

# Celebration of the Season

## Free congregation of Sauk County



*Scottish dancers Megan Knoficek and Meghan Pierce dance to the Highland Fling played by bagpiper Sean Michael Dargan.*

*Esperé Eckhard-Lee and Matt Grade sang and played Irish music. Photographer- Jenni Walsh. December 21, 2024*



Celebration of the Season was designed to be a family-friendly multicultural event on December 21, 2024 (which just happened to be the Winter Solstice). All activities except for the sale of food were free.

Horse-drawn wagon rides were offered by Foster's Belgium Bottoms with narration by Connie Konkle, of Sauk City History and were scheduled from 10 to 1.

Solstice bonfires (fire pits) burned from 10-5 with hot cider, chocolate, coffee, and German gluwein offered for free.

Presentations were held upstairs throughout the day, from 10 to 4:30. Eleanor Chiquoine gave an introduction to FCSC and Park Hall, Matt Grade and Esperé Eckhard-Lee played and sang Irish music, Richard Hildner Armacanqui played and sang Latin music, Marcy Huffaker gave an introduction to Hanukkah, Sean Michael Dargan played Scottish bagpipe music and Meghan Pierce and Megan danced the Highland Fling, the United Church of Christ choir sang Christmas and holiday songs, Three members of the Ho-chunk tribe performed Indigenous music and dance, the Madison Maennerchor sang German holiday songs, Lightning New Rider made a presentation on Indigenous food, and Penny Andrews made a presentation on the solstice and other winter traditions. We had lined up folks to present the traditions of Kwanzaa but they had to back out the day before. From 6-7:30 the Griffin James Polka Dots Polka Band played.

Downstairs, were children's activities. (It was too cold to have activities outside).

Also downstairs during the lunch hour, La Bombita sold tamales, sweetbreads and Mexican soda, members of a Ho-Chunk church sold Indigenous food, German food (sausages and sauerkraut catered by the Dorf Haus), pizza (donated by the Riviera Bowl and Pizzeria), German beer and soda, and holiday cookies were sold by FCSC.

Also downstairs during the dinner time, 5-7 pm, German food, also catered by the Dorf Haus, (sauerbraten, red cabbage, spaetzle, and German potato salad) and German cookies was sold by FCSC. (It should be noted that the Dorf Haus charged us only their cost for the food for lunch and dinner.)

The outcomes were that the community was exposed to a multicultural day of presentations and food celebrating the wide-ranging ways that people celebrate the holidays and winter.



*Heather Cloud making fry bread in the Park Hall kitchen. Heather and other members of her native American church sold hominy, a wild rice dish, and fry bread during the lunch time. Also sold at lunch was German sausage and sauerkraut, Mexican tamales, sweetbread and Mexican soda, American pizza and holiday cookies.*

*In the evening a German Dinner was served before a polka dance.*

*Photographer- Jenni Walsh. December 21, 2024.*



*Performers at the event December 21, 2024.*



Someone wrote the following: "Thank you for a wonderful event. I am so thankful to have brought my family here. Thanks you all for providing a warm, fun and energizing day." It was accompanied by a second card on which their children had drawn a picture of a sun and flowers.