



The Chronicle

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MARCH 2013

MARQUETTE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Internet or Road Trip??

Join thousands of UU's at the 2013 General Assembly - at home or in Louisville, Kentucky. Currently home to three UU congregations, Louisville has a rich history of Unitarian Universalism with one of the oldest congregations west of the Appalachian Mountains. First Unitarian was founded in 1830. Just ten years later, First Universalist of Louisville was founded. And those two churches merged in 1870, almost 100 yrs before the official merger.

On your breaks, you can weave your way through the park along the Ohio River, hike in the quiet ridgetops and hollows of Bernheim Forest or visit the African American Heritage Center. Louisville was declared a [Compassionate City](#) for its community commitment to living out the golden rule. Pursuing his goal of making Louisville a more sustainable, compassionate city, Mayor Greg Fischer signed a resolution adopting the *International Charter for Compassion* (started by author/theologian, Karen Armstrong), making Louisville the largest city in America to take this action at the time.

So, who should go to Louisville's GA?

Everyone. This is an opportunity for UUs around the country to gather in ways to support our UU principles and worship, witness, learn and work together. This is an opportunity for everyone to grow and experience Unitarian Universalism in ways that we only do when we're together in one large body. It's an opportunity for fun, too. So consider Louisville from **June 19 through 23**, 2013. GA Registration (including that for volunteers) opens March 1st at www.uua.org.

What if you can't go to Louisville?

There are a number of opportunities to watch some of what is going on at GA online: Plenary sessions, the Service of the Living Tradition, the Ware Lecture (Dr. Eboo Patel, founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core), the Sunday morning service and the opening and closing. Some delegates will choose to serve and interact from their homes.

If you'd like to go to Louisville, whether or not you can afford it, let me know (michael.barbara.102@gmail.com or 273-1174). You can ask questions and find out more at the March 3rd Board Forum at 9:45 am. We'd like to help make it possible for anyone who would like to be in Louisville June 19-23 to be able to do so. It inspires me for the whole year, so I'm saving my time and money to go back for my 15th GA. Believe me, I promise it to benefit more than just me.

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*Before closing the column for the month, I just want to say how excited I am for our congregation to have **Laura Nagle** as our new **Religious Education Coordinator** for our precious children and youth! Please take the time to meet Laura and give her a warm welcome, as she starts her part-time "dream job!"*

In shared ministry,
Barb Michael

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

February has been a fantastic month in the world of RE. On February 17th, we hosted our Annual "Gifts of the Heart" Tea Luncheon. During the Intergenerational Service, several of our UU youth shared their immense talents. Afterwards, we moved to the back and enjoyed lunch as a group. The kids cleared and washed dishes. Along with the beautiful service, this was their gift to the congregation.

In February, we also hired Laura Nagle as our new RE Coordinator. We are excited to begin a new chapter in RE with Laura as she shares her passion for the arts, music and activism with our youth. As the RE program continues to grow and thrive, we welcome your fresh ideas and encourage your active involvement to sustain this vital program of our congregation. Special thanks to Teri Rockwood, Michelle Halley, and gg gordon for the energy and time dedicated to the interview process.

Volunteers, Volunteers-We thank you!

Beth King, Tim Vanderveen, Nancy Sullivan, Beth King, Saari Embley, Laura Nagle, Teri Rockwood, Molly Jo Noland, Hailey Umphrey, Kathy Wright, Michelle Halley, Kim Frost, Amy Doughty, Sarah Johnson, and every tot to teen who assisted with making our "Gifts of the Heart" service a success.

Sarah Johnson

From the RE Coordinator, Laura Nagle

Greetings Marquette UU Congregation!

It is a great honor to accept the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation's Religious Education Coordinator position. I moved to Marquette five years ago after receiving an Associate in Science and Art (ASA) from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. Before that I was raised in Oakland County with my parents and two sisters. This congregation has always been very dear to my heart and has helped me through my time at Northern. Now as a Community Health Education major, it is a true blessing to be using this degree and the passion that I have for community.

Over the years of attending the congregation, I have been able to watch your children grow into young adults and greet new seedlings. It is great to see new faces and I look forward to connecting with you all. With the help of the UU principles, I hope to use fun and interactive ways of learning. A safe, positive, and progressive atmosphere has always been what stands out to me in this congregation and I hope to facilitate this type of setting. We will be trying out new ways to gather volunteers and will be playing with new curriculum so don't hesitate to give input. After all, it does take a village to raise a child. Communication is one tool that I value on the highest so please feel free to contact me at muurec@gmail.com with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you for this great opportunity!

Laura Nagle

Coming of Age Program

A Coming of Age Program is being offered from September 2013 into June 2014. If you are a youth that will be in high school next year, we strongly encourage you to participate in this program. This is a Religious Exploration program that helps youth discern for themselves what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, individually and as part of the larger faith community. It involves individual activities, group activities, family participation, and working with a mentor.

