

# THE CHRONICLE

## Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



### Services & Forums February 2014



DATE	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 - 10:30 a.m.)
Feb. 2	“Experiencing Buddhism, UU Style.” Service Leader: Sarah Redmond and Buddhist Reading Group	NO FORUM TODAY (End of Life Workshop after service)
Feb. 9	Gifts of the Heart: Children/Youth Valentine Service	“Beyond Global Warming: Is This the Only Issue?” Host: Sarah Redmond
Feb. 16	“Beloved Community.” Service Leaders: Mike White and Tom Spencer	“Social Media: Editing Wikipedia.” Host: Kathy Klos
Feb. 23	“What I Believe: MUUC Members Speak.” Service Leader: Mary Maki (Pledge Drive Potluck after service)	NO FORUM TODAY (Pledge drive potluck after service)

### COMING UP THIS SUNDAY...

#### End of Life Issues Workshop

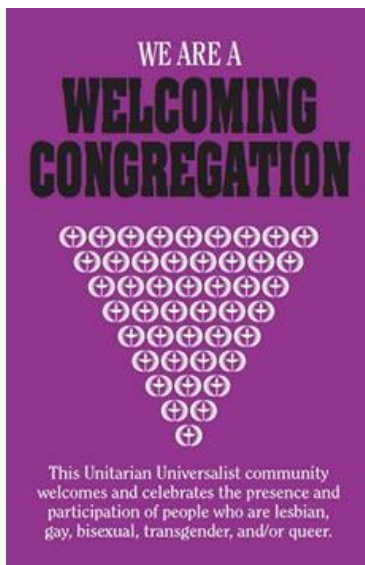
Lake Superior Hospice will provide an informational workshop on "End of Life Issues" on Sunday February 2nd from 12:30 to 3:00 at the Meeting House. We will explore many aspects of planning, support, communication, and caring for each other during a time in our lives that we don't often contemplate. We will explore our experiences and the staff at LSH will answer our questions and explain what services and support they can offer our families and community. We'll work on providing some sort of lunch or might develop a potluck if you like. Please contact Tim VanderVeen at 906-236-1979 for more information.

**FROM: MUUC President**



...and perhaps it's time to refresh our status. Every UU Welcoming Congregation Program must cover education, congregational life, and community outreach. For community outreach, here are six suggestions:

1. Celebrate and affirm those who identify as lesbian, transgender, gay, bisexual, and queer by participating in Pride events...Pride Fest coming to Marquette in September!
2. Participate in and/or support efforts to create justice, freedom, and equality for trans, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and queer people in the Marquette community or as far away as Uganda or Sochi.
3. Be aware of the upcoming trial Feb. 25 in Michigan regarding same-sex marriage. There are same-sex couples who have been married in other states, have a new name on their Social Security cards, get benefits from their spouses who are in the military...but in Michigan they cannot change their names on their main form of identity: their drivers' licenses.
4. Act for fair workplace and housing for those who identify as bi, trans, gay, lesbian or queer. Nearly 30 Michigan municipalities have local human rights ordinances which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment and housing. Marquette is not one of them.



5. Build relationships and promote dialogue and interaction with local GLBTQI organizations. If you don't identify as GLBTQ or I, then become an ally.

6. Provide use of building space when requested by members for programs and meetings of groups such as Interweave (UU's for LGBT Concerns) and other community groups. Join us for the U.P. Rainbow Pride Valentine's Day Dance at the Meeting House from 8 pm to midnight on Friday, Feb. 14.

Let us celebrate life and lives shared in agape and romantic love. As UU's we affirm and promote compassion and the dignity and worth of every human being so that we may all live with peace, liberty, and equality.

The UU Welcoming Congregation Program is a voluntary program for UU congregations who want to become more inclusive towards people who identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender. MUUC went through a series of workshops developed by the UUA about ten years ago. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and

acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Perhaps it is time for a refresher and to renew our MUUC commitment.



In shared ministry,  
Barb Michael

P.S. Remember that Black History Month can be celebrated in February, but each of our connections to it is important year round. Here's to life-long learning and positive transformations!

## **ON UUSC:**

Innovative eco-villages, which we individually helped the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee pioneer in Haiti, are showing up every day in the following places:

- Haiti's rural Central Plateau, where the first village went up in 2011 and immediately proved so successful other nonprofit organizations copied the model
- Port-au-Prince, where recycled container gardens — used truck tires placed on waist-high platforms and filled with soil and compost — originally developed for the eco-villages are on the brink of transforming the urban landscape
- The Philippines, where local groups have asked us to help them develop a pilot program based on the container garden concept to help subsistence farmers build sustainable livelihoods after Typhoon Haiyan destroyed their homes and crops

The eco-village success story shows how UUSC always works to leverage your generosity through Guest at Your Table or other gifts through [uus.org](http://uus.org).

