



# THE CHRONICLE

Marquette  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation



## Services & Forums February 2015



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Feb. 1	“A New Beginning for MqtUU Religious Exploration.” Service Leaders: Religious Exploration Committee and Lisa McKenzie	*“On-Line Research to Find Your Roots” Host: Kathryn Klos
Feb. 8	“Take This Fork, Please. Decisions that change the path of our lives.” Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen	“Reflections on the Room At The Inn Effort at MqtUU.” Hosts: Sarah Anderson, Kim Frost, Michelle Halley et al.
Feb. 15	“Gifts of the Heart and Child Dedication Service.” Service Leaders: MqtUU Children and Youth	“Welcoming Congregation Refresher Course, Part II.” Host: gg gordon and the MqtUU Social Action Committee
Feb. 22	“Spiritual Cultivation and the Importance of Spiritual Flexibility.” Service Leader: Jacob Studinger	“MqtUU Mediation Process.” Host: MqtUU Mediation Council

\*Learn to use of [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) to develop a family tree and find interesting information, such as military records, birth and death records, wills, census information and newspaper articles, and show how a family tree can be used to share information among family members that were previously unknown to one another.



### MqtUU Hosts Room at the Inn: A Success

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation hosted Room at the Inn (RATI) during the week of January 11th-January 18th. Room at the Inn is rotating homeless shelter that operates October through May. While several members of MqtUU have supported RATI through volunteerism, it is the first time MqtUU hosted the shelter at its facility.

We successfully filled approximately 90 volunteer slots and were widely supported by UU families and friends, along with a host of other volunteers who are committed to the continued success of RATI. It was a truly fantastic week and the week ran very smoothly. We also received very positive feedback from both guests and volunteers.

On February 8th, our Adult Forum will focus on the topic Room at the Inn. If you cannot attend and would like to provide feedback or input, please email me by Friday, February 6th. Your input is important as MqtUU will be considering how we, as a congregation, can best support Room at the Inn in the future.

**Thank you, everyone!**

## **FROM: MqtUU President, Sarah Redmond**



The past few years, In order to streamline our Annual Meeting in May, we've held a Mid-year Congregational Meeting, which we did this past Sunday, January 25th, 2015.

Here is a not-so-brief list of what our congregation has achieved just since September. It's truly amazing to see what such a small group of committed individuals have been able to achieve, thanks you one and all.

Leadership conference; Building work bee; Green Team - Solar; Coming of Age wrap up; Heifer Dinner; Share the Plate; Susan Werner concert for Women's Center; First Friday potlucks; Interest groups: CUUPs/Wiccan, meditation, chair yoga, men's, Salon discussion group; Room at the Inn homeless shelter; New Member classes; Choir rehearsal and participation in services; Sunday Service Committee 52 weeks per year; hiring of new RE coordinator; Tabling at NMU student welcome day; forming of NMU UU Student Group; Environmental upgrades to building — low flow toilets and on-demand hot water heater; Community events — First Annual UP Pride Fest; Reflection and Learning Project on Israel-Palestine.

2015 will bring many opportunities and challenges and we count on one another, long term members and newer members and friends, to help make church happen 52 weeks a year. From the greeters, to those who arrange our space, to the creating of the Order of Service, to those who make the coffee and arrange snacks, to each and every one who takes their turn leading a service, to our sound man, to our choir and music committee, to the religious exploration coordinator, teachers and families, to those who shovel the snow, mow the grass, fix the building, to those who work to see to it rides are found for our elders and those without transportation, to those to attend to the business of the church by serving on the Board, to those who count the collection, pay our bills and report on our finances, to our annual pledge drive folks, to those who offer spiritual and social activities for our members and community, to the social action folks who through advocacy and direct service make our world a better place, we salute you! Many moving parts, many tasks to be picked up on an occasional and regular basis. Don't wait to be asked, step up and say "I'll help, I can do that."

### **7th Principle Solar Project Status**

Following our evaluation of the Energy Audit by the Earth Keepers project, interest was generated in investigating solar for the meeting house. All of the other recommendations with the exception of lighting and hot water, had been done. Folks were invited to join the Green Team efforts. A community forum with Steve Waller was held in October. Two Sunday Forums for input and updates were held. A request for quotes was developed and sent to 7 identified companies and groups December 3rd. We heard back from 1 declining to quote, 3 quotes were received and the others did not respond.

Unfortunately the quotes we received after a month's lead time were at least double to triple the \$12,000 anticipated based on the energy audit. Based on that experience, it is our recommendation to not move forward with solar at this time. The payback of 9 years expands to 18 to 27 years based on cost. The funds to implement the project are not available at this time, although they are anticipated in March if the land contract on the Wright St. property is paid off.

We do have two areas of immediate energy concerns we can address; one which we must address due to the phase out of the current fluorescent bulbs we have in 41 fixtures. The other energy savings would be to replace and decommission our current refrigerator for a smaller, energy efficient one. These recommendations go to the Building Committee for exploration, quotes and implementation should that be their decision along with approval by the Real Property fund for the expenditure.

(con't on next page)

## FROM: MqtUU President, Sarah Redmond (con't)

### Changes for Real Property Fund

The Real Property Fund was established a number of years ago, to provide an extra layer of protection for the financial assets of the congregation. The structure was very cumbersome and was refined in 2012. There are three trustee positions filled with rolling expirations dates. Long story short, they have not met since 2011 as there has been no need to look at requests to spend the funds. At this time, all three of the trustees, Shaun Devlin, Tom Sullivan and gg gordon's terms have expired. Recommendation of the Board is that the structure be simplified once again with the decision for any expenditures be made in consultation with the Building Committee and the Finance committee. A formal proposal will be made for adoption at the annual meeting on May 17th. In the meantime, Shaun, gg and Tom have been asked to stay on as Trustees.

### Payment to members for service policy

We are a lay led congregation. Our members offer their Time, Talents and Treasures. Our general policy is not to pay our members for services to the congregation. If we do not have individuals willing and able to provide needed functions, we have chosen to create paid positions, ie Religious Exploration and Administrative Assistant, to ensure we are able to meet the needs and desires of the congregation. We will be adding a paid Music Coordinator position with the preference of a wide search for the best person as we've done with both of the other positions.

Thank you!

*UNITED BY LIGHT & MqtUU CUUPS invites you to join us Sunday, February 1*



### FEBRUARY FULL MOON GATHERING @ 5pm

Utilizing the energy of the full moon, and the holiday of Imbolc/Brigid, we will be making Brigid candles!

### IMBOLC/BRIGID SEASONAL CELEBRATION @ 6:30pm

Come and celebrate, and learn a bit about this holiday.  
Please bring: A small building/event donation and a dish to share.

We will be blessing Brigid candles, and candle making for those who didn't attend the full moon gathering.

Note: For those attending both events, there is no need to bring two potluck items, one will suffice.



## FROM: Social Action Committee

“Share the Plate” offers opportunities for our members to develop and deepen connections with non-profit organizations from the local, state, national and global levels. Your nominations of non-profit organizations for recipients are welcome! The February “Share the Plate” Recipient is:



### Transgender MI

<http://www.transgendermichigan.org/>

Transgender Michigan's primary mission is to provide advocacy, support and education while serving to create coalitions in the state of Michigan to unify and empower transgender and gender non-conformist communities.

The MqtUU Social Action Committee **NEEDS YOU!** Put your passion to action and get involved with issues of social and environmental justice! As a collective voice we can make a difference! Check us out on Facebook to get current on meeting dates and issues being addressed.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1404026069870621/>

**FROM: RE Coordinator, Lisa McKenzie**



As I sit at my table this late January morning, already I feel the pull of spring; the quality of light is shifting, the longer days are being felt, and there is a sense of emerging. As I round out and reflect upon my first few weeks as RE Coordinator, there is sense of emerging here too; not only for me as an individual, but for the RE Program as a whole. In a few short weeks, I've come to learn and appreciate what strong seeds have been planted in this program and how well they have been nourished over the years with devoted volunteers, close community, and love. The foundation is here. We are ready to grow!

**February will be a special month for RE.**

~On the 1<sup>st</sup>, you will find us leading the Worship Service sharing our enthusiasm and ideas on how to build upon the wonderful program we already have. If you have hopes or dreams for our RE Program, you will have an opportunity to share that with us during the morning as well. Look for some special music that day too!

Hint-my son Dawson and Kees Gray will be two of the singers.

~On the 8<sup>th</sup>, we will spend our time preparing for the up-coming Child Dedication Worship Service by decorating, rehearsing and taking time to appreciate how special this ceremony is.

~The 15<sup>th</sup> will be our Child Dedication Worship Service. Please contact Teri Rockwood if you are interested in the Child Dedication Service, [teri.rockwood@gmail.com](mailto:teri.rockwood@gmail.com). For more information on the Child Dedication Service, please refer to the January Chronicle.

~Finally, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be introducing mindfulness into our RE Program. We will spend our time together practicing some simple breathing exercises, yoga postures, and how to be still. Mindfulness + UU Principles; what a great foundation for our youth!

**See you on Sunday!**

~\*~

*You are Invited to the Meeting House...*

## **First Friday**

**Friday, February 6 @ 6pm**

Bring a dish, a friend, your favorite beverage, share great conversation!

Come for the food,  
stay for the movie!

### **"Where Should the Birds Fly"**

the first film about Gaza made by  
Palestinians living the reality of Israel's  
siege and blockade of this tiny enclave.

Movie begins at 7pm



## **UU Chair Yoga**

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
@ the Meeting House

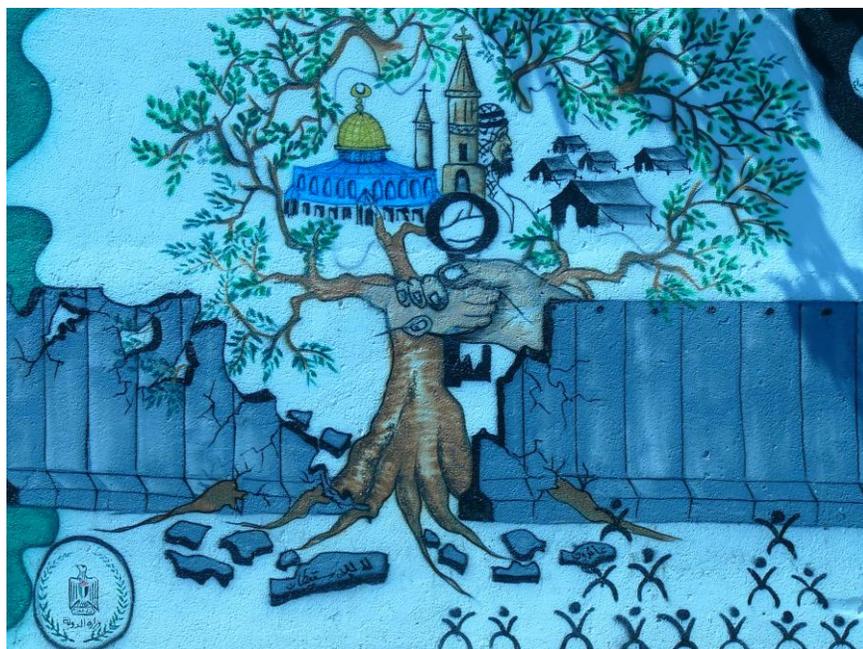
Offered by:  
UU Dharmini Robertson

ERYT, CPT, YCAT Yoga Therapist  
Dharmini Robertson offers personal  
support as a part of her yoga therapy  
practice to the UU congregation.

~\*~

Come 5 min early for your first time.  
Last class will be March 4<sup>th</sup>.

# Reflection & Learning Project on **Israel-Palestine**



Launched at the 2014 UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI, UU's for Justice in the Middle East offered a new study designed to reach UU's throughout our denomination, as well as interested members of local interfaith communities or others in the Marquette area. As a responsible faith community, we want to become informed so as to understand, converse, and act with a solid background and foundation.

A three-part series of four workshops each follow three (Episcopal, UU, and Presbyterian) study guides. The first took place in the fall, and we will continue with the winter session at the Meeting House tying it in with our UU Principles.

Spring sessions, "Zionism Unsettled," will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Front St.

The kick-off for the winter session will take place following the First Friday Potluck at the Meeting House on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm with the showing of "Where Should the Birds Fly?"

Subsequent winter sessions will be held with lunch refreshments from 12:30-1:45 pm at the Meeting House on the following three Sundays: Feb. 8, 22, and March 1. (Social Action Committee will be meeting on Feb 15) You do not have to be at the fall sessions to participate in the winter or spring sessions.

For more information or if you would like child care services, please contact Barb Michael at 273-1174 or at [michael.barbara.102@gmail.com](mailto:michael.barbara.102@gmail.com).

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

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

Feb. 1 @ 5pm Sunday	CUUPS & United By Light <b>Full Moon Gathering</b> , followed by the <b>Imbolc/Brigid Seasonal Celebration @ 6:30pm.</b>
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 5:30pm Wednesdays	Chair Yoga
February 5 @ 7pm Thursday	Choir Rehearsal at Jeanne Trost's home (911 W. Kaye)
February 6 @ 6pm Friday	<b>First Friday</b> Bring a dish to share, come for a meal, stay for the movie "Where Should The Birds Fly" begins at 7pm
February 7 @ 10am Saturday	Community Development Committee
Feb. 15 @ 12:30 Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting
February 17 @ 6pm Tuesday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting

"Just keep reading, just keep reading..." There's more and some very colorful stuff at the end!

