

# Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

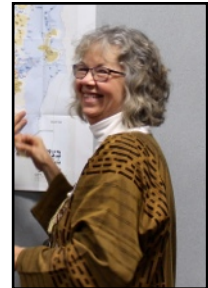
## The Chronicle

October, 2013



### MUUC and the UUA: changes...

No, MUUC is not moving, other than "walking our talk" in the community. However, the Unitarian Universalist Association is moving the Boston headquarters from 25 Beacon St. to  
**24 Farnsworth**



Check out [uua.org](http://uua.org) if you'd like to know more. Some folks are really excited about it - just like many of us were when we moved to our current Meeting House at 1510 M-28, blessing it with fresh lavender from Sari Embley's garden. Little hands and big hands carried what they could on that sunny day in 2007. At least 32 new members have joined since that day, and we look forward to welcoming new members, friends, and guests this year.

Remember you are all welcome to give input to your Board members at three different opportunities:

- Participate in first Sunday of the month adult forums
- Attend monthly Board meetings (next one is 6:30 pm, Mon., Oct. 14)
- Contact individual Board members

Another good connection for each of us individually is through the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship, whose resources we can each tap with a contribution. They are in existence primarily for those UU's who are isolated geographically from other UU's. If you go to [questformeaning.org](http://questformeaning.org), you can find out more about these resources, including pastoral care. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see "Prayer for Caregivers" offered by CLF minister, Meg Riley.

I want to thank the Steindlers and the Wrights for leading our congregational gatherings and to each of you who participated and shared your ideas. I am eager to help resolve challenges and to work with others as we "nurture our spirits to help heal our world."

In shared ministry.

Barbara Michael  
MUUC Board President



*Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation, September 8, 2013  
Ingathering: Water Ceremony*

# The Marquette Unitarian Universalist Religious Education (RE) Program

Designed to give the children an opportunity to understand the world at large as well as make educated decisions with UU principles. Our underlying theme this year will be the “Web of Life” from the Unitarian Universalist Tapestry of faith resource. We are asking that each committee come forth to present their objectives and where they fit in our MUUC web. The second Sunday of almost every month will be dedicated to a specific committee. We thrive and survive off of volunteers and we would love to share the RE fun!

## Snack-time



A very exciting year to come for all and to make things a bit easier RE has budgeted for food and will provide a healthy snack of your child (We are feeding the mind, body, and soul ;) If you are interested in doing a separate service in months to come or would just like more information contact Laura Nagle RE coordinator, [muurec@gmail.com](mailto:muurec@gmail.com)

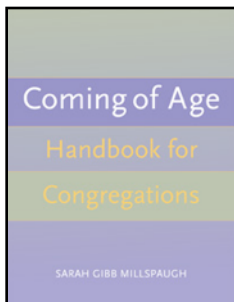
## Important dates:

*Committee led RE sessions on the 10/13, 11/10, 1/12, 2/16.* Please consider signing up for one of these dates in order to show the children the interworking of our congregation. The Heifer dinner will be on December 14 and will have a few Sundays prior to prep. Our Valentine’s day service will be February 9<sup>th</sup> and will be led by the RE students.



## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the Marquette area. The official date for the parent orientation and OWL program is TBA but participation at a parent orientation meeting is required of all parents of OWL students. Attending an orientation can help you decide whether to enroll your child.



## Coming of Age Program

Terri Rockwood has begun providing the coming of age program this year. The COA Program is being offered into June 2014. 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. Thank you Terri and participants!

Heifer Dinner -- hold the date, Sunday, December 14th



## **Programing for Adults at Mqt.UU**

Religious education for our children and young people is a strong priority at Mqt.UU. Now it's time to be just as intentional for adult religious education and activities. Would you like groups on various religious and spiritual themes like the newly starting Buddhism? Would you like purely social activities? What about service projects such as volunteering at the Women's Center or for Room at the Inn? Our Soul to Soul groups have been well received, so perhaps the follow up Heart to Heart would be of interest to you? There is even an adult version of the OWL sexuality program we could offer.

**Our newly added internet service** offers us the opportunity to do some UUA workshops, perhaps that might be of interest. We also can help folks get online with Facebook and Twitter. We do have two Facebook presences you know; a page and a group. Want to know the difference, we can do a class after service some Sunday. No end of ideas, just need your input, plus your willingness to participate and help lead.

**The Forum on October 6th will begin the conversation, so please join us if you can.** If not, contact gg gordon with your ideas or questions.

## **MUUC Service & Forum Schedule**

**Service (11 a.m.)**

**Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)**

**Oct. 6**

Service: "Accessibility Services: Where Do We Stand." Service Leader: gg gordon

Forum "Congregational Conversations about...Adult Religious Programming at MUUC (beyond Sunday morning): What would you like?" Host: MUUC Board of Trustees

**Oct. 13**

Service: "National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11)." Service Leaders: Aiden Pietila

Forum: "Marquette Community Outreach and Support." Host: Darlene Dreisbach, Room At the Inn .

**Oct. 20**

Service: "UU-United Nations Office." Dr. Constance Baker (Oct. 24 is UN Day). Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen.

Forum: "Introduction and Update on Bay Cliff." Host: gg Gordon.

**Oct. 27**

Service: "Commemorating the Day of the Dead: by Planting Trees Under Whose Shade We May Never Sit." Service Leader: gg Gordon

Forum: "UU Involvement in Prison Ministry." Hosts: Barb Michael and Sarah Redmond



## MQT UU Will Recycle Your Cast Off Electronics For You!!!

Through PlanetGreen, Marquette UU can recycle all of the items listed below and receive money in return! So, you can clean out your closets and drawers, easily get rid of stuff, and benefit the environment and our congregation at the same time!

Planet Green will pay us for the following items. Just bring them to the meetinghouse and place them in or near the PlanetGreen collection boxes in the vestibule.

Inkjet Cartridges

Cell Phones/Pagers & Accessories

GPS & Radar Detectors

Mobile Hot Spots

Calculators

eBook Readers

iPods/MP3 Players

Digital/Video Cameras

PDAs & Blackberries

iPads/Tablets

Video Game Consoles & Handhelds

Video Games & Accessories

Please contact g.g. gordon, [plumskiter@gmail.com](mailto:plumskiter@gmail.com), if you have any questions



### Do you shop at Econo? If so, it's cash for the Congregation

Please save all of your cash register receipts from Econo Foods and bring them to the Meetinghouse. Econo foods will rebate to us 1% of all the money we spend at their stores. We have received several thousand dollars from Econo Foods thus far and this rebate is an important supplement to our pledged income, so please help out. There is a collection basket near the kitchen for your Econo slips.

### Exploring Buddhism and Mindful Meditation Group forming

Our second meeting will be Wednesday, October 2nd at 7 pm at the Meeting House. We plan to meeting twice a month, the first and third Wednesday, to explore how the philosophy and practice of Buddhism can add to our lives and our over all well being. No previous experience or knowledge needed, we'll learn together. The beginning text we're using is Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism and is available through the UUA bookstore. <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?pc=1794> or for Kindle from Amazon. If you don't have a copy, come anyway and we'll figure something out. For information contact Sarah Redmond at [shelterbay2006@yahoo.com](mailto:shelterbay2006@yahoo.com).

### Every want to be Pearl Mesta, "the hostess with the mostest"? (only works with those over 60)

Our congregation needs a Hospitality Team leader, perhaps that's you? Just as our own personal home needs that special touch, so does our church home. Would love to have a member of the congregation take on this role of making our church home a welcoming and special place to members and visitors. Could easily be co-led, so you might be one of two. See Tim Vanderveen or Nancy Sullivan.

### Don't like committee meetings? Have computer skills? Like to be creative? Enjoy writing? Good at herding UU cats?

If the above sounds like you and you've been looking for a way to contribute to our congregation, you just might be our next Chronicle editor. Once a month (by the 25th) members will send you articles, you do the layout, follow-up with folks if needed, send pdf to Shirley Zimmer to be emailed out to the congregation. Usually takes me about 4-5 hours. If interested in talking about giving it a try, contact Sarah Redmond, [shelterbay2006@yahoo.com](mailto:shelterbay2006@yahoo.com).



*Heidi Gould led a group of four UUs, two from Houghton, and others in demonstration against Keystone XL Pipeline*



*Nancy Sullivan showing shawl she knitted for our TLC group to give to our members in need of a warm hug. Contact Nancy if you'd like to join our knitters; simple knitting skills needed, coaching available.*



*Mgt. UU members and youth joined by others in object of US entering war with Syria.*

## October Happenings

October 2nd -- Exploring Buddhism 7pm

October 14th -- Board of Trustees 6:30 pm

October 15th --Transition Marquette 7 pm

October 16th -- Exploring Buddhism 7 pm

October 16th-- Choir Rehearsal

RE Committee Meeting TBA

Program Committee TBA

CDC Committee TBA

Soul to Soul TBA

(Look for specific dates or changes in the This n That)

All events at Meeting House excepting Soul to Soul and Choir

## From our Stewardship Chair:

My name is Michael White and I have volunteered to chair the Stewardship Committee this year. I am planning to have our annual pledge potluck meeting in February of next year. I am hoping to recruit a speaker for the event. If you have any suggestions for a good speaker, then please email me with your ideas.

In considering your pledge to our congregation, I hope we all consider the different services that MUUC offers to its members:

1. OWL sexual education program;
2. Weekly RE program for our children;
3. The Coming of Age program for our teenage youth;
4. Peace Camp;
5. Soul to Soul groups, and now Heart to Heart groups;
6. The Exploring Buddhism book group.

All of these activities represent real opportunities to engage with each other and to develop ourselves spiritually. I am sure that the OWL program is a service to our community that no other church is offering. Your pledges make all these programs possible.

I have been pledging for the last 3 years. I have found it helpful to make my pledge electronically using my banks internet banking services. I just have the electronic check sent to our congregations P.O. Box each month. In this way, my pledge is built into my monthly budget and it is easier for me to stay up to date on my monthly commitment.

So if you have any questions or concerns, please email me. If you would like to participate in the committee, just let me know. I would enjoy the company.

Mike White

## Proposed CSAI—Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling

September 29th Forum will begin discussing this UUA study issue. Each General Assembly approves social justice issues to be studied by our congregations and brought to the next GA for debate and action. Join us. For more information go to <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/189638.shtml>

**Issue: Reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally. Reproductive Justice represents a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women's power. The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right.**

**Grounding in Unitarian Universalism: Unitarian Universalist's (UU's) have been on the frontline of women's reproductive rights and anti-racist work for decades. The commitment to reproductive justice would reenergize that commitment, and pay attention to the important intersections of race, class and gender. This work would be informed by the feminist theologians, reproductive justice advocates, and UU's in the movement.**

### Topics for Congregational Study

- Why is focusing on individual choice inadequate?
- What is reproductive justice?
- How do power structures limit individuals' access to reproductive justice?
- What are the choices in birth?
- What moral questions does reproductive technology create?
- How does sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse contribute to unintended pregnancies later in life?
- How can eliminating racism, classism and sexism reduce the need for abortion and enable families to care for the children they do have?
- How are pregnant women who use drugs stigmatized and what are the real dangers and solutions?
- How can transgendered individuals maintain their reproductive rights?
- How do economic justice and reproductive justice intersect?

# A Prayer for the Caregivers

by **Meg Riley**

You know who you are.

You put your own life on hold, move across the country to sit by the bedside.  
You process the hospital bills, pay them, know they matter more than the car you had thought you needed.  
You explain patiently, one more time, to the one who won't remember.  
You make 100 phone calls searching for a kidney donor.  
You hold the shaking body through the nightmares, even in your sleep.  
You take time to find the one food she will still eat.  
You rub ice chips on his lips, and then chapstick.  
You find hours you don't have, rush to the hospice. You'll sleep later.

You know who you are.  
You couldn't do anything else.  
It is your privilege and your duty to be right where you are.

This is a prayer for you:  
May what you are giving be a gift to you, as well.  
May the tiny smile bring comfort, bring joy.  
May the eyelid's flicker stir your heart.  
May you have a good laugh today.  
This is a prayer for you.

May these days be a blessing  
That carries you on the sea of love.  
May these days be  
The jewel in your crown.

**Meg Riley** is senior minister at CLF. She's been a UU minister for twenty years. As a UU kid in West Virginia, she quickly learned to enjoy being 'different,' which has served her well in a 'different' life. Riley lives in Minneapolis, where she enjoys walking by lakes, gardening, reading and writing, and in social media, where she enjoys hanging out, keeping up with people, and playing the occasional game of Scrabble. She is the parent of a teenager, and the companion of a number of four legged friends.

