

THE CHRONICLE

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Services & Forums APRIL 2014



DATE	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 - 10:30 a.m.)
April 6	UUSC Justice Sunday. Service Leaders: Social Action Committee	“Congregational Conversations about...” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
April 13	"Reclaiming Wonder," Rev. Gabriel Parks, Interim Minister, Keweenaw Fellowship Rev. Parks will explore why we are so in tune with awe and mystery as children, but seem to have lost our sense of wonder almost completely as adults.	“The Stealth War on Abortion.” Host: Sarah Redmond
April 20	“Earth Day.” Gail Griffith (Easter)	“Larry Rasmussen’s Book: ‘The Planet in Crisis: Religion, Ethics, and the Environment.’” Hosts: Heidi Gould, Gail Griffith, and Barb Michael
April 27	“Mayday (Beltane) Service.” Service Leader: Heidi Gould	"The Epistle of Barnabus" (video). Host: Tom Spencer

WELCOME TO OUR SIX NEW MEMBERS!



Shown here are five of them...Cara Brunk & Forrest Karr, Dharmini & Jon Robertson, and Megan Foulks. Not shown is Bill Joswiak. Also shown are Barbara Michael and Tim VanderVeen, who led the member recognition service. We are so pleased to welcome them to our MUUC family.

FROM: MUUC President, Barb Michael

Balancing Act XXI

On March 23 when we came into the Meeting House, the yellow room, where the middle school OWL group meets, was only 48 degrees. It didn't seem to warm up, so we moved some chairs into the kitchen, and the kids gathered there, saving winter camping for another day. I told them it was a mark of leadership to adjust and thanked them for being flexible. Before I left the Meeting House, Shaun Devlin was on the task, driving back from the hardware store to hopefully get our heating system running again. Thank you, Shaun and thank you, Mary Maki, for raking some snow off the roof!

I came home to finish laundry before leaving March 25, and the push-to-start dryer button didn't work. So I had a chance to be flexible, too, with laundry drying all around the house. I am very grateful to know I might be able to fix it via Internet instructions; or if not, get someone to do the repairs. How privileged I am. I know some of you do not use dryers, and seeing your clothes on the line wafting in the breeze is a pleasant throw-back to my childhood days when I would help my mom or my aunt hang clothes on the line or take them down, and, of course, it saves energy.

One of my favorite intergenerational stories is Chris Van Allsburg's *Just a Dream*. If you've never read it, check it out or better yet, read it with someone of a younger generation. It's one way to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and see what ideas might be generated. Becoming aware is a fine learning experience like attending Transition Marquette programs to discover where we are in this era of planet earth. The future can be dismal, but I know that many of the ways of my childhood will be enjoyable and essential to return to someday, if not now.

Let's work together as we build community and support each other within the congregation, in our neighborhoods, and the greater Marquette area. As a species on this planet, I want us to integrate our values into our best practices. Plant a garden (inside first, considering our deep freeze this year) and support our local farmers. Reduce, reuse, and recycle at the Meeting House and at home. Hang a clothesline and share your skills and ideas. Perhaps we will generate a policy on our intentions.

As EarthKeepers, let us consider expanding that definition and vision to truly accept being a part of all existence rather than having dominion, being stewards, or even "keeping" earth. As we watch earth transform itself, with resilience we can change as well.

In shared ministry and community,

Barbara Michael

GLBTQIA Update

Author John Corvino will be on the NMU campus on April 2 to discuss his book, "What's Wrong with Homosexuality." It will be at 7 pm in JXJ 102. On Thursday, April 3, there will be a dance, with a DJ and open bar at 9 pm in the Explorer Rooms of the University Center. Admission is \$2 for non-students. All proceeds will go to Equality Michigan.



U.P. Rainbow Pride will be meeting on Monday April 7th, 6:30-9 pm in Rm. 202 of Messiah Lutheran Church. Those who wish to help in organizing the 2014 U.P. Pride Fest are very welcome! A potluck in Gwinn is being planned for April 26th. Details coming soon on the U.P. Rainbow Pride website: www.uprainbowpride.com/

Mark your calendars for Sat., Sept. 13 in Marquette. Let's have 100% MUUC participation in part or all of the events! Join the Pride Fest rally, carry MUUC's

Standing on the Side of Love

banner or a UU support sign in the parade, enjoy good entertainment.

