

Chronicle

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Marquette UU Congregation

Vol. 7, Issue 8, Sept. 2011



Welcome back to our Annual Water and Ingathering

Our traditional, intergenerational MUUC Water & Ingathering Service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11th. Members, friends, and guests are invited to bring a bit of water that represents their appreciation of water this past summer.

"As the waters mingle, so we are called together in community. Once upon a time, this ceremony marked the re-opening of the UU congregations after a summer break, but now our year-round services use this ceremony symbolically to remind us of our coming together from many different places in life to form a congregation. The rising water in the bowl reminds us of the strength of being together and what it does for each of us, for the congregation as a whole, and for the world. This is a service for all ages." ~ Emmy Lou Belcher, UU minister, Naperville, IL

Additionally, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11, thoughtful, intergenerational readings will be included in the service.



Come make your splash

Congregational Meeting

September 25th

(after Sunday services at the meeting house)

in regards to :

- Voting on a mediation policy
- Voting on the "Integration into the Church of a Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense" policy

MUUC members have been working hard on policies that keep us in right relations with one another. Additionally, in keeping with our democratic principles, the BOT would like to solicit input from the congregation about the restricted gift that has been generously offered by two of our members. (*Editors note: The 9:45 Sunday Forum on Sept. 18 will also be devoted to a discussion of this topic*)

The BOT would greatly appreciate your support and participation. Childcare will be provided.

Amy Fletemier, BOT secretary

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From the President:

The summer has been a busy time for the Board of Trustees. We welcomed three new members in Amy Fletemier, Beth King, and Michelle Halley. I am now serving as the President, Beth King as the Vice-president, and Amy Fletemier as the Secretary.

We are planning a congregational meeting on September 25. The agenda will include two issues: the disruptive behavior policy and the policy for integration of a convicted sex offender into the congregation.

The congregation had a round table discussion on the disruptive behavior policy on February 27, 2011. The input from the congregation from that meeting was used by Gary Stark, Barb Michaels, and Michael Erdmann to rewrite the policy. The revised policy was presented at the August 9th board meeting. They have done excellent work. This policy will be presented for congregational approval at the September 25 meeting.

A task force has been meeting over the summer to develop a policy for Integration into the Church of a Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense. A final draft of the proposal was approved by the Task Force during its August 24th meeting. There will be a congregational round table meeting on Sunday, September 11, to elicit feedback on this draft proposal from the Congregation. There will also be an additional meeting of the Task Force to plan for this round table meeting on Wednesday, September 7. Task Force meetings are open and all are welcome to participate. If the round table meeting goes well, then we hope to offer the policy for ratification at the September 25 meeting.

The September 25th congregational meeting will address some really important issues. We hope that attendance will be in excess of the 40% of members required to do business in our by-laws. I know these meetings can be tedious and at times even contentious. However, these meetings are an important part of the use of democratic process in our congregation and of building real religious community amongst ourselves.

Our treasurer, Shaun Devlin, and Cathy Church have been negotiating a new commercial mortgage for our meeting house. This month we have signed a new mortgage agreement with Mbank. Our interest rate has been reduced from 7.0% to 6.5%. This interest rate reduction will save the congregation about \$2,700 this fiscal year. The Board will be deciding how best to use the funds at a future meeting.

We are nearing the end of the process of selling the Wright Street property. It was purchased in 1999 for \$18,900. The current offer will sell the property for \$34,000 on a land contract. I am working with ReMax to close the deal in the near future.

Finally, I would like to offer a few guidelines about process at Board Meetings. The agendas for the meetings are long and we

have been having trouble getting through the entire agenda. We are also trying to increase communication between the Board, the congregation, and the committee chairpersons. To try to better facilitate these objectives, we are going to try and facilitate the meetings according to the following guidelines:

1. The proposed agenda for the next meeting will be posted at the meeting house 10 days before the meeting;
2. The first 30 minutes of the meeting will be an Open Forum. During the Open Forum any congregational member or committee chairperson is welcome to come and offer input on any of the items on the agenda. If you would like to offer commentary on some concern that is not on the agenda, then please do so. The issue can be put on the agenda for the next board meeting for further discussion;
3. After the Open Forum, the board will begin discussing and deliberating on the various issues on the agenda. During this portion of the meeting, any member may stay and listen to our deliberations. Any one attending the Open Forum is also welcome to leave at this time if they do not wish to sit through the entire 2 hour meeting. In order that we may be able to get through our entire agenda, we request that participation in the discussion during this portion of the meeting be limited to members of the board. If too many people participate in these discussions, then we have difficulty trying to get through all the business of the congregation.

The Board of Trustees hopes that limiting discussion during one portion of the meeting will better allow us to serve the needs of the congregation while still offering ample time for input from non-board members.

Mike White
President of the Board of Trustees



From Religious Education



Sunday Morning Religious Education:

The Sunday morning Religious Education program for 2011-2012 will begin Sunday September 18 with the theme of refreshing our understanding of Unitarian Universalist principles, practices and beliefs.

Sunday September 25th the children will enjoy an intergenerational service led by Teri Rockwood. Please bring your families to this and the September 11 intergenerational Water Ingathering service. Sunday October 2 we will begin our curriculum for the year on the continuing to explore world religions and supporting our Haitian friends.

As we begin preparations for a new school year, let us also make provision to make sure our Haitian children sponsorship does not flag. If we don't send tuition money, Christella and Makenson will not be able to attend school. They have been able to count on us for the past 4 years, and we are very proud of this MUUC accomplishment. Kees and Ketlove Lexmond-Gray have addressed the need for funds by selling strawberries they picked. They are very excited about the \$90.00 they earned toward tuition for our Haitian friends, and would like to challenge other families to come up with ways to earn some of the \$500.00 needed. If we all work together we will be successful in making the most important contribution we could possibly make to the recovery of Haiti, while assuring these two special children that they matter to us.

We are planning other fun and enriching events and activities for the year. We have a couple lead teacher who have committed for the entire year. We do however need some volunteer assistants and one or two volunteers to lead a class one or two Sundays a month. Please consider the RE program and you decide what your role will be in supporting our congregation this year. Each year we all determine what level of financial support we will contribute. Consider what level of energy you will contribute and in what form that will take to sustain our community another year. The harvest from 2011 was splendid, lets plant strong seeds of support for 2012. You may sign up on the sheet on the door to the community room or contact Melissa.

Our Whole Lives (OWL):

Our Whole Lives classes will begin October 9 from 9:45-12:15 at the Meeting House and will run approximately every other Sunday morning until May, with a break in December for the Holidays. OWL teachers Lisa and Tom McKenzie will host one last parent orientation meeting Thursday, Sept. 8th 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Peter White Public Library in the Shiras Room. Parents of OWL participants are required to attend a parent orientation meeting. There are only a couple spaces left in this

years OWL class. Please contact Lisa McKenzie to register, lisamckenzie@charter.net or 906-362-7124.

OWL is an amazing program providing young teens with much-needed information and skills for moving into the years in which they become more aware of their own, and others', sexuality. The focus is on values-driven decision-making, abstinence and respect for others and self.

OWL Marketing:

Please help us spread the word. The RE Committee, staff and OWL volunteers appreciate your assistance in marketing the OWL program. It is free to

Marquette area 6th to 9th graders. A poster advertising the parent orientations for OWL is attached. Please forward this to parents of children who may

be eligible. Please print it and post it or contact Melissa for hard copies (mlmelissa@live.com or 906-236-4433).



From Social Action Committee:

The **Social Action Committee** welcomes new members, including NMU students! Our **September** meeting will be held on the **18th at 12:15 p.m.** following the service at the tables by the bookcases. We'll be discussing the anticipated focus for the year, as well as immediate needs in the community, and deciding on action steps



Barb Michael and daughter Lindsay at MUUC following Palestine service

"Our Principles and Palestine"

For the Sept. 25th Forum, Barb Michael will be sharing **r e f l e c t i o n s** on her summer journey with UU's for Justice in the Middle East to parts of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and the Golan Hts.). Photos, a little history, current events, personal experiences, and part of a film will all be included.

This is the first in a three-part series on Palestine and for many of us un-learning or re-learning, as we consider what actions UU Principles call us to take in the movement to end the occupation and human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine.

In October, Jill Baker from the Ann Arbor UU congregation will be offering a Forum, and on Nov. 20 Lindsay Michael will be back to share her experiences while teaching in Palestine.

9-11 Memorial

On Sunday, Sept. 11 at approximately 5 p.m. there will be a tree planting at the old Dead River bridge to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. This peace gathering is open to all. Submitted by Barb Michael



In June, General Assembly delegates passed our three-year Study Action Issue (SAI) on *Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice*, so it has become a Statement of Conscience for all UU's. For the exact text, see <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/2011/06/30/final-text-ethical-eating-statement-of-conscience/>

Items for MUUC Chronicle:

The deadline for the Chronicle is the 25th of the month. Email copy to ShelterBay2006@yahoo.com Submit in non-formatted text in an email.

If you have something you'd like to reach the congregation between newsletters, either the This n That or the MUUC Face Book page are available. Info for This n That should go to Shirley Zimmer at shizim@live.com Anyone can post on Face Book. Great way to get a discussion going, pass on info, as for help (see below).



Above is the logo for the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) in Haiti's central plateau.

Through UUSC-UUA Just Works, youth and young adults learned directly from MPP and offered some muscle power to an eco-village project, which will provide homes and sustainable livelihoods for 40 families displaced from Port-au-Prince by the earthquake. MPP is a national grassroots movement that trains and empowers small farmers. For more details about the program and important background for the symbols (liberty, solidarity, and organic farming) of the logo, go to www.uusc.org.





MUUC Members, Don Robison, Gail Griffith, Barb Michael and Nancy Sullivan (photographer and creator of new MUUC banner) shared our liberal religious congregation with incoming NMU students at their annual Life of NMU event.



Sunday Services - 11 a.m. Forum at 9:45



September 4

Service: "Labor ? Day" Service Leader: Tom Spencer
Forum: "The Spirit of the Canoe." Host: Kathy Klos

September 11

Service: "Water Ceremony and Ingathering." Service Leader: Barb Michael
Forum: "A Walk of Our Land." Hosts: Alice McMahon and Sari Embley

September 18

Service: "Mountain Come To Me: The Songs of Dave Carter, Part 2." Service Leader: February Sky
Forum: "Discussion of Proposed Policy for Integrating into the Congregation People Convicted of a Sexual Offense," Host: Paula Kiesling.

September 25

Service: "Celebration of Fall." Service leader: Teri Rockwood (intergenerational)
Forum: "Reflections on Palestine." Host: Barb Michael.

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Cathy Church

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& Celebrant
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Sarah Redmond, Newsletter
Mike Erdmann, Building Chair
Barb Michael, Social Action
Tom Sullivan, Program Chair
Nancy Sullivan, Co-Development Chair
gg gordon, Stewardship Chair

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