## **FROM: UUA**

### **Congregational Study/Action Issues**

During the Mid-Year Congregation Meeting on Sunday, January 26, we took part in the UUA Congregational poll and will be submitting the three proposed study action issues that received the most of our congregational votes, which are:

- Escalating Inequality
- Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue
- Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians

For more information: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/>



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

## **FROM: The Board of Trustees**

### **Highlights from January 22nd Board of Trustees' Meeting**

1. Mike White and his committee are working hard to bring us our annual Pledge Campaign for 2014-15. The Kick Off date will be February 26th with a potluck from 12 to 2 pm. Folks are asked to bring either a salad, vegetables or a dessert. We will be providing burritos from Border Grill, so you might want to stay with that theme. Fourtissimo will provide the music. Mike will share thoughts and remarks.
2. Mgt. UU Communications will be consolidated and our new Administrative Assistant, Heidi Gould, will be creating and disseminating the This 'N That (TnT) every Thursday and the Chronicle monthly. Her new address for all notices and articles is mqtuuadassist@gmail.com. Deadline for TnT is Wed. evening. Deadline for Chronicle is the 25th of each month.
3. Community Development Committee - CDC - is hosting New Member classes. End of Life workshop to be held Sunday, February 2nd after church at 12:30 to 3 pm.
4. Social Action Committee -- SAC -- is supporting Rainbow Pride dance on February 14th, all invited. Women's Center donation box to be placed in lobby. Shared Plate date selections and education to be handled by SAC.
5. Personnel Policy draft distributed, discussed and will be voted on in February. General Policies and Procedures draft distributed and will be discussed at February meeting.
6. Meeting dates scheduled. Thursday, February 20th at 6 pm. Thursday, March 20th at 6 pm. All members welcome.

## **FROM: Religious Education Coordinator**



This is a great time to start anew and make goals. OWL is moving right along, Deep Ecology is going in depth, and Coming of Age is at a turning point. A very big thank you to our volunteer teachers: Paul Gray (OWL), gg Gordon (OWL), Michelle Lexmond (Deep Eco), Teri Rockwood (COA), Sarah Johnson (RE), Nancy Sullivan (RE) and Kim Frost (RE).

Have you ever wanted to help out with RE? Now is the time! For more information, ask any of the volunteers above or contact Laura Nagle, Religious Education Coordinator at [muurec@gmail.com](mailto:muurec@gmail.com)

Really, we have had a great start to RE this January!

We start each session with ritual opening words, lighting of the chalice, and sharing “JOYS & CONCERNS”

On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of this year, we learned the song “Peace like a River”. Thanks to Barb Michael and Nancy Sullivan, we also incorporated awesome hand motions into the song. The hand gestures made it easier for the students to remember the verses and also helped the congregation catch on when the RE students performed at the anti-war service.

The next week, January 12<sup>th</sup>, was blessed by the wonderful Kim Frost and Sarah Johnson as teachers! With a Masters degree in childhood education, Kim was able to reach the children in a great way. These two women taught the power of the dollar and how we vote with our dollars. The students were given two dollars to do what they wanted with, but were encouraged to use it as a tool for good. Sarah Johnson and her daughter Ruby Myron took this activity a step further and sought out people to “match their dollar”. Ruby turned her beginning two dollars into fifty dollars in a matter of days! She ended up donating the money to a local girl who is fighting cancer. We will revisit and share this concept in the upcoming intergenerational service, “Gifts for the Heart”.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> the students of RE really impressed us with a performance of “Peace like a River” at the anti-war service. The song has been sung for many years and with the addition of hand gestures the congregation caught on quickly. We also learned about the Civil Rights movement that day with the help of the “We Shall Overcome” book and service leader, GG Gordon. When the students went back to their classroom to discuss Martin Luther King Jr. and what they thought about the teachings of the morning, one student said that “we shouldn’t judge people on the color of their skin”. This Intergenerational service was powerful and very moving. Learning more about our roots and what others have gone through in order to have the freedom we do today is important and the children of RE get that. We asked the students, “As a society, what sort of injustice or idea should we focus on now?” Liam Rockwood-Stensaas declared “We should build a fair world” And that is our goal exactly!



### **Upcoming Sundays**

Sunday, February 2:

Under 12 = Decorate for the “Gifts from the Heart” service and learn to sing “Love is Something”

Over 12 = Deep Ecology with Michelle Lexmond

OWL program meets at 10am

**(RE cont'd)**

Sunday, February 9:

Intergenerational: “Gifts from the Heart” service with a Valentine tea party brunch after the short service.

OWL program meets at 10am

Sunday, February 16:

Under 12 = Beloved community Map-out

Over 12 = Deep Ecology with Michelle Lexmond

OWL program meets at 10am

Sunday, February 23:

Under 12 = “Finding your breath” meditation with Laura Nagle

OWL program meets at 10am

**FROM: The Social Action Committee**



Co-Chairs, Gail Griffith and Heidi Gould, and the members of the Social Action Committee are planning steps to achieve an anti-discrimination ordinance in the City of Marquette that covers everyone including people who identify as LGBTQ. We are collaborating with UP Rainbow Pride. Heidi, Marissa Wolfe and Barb Michael also attended an NMU Allies meeting and proposed partnering with them, as well as with NMU Outlook and NMU Q&A. Through MUUC we are promoting UP Rainbow Pride monthly events and cohosting the “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” Valentine’s Day Dance! Everyone is welcome to raise awareness and work towards not only being a Welcoming Congregation but a Welcoming Community! We are planning further events and meetings with our community decision makers

with the hopes of having accomplished our goal and to be celebrating at the UP Rainbow Pride Fest in September!



