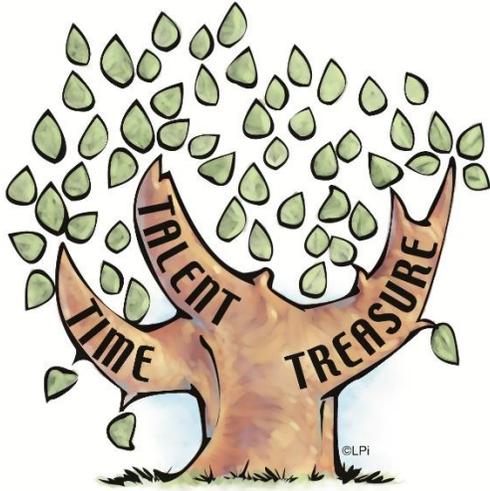




## FROM: Stewardship Committee



It is that time of year again. This next month we will be kicking off our annual pledge drive. In a week or two, you should be receiving a mailing from me asking you for your pledge for the 2016 - 2017 fiscal year. Please take the time to read the very brief presentation in our pamphlet and then send us your pledge form in the self-addressed envelope.

I will be hosting services on February 28 and March 20. There will be pledge forms available at these services. We will be having our annual Stewardship luncheon after the service on March 20. I hope you can come to share food and enjoy the comradery of our members and friends.

This next year will bring us some new initiatives in our Congregation for our youth. Gary Stark and Ursula Stock are currently leading another class of our youngsters in the OWL program. Jaime Kuehnl has also been hired as our new RE Coordinator. She is an instructor in the English Department at NMU and she is also pursuing doctoral studies in Native American spirituality.

I will leave you with this quote from Stephen Gray, a minister for the United Church of Christ:  
"All we have is just on loan. Whether it be our next breath, the food we eat, what is in our pocketbooks; it is on loan and we cannot take it with us when we go. We have the opportunities to use these resources to help care for others and those less fortunate than ourselves as a sign of our gratitude, and the essential question is not how much we can afford to give, but how much we can afford to keep."

Mike White  
Stewardship Chairperson

## FROM: MqtUU Kitchen Coordinator

Lots of great food support in January.

**A big thank you** to those who were able to provide meals to Dea and her family in the week prior to her hospitalization. Cooking or bringing food to someone too ill to provide for themselves or their family adequately is an act of compassion and care. These nurturing acts help bind our community together. The food and other loving support offered were deeply appreciated by Dea and her family.

**Many thanks** also go to all the volunteers who signed up and brought food for coffee hour during the month of December and January. They are Dharmini and Jon Robertson, Anne Stark, gg gordon, Heidi Gould, Barbara Michael, Kathy Klos and Fred Campbell, and Nancy Sullivan. Special thanks go to Sari Embley for organizing the brunch on the Sunday following Christmas and for cooking a great egg strata. And thanks also go to all those who brought food to the potluck brunch. I heard that we had unexpected guests that day and that all left well fed.

There are many ways to help in the kitchen area other than bringing food. Coffee making, dish washing and bringing dishes into the kitchen from elsewhere are much appreciated efforts too. Together it all seems to work out. **Thanks for helping.**

Nancy Sullivan



## 7 Principles of UU Children

We believe:

that each and every person is important;

that all people should be treated fairly and kindly;

that we should accept one another and keep on learning together;

that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life;

that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them;

in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world;

in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things

## FROM: Religious Exploration Committee

Our children and Religious Exploration are a critical component of MqtUU's vitality, growth and sustainability. Like all committees at MqtUU, RE is bare bones depending on a few volunteers' time and energy. If you have not volunteered for RE, you may not know that every week we plan and provide a service for the children of MqtUU. We follow an Order of Service and provide a message through stories and activities. We are helping to shape the values, principles, and spirit of an amazing group of children. For the larger community, we lead programs including OWL (Our Whole Lives), a liberal, comprehensive human sexuality program for middle schoolers. This past summer, we also hosted Peace Camp, a summer day camp held on Nancy Irish's and Vince Villa's property.

We have not had a Religious Exploration Coordinator since June and we continue to struggle to find volunteers. RE has relied on the same volunteers for too long. We need fresh energy. We need help. We need your help. Please contact Sarah Johnson or Tim VanderVeen. We will support you and help you see how easy and rewarding it is to work with our wonderful children through MqtUU's RE program. Sarah Johnson 458.3915/[iamsarahjeanjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:iamsarahjeanjohnson@gmail.com) or Tim VanderVeen 346.2122/[timhvv@gmail.com](mailto:timhvv@gmail.com)

*"Parents and caregivers are attracted to Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations for the partnership we offer in raising children who will become kind, respectful, fair-minded, caring, and strong enough to stand up for what is right. Through religious education programs and the inclusion of children in worship, social justice work, and multigenerational gatherings, our communities reinforce what parents teach at home. We nurture truth-seeking, spirituality, and progressive moral values that will continue to shape and support our children as they grow." found at <http://www.uua.org/re/children>*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLEASE JOIN US:

#### February 14th: Valentine's Tea

On Sunday, February 14th, RE will continue our tradition of hosting **Gifts of the Heart Valentine's Tea Service**. The service will be abbreviated and led by the children with coffee, tea and desserts to follow. In RE, we will focus on the power of love and work with children to plan the event including picking a theme, choosing recipes, selecting readings and learning a song to share. If you have a grand/child/ren, please ask if they would like to share a talent. In the past, we have had children/young adults sing, play instruments, read poetry, share jokes, and dance. **Please contact Sarah Johnson ASAP if your child would like to participate.**

#### February 13th: "1st Annual Cookie Bowl" (Cookie and Bowl Making Party)

10+ years ago, RE youth decorated plates that are regularly used at the Meeting House. We want to capture the talent of our current youth and recently purchased materials to create bowls. Imagine what a great addition the bowls will make for our Annual Soup Dinner! Also, we will make cookies and other desserts for Valentine's Tea. Event starts at 4:00pm and pizza will be ordered at 5:30. Everyone is welcome to join the fun!



## FROM: Social Action Committee

In addition to picking the Share the Plate recipients (with help from suggestion within the community), we are planning the Women's Center benefit for February 28th with music from Milo Birch, 3 Dreams Inn and Michael Waite. The social action committee also recently added a subcommittee for UJME ( UU's for Justice in the Middle East). As a group we were instrumental in the passing of the Non-discrimination Ordinance in Marquette, the first of its kind in the U.P. Many of our members volunteer with RATI and we used some of our moneys to support the program. We spoke with the RE committee and helped them pick JJ Packs for their fundraiser as well as supporting the Beatles and Brews fundraiser in November. We keep the Social Action Committee table organized with binders to explore many different social justice issues. We are hoping to do another book study this year, and will be covering some adult forums with topics such as Plastic bag education.

### Registering to vote

As we affirm and promote our UU 5th Principle: *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*, we remind voters that the deadline to register for the March 8 Michigan Primary is **Feb. 8th**. Remember if you have moved, you will need to register again. For the short application to register and/or further information, go to: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf) or contact Barb Michael or gg gordon.

### FEBRUARY "SHARE THE PLATE" Recipient:



# Partners In Health

Our mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. By establishing long-term relationships with sister organizations based in settings of poverty, Partners In Health strives to achieve two overarching goals: to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them and to serve as an antidote to despair. [www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org)

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**February 28 @ 4pm**  
**Mqt Women's Center & Harbor House**



## FUNdraiser

**FREE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Provided by:**

**Mike Waite**

**Milo Birch**

**3 Dreams Inn**

**FREE Refreshments will be served.**

**All donations to the Women's Center Harbor House are greatly appreciated!**

If each member or friend of our congregation could bring a pie, other dessert, or beverage (apple juice, tea bags) to share - that would be awesome! If you can't make it to the fundraiser, please drop off your edible donation on the morning of Feb. 28 and specify "fundraiser," so it isn't used in the early afternoon following the service.

