

# THE CHRONICLE

## Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



### Services & Forums March 2014



DATE	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 - 10:30 a.m.)
March 2	“The Frozen Chosen: A Brief History of the Jews and Judaism in the U.P.” by Aaron Scholnik. Service Leader: Barb Michael	“Congregational Conversations about...Michigan UU Social Justice Network.” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
March 9	“Our Broken Prison System.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	
March 16	“Eostre-Spring Equinox.” Service Leaders: Heidi Gould and Teri Rockwood	“Profiting From a Privatized Criminal Justice System.” Host: Tom Sullivan
March 23	“MUUC Traditions” and our New Member Ceremony. Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen	UU World Discussion. Host:
March 30	"Dimming of the Day – the Songs of Richard Thompson" Presenters: February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban)	“Week in Review.” Host:

#### **FROM: MUUC President, Barb Michael**

Challenging or just fun? Keeping that balance among planting seeds/pulling weeds (indoors), your work, your congregational commitments, your family life, exercise, entertainment and then...perhaps taking advantage of one or more of three annual inspirational opportunities coming up where you can connect with other UU's in a regional or national/international setting. You just may return refreshed and enlightened!



Unitarian Universalist  
United Nations Office

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FROM: MUUC President, Barb Michael (cont'd)

1) The **UU-UN Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar** will be held in New York City from April 3-5, with youth arriving on April 2. Topics addressed this year will include Indigenous Rights 101, UNDRIP, Indigenous Spirituality, Traditional Lands & Governmental Borders, and Environmental Justice. Register by March 17.

2) The second (since the combining of three UU Districts) is the **MidAmerica Regional Assembly**, which will be held April 12 in four different locations with some live-streaming.

UU's will gather for enriching fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, deepening worship and entertainment at each location. Dr. Paul Rasor will present the keynote address live in Topeka (live-streamed to other

locations), followed by the business meeting live in Bloomington (live streamed to the other locations), and workshops. Early Bird registration discount applies until March 15.



3) The annual UUA **General Assembly** of Congregations will be held in Providence, RI from June 25 through June 29, 2014. In addition to the hundreds of workshops, lectures, performances, and services at every GA, there is a special Ware Lecturer, who this year will be Sister Simone Campbell, a nationally recognized religious leader, attorney, and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In Washington, she lobbies on issues of peace-building, immigration reform, healthcare and economic justice...and think "Nuns on the Bus."



If you'd like to attend one of these inspiring programs and would like to serve as a delegate and/or need financial assistance, please contact a Board member, so that you can plant a seed in your heart and perhaps our congregation's, as we look to this season of hope and renewal.

In shared ministry,

*Barbara Michael*



## FROM: Religious Education Coordinator

February, the month of love, has been fully felt.

Once upon a time there was a group of Religious education students. These young adults wanted to give their Unitarian Universalist congregation a gift. They didn't fully know what that gift should be so they brainstormed! After a several Sundays of preparing they put together a "Gift from the Heart" service.

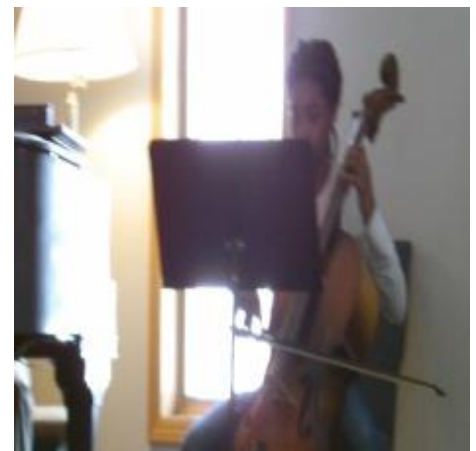


They all took turns saying opening words, lighting the chalice, sharing what they loved most about RE, Singing "Love is Something" and facilitating the service.

The message of the morning was "Gifts from the Heart" and the students prepared to share their gift with the congregation. In the Sundays prior to our Feb. 9th service we worked on "chalice, love, and peace" flags. Big thanks to Sarah Johnson who made this craft happen!



This service was also a time for sharing our passion and talents.





We are a small group of well-intentioned people putting forth an effort of Love. Thank you all for being a part of our valentine tea party lunch brunch. ❤️



The last two Sundays in February were dedicated to mapping out our future community and looking for ways of improving our current community. We are very interested in growing food and will be a part of a community garden this summer. The “Coming of Age” group met the last Sunday in February to discuss their thoughts on God. Teri Rockwood is doing a great job with these students and we are grateful for her volunteer teaching. OWL is moving along in their curriculum. With GG Gordon and Paul Gray teaching this year, the students are in great hands! The students over 12yrs. old will be meeting with Michelle Lexmond March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd to continue the Deep Ecology curriculum.