There will be about six Group Sessions and one half-day Spiritual Practices Workshop. Also included in the program is an overnight Vision Quest Retreat.

Please join in on an informational meeting on Sunday, March 17, during the worship service. We will get you excited about this awesome opportunity for your Spiritual Growth journey.

For more information you can contact Teri Rockwood at teri.rockwood@gmail.com or 906-235-8064.

Prophetic Purpose

That's the theme for this year's Central Midwest District Assembly being held in Waukesha (just west of Milwaukee) April 26-28.

Dynamic keynote speakers include Dr. Nicole Kirk from the Meadville Lombard Seminary in Chicago and Rev. Nathan C. Walker, minister of First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia.

If you'd like to be inspired and informed at services, workshops, and informal discussions...if you'd like to help affect a positive change from "Districts" to "Regions" which could provide more extensive services and resources for MUUC, consider attending the District Assembly.

Interested in sharing a ride? Contact Barb Michael at 273-1174 or michael.barbara.102@gmail.com.

Transition Marquette County is offering a co-op seed purchase opportunity.

The order includes 35 different varieties of vegetables and herbs which would provide for a basic Upper Peninsula food producing garden. The cost is \$10 plus one hour of volunteer time sorting and packaging the order, or \$20 without the volunteer hour. Orders can be placed on the Transition Marquette County website - www.transitionmqt.org - which also has more information about the order and a complete list of the different vegetables and herbs included. Orders will be picked up at the Transition Marquette County meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 12, at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 1510 E M28 in Chocoday Township. For more informatio, call Brooke at (906) 869-1654.

The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin is a new e-newsletter from LGBTQ Ministries, part of the Multicultural Ministries office of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This month:

Tool to use: New LGBTQ Online Organizing Academy

Action to take: Deepen Your Reproductive Justice Engagement

Story to inspire: Church Celebrates Welcoming Congregation Anniversary with Concert to Benefit LGBTQ Youth

News to share: Immigration Reform is a Top LGBTQ Issue

Click http://www.uua.org/documents/lgbtq/130201_wcbulletin.pdf to see this sixth issue!

Subscription to *The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin* is open to all through this link: <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/230747.shtml>.

Alex Kapitan

LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Administrator

Call for Our Whole Lives (OWL) Teachers:

OWL will be offered again next fall (October 2013 - May 2014).

Please let Sarah Johnson or another RE Committee member know if you are interested.

Training is required and can be completed this upcoming spring.

Information regarding this valuable sexual education program is available on the UUA website: www.uua.org.

Dear Friends,

Eleven newcomers to MUUC have been gathering once a week to get to know one another better and learn more about UUism and MUUC. We've had some interesting and challenging conversations, especially about spirituality, walking the UU talk, and how to find common ground among such a philosophically and religiously diverse group of people. Typical UU fare, but at a deeper level than usual...maybe it was sitting by a fire that opened us all up.



The conversation has been so stimulating and thought-provoking that I have modified the topic of my next service (March 6) to get down to some basics about terminology we use but rarely define. We will have some group reflection that Sunday about the meaning of "spirituality," and the diverse ways we practice or don't practice it. Please join us for what will likely be some lively discourse. Keeping it short and sweet this month....

Yours in service,
Nancy Irish
MUUC Celebrant/Coordinator

Getting to Know Hailey Spillane

Hailey is in her senior year at NMU. From Novi, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit "with a big mall," Hailey loves Marquette and all it has to offer. She has been happy to get away from the congestion of the "car centered" world of lower Michigan and likes the wide streets and the "downtown" here. When in school, she was active in the drama club. Hailey has been coming to UU since she first came to Marquette as a freshman and volunteers to work with the children on Sundays.



Sometime next year, Hailey will graduate. She is majoring in Environmental Studies and Sustainability with minors in German and Outdoor Recreation. She has been to Germany several times and speaks the language fluently. In her last year in high school, she went to Europe on a student trip. They stopped in Germany for a few days, and she fell in love with the country and the language, even though she had taken four years of French in high school. In her senior year, she broke her leg during the winter and was limited in what she could do. So she went through the Rosetta Stone program for German, and that next summer, between high school and college, she went to Germany to study. When she came to NMU as a freshman, she went right into the 300-level German literature classes. She thought of pursuing a German major but decided she could use her German skills while doing other things and not be as limited.

Hailey has also traveled in Switzerland and has gone to Ireland every few summers to visit her grandfather, who now lives with Hailey's family. She has also been on several Caribbean cruises with her family and went to Australia with friends for a few weeks. Australia is beautiful and warm and not that much different from here. Hailey was in New Zealand for the New Year; it is the first country to celebrate each new year, and the fireworks in Auckland are broadcasted around the world. She would also like to travel more in this country, and over the break, she went to Arizona to visit a friend she had worked with last summer.

