



The Chronicle

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JUNE 2013

MARQUETTE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

The Balancing Act XII



"Summer Wishes"

Many, many thanks and all good wishes to **Nancy Irish**, as she leaves her 7-yr position as **MUUC's Community Coordinator/Celebrant**. Please join us as we celebrate her work on Sunday, June 9 with the very appropriate Message for the Morning on "Community Building," delivered by new member, Heidi Gould.

I hope you will join us for the June 2 Board forum from 9:45 to 10:30 am, as we do some visioning for our congregation. This will be the first in a series of opportunities to brainstorm about MUUC's future. What are your wishes and dreams?

If you would like to be on the **task force to organize congregation conversations about MUUC's future** as we explore during the next 3-6 months, please contact Martin & Joan Steindler (228-4350, msteindler@engis.com) or me (273-1174, michael.barbara.102@gmail.com).

*Among the many paths, literal or figurative, which we take this summer, may we **absorb the beauty and walk in harmony** through the doors of the Meeting House, down the aisle-path as members' daughters get married, along the beach or through the woods, amidst gardens, as we run or crawl up a sand dune, fly or take a book-path to faraway places, pick our way through strawberry and blueberry paths, swim safely, hike up a mountain, kayak down a river-path, canoe in the Yukon, follow Eboo Patel's dreams and witness with Wendell Berry and UU's from all over at GA in Louisville, head downstate to college, march through the streets of Chicago or Green Bay in a Gay Pride Parade, drive a moving-path to Seattle, tred a labyrinth, and/or carry some of these as we retreat in an inward way. When faced with obstacles, may we gently recognize them for what they are, continue on around them, and strengthen our spirits for the journey which lies before us.*

As we spend summertime on this earth, around practical-size campfires, with wood, water, and metals (keeping a watchful eye on Rio Tinto in our backyard), let us make an effort to lead balanced lives and practice the Taoist "Treasures" of compassion, moderation, and humility. Enjoy!

In shared ministry,

Barbara Michael
MUUC Board President



Dear MUUC Friends,

One of the scribbled and ragged quotations taped to our bathroom wall is by Martin Buber: *Every journey has secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.* It is a pertinent thought to ponder as I bid farewell to seven years of serving as Coordinator and Celebrant for the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

When I began this job I had no idea where it would take me. Memories stream through my mind....women's drumming circles and retreats; the teen Fellowship of the Phoenix (FOP) canoe trip, campout, and Friday night gatherings; visits from Rev. Ian Evison of the Central Midwest District; interfaith community Thanksgiving services; playing with kids and dough during the annual bread service; watching our RE kids proudly carry our banner in the GA parade in Minneapolis; co-creating grand Day of the Dead and birch tree spring altars with Amy Doughty; the family Evensong gatherings; congregational visioning sessions; silent walks in the woods with the Thoreau as Spiritual Guide group; breakfast feasts by Rob Billideau; and beautiful children running in our meadow during Camp MUUC. All the work-a-day tasks involved in keeping our organization humming together....washing dishes on Sunday mornings; writing This and That notices; meeting new folks; meetings, meetings, and more meetings. Celebrating new babies, watching kids grow up, and sitting with our elders on their deathbeds. Singing! Driving down to New Orleans with former RE Coordinator Carrie Fiocchi and five teens on a work trip, and along with Alice McMahon, watching kids who had never held a hammer become adept with power tools and hanging dry wall....and learn about institutionalized classism and racism in the process. Hosting an Imam from a downstate mosque with fellow members of the Interfaith Forum Board. Way too many memories to recall here!

Where have all these experiences led me....what is the secret destination of my journey with MUUC? In the end, it turns out that my destination is where all of my life's adventures have eventually led me: *Home*. Although sometimes unbeknownst to me at the time, every person I have encountered and every experience I have had in this role has taught me a little bit more about myself, what I needed to learn, and where my heart lies.

For now – at least until it's time for my next journey - I want to be like Ferdinand the Bull and sit peacefully in our meadow among the wildflowers. I want to practice “radical hospitality” at home, and whenever I can, encourage others trying to find their way home to themselves. I want to create beauty, spend time with my nearest and dearest, contemplate wisdom teachings, and keep trying to be the change I want to see in the world. I want to savor the richness of simplicity. I want to heal my injuries enough to dance again. (Not. On. Chairs!) In the words of Wendell Berry, I will rest for a while in the beauty of the world, and be free...

I leave with much gratitude for all the gifts the members and friends of the Marquette UU Congregation have given me, including a “right livelihood.” This has been an important chapter in my life; please know that I cherish the gifts. I wish the congregation all the best as you also move forward into a new phase. MUUC holds a crucial place in the wider community...hold fast!

