



### Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

located at 1510 M-28 E, Harvey, MI

mail: P.O. Box 687, Marquette, MI 49855

phone 906-249-9450

www. MqtUU.org or visit us on Facebook

### From the Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees met on November 15 at the meeting house. We have begun the process of writing up employment contracts for our two employees: Nancy and Melissa. Beth King will be working with Nancy and Melissa to prepare draft contracts which will be reviewed and commented on at our December meeting.

Michael Erdmann, the chairperson of our building committee, is to be commended for his smooth handling our of parking lot maintenance. He procured Jet Black to come in and fill up the cracks in the asphalt with tar. The asphalt will suffer less winter damage as a result. Be sure and give Mike a slap on the back for this job well done.

To date, we have paid 100% of our Central Midwest District dues. In addition, we have now paid \$1200.00 to the UUA for our national dues. We have now paid about one third of our national dues. Please keep in mind that paying our full dues to the UUA is an important way of supporting UUism and for expressing gratitude for all the support we get from our national and regional organizations.

At our September 25th Congregational Meeting, we ratified a policy for the Integration into our Congregation of a Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense. As I mentioned in last month's Chronicle, in order to implement this policy, the Board of Trustees is soliciting the congregation for members who would be interested in serving as the contact person in the policy. If you are interested in serving the congregation in this capacity, please email me.

The contact person is an individual appointed by the Board of Trustees who is responsible for the following tasks:

*Knowing community resources for child abuse, treatment of sexual offenders, and support groups for survivors;*

*Knowing the State Laws regarding reporting of allegations of sexual abuse;  
Being available to members of the congregation to hear any concerns;  
Working with the RE coordinator to assure compliance with limited access agreements, to facilitate background checks of RE instructors, and to facilitate annual trainings of instructors on safe congregational policies;  
Reporting to the Board of Trustees annually on the status of sex offenders who are participating in our congregation;  
Being willing to meet with any sex offender who is participating in our Congregation periodically.*

Per the Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior and the Maintenance of Healthy Relationships within MUUC, the Nominating Committee for the Mediation Council met on October 23 to begin the process of soliciting members of the congregation who would be interested in serving on the mediation council. Five volunteers have come forward as candidates to fill the three mediation council positions. The five individuals are: Kim Frost, Terri Rockwood, Gary Stark, Paula Kiesling, and Cherokee Helms-Gleason. I want to thank these 5 very talented and dedicated members who have stepped forward to offer their talents to the congregation for this very important task. Per the policy, three of these members must be affirmed by the congregation. The process for affirming the Mediation Council members will move forward as follows:

1. Each candidate has been asked to write a short bio. The bio would describe what style of conflict mediation that they are comfortable with and might describe what experiences that they have had in the past that might be valuable as a member of the council. I will collect these bios and then send them out to the congregation in a mass email in December. This process I hope will let the congregation get to know these individuals a little better.

2. We will have a congregational meeting on January 8. At that time, congregational members will have time to ask questions of the candidates. Then if quorum of members is present, we will ask each member to vote for 3 candidates. The three people with the most votes will be affirmed as the mediation council members. We will leave it up to the affirmed members to decide who gets the 1 year, 2 year, and 3 year terms.

I feel that this process will lead to a mediation council that has a lot of respect and support from the congregation. That respect and support could come in handy if we ever have to consult the council to help us resolve a troubling situation.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. Please attend the open forum to offer us your input and guidance.

*Mike White*  
President of the Board of Trustees



**Dear Friends,**

*When people show up at our door, they are looking for what happens to them when they start to deepen their lives. If we don't serve their needs for depth, heart, spirituality, hope, faith, and love outside of an orthodox setting, who will?* The UU Rev. Christine Robinson

At a recent Sunday Forum, Nancy Sullivan recently presented an excellent summary of three UU ministers' views regarding the state of UUism in contemporary American society, based on several articles in the current issue of the *UU World*. In a nutshell, these ministers fear that Unitarian Universalism will face a decline similar to what other mainstream denominations are already experiencing unless our congregations find ways to deepen the experience of belonging to a UU spiritual community.

I agree, based on countless conversations with members and, perhaps even more importantly, people who have decided not to join our congregation. The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell writes that the two ultimate ends proper to a religious movement are the "elevation of personal character" and the "perfection of the social organism." (I assume she means society both at the level of our UU community and society beyond our walls.) If we aren't working toward those two ends, we are not essentially different from a social or service club. Furthermore, I believe along with countless others that these two ends are inextricably entwined.

Now that we are well settled into a physical home and have worked out many of the logistical kinks in sharing ministry of ourselves, I believe that one of our next most important steps is to *deepen our connections*, both to our inner selves and to one another. The more we do so, the more effective our work in the world will be. It is with that goal in mind that I recently embarked on a course of training in the use of the Enneagram, which is an old and powerful tool for knowing oneself and finding greater compassion through deeper understanding of others. I witnessed how this process transformed a group of strangers into a "beloved community" during a week of intensive training, and I am eager to bring the gifts of the Enneagram to our congregation. (There were several other UUs in the training planning to do the same.)

I will be talking more about the Enneagram during the December 11 service, setting its use in the context of deepening our experience of being in community – applying it toward the "elevation of personal character" and the "perfection of the social organism." Although I am still just learning myself, I plan to start an Enneagram study group of MUUC members and friends to deepen our experience together. If you are interested, please let me know. I can hardly wait to get started! (See related article in this Chronicle) *Warning: you may experience growing pains.*

Ahhh...the lovely dark season is upon us. May the deep dark of December allow us all some silent nights for reflection; may the glow of candles, fire, and the eyes of our loved ones lighten our way into hope for the new year.

**With love,**

*Nancy Irish, Celebrant and Coordinator*



## Religious Education News

### Heifer Dinner:

The UU kids invite you and all your friends to:

The Seventh Annual Heifer Soup Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday December 10, 2011

5:00 to 7:00 at the MUUC Meeting House

**\* Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to bring a crock pot of soup or a dessert (finger foods please).**

Every year we come together on a December Saturday evening to eat soup on behalf of all those who go hungry. We warm the meeting house with tables of crock pots and the good cheer that comes from children serving adults who are serving others in need. Congregation members and friends bring the soup and desserts, area business donate bread and beverages. All donations go to Heifer International. The RE kids collect and count the money, and then collectively decide what items to “purchase” in the Heifer catalog. For more information you may browse the catalog at the Heifer Dinner or go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org). Gift cards will be available at the dinner for those who wish to make a donation as a gift for a friend or family member.

### **December 18 RE will host the Sunday Service:**

Join us for Holiday Traditions from Around the World. As part of the service we will have tables set up around the sanctuary that showcase the way various traditions or cultures celebrate the December holidays. Some of you may remember when the congregation enjoyed this celebration several years back. **We are looking for volunteers to host a table showcasing a culture or tradition of their choice.** In addition to informative presentations we would like you to include something interactive such as games, foods or crafts. Committees, families, and individuals are encouraged to host a table. Please contact Melissa or Kim Frost to sign up or for more information.

### **Share the Warmth: join us December 22 for this special Solstice event.**

We will be creating blankets for kids at Harbor House, making them cards, enjoying a potluck, and sledding. 5:00 p.m. at the Halley-Gluesing home.

Bring a potluck dish, fleece for blanket making, and your sled if you wish. Watch the This N That for details regarding how much yardage of fleece to bring or options to cost share a bulk purchase. Contact Melissa for directions and questions.

**November news:**

The younger kids spent November learning about Heifer Project and the value of helping others in need, and one Sunday morning discussing and making collages of what they are grateful for.

The older kids continued their exploration of inherent worth and dignity with a study and appreciation of their own inherent worth.

We all enjoyed the intergenerational Bread Service.

Our UU intergenerational bowling night was fun for all who attended. There is talk of planning future bowling evenings.

**RE Volunteer needs:**

**I'm looking for a volunteer or two for Sunday January 1.** We expect a low number of children that day but would like to have volunteers available for those families that do come. I will provide plans and supplies or you may offer an activity of your choosing. Please let me know if you are available.

Would you like to help out the RE program but don't want to miss the Sunday service? **Here are a couple volunteer opportunities that you may do when the time suits you:**

1. Place library cards and labels in the RE books so we can keep track of the location of books on loan.
2. Sort and organize items for RE curriculum.  
Please contact Melissa if you are interested.

Thank you to November volunteers: Kim Frost, g.g.gordon, Cherokee Helms-Gleason, Sarah Johnson, Beth King, Michelle Lexmond, Morgana Penglase, Laura Sabourin, Hailey Spillane, and Gary Stark.