Since she has been in Marquette, Hailey has gone in with some friends to buy a house which they are renovating. One person actually bought the house, and the three others pay "rent" which pays off the mortgage. Any extra money each month goes toward improvements. The house is 100 years old and was abandoned for 5 years. Bit by bit, they are rebuilding it and have painted the roof, torn down and reroofed another section, rewired it all and dealt with lots of plumbing issues. They enjoy taking the time to fix it up. Hailey has become very adept at patching holes and working with mud. And they are all into rock climbing and have built a climbing wall in the house!

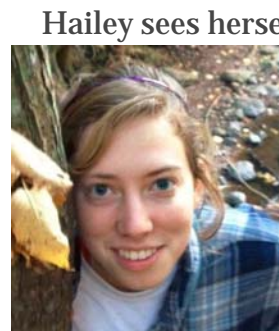
Hailey has been investigating aquaponics and is raising fish along with growing a garden. She would like to use this garden as a learning example to show others what can be done. She would also like to start a non profit and do work shops out and about, training others in what they could do at home. Hopefully, more people will move in this direction.

This past summer, Hailey was in Boulder, CO, working with children in a summer

camp. She was the "nature person" in a program sponsored by the YMCA. She took the little kids on overnight trips, on nature walks and taught them how to survive in the out of doors. They made steamy nettle stir fry and used plants that they had identified as edible. It was the first time the kids ate their vegetables without complaining! She loves teaching children to be one with nature.

Hailey has worked at an outdoor environmental education center in Manistique and is planning to do so again this summer. She ran high ropes for the kids, took them up into the trees, taught aquatics and plants and birds, etc., for 5th, 6th and 7th graders. She likes working with all age groups but favors this age. They respond to any attention they're given and are so awkward. They don't know what is going on, they are beginning to figure out life and hormones, they love each other, they hate each other.... Hailey loves it and does not know why! She would like to continue working with a nature school or something similar for kids who live in the city and has considered opening a school in Detroit some day to teach kids about nature and to learn to care about it. They have no idea where their food comes from.

This semester, Hailey will be tutoring students in the Geographic Information Science lab on campus in making maps and overlays on the computer. In an urban geography class she was in, students went on field trips in Marquette and studied different lines of development and where and why certain houses were built.



Hailey sees herself as a "recovering Catholic." She found out about UU when she was in high school and went to a UU youth group. But she did not really learn much about what UU's believe. At that time, she was going to different Christian churches and sects. All she ended up taking away from it were "a bunch of UU jokes." She loved that and thought UU was the "coolest church ever." She began going to the services and asked her mother to join her.

Her mother, a strict Lutheran, had become a Catholic when she married. Hailey likes that UU is pluralistic and feels all religions really have the same goal, the same "unknowingness" or god or whatever UU's accept. Since she began volunteering to work with the children, she has been coming more regularly and would like to be a more permanent part of the congregation.

She plays the piano and the flute and loves folk music and acoustical arrangements. Sheila Devlin and Hailey have hooked up to play some duets with Sheila on the lyre. She also likes to sing and has a cat.

Uncertain about what she will do when she graduates, Hailey may go to grad school in a big city. But she may wait on that because she and her roommates are planning on building a greenhouse this summer. She may study abroad next year, but, if so, she wonders if she will ever come back. Needless to say, Hailey thrives if she has a lot to do!

Rachel Crary

Next Board Meeting: 6:30 pm, Tuesday, January 15, 2013, MUUC Meeting House

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
Cherokee Helms-Gleason, cherk71@gmail.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; Nancy Sullivan, 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.

FEBRUARY SERVICE AND FORUM SCHEDULE

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Mar. 3	“The Common Good.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	“Congregational Conversation about...Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About GA But Were Afraid to Ask—including ‘What’s GA?’” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
Mar. 10	“Exploring Spirituality: Seeking Common Ground in a Faith Tradition that Embraces All Paths.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“My Trip to India .” Host: Gary Stark
Mar. 17	“Thinkin’ o’ the Green.” Service Leader: gg Gordon	“St. Patrick’s Day: A Discussion of Myths.” Host Tim VanderVeen
Mar. 24	“Choosing Compassionate Consumption.” (UUSC Justice Sunday). Service Leaders: Social Action Committee (Gail Griffith, Barb Michael)	TBA
Mar. 31	“Bunnies, Chicks, Eggs and Flowers - Easter for Unitarian Universalists.” Service Leaders: February Sky (Phil Cooper & Susan Urban) History, reflection and music dealing with ways to "own" this most Christian of holidays, whether or not we believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Included will be a variation on the traditional Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion, so PLEASE bring a flower to church!	TBA Don't forget to bring your Econo sales slips, used ink jet cartridges and used cell phones to the meeting house. We collect these items and get cash for the congregation in exchange!

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

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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To: