

# THE CHRONICLE

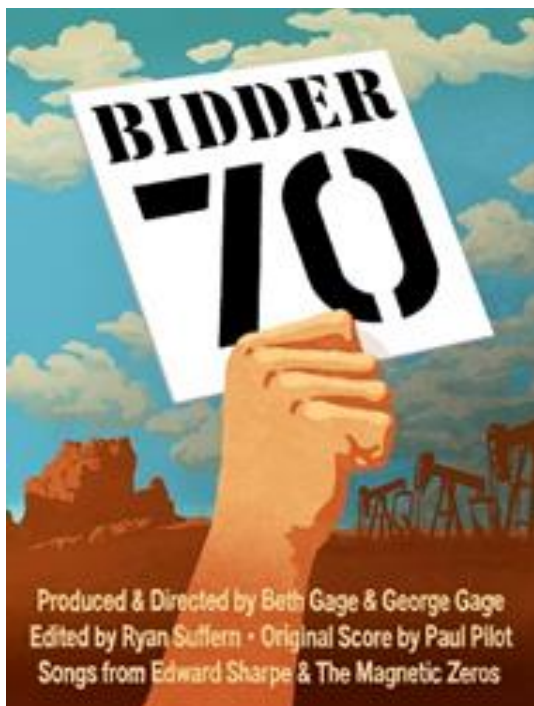
Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



## Services & Forums May 2014



DATE	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 - 10:30 a.m.)
May 4	“UU 5th Principle: The Threat Posed to Democracy by Impaired Voting Rights and What We Can Do About It.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Discussion of the Congregational Budget.” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
May 11	“The Voice Within Us.” Mother’s Day Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen	"Orthodox Corruption of Scripture" (video), Host: Tom Spencer
May 18	“Flower Communion.” Service Leaders: Teri Rockwood and Megan Foulks.	NO FORUM (Congregational Meeting after the service)
May 25	“It’s Time to Change Our Thinking” Speaker: Tom Spencer	“A History of Memorial Day.” Host: Kathy Klos



### SUNDAY SHOWING:

### “BIDDER 70”

Join us for refreshments and the screening of "Bidder 70", the feature length documentary film about Tim DeChristopher, the college student who derailed an illegal BLM oil and gas lease auction in 2008.

On April 22nd, 2013 Tim DeChristopher was released from Federal Prison after serving his 2 year sentence. A month before his release, Tim was accepted into Harvard Divinity School for Fall 2013.

Tim DeChristopher’s 5 year struggle within the US Justice System has come to a close, but the battle for a livable future continues.

**Get involved. Act. Organize.**

**TO BE RESCHEDULED**

**MUUC Meeting House**

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

## **Balancing Act XXII**

Rush...and wait, rush...and wait. For a more tempered emotional state, it helps for me to put the “rushing and waiting” times in the context of a roller coaster ride. I used to delight in the rush as the coaster rapidly descended, and I enjoyed the relaxing bird’s eye view of my surroundings as we crawled up, clickety-clack. The balance of working expeditiously... then relaxing patiently can be challenging for those of us who like to see a task completed in good time. I am more and more reminded though that sometimes the journey is long, even longer than a lifetime.

Big issues in social action work are often started, continued, then finally finished after one’s life is over such as the women’s right to vote in the U.S. after Susan B. Anthony and other suffragists died. Each step along the way helps in moving toward the goal and in learning from mistakes. Like the indigenous non-profit organization, Seventh Generation Fund, espouses, “Be a good ancestor.”

The implication in the Great Law of the Iroquois Nations is to think seven generations ahead and decide whether the decisions they make today would benefit their children seven generations into the future. The original language is as follows:

*“In all of your deliberations in the [Iroquois] Confederate Council, in your efforts at law-making, in all your official acts...look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations.” \**

American Studies professor at SUNY, Buffalo and Onondaga Chief, Oren Lyons, calls to our attention that before Europeans settled in the 1600's, the Five Nations of the Iroquois lived under a constitution that had three main principles: peace, equity/justice and "the power of the good minds," that of the elders over the young. \*\*

So please join Mgt. UU Board members on Sunday, May 18 following the service to deliberate and vote and practice democracy, as we consider our actions today which will benefit generations to come. What an awesome task – what a privilege!

