

# THE CHRONICLE

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



## Services & Forums August 2014



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Aug. 3	“What We Do Matters” Service Leaders: Teri Rockwood & Tim VanderVeen @ <b>Presque Isle Pavilion</b>	NO FORUM
Aug. 10	“What Do You Fear and Why?” Service Leader: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher	“Fear” Host: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher
Aug. 17	“Sharing UUA GA 2014” Service Leaders: Heidi Gould & Barb Michael	“UUA GA 2014” Hosts: Barb Michael and Heidi Gould
Aug. 24	“Accepting the Gift” Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen @ <b>Lakenenland</b>	NO FORUM
Aug. 31	“Spirituality.” Service Leader: Paula Kiesling	“Melissa DeMarse of the YMCA.” Host: Heidi Gould

### **First Friday** **POTLUCK & SOCIAL**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm**  
**MQTUU Meeting House**

Bring a dish from your garden  
or other locally produced  
wonders to share an evening  
celebration of First Harvest!

Let's gather by the fire pit and  
do some drumming in general  
merriment in gratitude for  
abundance to come!



### **MQTUU SUMMER** **GATHERING**

**August 3, 2014**

AT THE PRESQUE ISLE PAVILLION

**11:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:30P.M.**

A TIME FOR WORSHIPPING, SINGING,  
AND PICNICKING TOGETHER

Bring Family and Friends and a Dish to Share.

For More Info Contact Tim VanderVeen at 346-2122  
or Teri Rockwood at 235-8064

## Meet Some of Our Newer Members...



**Dharmini and Jon Robertson** are inspired and compassionate individuals who share a life while pursuing divergent personal and professional interests and passions.

They attended the same high school in Richmond, Virginia, but never really knew each other until they reconnected at their 10<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in 2003. They have been “joined at the hip”, according to Dharmini, ever since.

After marrying soon after that reunion, they moved to Michigan where Jon continued his education and internship. Along the way, Dharmini has served as a teacher and continued her training and experience

in Yoga.

Each has chosen to pursue careers in the health and well-being field; Jon is an Osteopathic doctor with Sage Premier HealthCare in Harvey, and Dharmini has started her own Yoga therapy practice with Superior Vitality in Marquette.

Jon witnessed the poor health care given to family members in the Choctaw Tribe in Oklahoma, and heard of difficult times within his family going back general generations. He decided against becoming a specialist in favor of General Family Practice and Pain Management. He now travels from the U.P. to down state Western Michigan to consult and lecture on his chosen field.

Dharmini had dreams of being a dancer, but an injury while teaching in 2006 resulted in the loss of her ability to walk. She experienced pain and frustration as a result of her injuries and searched for methods to relieve her pain, but also to get back on track emotionally. Yoga was what worked. Once she realized not only was she walking again, but she experienced a growing sense of confidence and motivation, she dedicated her life to offering this practice to others who are enduring the difficult path after an injury, or sudden experience of illness. Dharmini has provided yoga services to people in Virginia, Delaware, Oklahoma, and in multiple areas of Michigan for more than 7 years. She works with others to promote the strong belief that through the breath, relaxation, movement, and philosophy of yoga the whole person can be honored while in the process of healing. Dharmini is actively studying and learning while practicing Yoga Therapy in Marquette.

While Jon’s move here to explore professional opportunities was their first exposure to the natural beauty of the Upper Peninsula, they have fallen in love with life here. They are enjoying snow shoes, hiking in the winter and exploring the Copper Country and the U.P. to the east near the Soo and the Pictured Rocks near Munising.

Jon and Dharmini share their passion for healing, understanding, and life and feel they have found a pretty good home in the U.P., Marquette, and the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. You may notice a twinkle in their eyes and a smile on their faces as they eagerly participate in the voice and vision of MUUC. Please say “Hi” to Dharmini and Jon and let them know how much we welcome and appreciate them. *(Tim VanderVeen)*

## **TO: MQTUU Board of Trustees**

g.g. gordon adapted this from a book she picked up at General Assembly called "Bless the Imperfect, Meditations for Congregational Leaders." She read it to our new Board of Trustees (BOT) on July 23, 2014, to wish them well as they begin their year of service.

To the BOT, and especially for you new members, Tim and Chris, at the beginning of your new year of congregational leadership.