Be well, do good work, and - after a healthy break - stay in touch.
Garrison Keillor

With love, gratitude, and a high note!

Nancy Irish
Celebrant and Coordinator



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

The last official day of RE was May 26th and we wanted to give a special thanks to the volunteers that helped out this year! Sarah Johnson has been a huge help in the transition of Religious Education Coordinators. Tim and Molly Jo have been instrumental in our youth t-shirt project. Kim frost made the RATI dinner a great success. Beth King was a very reliable volunteer, the King family will be missed. Thank you Sari for planting with the kids and anyone else that has not been specifically mentioned. RE could not thrive the way it has and will continue to do so without the love and support from our families, thank you!

The fun doesn't stop yet...SUMMER SIGN-UP!!!!

Snack Volunteer: Provide a healthy snack for approximately 12 kids. Snacks should be things that can be grabbed on the go. Examples include: pieces of fruit or veggies, snack mix, granola bars, muffins, cheese and crackers etc....

Activity suggestions:

plant appreciation walk, look for insects, paint rocks, nature crafts, artifact digging / scavenger hunt, storytelling, outdoor drumming, labyrinth (making and walking), map make, cartoon drawing (character traits positive and negative), sacred space “what makes a place sacred?”, beading, mitten making/sewing, etc...

If you would like to sign-up and/or participate but are unsure of what activity to do please contact Laura Nagle muurec@gmail.com or call 248-321-2794

RE is here to help! ☺ There will be a sign-up available in the meeting house

The “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) program



OWL is a human sexuality education program that is offered as a free community service by the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This established curriculum is offered to all 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders in the Marquette area. Since the last offering of the OWL program the curriculum has become out-dated and we have budgeted for GG Gordon and Paul Grey to be retrained. The parent orientation will be held in late September early October. Participation at the parent orientation meeting is required by all parents of OWL students. Attending an orientation can help you decide whether to enroll your child. We look forward to working with open minds.

UU T-shirt Design Project

With all of the fun community service activities happening we thought it would be nice to have a way to identify us when out in the community. The RE students made the design and the T-shirts will be available for purchase through the congregation. Big thanks to Tim VanderVeen and Molly-Jo Noland.



Laura Nagle, RE Coordinator



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Plant Exchange: Sunday, June 9th 1 to 4 p.m.

**Ornamental, vegetable, grasses,
house plants, seeds, welcome.
Bring yours, take home others.
If no plants to share, some will
be available for a donation.**

Rain Date: June 16th

Where: Marquette UU Congregation
1510 M-28th, Chocolay Twp.
(2.5 miles past U.S.41)

Other: For information, call: Sari at 225-1778

You are invited...

To: An Intergenerational Fleece Blanket Tie Party

When: Wednesday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Marquette Unitarian Universalist Meeting House on Hwy M28, Harvey.

Who: Come, come whoever you are... All ages, young and young at heart who want to create a few fun & productive hours to help the campers at Camp New Day. (Campers' lives have all been impacted by having an incarcerated parent or close relative.) No sewing skills needed!

What will happen: We will eat pizza and treats, yay! And cut and tie fleece blankets for a couple hours or so. Come join the fun for whatever time you can.



What to bring (all optional):

Fabric shears or large scissors to make four inch cuts into fleece. If you have extra scissors, please label and bring for those who don't have any.

Fleece of your own choosing. (Optional, b/c we have purchased fleece for 11 blankets already. We are hoping to make 15-20 blankets though). If you would like to purchase your own fleece, bring two pieces of fleece each two yards long, in patterns or color of your choice. Ben Franklin's in Marquette is giving us 40% off fleece for blankets through June 5. Just mention UUs and Camp New Day... and give them a big thank you too!

Food or drinks:

We will be providing pizza, lemonade and juice. Any other treats or food to complement the meal would be greatly appreciated.

RSVP please to Tim Vanderveen at timhvv@gmail.com.

A headcount would really help us order the correct number of pizzas. Thanks!

Request to International Joint Commission

May 23, 2013

Hello Betsy,

I'd like to add our Unitarian Universalist Congregation to the list of signers of the request to the IJC for an examination and report on water-related impacts of sulfide mining on the Great Lakes and Rainey River Basins. We took a congregational vote to support the letter, which passed unanimously. [at Annual Meeting on May 19, 2013]

It's especially appropriate that we do this, because the Eagle Mine is within 20 miles of our meeting house. We passed a resolution to oppose the mine because of water pollution concerns almost ten years ago when the Eagle was in the exploration stage. Since then, we have been active in mining issues, and one of our congregants, attorney Michelle Halley at that time who was with the National Wildlife Federation, was one of the authors of the report, "Sulfide Mining Regulation in the Great Lakes Region".

