



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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From the Board of Trustees



Your Board of Trustees last met on December 7. We have completed the process of writing new contracts for our employees, Nancy and Melissa. They both have signed their contracts and it feels good to have this detail finally completed. The Board is also working on creating a process for annual performance evaluations and we will be discussing this matter at the January meeting.

At our September 25th Congregational Meeting, we ratified a policy for the Integration into our Congregation of a Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense. 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. To date, no one has volunteered for this position. We cannot implement the policy without a contact person. I do not feel this position would require a lot of time. If you are interested in serving the congregation in this capacity, then please email me.

Per the Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior and the Maintenance of Healthy Relationships within MUUC, we are having a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 8 to affirm 3 members to serve 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. 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 will describe what style of conflict mediation that they are comfortable with and will describe what experiences that they have had in the past that might be valuable as a member of the council. I will be sending out these bios by email in the next few days for the congregation to review.

2. We will have the congregational meeting on January 8. At that time, congregational members will have time to ask questions of the candidates. Then if a 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.

The next meeting for the Board of Trustees is on Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the meeting house.

Mike White
President of the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

As a gorgeous wild blizzard blows outside at the dawning of another new year, I'm in dream weaving mode. I have a few 2012 visions for my own life - finish this house, start growing and gathering food in earnest again, get involved in the Marty Reinhardt's Decolonizing Diet Project, declutter my house and my calendar, get fit again. I love the feeling of optimism a new year can bring.

Visions for our UU community also dance in my head, but visions for a cooperative community have to grow collectively and unfold naturally. My natural inclination toward visioning has evolved into a Taoist approach, which feels and works better than achieving false consensus through overbearing and relentless enthusiasm not shared by everyone. The unfolding of gg gordon's vision to engage MUUC in the work of Harbor House is a beautiful example of this kind of visioning process. She built understanding of and support for her vision in a methodical way, until the entire congregation was enthusiastic about committing to the project as a group. This is also an excellent example of how shared ministry can work. Nobody owns visioning for our spiritual cooperative - anyone can put forth a beautiful, intelligent vision, and if it resonates with the group and if someone has leadership energy for the vision, it will likely bear fruit. (Some of us in the leadership of MUUC believe that we need to engage in a more general visioning process; more on that in the months to come.)

One of the visions for MUUC that dance in my head that I have already begun to articulate is to undertake a deepening process together through the tool of the Enneagram. I tested the initial response to this vision during my December service, and was gratified by the enthusiastic interest expressed by many. The process has begun as I begin to work with about nine people in our UU circle who expressed interest in beginning the process immediately. I envision this individualized initial work evolving into group work, where the fun really begins. (Let me know when/if you want to hop on board.)

The Enneagram process helps us recognize and understand the unconscious motivations underlying the patterns of our own behavior so we can begin to free ourselves of what restrains us from being our fullest, truest selves. I am loving this work. The Enneagram is an ideal tool for me to use as one of our spiritual community's leaders, because it allows me to fulfill my desire and commitment to facilitate spiritual growth without professional minister credentials.

In whatever work we do for social justice, community service, or negotiating our path through whatever environmental and financial calamities await us in the not-so-distant future... whatever we do, maximizing our effectiveness and the sustainability of our efforts begins with us becoming more fully conscious. More awake, using the Buddha's term. More Real. We will be more effective and more joyful people in whatever we undertake - individually, in our families, partnerships, , work, and as a spiritual community - if we do our inner work and the work of being in true community.

Becoming Real. Huston Smith, one of the world's most prominent scholars and writers on comparative religions, says that the quintessential spiritual journey boils down to becoming Real. The capital R? Because getting real is a sacred journey, one that has nothing to do with any particular religion, but everything to do with the original inspiration and intention of virtually all religions. Human ego has contorted that intention through the centuries, in virtually all religions, but that's another story. Becoming Real is about peeling away the layers of ego to rest in one's simple, unpretentious, elusive, and unfearful natural state. Becoming Real is a sacred gift awaiting anyone willing to do the work of self-knowledge and conscious growth. It is not an easy journey, but the reward is that "pearl of great price."

Becoming my Self. Becoming your Self. Becoming native to this land. Doing it together; that is, in the Beloved Community of *my* dreams. It is the way of community that true community will happen at a deep level only if we have the consciousness, commitment, enthusiasm, and enough common threads among our individual dreams and visions to weave something that can be sustained. It is my conviction that only Beauty is sustainable. Beauty includes FUN. Further discovery and realization of the potential beauty and strength of our woven fabric is my Right Livelihood Resolution for 2012.

Stay tuned, and if you are so moved, send out some signals in return so that communication will have occurred, rather than a monologue. May we all pitch in according to our passions, priorities, and circumstances to co-create a meaningful new year.