FROM: MUUC Board of Trustees

The April 17 Board meeting will focus on the MUUC budget for 2014-15 on which congregation members will vote at the Annual Meeting on Sun., May 18. Please offer your input at the 9:45 am adult forum on Sun., April 6 or contact one of your Board members: gg gordon, Sarah Redmond, Teri Rockwood, or Mary Maki (check your MUUC Directory). Thanks to all who have submitted pledges for the July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014 fiscal year!

For Your Information:

Separation of Church and State? The next "First Friday" meeting of the **Marquette Interfaith Forum** will be Friday, April 4, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Shiras Room of the Peter White Public Library. The series of discussions on "The Role of Religion in the Public Sphere" will be continued. Professor Alan Willis in the History Department of NMU has an interest and expertise in religion in the United States and has kindly agreed to attend the April meeting. He will start us off with an orientation to this aspect of the topic, participate in our conversation, and generally act as a learned resource for us. Feel free to bring a snack, lunch and/or beverage if you wish.

FROM: Religious Education Coordinator

The first week in March we took time to reflect on our year in RE. The students looked through photos, sorted them out by activity and created personalized pages. The age groups were mixed and we all helped one another. This will be something fun to look back on for years to come.

In February we began brainstorming ideas to improve our community and in March we started the first stage of garden planning. The second week in March was spent learning about what a seed needs in order to grow. Mother-daughter, Jill and Melinda Meehleder, came back to the RE (class room) to lead the session. They read a book about growing a garden and showed us how to make biodegradable seed holders. We will be able to put the holder right into the ground once the seed has sprouted!

The third week in March honored the Spring Equinox. Students were told a mythological story called "The Everything Seed". In this creation story a special seed held all of the possibility of the entire world and galaxy. One day, the seed sprouted and everything came into existence. The story was taken from the Church of the Larger Fellowship RE Express and tied into the theme of growing. We also planted more seeds this week too. Following up on their water treatment plant visit, the deep ecology group (RE students ages 9-12) wrote letters to the editor with Michelle Lexmond. Their letters highlighted the importance of caring for our earth and the connection of littering, chemical use, and other contaminants on our drinking water. They are studying the "deep water ecology" of the great lakes and feel very strongly about protecting them.

The fourth week of March was spent planning out the community garden for the upcoming summer project. We will be working with Chocolate Township to help design and develop the garden space.

In the weeks to come:

April 6th - Earth day

OK, Earth Day isn't actually until April 22nd, but since we want to celebrate Easter on the 20th, why not celebrate Earth Day today? Isn't every day Earth Day, really? We will make recycled art and read the Lorax.

April 13th - Passover

We will be learning about the tradition of Passover. The project this day will be making charoset, and then eating it with matzah and maror (horseradish) while the Passover story is told.

April 20th - Easter

The students will be told the story of Easter and asked questions about their feelings. We will then dye eggs and go on a food hunt. The students and RE families are asked to donate canned food that can be given to people in need.

April 27th - Ridvan and Flower Communion

Today we celebrate the Baha'I holiday of Ridvan, and the UU tradition of the flower ceremony. The theme of flowers connects them both, but they also both involve stories of men who wanted to bring people together and celebrate differences in times and places where the people in charge wanted just the opposite.

An important note: Please bring canned food to RE for April 20th and a flower for April 27th. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these services please contact Laura Nagle at muurec@gmail.com

FROM: Religious Education Coordinator (cont'd)

The “Our Whole Lives” course has several more sessions to complete. 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 7th, 8th and 9th graders in the Marquette area.

Coming of Age will be having a Spirituality Workshop on April 27th from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, they can contact Teri Rockwood at teri.rockwood@gmail.com or (906) 235-8064. 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.

From the Social Action Committee:

2014 UUA Book-Read

Discussion in 3 parts of *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman is a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of dining out.

Topics include:

Real Sustainability, Please!

Serving While Sick

Women Waiting on Equality

Recipes for Change

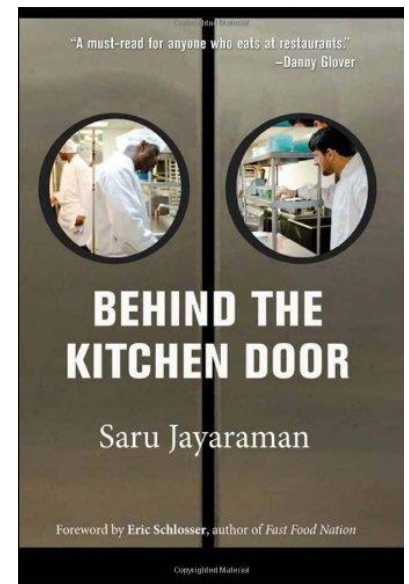
Join us at: 1 pm April 6, 13, and 27

@ the Marquette UU Meeting House.