As you begin this journey together, may you know at the start that:

You will not have all the answers,

You will not always get it exactly right, and

No matter what you do and how hard you try, you will rarely please everyone,

You may never be in complete agreement on anything

And you may hear more criticism than thanks.

Much of what you do will be unseen by most of the congregation,

And, you will, without even realizing it, reinvent a wheel or two.

There may even be times when you wonder why you agreed to serve at all.

Oh, and you will never finish all of the work.

But . . . there will also be times when you make real the vision of our Beloved Community and

There will be times when you laugh together and are grateful to be in this place and to be a part of the process.

There will be times when your trust builds and your confidence is high and you feel the deep satisfaction of a job well done, and

There will be times when you are proud to be counted among the leaders of our congregation,

It is rarely said that what the BOT does is holy work -- You do not lead worship or make music or stir hearts in prayer,

But without the work you do on the BOT there would be no congregation, no worship, no singing together, no hearts stirred by assembly or service together.

While BOT service may not technically be a spiritual discipline, it is, without question, an act of faith, so. . .

When things get tough, please think on these things . . .:

First, though we may not say it often enough, many of us do know , some from our own experience, how challenging it can be to sit on the BOT, and we are most grateful that you have agreed to take a chair at the BOT table this year,

Second, that navigating the most difficult passages will be easier when your hearts are in a loving place and you let love be your guide toward the goal of Beloved Community.

On behalf of the whole congregation, I wish you well on your journey.

## FROM: MQTUU President

gg gordon's reading at the beginning of the first Board of Trustee meeting for our 2014-15 church year about sums up our hopes and fears for the year ahead. (published elsewhere in the Chronicle) Chris Wagner, brand new to the Board, has agreed to be our vice president and Teri Rockwood, starting her third year on the Board, as am I, has agreed to take over my role of secretary as I move into the role of president. Tim VanderVeen, in addition to chairing our Community Development Committee, joins us as Trustee. Mary Maki is continuing her second year as trustee. gg gordon, while not officially a Board member, has agreed to continue as our treasurer. We all welcome your input, suggestions and offers of help in continuing the work done by previous Boards. Our Board retreat will be August 9th and we would value your ideas and input before then.

This summer has been one of violence in the world for which we grieve. Building our strength through our own spiritual and theological work is an ongoing challenge. Our community is a source of learning and spiritual development allowing us to gain the strength to deal with our personal challenges and to do the work in the wider world in living out our values and beliefs.

I'm planning on using this monthly space to share the workings of the Board of Trustees and ideas and issues we're dealing with. We do keep a Member Handbook on the desk in the back of the Meeting Hall, so feel free to look through it, ask questions and share ideas with any of the Board members. Heidi Gould, as our Administrative Assistant, is doing a great job keeping us up to date with the *This 'n That, Chronicle* and now our [mqtuu.org](http://mqtuu.org) website.

May this coming year see us grow stronger and more cohesive as a spiritual and religious community of seekers. Happy New Church Year.

### Did you know?



We have a row of very special arborvitae planted by the northwest corner of our Meeting House. This was the idea of Alice McMahan and others to memorialize members and friends of Mqt. UU.

One tree is for Mae Ceballo, In varying places, one was for Judy Bennett, and one was for Tom Penglase who was Morgana's father. Another one is for Marian Schwitzgoebel.

The last two trees have been added for Jo Wilkinson and Alice McMahan. It is said Africans have a saying that one is not truly dead as long as we keep their memory alive.

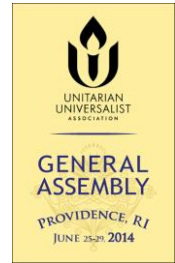
~Sarah Redmond, MQTUU BoT President



# FROM: Religious Exploration Coordinator

## Religious Exploration this summer:

July 6- Unitarian Universalist General Assembly was a great opportunity for the children to see our congregation working with the larger UU community. Teri Rockwood was our guest teacher and the students watched parts of the live GA stream. We caught a glimpse of two members from our community and also viewed two other videos.



July 13- summer RE childcare was provided.

July 20- the group enjoyed our musical guest and walked in the wildflower garden after service.