In shared ministry and community,  
*Barbara Michael*

*\*An Iroquois Perspective. Pp. 173-174 in American Indian Environments: Ecological Issues in Native American History. Vecsey C, Venables RW (editors). [Syracuse University Press](#), New York.*

*\*\* Iroquois Constitution: A Forerunner to Colonists’ Democratic Principles. Special to the New York Times June 28, 1987.*

# SAVE THE DATE

## Sunday, May 18

### ANNUAL MEETING

of the

## Marquette

## Unitarian Universalist

## Congregation

Following the 11:00 service on May 18, we will hold the Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Refreshments will be served, and child care will be provided.

Be a part of democracy in action as we vote on the 2014-15 MUUC budget and vote for candidates.

~Mediation Council: 1. Dharmini Robertson

~General Assembly Delegates:

1. gg gordon 2. Barbara Michael

~Board of Trustees

1. Tim VanderVeen 2. Chris Wagner

Questions? Please contact Barbara Michael, current Board president at 273-1174 or at [michael.barbara.102@gmail.com](mailto:michael.barbara.102@gmail.com) or any other Board member.

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, drafted by the Board of Trustees, to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2014, is posted on the Members' Bulletin Board at the Meeting House.

### FROM: The Stewardship Committee

Thank you for all the support you have given the congregation during our pledge drive. We will enjoy the support of 38 pledges in the next fiscal year. I want to give a special thank you and shout out to the 23 pledgers who have increased their pledge compared to last year. The Board of Trustees is grateful for this affirmation of our efforts in the last year.

There is still time to make a pledge before our annual business meeting. We still have some members who have not made a pledge for the next fiscal year. Please email me, Mike White @ [biancoblancowhite@yahoo.com](mailto:biancoblancowhite@yahoo.com) if you would like to make a pledge.

### **Mindful Meditation and Exploring Buddhism group invites you to join us.**

We meet the first and third Wednesdays at 7pm at the Meeting House. It's designed for beginners and those interested in learning more about Buddhist philosophy and thought. We sit and meditate for 10 minutes, discuss the text for 30 to 45 minutes, then finish with another 20 minute meditation. Nothing too difficult is there? Dharmini Robertson, a new Mqt. UU member, has been helping us understand the text we're reading and leading our meditations. We're very lucky to have her with us. Ask Dharmini, Barb Michael, Mike White, Megan Foulks, Janine Adams and Jill Meehleder about the group, or just take the leap of faith and join us Wednesday, May 7th and May 21st.

## FROM: Religious Education Coordinator

### RE Update!



Our high school students in the Coming of Age program will continue into the next school year under the guidance of Teri Rockwood and their mentors. Following the service on April 27, the Coming of Age program had a Spirituality Workshop.

The middle school students in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality program will continue into June with Paul Gray and gg gordon.

Our older elementary children are continuing their education on water and deep ecology with Michelle Lexmond. Below are reflections from April and themes for May, related primarily to our lower elementary children.

#### April 6<sup>th</sup> - Earth Day

Earth Day is truly every day and because Easter fell closer to April 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated a few weeks early! The students took turns reading “The Lorax” out loud. We discussed things we can do to help be better stewards of the land and are looking forward to our Tourist Park clean-up, once the snow melts!

#### April 13<sup>th</sup> – Passover

We learned in part about Passover through two well put together YouTube videos. The first short video was a collaboration of several young children telling us the story of Passover. We also watched a “Shalom Grover” video that explained the importance of a Passover Seder (the ritual a feast with symbolic dishes). It was great to have access to technology in our meeting house and the students responded well. We made a traditional dish called charoset (a sweet, brown, pebbly paste of fruits and nuts, representing the mortar used by the Jewish slaves to build storehouses for others). The children ate it while learning more about the Jewish faith tradition.



Our Deep Ecology group made posters for the pharmaceutical drop off held in Marquette. They learned the importance of proper disposal as it relates to our watershed.