We are looking forward to the response of the IJC to this request. There's no doubt that a new mining district adjacent to the Great Lakes is a threat to this world-class body of fresh water. If there are ways for us to further support this effort, please let us know. We have already informed some other local groups that have become signers.

Our information is as follows:

Name: Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Address: P.O. Box 687, Marquette, Michigan 49855
Phone: 906-249-9450
Website: www.MqtUU.org
President: Barbara Michael (michael.barbara.102@gmail.com)
Social Action Chair: Gail Griffith (ggriffit@nmu.edu)

With thanks and good wishes,
Gail Griffith

[To Gail]

This is great news. Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this - and for signing on. I will keep you posted about the response we get. So glad to have you on the letter!

Betsy [Daub - with Friends of the Boundary Waters]



Re-do for Mqtuu.org, etc.

Sarah Redmond and Tom Sullivan are working to update our web presence via www.mqtuu.org and our Facebook page and group (right now its a work in progress, so be patient). We're looking for input from long term members, but more importantly newer friends and members as to what you would like to see and what will be helpful to those looking for us. As always, the most effective way for new comers to find us is by a current member inviting a friend, college, neighbor, family member, etc., to visit. Next most effective is via the internet, particularly younger people.

We have numerous ways to connect -- person to person, email, newsletter, Facebook, display ad in Mining Journal, webpage and phone calls. Market research shows it takes seven contacts before folks take action; most likely that's true for those looking for a religious home as well. We're looking for those who have an interest in having input on any of those topics to join Tom and me in fine tuning our message for the medium.

Sarah Redmond
Shelterbay2006@yahoo.com
906-892-8173

Tom Sullivan
tsuli3206@aol.com
906-249-3790

MUUC Board of Trustees; e-mail addresses:

Barbara Michael, President michael.barbara.102@gmail.com

gg gordon, Vice President plumskiter@gmail.com

Sarah Redmond, Secretary shelterbay2006@yahoo.com

Teri Rockwood, teri.rockwood@yahoo.com

Mary Maki, 486-4132, mrmaki777@aol.com

Staff:

Nancy Irish, Community Coordinator & Celebrant; Laura Nagle, Religious Education Coordinator

Other Positions: Tom & Nancy Sullivan, Building Use Coordinators; Sarah Johnson, Religious Education Chair; Tom Sullivan, Program Committee Chair; Michael Erdmann, Building Committee Chair; Tim Vanderveen, Community Development Committee Chair; gg gordon, Stewardship Chair; Teri Rockwood, Gary Stark, Paul Kiesling - Mediation Council; Gail Griffith, Social Action Chair; Dave Stensaas, Newsletter Coordinator; Vacant, Music Coordinator.

Transition June Board Meeting (new/old members):

6:30 pm, Thursday, June 13 @ the UU Meeting House

JUNE SERVICE AND FORUM SCHEDULE

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
June 2	<p>“Remember the Past, But Don't Try to Live There.” Presenters: February Sky (Susan Urban & Phil Cooper)</p> <p>At every stage in life beyond childhood, many people look back on times past with great fondness. While this type of nostalgia may be gratifying, it can also be detrimental to our growth if we refuse to learn and grow in the present. This service will explore the idea of rejoicing in wherever we are in life while retaining and building on the lessons learned in earlier eras.</p>	<p>“Congregational Conversation about...Visioning for MUUC: What Are Your Dreams?” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees</p>
June 9	<p>“Community Building .” Service Leader: Heidi Gould</p>	<p>“The Crossing” (Crossing out of poverty). Host: Heidi Gould</p>
June 16	<p>Father’s Day, by Rev. Jon Magnuson. Service Leader: Nancy Sullivan</p>	<p>“What Does Democracy Mean to UUs?” Host: Martin Steindler</p>
June 23	<p>“What Is Spirituality to You—Talkback.” Service Leader: Kathy Klos</p>	<p>“Summer Solstice.” Emily Barnes</p>
June 30	<p>Meet at Presque Isle Pavilion for short service and picnic. Service Leaders: Teri Rockwood and Tim VanderVeen</p>	<p>NO FORUM</p>

MUUC is located at 1510 M-28 E, Harvey, MI; P.O. Box 687, Marquette, MI 49855
Phone 906-249-9450 [www. MqtUU.org](http://www.MqtUU.org) or visit us on Facebook



With thankful hearts we say so long to Nancy Irish.

Be Well Nancy!

**Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O Box 687
Marquette, MI 49855**

To: