



# THE CHRONICLE

Marquette  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation



## Services & Forums October 2014



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Oct. 5	“What We Saw at the People’s Climate March in NYC” Service Leader: gg Gordon	“My Personal Spiritual Journey.” Host: Jacob Studinger
Oct. 12	“Coming Out Day.” Service Leader: Rev. Gaby Parks	“Congregational Conversations About Sharing the Goals of the Coming Year” Host: MqtUU Board of Trustees Chris Wagner & Sarah Redmond
Oct. 19	“Spiritual Connections.” Service Leader: Simone Chiodini (a study of the different cultures that practice speaking to the dead and my own experience speaking with those that have passed)	
Oct. 26		

**MqtUU Board President, Sarah Redmond & Treasurer, gg gordon  
People’s Climate March, NYC**



**Sarah w/UUA President  
Peter Morales**



**Sarah & gg on the  
Manhattan Bridge**

## **FROM: MqtUU President, Sarah Redmond**

And we're off! The church year has gotten off to a great start with enthusiasm and joy palpable. When I look around at our members initiating Sunday, RE, adult programming, music, Green Team, I see a fresh vitality. Thank you one and all.

Our members who were instrumental in organizing and carrying off the first ever gay pride march and festival in Upper Michigan.

Our Green Team has investigated the installation of solar panels at the meeting house and is now spreading the word to not only our congregation but the wider community. We'll make a decision at our congregational meeting in January and hopefully install solar in 2015. Three of us — gg gordon, Jon Martin and myself — attended the People's Climate March in NYC where 400,000 people rather than the 100,000 expected, told the world leaders gathered for the UN Climate Change meeting, that it's time to act. What we can do at the Meeting House is a small, but important, act.

We continue to support and outreach to local, national and international charities with our fund raising events and Share the Plate efforts. Our Women's Center fund raiser on October 19th with Susan Werner looks to be a sellout (a special thanks to Anne Stark for donating her house party).

Sometimes members, particularly new members, wonder how these new events and activities get started. Simple, a member has an idea, talks to other members to see if there's interest, checks to see if there's any conflict with date and location, talks to a committee chair or board member. If there's no conflict with our principles and values, pretty much anything that builds community and furthers our mission, is a go. So, if you have an idea and the energy to move it forward, let's hear from you.

We can never say "thank you" enough to all of our members and staff for the great work done on our behalf. Service, whatever form it takes, is a gift of the heart and is what helps make us human. Thank you one and all.

Sarah Redmond  
President, Board of Trustees



## **FROM: The Green Team**

### **Our 7th Principle Project: Solar at the Meeting House**

On **Saturday, October 25th from 10 a.m. to noon**, we will host for ourselves, the broader religious community and the public at large, a gathering to look at the feasibility of installing solar in Upper Michigan. Steve Waller, who has 35 years experience with solar and renewable energy projects, will share his expertise with us. Our newly revived Green Team has spent the summer researching the possibility for our Meeting House and will share their findings. A question and answer period from people who have been there will help with those nagging questions you may have. We have three members, at least, that have gone solar at their homes and can share their different experiences.

So bring your questions, your enthusiasm for our 7th Principle and let's keep the lights on with the help of that giant yellow ball in the sky.

**Spread the word.**



# FROM: MqtUU Religious Exploration Coordinator

Greetings!

This year we started off Religious Exploration with a “kick-off” night. Kids and parents came for dinner where we made pizza and roasted marshmallow sandwiches. The kids had a great time running around and sharing their summer stories. Thank you to the families that participated!



On the first day of RE we doubled our number of students! We have three different curriculums in place for the upcoming months:

## [Creating Home](#) k-1

This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith.

## [Toolbox of Faith](#) 4-5

Invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith.

## **Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong** 6-7

This program guides sixth graders through ways to determine right from wrong with a Unitarian Universalist perspective, and act on their new understandings.

Coming of Age will be ending November 30<sup>th</sup>, Thank you to all who made it possible and a special thanks to Teri Rockwood!



Because of the high demand of teachers and volunteers we have decided to shift the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students into either “Creating Home” or “Toolbox of Faith”

## **We need teachers for October 05, 12, 19, and 26th**

Our next RE committee meeting will be held at the meeting house on October 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. We hope that you will be able to participate in the communal clean-up day before hand and will then join us for the RE meeting. We are always in need of teachers and assistants so if you are interested please contact Laura Nagle at [muurec@gmail.com](mailto:muurec@gmail.com).

In November(11/7 or 11/14) we will be having a “Heifer dinner planning” lock-in. We encourage families to prepare to spend the night to participate fully in the culmination of this year’s Heifer dinner. The dinner fundraising event will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the meeting house.

We are in the process of finding a new RE coordinator. I will be stepping down in February and have really enjoyed the past two years. It has been an absolute pleasure serving our congregation and with your help this transition will be smooth.

Thank You!

Laura M. Nagle



## **FROM: Tim VanderVeen, Community Development Committee**

The Community Development Committee meets every month with the goal of providing material and emotional support for our members, friends, and the community-at-large. We provide a new member orientation and welcoming program for those making the commitment to becoming members of our congregation. The CDC members also enlist greeters and kitchen help on any given Sunday, as well as individual support for those facing difficult times. We support several community programs such as the Women's Shelter, Room at the Inn, End of Life workshop, Adopt-A-Highway, and a variety of groups and organizations which reflect our values of acceptance and compassion.

Our committee is encouraging others to attend our meetings and consider becoming an active member of the CDC. Fresh ideas, energy, and caring hearts are all that is needed to contribute to the well-being of our congregation and our community.

Contact Tim VanderVeen, CDC Chair, at 906-346-2122 for additional information.

## **Meet A Couple of Our Newer Members:**

**Megan Michelle Foulks** is an enthusiastic, new member of the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Her peripatetic life has taken her from a childhood near Chicago to the classrooms of Northern Michigan University, out to the Bay Area in California, and then back to the U.P. of Michigan and the Marquette area.

Megan grew up in the Catholic Church in Schaumburg, Illinois, but moved to the U.P. in 2002 to study Environmental Conservation at Northern. Along with the move away from family Megan began to explore new beliefs and values in her search for what seemed to be missing from her Catholic faith.

She joined a pagan group at Northern and found her embrace of agnostic beliefs came with fewer formal rules and less pressure. She found a greater sense of direction and a better fit.

A common thread that motivated her geographic wanderings was her love a nature and the environment, as well as a sense of adventure that leads her to open new doors and walk through.

She has always been open to change and as she told me, "Letting the chips fall where they may." Megan told me her husband Doug, whom she met at NMU, supports her and knows she will succeed when she "sets her mind to it."

Upon graduation in 2007 she attended a Career fair at Northern where she saw brochures and folders on an unattended table. She picked up the folder and found information about an internship out in California at Muir Woods Interpretive Center in Marin County. She was hired for the internship and was provided housing on a former military base while Doug lived with a friend.

Following her internship she moved to Alameda County where she and Doug had an apartment. There she started two part time jobs; one at the salt marsh, and other with the County visiting classes of elementary children to teach them about watersheds. While life was not extravagant, they enjoyed the adventure and stayed for two years before returning to the U.P. in 2009.

As has been true on her life's journey for the past twelve years or so, her companion on this adventure has been Doug. They both found work in a motel in Marquette.



One day Megan saw a letter carrier walking down the sidewalk and thought that might be something she “could do.” However, she discovered the waiting list was long and those with military experience were moved to the front of that line. Then while talking to the postmaster at the Marquette Post Office her learned about an opening for a rural carrier.

So in late 2010 Megan took the government test to become a rural letter carrier and passed. She started the job soon after and to this day, continues to drive the country roads delivering the mails to folks around Marquette Country.

Megan’s exploration of alternative religious beliefs and observations brought her to the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation this past year. She has participated in services sharing her skills and love of meditation and peace.

Megan has a quiet enthusiasm about her and a warm and comforting demeanor.

She and Doug are expecting their first baby this March and look forward to welcoming this latest addition to an active family which includes rabbits; Pookah, and Bunnercules, and Swarles Barkley, the dog.

If you see her riding her bike around town or on her way to the Meeting House on Sunday, wave. Megan enjoys life and her smile will brighten your day.

*Tim VanderVeen*

~\*~



**Jacob Studinger** is our newest member. Jacob is an Upper Peninsula native, having been born and raised in Manistique in a large bi-lingual family. As a child, he insisted on only speaking German at home despite the fact that his siblings and parents both spoke English. Since his mom didn’t speak anything but English, it was eventually decided that only English be spoken around him so that he learned it.

Jacob attended grades K-8 at a Catholic parochial school and started questioning some of the Catholic doctrines, especially the idea of the trinity, which seemed to him to be polytheism. He found some of his mother’s books on myth and religion at home and started reading. Later he pursued his interest via library books and later when internet resources came available, he started using them to continue his search for understanding. He felt and still feels drawn to the concepts of Native American spirituality.

Jacob attended a couple of community colleges and then graduated from NMU with a degree in art with a focus on ceramics. He has studied various types of massage and other complimentary healing techniques , such as Reiki, cupping, Gua sha, LaHoChi, myofascial release, and trigger point therapy. He works independently out of a local chiropractor’s office. He no longer does ceramics due to lack of kiln access locally, and has taken up knitting. He is intrigued with working with the raw fiber and learning this new craft. Jacob has lived in Marquette for some years now and recently, he and his partner of eight years, Brad, moved into a new apartment here.

Jacob says that after so many years of being required to attend church by both his school and family, he found himself reluctant to start attending church again. But he wanted to have a community with whom to grow and learn. He likes it that each of our services are different and finds a new spiritual take away each time. Jacob will share some of his thoughts on spirituality at a forum in October.

*Nancy Sullivan*



# ***NEWS From MqtUU...***

## **Starting search process for new CRE**

Laura Nagle is submitting her resignation as Coordinator of Religious Exploration, effective in January of 2014. She will have served the congregation in this capacity for two years. We appreciate all that she has done for the program!

The Search Committee for a new Coordinator of Religious Exploration for preschoolers through high school youth is gathering input from the congregation. We are following the UUA's "From Starting to Parting" guidelines for hiring a new CRE. If any of you have comments or questions regarding the search process or descriptors for a new CRE, please direct them, preferably in writing, to one of the following:

Barb Michael at [michael.barbara.102@gmail.com](mailto:michael.barbara.102@gmail.com) or 273-1174

Kathy Wright at [coffeandredwine@gmail.com](mailto:coffeandredwine@gmail.com)

Nancy Sullivan at [nance249@gmail.com](mailto:nance249@gmail.com)

## **Reflection & Learning Project on Israel-Palestine**



Launched at the 2014 UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI, UU's for Justice in the Middle East offered a new study designed to reach UU's throughout our denomination, as well as interested members of local interfaith communities.

As a responsible faith community, we want to become informed so as to understand, converse, and act with a solid background and foundation. A three-part series of four workshops each, following three (UU, Episcopal, and Presbyterian) study guides, will take place in November, January, and April.

The first viewing & discussion session with lunch refreshments will take place Sun., Nov. 2 from 1-2:15 pm at the Meeting House. Child Care can be provided. For more information, check the bulletin board or see Barb Michael.

## **Search for piano or guitar accompanist**

If you know anyone who may be interested in accompanying the congregation and small group of UU singers occasionally, please have them contact Jeanne or Barb. A stipend will be offered.

Jeanne Trost, Music Committee Chair, at [jeannehaven@aol.com](mailto:jeannehaven@aol.com)

Barb Michael, Coordinator of Music, at [michael.barbara.102@gmail.com](mailto:michael.barbara.102@gmail.com)



## SOME HISTORY OF OUR CONGREGATION

**Note** - Nancy Sullivan with help from Barbara Michael, Gail Griffith and others wrote a brief history of the congregation some of which has appeared in past newsletters. Here is another piece of it. The complete history can be found in the Who We Are notebook on the visitors table.

### Third attempt (at starting a UU congregation in Marquette) – 1992

Kathy Melanbacher (now, Melanbacher-Claycomb), a young woman living in Gwinn was encouraged by her mother, Jean Melanbacher, to get a UU group started in the Marquette area. Kathy's mother was a key organizer in a small UU group meeting in homes in Grand Marais at that time. Jean knew of Gail Griffith, who had been in the 1970s group and had Kathy contact her. Together they spread the word to members of 1970s group. Fourteen people gathered at Kathy's "tiny home" filling both her living room and dining room on Father's Day, 1992.

Kathy recalls that most of the people attending that gathering had been participants in the 1970's group. Kathy remembers that the Gorskis, the Griffiths and the Schwitzgoebels were in attendance. All present thought that starting another UU group was a good idea. They agreed to participate, but the comment was made that for a successful endeavor, everyone had to participate in some way. Those present felt that the reason the previous group had failed to thrive was that the main organizer did not have sufficient help from others.

Gail Griffith, L.E.E. Wolf and Kathy Melanbacher researched the "Church in a Box" from Church of the Larger Fellowship of the UUA, and looked into possible meeting places over the summer. They also met with Jerry Wright, the representative from the Michigan-Ohio district. The larger group met again in August or September 1992 (possibly at Glenda Robinson's house) and formally decided to start the process of forming a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

A basket was passed and \$200 was immediately raised to start the church. The "Church in a Box" materials were ordered to help the group get started. In August, 1992 L.E.E Wolf contacted the Rev. Mark Engle at St. Paul's Episcopal Church about using space on Sunday afternoons. The group started meeting in the Morgan Chapel at the St. Paul's Episcopal church on the first and third Sunday afternoons of the month that fall. The Rev. Mark Engle at St. Paul's Episcopal Church was supportive of our developing UU congregation and the warm relationship continues today.

Our first Board of Trustees met on Dec. 1, 1992. Members were L.E.E. Wolf, President; Mike Gorski, VicePresident; Kathy Melanbacher, secretary; Sue Halbrook and Gail Griffith were Members at Large. Standing committees were Children's Program, Finance, Incorporation and By-laws, Maintenance, Program, Social Service, Publicity, and a Treasurer's position.



**Buddhism Exploration  
and  
Mindful Meditation**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**  
(1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

Meet to meditate and discuss pages 74 - 89 of *Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness, walking the Buddha's path*. New folks are always welcome, so don't feel you need to have read the book; we'll help you catch up.

**FIRST FRIDAY  
POTLUCK & SOCIAL**

**October 3 @ 6pm**  
**MqtUU Meeting House**

Bring a dish to share for MqtUU  
monthly potluck.

Come for dinner and stay for the movie!  
"Inequality For All"

## **FROM: The Social Action Committee**

We discuss and plan promotion, education and advocacy of the various social justice issues from our local community, our state, our nation and our world. If you are interested in sharing your concerns and what we can do to be the change we want to see in the world, please join us.

**"Share the Plate"** offers opportunities for our members to develop and deepen connections with these non-profit organizations. Your nominations of non-profit organizations for next year's recipients are welcome!

October's "Share the Plate" recipient: The Marquette Women's Center/Harbor House  
"The Women's Center provides 24/7 emergency-intervention and crisis-intervention services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking in Marquette and Alger Counties, providing individual/group counseling and advocacy through programs that Protect, Educate, Advocate, Counsel and Empower (PEACE). For 40 more than years, it has been our mission to support survivors, to increase public awareness and to change the attitudes which allow these violent crimes to continue.

Harbor House is a haven for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. It also provides outreach services to survivors who do not stay in the shelter. It is the only shelter of its kind in Marquette and Alger Counties and usually operates at capacity."

<http://wcmqt.weebly.com/about-us.html>

Our next Social Action Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 19 at the Meeting House at 12:30pm. Please join us and bring your thoughts and suggestions on how to further promote the cause of justice and equality in our community and around the world.

~Heidi Gould, SAC Co-Chair





## ***NEW PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE MqtUU MEETING HOUSE***

**Chair Yoga** ~ The First of weekly sessions will be held Wednesday, October 1 (no class October 29) at 5:30pm by Yoga Therapist, Dharmini Robertson, ERYT, RYT-500, CPT.

Class consists of movements seated on a mat and standing postures. Those needing to remain seated in a chair can do so. Support for arthritis, low back pain, chronic pain, and myriad other health issues provided.

Appropriate for seniors and those post-rehab for injury. Some medical conditions may require release from a doctor. Check with the instructor about any health concerns. All participants required to fill out release/waiver forms.

What to Bring: Mat, loose-fitted clothing, water.

Suggested donation: \$5 - to be given to the UU

**Traditional Salon** ~ Beginning, **October 10 at 6:30 p.m., a Traditional Salon will be held with** facilitator: Dharmini Robertson. The purpose is to offer a chance for group thinking, sharing on specific topics of interest as designated by the group, to seed future actions for those in attendance. It is a place for people to experience intellectual and artful discussion with adults of various talents and abilities, to promote a sense of community, camaraderie, and active participation in the life of our community.

Topic: What are you thinking on and obsessing about lately? Identify and share what we would like our group to focus on, i.e. art, politics, science, socializing, philanthropy, history, and spirituality. Bring an open mind and an open heart. **What to bring:** Friends, open hearts and minds. Please RSVP to [dharminirobertson@gmail.com](mailto:dharminirobertson@gmail.com)

## **October Meetings & Events** (See Forums & Services on pg. 1)

(Meetings and events will take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise specified)

October 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 5:30pm Wednesdays	Chair Yoga (This is the first of weekly sessions)
October 1 @ 7pm Wednesday	Buddhist Exploration & Meditation
October 2 @ 7 – 3:30pm Thursday	Choir Rehearsal
October 3 @ 6pm Friday	First Friday! Bring a dish to share, come for a meal, stay for the movie!
October 4 @ 12pm Saturday	Religious Exploration Committee
October 10 @ 6:30pm Friday	Traditional Salon
October 15 @ 7pm Wednesday	Buddhist Exploration & Meditation
October 18 @ 10am Saturday	MqtUU Men's Group
October 19 @ 12:15pm Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting
October 19 @ 11am Sunday	Coming of Age Students are meeting.
October 19 @ 7pm Sunday	Susan Werner Benefit Concert for the Women's Center
October 22 @ 6pm Wednesday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
October 25 @ 10am Saturday	Community Presentation on "Going Solar"

# Susan Werner

Benefit Concert  
for Marquette Womens Center



7 p.m., Sunday,  
October 19

with  
Jeff Krebs

MqtUU Meeting House  
1510 M28 East

\$10 min.  
Suggested donation