

NEWS

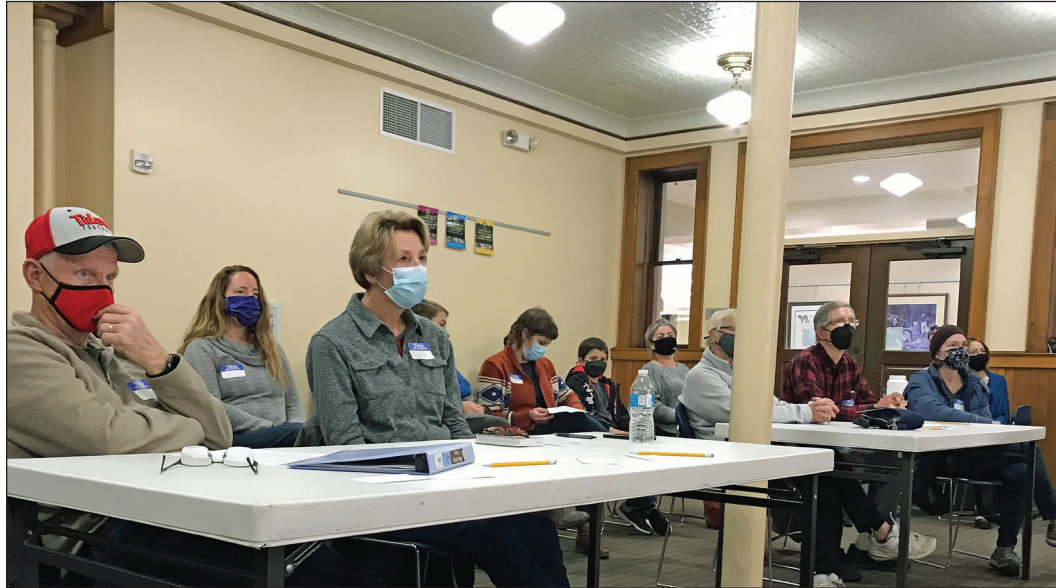
# Basic ground rules for discussing difficult topics

By Tristan McGough  
Special to The Reporter

At a time of national divisiveness in political ideology and tribal identity, worsened by inflammatory words that arouse more heat than light, Social Justice Edgerton (SJE) fosters public environments and a method whereby rational discussion prevails.

This allows people of whatever persuasion to courteously express themselves and be respected while respecting others in return.

In short, SJE's Working Members apply The Golden Rule of acting as they'd have



The audience observed COVID safety protocols during the CRT discussion\_edited-1

others act toward them, speak civilly as they'd like others to civilly speak to them. And to facilitate that, SJE did two things at their Thursday night public meeting at the Edgerton Library.

First, they gave participants an effective example of how two racially dissimilar people, according to stereotypes, Professors Watson and Boynton, can genuinely enjoy each other's company while they rationally confront a divisive topic, many times bringing laughter along with light.

Second, SJE gave some helpful "Basic Ground Rules for Discussion," which are straightforward whilst

acknowledging unease. They bear repeating, for these guidelines may be applicable at other public forums.

- Honor discomfort
- Expect unfinished business
- Move up – take a risk – take up space – this is a process.
- Move back – self monitor – give space
- We are in process
- Be present: listen/ask questions
- Call people in (not out)
- Show support – affirm others – welcome
- Be curious, ask questions -stay open, wonder why

NEWS

# Stoughton Victorian Holiday Weekend

By Janice Redford  
Special to The Reporter

Downtown Stoughton will host a lively weekend of activities from Thursday, Dec. 2 until Sunday afternoon, Dec. 5.

Madrigal Singers in elaborate velvet costumes will serenade in the streets

on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30, while shopkeepers welcome visitors all weekend to decorated windows and special offerings. The historical Stoughton Opera House will have live musical performances each evening at 7:30 pm and a Sunday concert of Christmas music at 4:00.

A lighted Fire Truck Parade will be on East Main Street on Saturday at 5:30 pm, while the Holiday Light Show will be at the Rotary Park on the corner of 6th and Jefferson Streets, east of the fire station with thousands of lights that are timed with music on radio 88.5. The lighted display will be turned on each evening at

dusk. Livsreise, the Norwegian Heritage Center at Main Street, has many lighted Christmas trees and a special display of Hardanger art works, plus a gallery talk on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 by instructor and artist Donna M. Olson. The center is free to the public and offers an

amazing high-tech story of early settlement in the area and low tech artifacts and creations by artisans through the centuries. Currently there is a gallery offering of paintings from the Vesterheim Collection of Gausta.

Other events include a cookie walk and artisan market on Saturday, plus food

specials at Nauti Norske, Main Street Kitchen, other cafes, 2 coffee shops and the Fosdal Bakery. The Stoughton Floral is totally decorated and inspiring for visitors, as are other shops on Main Street.

The Stoughton Center of the Arts at Stoughton High School is offering "A Christmas Story" the musical on Friday at 7:30 and Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 pm.

All events can be found on the net site.

NEWS

# Senior holiday luncheon at PLOW brightens season

By Tristan McGough  
Special to The Reporter

To further brighten this Yuletide season, the Cambridge Community Activities Program (CAP) is sponsoring a Seniors' Holiday Luncheon for area elders at PLOW restaurant in downtown Cambridge on Dec. 8.

"I'm thrilled to host the event," said Charles Fiesel, restaurant owner and longtime entrepreneur in the village.

"I'll be serving ham from my farm in Sun Prairie and probably a pork roast. Of course, there'll be all the favorites: stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, seasoned vegetables and dessert!"

Fiesel exclaimed, "I told CAP, for \$10, I'll make it a

\$30 meal. It will be something very special, and I want everyone to walk away with great memories and talk about how much they enjoyed it."

Heather Morgan, CAP Park, Recreation & Youth Director and coordinator of the senior luncheon program, said, "Yes, that's exactly right! We want to make this something very special for our seniors. Though we try to arrange for a monthly senior luncheon at some business in the Cambridge area, we wanted this culinary outing to be particularly special.

"Having a first class dinner at PLOW will do just that.

"I talked to Charles and told him I wanted a culinary masterpiece. He said, 'Leave it to me. It will be a holiday feast! It will be fantastic!'"

Having eaten there, I expect it will be a real treat for everyone, many who regularly attend our luncheons."

CAP has made it a point to provide not only an appealing lunch for seniors on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, it also intends the luncheons to be enjoyable social events, fostering delightful inter-personal involvement and, in many cases, new personal relationships.

Usually, entertainment is also interwoven into the lunchtime mix, such as having the Winds & String Trio perform at the Keystone Grill on Nov. 10, which had been designated "Friendsgiving Lunch."

Morgan stated, "We charge \$5 a lunch, and we roll that over for future luncheons."

The director admitted that balancing the budget "can be a real balancing act between

our available grant money, donations from businesses or individuals and lunch funds we can rollover in providing a nutritious, culinary event with entertainment."

The Cambridge Foundation annually awards grant money to CAP, with funds earmarked for supporting the senior luncheon program, which is one of numerous community-based programs organized under the rather unique umbrella nonprofit organization, Cambridge CAP.

"Besides grant money," Morgan stated, "we are very thankful to the businesses and people who make donations to our noontime program for seniors.

"We'd like to expand our program, doing much more for seniors. There are many other programs we'd love to offer but just don't have the money for now."

Morgan indicated that

the two monthly meals are divided into "having one with entertainment, like a musical group or performance, and the other a social event with card or dice playing."

Local appeal has recently swelled. "We used to regularly get about 20 people. We always get a couple of new faces. But lately I've had to limit it to 40 or so. Last time we had 46!"

She illustrated, "For our October luncheon, we had roast beef sandwiches from CC Sandwiches [in Cambridge] served at Galleria 214. One of the tables had people playing Bunco, a dice game. At another was Euchre, and at a third, people were talking and socializing."

Most of the people who attend the bimonthly luncheons are living independently, "but a few are transported by family or friends."

For the enlarged holiday event at PLOW, "I sent out about 60 invitations to people on our mailing list. Many seniors don't rely on cellphones or websites for their information, and we're happy to accommodate them with postcards or newspaper announcements."

Those wishing to register for the Senior Holiday Luncheon should contact event coordinator Heather Morgan at 608-635-5841, since the event for noon next Wednesday, Dec. 8 at PLOW is filling up fast.

"We are so very thankful to our community for its generous support. We take every donation from a business or person and make sure it's used to help our seniors have some of the best days of the years of their lives.

"It's always a joy to brighten someone's day with a great meal among friends."

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For additional information or questions please contact:  
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