**MqtUU  
Representatives:**

**President**

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**Vice President**

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**Religious Exploration  
Coordinator**

Lisa McKenzie

[lisamckenzie@charter.net](mailto:lisamckenzie@charter.net)

**FROM: The Stewardship Committee**

We wound up our stewardship campaign last year with 45 pledges totaling \$58,512. I want to thank all the members who pledged. You are supporting programs and services that are making us a more intimate and cohesive community as well as a force for social justice in the UP. Our 45 pledges range from \$20 to \$7200 for the year. Our top three pledgers provide 31% of our budget. We are grateful to have 7 members who pledge over \$3000 per year for our congregation. We have 17 members who pledge over \$1000 per year.

This month you will be receiving a letter from me. Please open it. Your pledge form for the next fiscal year is in the envelope. I hope you will fill it out and mail it back to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. In March, we will be having two stewardship Sundays on March 1 and March 29. On March 29, we will be having Ian Evison from our MidAmerica District office as a guest minister. We will also be having a thank you luncheon to provide an opportunity for all our members to say thank you to the individuals who donate their time and talents to our congregation by serving on committees.

As I think about this year's campaign, I would like to increase the number of members in our congregation to better share our financial obligations more equitably. I hope we can continue to evolve into the kind organization in the next year that effects lives in a way that is worthy of your support.

MqtUU is financially autonomous. We have no diocese or umbrella organization to support us if we fail to meet our annual operating budget needs. We are it, we are, in effect, a co-op. The pledge you make and honor throughout the year keeps MqtUU thriving.

Your Board of Trustees and other leaders are approaching the future with enthusiasm and forward-looking plans. As a member or friend of MqtUU, you are invited to make as generous a pledge as you can and bring your ideas and your enthusiasm to the congregation as we all work together to celebrate our spiritual home and its important place in our community.

Mike White  
Stewardship Chairperson

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**The NEW in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism!**

**Regional Assembly 2015**

**April 17 – 19**

**Marriott Hotel in Naperville, IL**

**An entire weekend full of events for everyone!**

## UUs in the NEWS:



*Susan Poag Photography*

Jan. 23, 2015 [cosmopolitan.com](http://cosmopolitan.com)

Reverend Deanna Vandiver knew abortion was a controversial issue in her home state of Louisiana, but she didn't expect abortion opponents to make her church a target.

"The congregation had just lost two beloved members," said Vandiver, the community minister for the Greater New Orleans Unitarian Universalists and Executive Director for the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal, recalling a service she led in July. "We were holding this time of silence and meditation for all the grief in our hearts. And in that silence, in that meditative space of prayer, one of the members of this group started to speak out, 'You're an abomination, you're a great deceiver, these children are going to go to Hell,' in the midst of this very tender holy moment."

At the same time, other protesters milled about outside the church day care windows, holding up photos of bloody fetuses. The day care volunteers ushered the children into a classroom without windows, leaving a note on the door indicating their location for worried parents.

The church's crime? It had hosted an event to kick off the construction of a new Planned Parenthood clinic in New Orleans.

Congregants joined hands and sang "Circle 'Round for Freedom" to drown out the protesters. And after the story was publicized, the congregation gained new members and received some new donations. It also started a reproductive justice team to meet with Planned Parenthood's interfaith coalition.

### **February 1 ~ National Freedom Day**

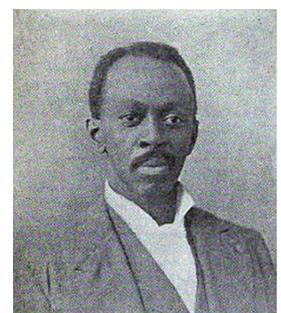
A former slave by the name of Major Richard Robert Wright Sr. created National Freedom Day.

Major Wright was looked upon as a great leader in the community. It was believed by Major Wright, that this day needed to be celebrated.

Because of Abraham Lincoln's signing the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865, February 1st was chosen as the day for National Freedom Day.

***On June 30, 1948, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming February 1st as the first official National Freedom Day in the United States.***

<http://nationaldaycalendar.com/calendar-at-a-glance/february/>



# Someewhere Over The Rainbow!

*Valentine's Day Dance*

**Saturday February 14th**

**8PM-MIDNIGHT**

**\$5 COVER CHARGE**

**Door Prizes! Refreshments!**

**L.G.B.T.Q. and Allies, Everyone Welcome!**

Hosted by Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride

at the Marquette Unitarian Universalist

Meeting House, 1510 East M-28. Chocolay Township

*Double  
Trouble*  
DJS + EVENT SERVICES



For more info call (906) 204-5000

“COME, COME WHOEVER YOU ARE! WONDERERS, WORSHIPPERS, LOVERS OF LEAVING...”  
ALL ARE WELCOME!