July 27- The dancing Crane Farm tour was cancelled due to weather. There were no children at this service that wanted to participate in RE and we all stayed and sang in the first Harvest.

## Upcoming August events:

**August 3-** “What We Do Matters.” Intergenerational service and Potluck at Presque Isle Pavilion.

**August 10-** the RE students will help take down the “web of life” that is on the wall in the Religious Exploration class room. We will discuss the theme for next year and make decisions regarding topics for exploration.



**August 17** – Peace camp has been a UU tradition in years past. This Sunday we will prepare for the end of the summer peace camp gathering.

**August 24-** “Accepting the Gift.” Service at Lakenenland Sculpture Park on M-28 East.

**August 31-** For the last day of Summer RE the children will have an opportunity to express what they loved most about the summer and what they hope to accomplish in the year to come.

## Important Dates:

**August 3-** Intergenerational service at Presque Isle Pavilion.

**August 30-**Peace Camp at the Meeting House (TENTATIVE).

**September 7-** MUUC's intergenerational Water & Ingathering Service please bring water to share from your summer experience.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>-** FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION





## **FROM: The Green Team**

Our newly revived **Green Team** is off to a great start. You've seen bits and pieces in the *This n That* of late. Perhaps the most exciting is a big project: investigating solar power for the Meeting House. We're hoping to work with other congregations similarly researching solar, provide community presentations, perhaps field trips to look at solar installations. If you personally are interested in solar for your home, this is a great chance to learn and make your own assessment.

We feel that the importance of Marquette UU being an environmental leader in the community is the number one reason for doing solar. Other UU congregations are doing likewise. Our UP Earthkeepers are encouraging energy savings, which we are also working on, plus the energy generation that photovoltaic provides.

The cost and how to pay for the system are questions that come up early in any discussion of a big project. We're looking at possibility of grants through EPA and Alger Delta, our electrical supplier, fund raising and/or Real Property Fund. All of this will be discussed in detail as we move forward.

So, that being said, won't you join us? Exciting times, big things happening at Mqt. UU. Next meeting is August 13th at 4:30 at the Meeting House.

**Buddhism Exploration  
and  
Mindful Meditation  
is taking Summer Vacation!**

Meetings will resume September 17<sup>th</sup>.  
All are welcome to join!

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**Intergenerational services away from  
the Meeting House this summer will be  
held on:**

~ **August 3 at Presque Isle**  
~ **August 24 at Lakenenland!**

## **On our Visiting Minister: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher**

Rev. Belcher is the settled minister at DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church near Chicago since May 2005. She has been a UU minister since 1989, previously serving churches in Traverse City, Michigan, and Morristown, New Jersey. Before her ordination, she served congregations in Troy, Michigan and Lyons, Ohio, and was the Director of Religious Education for six years at the UU church in Detroit, Michigan.

Rev. Belcher holds a Masters of Religious Studies from the University of Detroit and did her undergraduate work in fine arts at the University of Michigan.

As well as being a professional artist, teacher and minister, Rev. Belcher has worked since her teenage years for civil rights for all people, peaceful relations between nations, reproductive rights, ecological well-being, good government and good schools.

## FROM: The Social Action Committee



August's "Share the Plate" recipient: "Save the Wild U.P." (SWUP) whose Mission Statement is to protect Michigan's Upper Peninsula's (U.P.) unique way of life, wildlife, landscape, and freshwater resources. Through public awareness and education we strive to protect the Upper Peninsula from unsustainable development, degradation and dangerous contamination. For more information check out:

**Savethewildup.org**

"Share the Plate" offers opportunities for our members to develop and deepen connections with these non-profit organizations. Your nominations of non-profit organizations for next year's recipients are welcome!

SAC is currently planning to offer the refresher course to renew our status as a Welcoming Congregation. Look for more details to come!



Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 17th at the Meeting House at 12:30pm. Please join us and bring your thoughts and suggestions on how to further promote the cause of justice and equality in our community and around the world.

~Heidi Gould

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

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

August @ 4:30pm Wednesday	Green team Meeting
August 13 @ 4:30pm Wednesday	Communications Committee Meeting (Peter White Public Library)
August 17 @ 12:30p Sunday	Social Action Committee
August 20 @ 6pm	MUUC Board of Trustees Meeting

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