**Upcoming Sundays in RE:**

**March 2nd**

Under 12yrs- Making our RE photo album come to life!  
 Over 12yrs- Deep Ecology w/Michelle Lexmond  
 OWL- program meets at 10am

**March 9th**

Under 12yrs- Let’s talk about Gardening!  
 Over 12yrs- Deep Ecology w/Michelle Lexmond  
 OWL- program meets at 10am

**March 16th**

Under 12yrs- Decorate your our RE plate!  
 Over 12yrs.- Deep Ecology w/Michelle Lexmond  
 OWL- program meets at 10am

**March 23rd**

Under 12yrs- Spring Equinox~  
 Over 12yrs.- Deep Ecology w/Michelle Lexmond  
 OWL- program meets at 10am

**March 30th**

Under 12yrs- Community Garden visualization  
 Over12yrs- Community Garden visualization  
 OWL-Program meets at 10 am?





## **FROM: The Stewardship Committee**

It is the time of year for our annual pledge drive. We kicked off the campaign last Sunday with our annual stewardship luncheon. We shared some good food and we already have 20 pledges for next fiscal year. I just want share with you some ideas that I have been talking about in the Chronicle and in two recent Sunday services.

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 Life (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. As the father of a child who attended this program, I can attest to you that we have a program that is equipping the youth of Marquette with the skills, the values, and the self-esteem to build healthy and vibrant relationships.



On Sunday, February 16, Tom Spencer lead another service titled, "Beloved Community." At this service, we heard from myself, Sarah Johnson, and Laura Nagle speak about how participation on the board of trustees and on committees has deepened our relationships with others in this congregation. The Congregation has provided new ways for us to get together outside of

Sunday services in order to build stronger relationships together. Soul to soul and now Heart to heart groups, the Buddhist study group, the men's group, and the Harbor house service program are all opportunities to engage with each other and to develop ourselves spiritually.

So I am talking about all this stuff because I want you to consider what your pledge to our congregation supports:

1. The OWL sexual education program being led by Paul Grey and GG Gordon;
2. The weekly RE program for our children lead by Laura Nagle;
3. The Coming of Age program for our teenage youth lead by Terri Rockwood;
4. Peace Camp;
5. Soul to Soul groups, and now Heart to Heart groups;
6. The Exploring Buddhism book group lead by Sarah Redmond;
7. Harbor House service program that was started by GG Gordon and Nancy Sullivan.
8. The men's group lead by Dan Redmond.

All of these activities represent real opportunities to engage with each other and build community as well as to transform Marquette. Your pledges make all these programs possible. Most of these initiatives are new and were started in the last 2 years. Our Congregation is reaching out in all these new ways to improve our relationships together and to be more socially engaged in confronting the problems of the UP. I hope you will consider increasing your annual pledge by 10% this year to let the Board of Trustees

know that you support these programs. If you are pledging \$200 per year, it would only cost you less than \$2 per month to add 10% to your pledge. If you pledge \$1000 per year, adding 10% to your pledge would cost less than \$10 per month. So please consider an increase in your pledge if your families' budget can allow for it. Pledge forms are available in the back of the sanctuary on the round table. If you are at service on Sunday, it would be a good time to make your pledge. I appreciate your past support and look forward to the next year at MUUC.

Mike White  
Stewardship chairperson



**From Nancy Sullivan:**

**Hospitality Team forming...**

Would you like to share more in the Sunday morning action at MUUC without committing to committee meetings or every Sunday attendance? Sign up for the Hospitality Team. When the regular coffee makers can't make it, we will send out an email or give you a call for help. If you feel inspired to arrive early some week and would be willing to do kitchen set-up, you could email us and give the regulars a break.

We would like to set up the similar sort of thing for post-service clean-up. While we hope everyone will wash their own cup at a minimum, we need a few more folks to guide those generous folks to walk back to help in the kitchen post-service. You don't need to be an early riser to join the action.

The sign-up sheet is on the back table and share your suggestions with Nancy Sullivan. She will be working to organize this and be the contact person.

**Thank you!**

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

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

March 5, 7:00pm March 19, 7:00pm	Exploring Buddhism and Mindful Meditation Group: Beginner and experienced meditators welcome. No need to be Mqt. UU member, group is open to the community. At the MUUC Meeting Hall.
March 6 & March 20 10:00am & 7:00pm	Heart to Heart ~ Deep Listening Groups
March 12, 6:30pm	TLC Meeting ~ New Members are welcome!
March 16, 12:30pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
March 20, 6:00pm	MUUC Board of Trustees Meeting