See Barb Michael, gg gordon, or Heidi Gould if you need a book.

The greater Marquette community is welcome.

Please help spread the word.



New storage cabinet in kitchen!

We have a lovely new cabinet in our kitchen to help with our storage issues at MUUC. Hurray! It has taken a surprising amount of plotting, searching, assembly, and re-organization of the furnace, utility and kitchen cupboards to create a cleaner, safer, more user-friendly space. We have tried to decrease the load of flammable materials kept in the furnace and utility rooms as suggested by the fire inspector. We will be starting to label shelves in the kitchen and elsewhere in an effort to create some sort of ongoing order.

Many hands have been involved. Thanks go to Dan and Sarah Redmond for hours of researching and pricing cabinets online and in local stores. Thanks to Shawn Devlin for transporting and assembling the cabinet, including calling the company regarding missing parts in the assembly kit! Barb Michael and Heidi Gould helped yours truly with reorganizing the kitchen, utility room, décor and podium supplies. Many of you helped by taking items deemed no longer necessary home or to local charities from the freebie table after service. So if you can't find something...look in the cabinet or ask one of us.

Nancy Sullivan

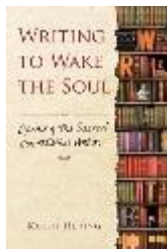
New Books for MUUC

The Community Development Committee (with the assistance of Barbara Michael too!) has started reorganizing our bookshelves in the back of the sanctuary. We worked hard deciding what books would be of most interest to members and newcomers. We thought about which books support and develop our skills at leading a church, and about which books might expand our understanding and guide us deeper in our search for truth, meaning, and justice. We noticed where big subject matter gaps existed on our shelves.

With that in mind we purchased six new books from the UU Bookstore. They will be available for the first time at MUUC this Sunday for your reading enjoyment. Please borrow and return! And please take a look at our reorganized bookshelves. You might see something of interest and use there that you were unable to see before!

Nancy Sullivan

Our newest books are...

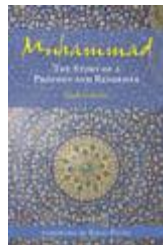


Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within
by Karen Hering.

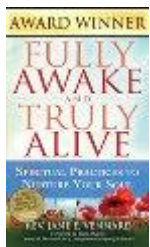


Faitheist: How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious
by Chris Stedman..

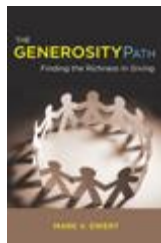
by



Muhammad: The Story of a Prophet and Reformer
Sarah Conover.



Fully Awake and Truly Alive: Spiritual Practices to Nurture Your Soul
by Rev. Jane E. Vennard..



The Generosity Path: Finding the Richness in Giving
by Mark V. Ewert.



The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon



EARTHKEEPERS II

Building on the award-winning achievements of Earthkeepers I (2004-2009), Earthkeepers II is a collaborative effort between ten faith traditions, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Forest Service, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS 2013-2014

- **40 PARISH AUDITS** with specific recommendations for updating energy use by congregations.
- **40 MINI-GRANTS** distributed to faith communities for implementing specific energy conservation measures.
- **25 ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS** for improving household energy usage by community members.
- **2 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** (public libraries and university and community college settings) on spiritual perspectives for environmental stewardship.
- **SUPPORT FOR 2 UNIVERSITY STUDENT INTERNS** who will be learning community-organizing skills during 2012 – 2014.
- **6 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREATS** for EK II representatives from ten regional faith traditions (Jewish, Episcopal, Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baha'i, American Friends (Quaker), Unitarian, and United Methodist).
- **30 INTERFAITH COMMUNITY GARDENS** established across Michigan's Upper Peninsula with technical assistance from the U.S. Forest Service (Jan Schultz, Chief Botanist, Eastern Region USDAFS) and local organic farmers.

For more information please contact Heidi Gould, our UU Earthkeeper!
<http://earthkeepersup.org/>

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

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

April 6, 13 & 27 1:00pm	“Behind the Kitchen Door” Reading Group
April 8 1:00pm	Program Committee Meeting
April 17 6:00pm	MUUC Board of Trustees Meeting
April 20 12:30p	Social Action Committee Meeting

Find us on Facebook and check out our website at www.mqtuu.org