**“Share the Plate”**

Half of the non-pledge monies from our plate this month will be donated to: **Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride!**

## **FROM: The Stewardship Committee**

My name is Michael White and I have volunteered to chair the Stewardship Committee this year. We are having our annual pledge potluck lunch on Sunday, February 23, from noon to 2pm. We are going to be enjoying entrees from the Border Grill as well as music by the Fourtissimo Quartet. I am requesting that attendees bring a vegetable salad, fruit salad, or dessert to share.

On Sunday, January 12, we had a service titled "Transformational Moments," lead by Tom Spencer. During the service we heard testimonials from four of our youth who have attended the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program that our congregation offers every 2 years (a class is currently in progress). Maitri White, Dawson McKenzie, Kees Grey, and Katie Harrison shared how participation in this program has added quality to their lives. This program is just one of the ways that our congregation is transforming our community. No other congregation can offer this service in the way that we do. We have a program where lesbian, gay, or transgender parents can enroll their children and trust that the kids will have an experience that is respectful of their family's dignity and worth. We have a program that is equipping the youth of Marquette with the skills, values, and self-esteem to build healthy and vibrant relationships.

On Sunday, February 16, Tom Spencer is leading another service titled, "Beloved Community." At this service, we will be having adult members of the congregation share how participation on the board of trustees, committees, Soul to Soul and Heart to Heart groups, and the Buddhist study group has deepened their relationships with others in this congregation. When we can take the time to get involved with these activities that go on outside of our Sunday services, we all find that our relationships are strengthened and deepened in ways that just cannot happen by attending on Sunday only.

So I am asking you to attend on February 23. I want you to sit and enjoy the music and food. I want you to indulge yourself in the company of our members and friends. And finally, I want you to consider what your pledge to our congregation supports:

1. OWL sexuality 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;
7. Harbor House service program.

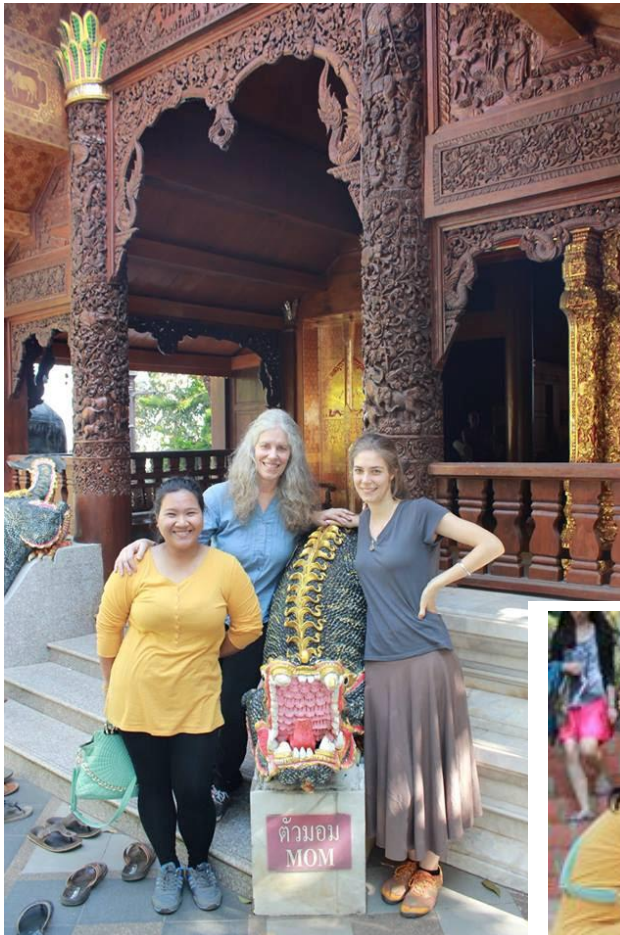
All of these activities represent real opportunities to engage with each other and build community as well as to transform Marquette.

Mike White

## February Meetings & Events (See Forums & Services on pg 1)

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

February 5, 2014 7:00pm February 19, 2014 7:00pm	Exploring Buddhism and Mindful Meditation Group meets the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7pm. Beginner and experienced meditators welcome. No need to be Mqt. UU member, group is open to the community. At the MUUC Meeting Hall.
February 14, 2014 8pm-12:00am	“Somewhere Over the Rainbow” Valentine’s Day Dance
February 16, 2014 12:30pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
February 17, 2014 6:00pm	Community Development Committee monthly meeting to address social connectedness of members and friends.
February 20, 2014 6:00pm	MUUC Board of Trustees Meeting



**Gifts of Friendship  
From Far Away...**  
Nancy Irish, Anna Burnett, with  
Bim Promsawad in Thailand!

