our close knit singing community as we create joyous harmonies.

The **December Singers**, a volunteer group of young vocalists from our Religious Education programs along with willing parents/adults, will share one or two pieces of seasonal music during the annual Christmas Pageant, Dec. 18. Practices will be held shortly after the church services of Nov. 27, (**today**) Dec. 4th and 11th.

Our **Drum Club** meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Drum Haven located at 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. No previous percussion experience or musical background is necessary and all drums and other small percussion instruments are furnished. Join us as we prepare for sharing our talents at the annual celebration of the Winter Solstice, Dec. 21.