**FROM: Religious Education Coordinator (con't)**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter**

Jill Meehleder was our guest volunteer this Sunday. She did a wonderful job reading a story of Jesus and different religious interpretations of resurrection. The discussion questions for this activity were; “Have you ever felt like something inside you has died? Have you ever felt like something inside you was springing to life? What choices can we make to bring more abundant life to ourselves and the people around us?” We also dyed hard boiled eggs, hunted for cans, and had a small jelly bean filled egg hunt. The cans will be donated to our local women’s shelter. Thank you for contributing!

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> – May Day**

This service was beautifully led by Heidi Gould and the kids loved it! The intergenerational service included dancing around the hand crafted may pole and weaving love together in celebration of May. Following service the Coming of Age program had a Spirituality Workshop Tai Chi, Guided meditation with Melissa Middleton, Prayer beading with GG Gordon, Drumming with the Hatfield’s and Spiritual reflections with our Coming of Age guide Teri Rockwood. Thank you, to all those who donated time and energy to making our youth experience truly amazing!



### **May 4<sup>th</sup> – Death**

We will read a story from India about a long ago person who asked the question, “What happens when a person dies?” and the answer he got. There are many burial practices throughout different religions. We will be learning about Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist traditions.

### **May 11<sup>th</sup> - Mother’s Day and Julia Ward Howe**

“Did anyone do anything special today for Mother’s Day? These days people mostly celebrate Mother’s Day by giving cards or making a special breakfast or giving them flowers or other nice ways of showing appreciation. Which is great, but actually, the original idea for Mother’s Day was something quite different. The original Mother’s Day idea came from Unitarian Julia Ward Howe, and this is her story.”

### **May 18<sup>th</sup>- Flower Ceremony**

This Intergenerational service is a chance for the community to gather in celebration. We ask that all members bring a flower to contribute to the communal vase. The service will be lead by Teri Rockwood and Megan Foulks.

### **May 25<sup>th</sup> - Celebration of Life/Memorial Services**

We’ve talked this month about how some different religions around the world use rituals to honor people who have died and to mourn their passing. But what do UUs do? What’s the Unitarian Universalist way of handling death? We’ll start to try to answer that question this Sunday. Parents may want to look at a related pamphlet in our brochure rack.

## FROM: The Social Action Committee

### *Behind the Kitchen Door* ~ Saru Jayaraman

SAC members have wrapped up the reading of the 2013-14 UUA Common Read selection of “Behind the Kitchen Door”. The action plan is to connect with Restaurant Opportunity Center – Michigan, (ROC-MI) to learn how to effectively survey the restaurant industry in Marquette, to inquire of restaurant workers and management about employment and payment practices and work environment. Please contact Heidi Gould or Barb Michael for more information on how to get involved.

### **Interested in helping support others through an increase in the minimum wage? \$\$**

Then please take just one minute to sign the petition at the UU Meeting House by Sunday, May 18 in an effort to raise the minimum wage in Michigan to \$10.10/hr. Thank you to those who have already signed. If you are interested in taking a page for signatures to another organization or in your neighborhood, please see Barb Michael following a Sunday morning service.

### **LGBTQ Update**

Members of MUUC Social Action Committee and other concerned citizens, have requested the expansion of the anti-discrimination ordinance to be expanded to apply to all persons including LBGQTQ. All supporters are encouraged to contact the City Commissioners to request the issue be officially added to the agenda. Thank you. For more information please contact Heidi at [mqtuadassist@gmail.com](mailto:mqtuadassist@gmail.com).

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

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

May 7 & 21 @ 7pm Wednesdays	Mindful Meditation and Exploring Buddhism group
May 8 @7pm Thursday	Choir Rehearsal at the home of Jeanne Trost, 911 W. Kaye Ave., Marquette
May 15 @ 10am Thursday	Communications Committee to meet in the Shiras Room of Peter White Public Library.
May 15 @ 7pm Thursday	Men’s Group ~ Conversation will be served, great topics discussed last month and we are all good listeners, come and add to our talks.
May 17 @ 10am Saturday	Community Development Committee ~ Everyone interested is invited to join us. Please call Tim VanderVeen for more information at 906-236-1979.

Find us on Facebook and check out our website at [www.mqtuu.org](http://www.mqtuu.org)