**PLEASE AND THANK YOU!!**

## MqtUU February Calendar

Sunday Services are listed on the front page and all other events scheduled are at the MqtUU Meeting House

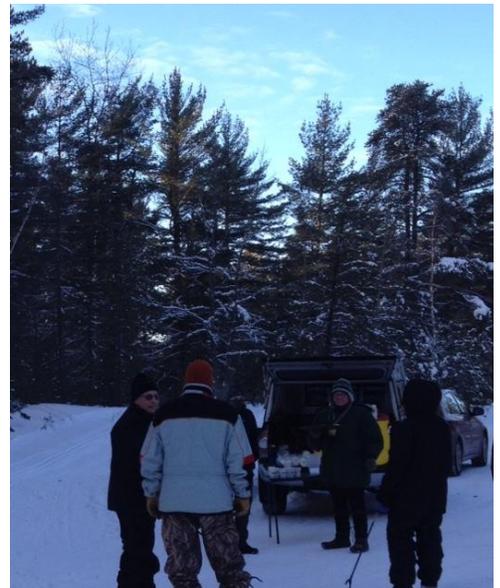
February 2 @ 5:30pm Tuesday	United By Light & CUUPS: Imbolc Gathering
February 13 @4pm Saturday	MqtUU RE "Cookie Bowl"
February 14 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
February 20 @ 10am Saturday	Community Development Committee
February 21 @ 12:15pm Sunday	Social Action Committee
February 28 @ 4pm Sunday	MqtUU Women's Center Harbor House FUNdraiser



Bethany and Kathy Wright



Coordinator, Anne Stark



Trail on left, energy drink station near the back of Michael's truck



Warm water and bananas ready to hand off - "watchers" and their little dog joined us.

MqtUU Aide Station  
2016 Noquemanon Ski Marathon

**Skiers Voted**  
**#1<sup>st</sup> Place: BEST AID STATION!**

BIG thanks to Michael Erdmann and Anne Stark who picked up supplies and set up our aid station. Many thanks to other volunteers: Dharmini & Jon Robertson, Gary Stark, gg gordon, Kathy and Bethany Wright, Morgan and Michelle Halley, Jill Mielcarek, Barb Michael and all of you who were with us in spirit!

## SUNDAY SOUL SERIES!

Former UUA president and current senior minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland (OR), **Bill Sinkford**, and senior minister of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship, **Meg Riley**, launch the 8-week **Sunday Soul** series at 8pm (est) on Jan. 31, as they explore how to live with courage and hope in challenging times with "For all the Dreams We've Dreamed." .

**SUNDAY SOUL** will interweave music, storytelling, multimedia and sharing to enliven, nourish and inspire. It is authentic and participatory. It offers time for stillness or prayer and space for our spirits to cry or shout out. It challenges our comforts and holds us in our vulnerability. Through rituals of connection, we are able to transform ourselves and discover our common humanity. Sunday Soul is the place where your spirituality and technology can come together - where you don't have to check your smart phone at the door.

Share this time with people from across the world as we recharge spirits, hearts and souls. So invite a friend to join you, no matter where they are!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.sundaysoul.org](http://www.sundaysoul.org)

## FROM: Marquette Interfaith Forum

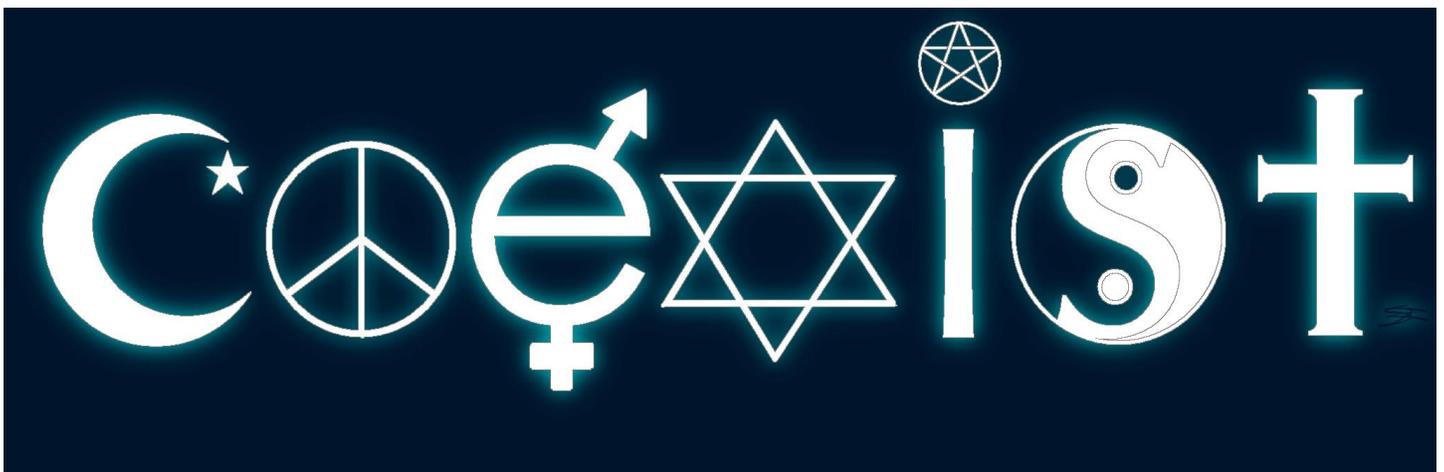
Our next Marquette Interfaith Forum meeting will be on Friday, February 5, at "Little Jimmie's" in Harvey from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

At our January meeting we had a lively discussion of whether being Secular and being Religious were compatible or contradictory. We clearly did not exhaust the subject nor reach a conclusion since we decided to pursue the area further at the next meeting.

Specifically, we wished to continue the topic of secular vs religious and whether "secular religion" was a purely American or Anglophile phenomenon.

Please plan to participate in our discussion. How does your faith inform and influence your secular life? How does your secular life increase the opportunities to put your religious ideals into action? **etc.**

Aaron Scholnik





## January 2016: Get on the Map! Growing the Movement for Black Lives Matter, Racial Justice & Voting Rights

The UUA now has a map of congregations displaying Black Lives Matter signs and banners. [You can add yours here](#) and find resources for how to take your witness into deeper engagement through community partnerships, multi-faith organizing, and advocacy. As we begin 2016 we are hearing from UUs around the country who are growing the movement for racial justice, Black Lives Matter, and defending voting rights.



Standing on the Side of Love launched [30 Days of Love 2016: Toward Racial Justice](#) on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday. Many UUs were part of #ReclaimMLKDay. Members of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC marched in the largest Martin Luther King, Jr. march ever held there, following the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church last June. Columbia, SC area UUs turned out for the MLK celebration on the grounds of the State House celebrating the removal of the Confederate flag. At the Democratic debate held in Charleston on the same weekend, UUs were among the activists that brought Black Lives Matter, the Fight for \$15 and immigrant rights to the debate.

Photo: *Outside the Jan. 17th Democratic presidential debate in Charleston, SC, more than 1,000 low-wage workers shut down city streets to press the "Fight for \$15 Agenda" that includes higher wages and better benefits, as well as broader demands for police accountability and immigration reform. (Photo by Kerry Taylor.)*

On February 13th UUs from all around North Carolina will be gathering in Raleigh for the [Mass Moral March to Get Out the Vote](#) and challenge the NC voter suppression law. Buses of UUs from All Souls Washington, DC and other DC-area congregations are headed down to join them and to stay for a weekend of voter registration with the UU Fellowships of Raleigh and Eno River. They will continue the partnership into the fall election by calling voters in NC from phone banks in Washington, DC and by travelling to NC in the fall for a last push voter registration drive and to Get-Out-the-Vote.