Our next RE meeting is Wednesday December 7 at 4:00 at the PWPL Children's Area.

*Melissa Middleton*

## Deepening through the Enneagram

*He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened.” Lao Tzu*

Are there certain patterns in your personality that persistently get in your way of being the best person you could be; of becoming a whole, healthy human being? When you are honest with yourself, are you aware that you tend to be quite critical and judgmental of yourself and others? Or do you persistently experience an underlying anxiety or even fear? Or, maybe you know that you tend to be intimidating and domineering toward others, even though your intentions are to serve the good of the group. Or perhaps you are one of those people who hardly knows what you want, because you are always focused on what other people want. These are all basic characteristics of four of the nine personality types on the Enneagram, which can be translated as “a drawing of nine.” This tool is not meant to oversimplify, put ourselves or others in a box, or excuse our difficult behaviors. It is meant to be used intelligently as a tool to better understand ourselves and those around us. When applied in depth, it can initiate or facilitate the kind of personal transformation that comes with gaining consciousness, or becoming “awake.”

As I have written elsewhere in this newsletter, I have recently embarked on an in-depth study of the Enneagram for the purpose of bringing it to the congregation as a means of deepening our journey together. I would like to start this month, December 2011, by offering a personal session to anyone interested to help you discover what your basic personality type is through the Enneagram, keeping in mind that I am learning, too. When I have met individually with a critical mass of people who would like to study the Enneagram in greater depth than the initial personal session, I will form a study group.

Please contact me at [uunancyr Irish@gmail.com](mailto:uunancyr Irish@gmail.com) or 249-1296 if you are interested in setting up a meeting with me in December or January. I’m looking very much forward to getting to know you better, and to helping you use the Enneagram to get to know yourself better.

*Nancy Irish*

## A Guide Dog Soon to be among Us



We are thrilled that, in December, after several weeks of training in Rochester, Minnesota, our member Simone Chiodini will be back in Marquette with her new guide dog. Before she and her guide dog begin coming together to the meetinghouse, we must all become familiar with what we should and should not do when we are in the presence of Simone and her dog at the meetinghouse or elsewhere. It is particularly important for us to teach our children what behaviors should be avoided around Simone’s new dog. The tips below are redacted from the website of Guide Dogs of America.

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A blind handler and a guide dog have a special bond that enables them to travel in a safe and skillful manner. They train extensively to work together as a team. New teams take 6 months to a year to develop and learn to work “in sync”. So, we first must remember that Simone and her dog will still be in the training stage when we first see them together.

Please follow these rules in their presence:

*Do not pet, call out to (or bark, meow or cluck), or otherwise distract a working guide dog.*

*Allow the dog to concentrate and perform for the safety of its blind partner. A Guide Dog in harness is “on duty”, even when sitting or lying down.*

*Do not feed a guide dog. Diet and feeding times are strictly monitored to maintain good health and a reliable schedule.*

*Never grab the harness or leash from the handler – this would disorient and confuse the team.*

*If the handler ever looks like she needs your help, offer your assistance and take your cue from her response.*

*If you ever believe that a person with a guide dog is in a dangerous situation, voice your concern in a calm manner, but do not push, pull or grab the person or the dog.*

*Sometimes a guide dog will make a mistake, and a correction will be necessary to keep up the training. This could be a verbal reprimand or a leash correction.*

*Handlers have been taught the proper and humane training techniques to maintain their dogs’ working standards. Do not interfere when a correction is being made.*

*You may not always hear it, but guide dogs get loads of praise when they do the right things.*

With the help of her canine partner, and the understanding of those of us who encounter them, Simone should soon be able to enjoy greater independence and mobility. Let’s make sure that we all learn and follow the rules set forth above, so that we support their bonding as a team. And, please be sure to review these rules with any children who will be coming to the meeting house. A Sunday Forum is set for Feb. 5 for us to meet Simone’s new guide dog.

*g.g. gordon*

## **Music Notes**

December is such a lovely time for singing! Jeanne Trost, director extraordinaire, will host one choir rehearsal in December on Tuesday, December 6, at 7pm at her house (620 High St in Marquette). We will rehearse a couple of Christmas and Solstice numbers for the service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us! There is always a lot of laughter at choir rehearsals.

*Nancy Irish*

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, or the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender graphic designer, columnist, and activist, to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts.

Since its inception, TDoR has been held annually on November 20th, and has slowly evolved from the web-based project started by Smith into an international day of action and remembrance. In 2010, TDoR was observed in over 185 cities throughout more than 20 countries.

As a Welcoming Congregation, we honor and support those who identify as transgender.

*Barbara Michael*



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### In Remembrance

Morgana Penglase planted a cedar tree in memory of her father, Tom Penglase, after our 2011 Day of the Dead service. Also helping are gg gordon (left) and her mother, Sari Embley (standing center).

**A Fond Farewell** to Jennifer Schemke, who has decided to move to Ann Arbor where she has family. We were just getting to know Jennifer, when she decided that this move was the right path for her. Her family is very happy that she is moving south. We shall miss her.

*Nancy Sullivan*

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## Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table, a UU tradition for decades. By taking home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box and a *Stories of Hope* booklet, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy,

education, and partnerships with grassroots human-rights leaders, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family dinner table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their "guests" to the movement for universal human rights and share some of their coins or dollars.

*If you would prefer not to bring home a GAYT box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at [uusc.org/givetoquest](http://uusc.org/givetoquest).*

### **"Merry UU Christmas," December 24, 5-6 pm, at the Meeting House**

Kathy Klos will host a gathering at the MUUC Meeting House on Saturday, December 24, from 5-6 pm. There will be singing of Christmas songs and eating of cookies and whatever food people bring. Feel free to bring some food. Kathy says:

*"The season is upon us, and it's time to remind all who are unaware what a UU is, who it is that has had the greatest influence on the season! What are felt to be the best aspects of the Christmas Season-- the giving of gifts that come more from the heart than from the pocketbook; wishing for peace on Earth and good will to men (and women and children); the singing of carols around an evergreen tree; listening for the sound of sleigh bells and reindeer hoofs upon the rooftop and the ho-ho-ho of a man in a red suit- - were inspired by UUs... and I have the list!*

*Join me as we follow the ghosts of Christmases past down memory lane and celebrate our UU heritage. We will light candles and sing carols and YES, Virginia-- there will be gifts, and cookies, and other food after the singing! Saturday, December 24, 5-6 pm at the MUUC Meeting House."*

*Tom Sullivan*

**Board of Trustees** : Michael White , President; Beth King, Vice President; Amy Fletemier, Secretary; Michelle Halley, Cathy Church

**Staff:** Nancy Irish, Community Coordinator & Celebrant  
Melissa Middleton, Religious Education Coordinator

**Other Positions:**

Michelle Harrison, Treasurer  
Tom & Nancy Sullivan, Building Use Coordinators  
Sarah Redmond, Newsletter Editor  
Tom Sullivan, Program Chair  
Michael Erdmann, Building Chair  
Nancy Sullivan, Community Dev. Chair  
gg gordon, Stewardship Chair  
Barbara Michael, Social Action Chair

**November Activities**

**Intergenerational Bread Service**



**Sunday Forum on Harbor House with Phyllis Loonsfoot and Bill Matson.**



**Bread at the Interfaith Thanksgiving awaiting the Jewish Blessing.**

**Newcomer Brunch**



<b>date</b>	<b>Service 11 a.m</b>	<b>Forum 9:45 -10:30 a.m.</b>
Dec. 4	“National Religious Campaign Against Torture: Why It Is Necessary and What You Can Do.” Service Leader: Barb Michael	“Chinese Roots American Blossoms,” with Jian Sha. Host: Nancy Irish
Dec. 11	“Know Thyself: The Enneagram as a Tool for Consciousness.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“How a UU Fits Into a 12-Step Program.” Host: Teri Rockwood
Dec. 18	“Holiday Traditions From Around the World.” Service Leaders: RE Children and Sarah Johnson	“The 1990s: Early Years of the MUUC.” Host: Don Robison
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5-6 p.m. Leader: Kathy Klos	NO FORUM (not a Sunday)
Dec. 25	Informal service, potluck brunch, bring food to cook and share, bring readings of your favorite holiday stories. Leader: Kathy Klos	NO FORUM
Jan. 1	“Where Should Our UU Values Take Us in 2012.” (talk back). Service Leader: gg gordon	NO FORUM

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**To:**