The UUA has resources to help your congregation organize for [racial justice](#) and [voter engagement](#). The UU Funding Program also has funds for [Public Witness Actions](#), Multi-faith [Congregation-Based Community Organizing](#), [UU Statewide Action Networks](#), and [Get Out the Vote 2016](#).

Stay tuned for more actions we can take locally and campaigns where we can pull together collectively. And mark your calendars for this year's [General Assembly](#) in Columbus, OH, June 22-26. We will be joined by Rev. William Barber, II, and many other faith leaders working together to build a fusion coalition with racial justice at the center. National and local Black Lives Matter activists will be there. Tracks on racial justice organizing, a special track from Black Lives UU, and workshops on developing multi-racial and multicultural competency will be offered. Registration opens March 1st. Apply for financial aid between March 1st and March 31st. Let us know what your congregation is doing, how we can help, and get your congregation on the map!



In faith, on behalf of the UUA Multicultural Growth & Witness Staff Team,  
Susan Leslie  
UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director



# Supporting Older Adult Faith Journeys

Growing Unitarian Universalism

<http://growinguu.blogspot.com/>



In October, I was one of several Unitarian Universalists who took part in a Future of Adult Faith Formation Symposium organized by Lifelong Faith Associates. The topic exploration was organized around the four “seasons” of adult faith formation: Young Adult, Midlife Adult, Mature Adult, and Older Adult. While I left with many things to mull, the most important insights I gained were about faith development for older adults. At the symposium, we recognized the presence of two distinct generations who are now “older adults”: The Boomer generation and their parents, the Builder Generation. The generational experiences and preferences of the two groups are very different, as are the spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges each group faces.

Looking back, I am surprised that that was such a revelation to me. I’m living it, right now. I am a Boomer and qualify as an older adult by all definitions used by experts. I also have varying responsibilities for care of three parents in their late 80s. I feel the spiritual challenges of my own stage of life, as I wrestle with professional and personal legacy and what comes next for me, while also coming to terms with physical limitations I did not have a couple of decades ago. At the same time, I am acutely aware of the spiritual challenges that face my parents’ generation: the need for connection and community, the time required to take care of health and wellbeing, the dance of independence and safety/support, the deaths and losses that come with great regularity. And I live the truth that not just challenges and losses, but also strengths and gifts come with aging: richness in wisdom, experience, and perspective; stories of ethical, moral, and faith commitments honored over the course of a lifetime, and ability to take the long view of situations.

Both the challenges and gifts of older adults are very present in all of our congregations. Some may be struggling to organize faith development opportunities for this group, while others have a thriving ministry to older adults. The UUA has organized a set of web pages with resources for older adult ministry. These pages will not only help congregations and groups find the resources they need for ministry to and with older adults, but also offer resources and guidance for older adults themselves and for those who love them. Here you will find links to curricula, books, videos, programs, and websites with useful information. These are the topics:

- Body, Mind, and Spirit
- Facing Death, Grief, and Loss
- Programs for Groups
- Health Care Decisions
- Caregivers
- Legacy

Take a look! These pages are working, living documents. We’ll keep it fresh with new photos of older UU adults (that YOU will send from your congregation or group!) and with new resources as they become known to us. Please feel free to send along suggestions- and photos!

Wishing you and yours a wonderful 2016- may your spiritual journey be a rich one!

Gail Forsyth-Vail is Adult Programs Director in the Faith Development Office at the UUA in Boston. She has been a religious educator for almost 30 years, through all seasons of adulthood: as a young adult parent, as a schedule-crazy mid-lifer, as a mature adult parenting teens and young adults and building a career, and now as an older adult caring for parents.