Love and normal wild blizzards forever,

Nancy Irish

Celebrant and Coordinator

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 Johnson, Religious Education Chair
Nancy Sullivan, Newsletter Editor
Tom Sullivan, Program Chair
Michael Erdmann, Building Chair
Nancy Sullivan, Community Dev. Chair
gg gordon, Stewardship Chair
Barbara Michael, Social Action Chair



Religious Education News

December News:

We spent December planning, hosting, and finalizing the Heifer Soup Dinner fundraiser. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of community complete with good cheer, music and great food. As a bonus, the kids raised over \$2000 and decided together what items to fund through Heifer.

The kids did a great job offering the December 18 service. We enjoyed the opportunity to integrate the evergreen solstice spiral created in the sanctuary by the home school group.

We wrapped up the month and the year with a blanket making solstice party. Kids and adults worked together to create 16 blanket and card for kids who may stay at Harbor House this year.

Thank you to December Volunteers:

Sari Embley, Mike Erdmann, Amy Fletemier, Kim Frost, Gabe Gluesing, g.g.gordon, Michelle Halley, Sarah Johnson, Morgana Penglase, Laura Sabourin, Hailey Spillane, Nancy Sullivan, and Jeanne Trost, Thank you to all of you who brought soup or deserts and attended the Heifer Dinner.

Volunteer needs:

We need a volunteer to bring healthy snacks for the kids beginning in January.

Ideally we would like you to sign up for a month at a time but if that isn't possible, just let me know what dates you can do. In addition, you may deliver a box of snacks for the month and we will prepare it if you won't be attending every day of the month for which you volunteer.

Beginning January 22 we need volunteers to lead and assist the class for the younger kids. I will provide lesson plans and supplies if you like.

Other needs:

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

Melissa Middleton
RE Coordinator

U.P. UU Potluck!

On January 29th, members of the UU congregation in Houghton are coming to offer a service about the UU Green Sanctuary Movement. We have also invited the Escanaba area UU's to join us that day, as it is an off Sunday for them.

We will host a potluck for our UU guests after the service. Please bring a generous dish or two to pass. You can either bring your own dishes or use those at the Meeting House. The usual cooperative setup and cleanup will be the order of the day.

Let's serve 'em up our finest MUUC hospitality!

Nancy Irish



Upcoming Congregation Meeting

The Board of Trustees would like to invite you to a congregational meeting on January 8th to affirm 3 candidates for the mediation council. The MUUC congregation recently accepted a policy to maintain healthy relationships in our congregation. Members of the Mediation Council would utilize this policy to resolve any difficult conflict that might arise in our congregation. The BOT would greatly appreciate your participation in this post service meeting, at 12:15pm. A quorum of members is required.

Amy Fletemier

Kitchen notes...

***Be our guest! Be our guest!
Put our service to the test
Tie your napkin 'round your neck, cherie
And we'll provide the rest...
(guess that musical!)***

In the spirit of sharing hospitality, this is a call for folks to pitch in more with cleaning up the dishes after services, dumping the compost bin, taking recyclables away for recycling (located in bins under the kitchen table), dumping the coffee grounds and rinsing out the coffee pots, putting away dried dishes, and sweeping the kitchen floor. Many hands could make these chores fly by with fun conversation. Creating such kitchen community is the work of all of us and need not be burdensome to any person.

Many thanks to the kitchen "angels" who have been dropping off snacks, dish soap, coffee, cream and other delights to help our kitchen stay welcoming. And please check out the Lost and Found by our front door for your misplaced casserole and baking dishes too. We have a small collection developing and I hate to give these away.

P.S. The opening ditty is Be our Guest, from Beauty and the Beast

Nancy Sullivan



Heifer Dinner

The kitchen was the center of much activity...as the youth picked up dirty dishes and washed them.



Solstice Service



Case Grey and Maitri White sang a beautiful duet together.



New members joined!

Two families joined our "beloved community" in December. On the left Sam and Janine Adams with children, Isaac and Jeanette. On the right of the photo are Teri Rockwood, Dave Sensaas and their son, Liam. Welcome!

Share the Warmth - making fleece blankets for the kids at Harbor House.



Newsletter Editing in Your Future???

Many thanks to Sarah Redmond who served as the editor of the Chronicle for the past two years! Each month she produced a beautifully laid out newsletter with pictures and art work. But now, she would like to move her focus to other activities and we understand her need to do so.

Having been involved with MUUC's newsletter production off and on since the 1990's and having seen its varying life phases, I know how much work it takes to put out each month. I am wondering if this new simplified format would encourage a couple of other folks to volunteer for editing various months of the year. Editing involves setting & communicating the deadline for submissions, putting the articles and pictures into a basic format on computer, emailing the draft out for proofing, making the corrections, sending the draft onto folks for printing and email distribution. It may involve some coordination & communication with various authors too.

If nobody edited more than say three or four months of the year, the job might feel much less weighty and more creative. I am willing to edit some months and could help you learn the parts of the role with which you are unfamiliar. We have other volunteers who do the article writing, picture taking, proof reading, printing of copies for church and mailing, emailing, and email list maintenance. It takes many hands to put out a helpful newsletter which reflects our community.

Please think about helping with this. It can be fun and yes, challenging at moments too. Please contact me if you want more information or would like to give this a try.

Nancy Sullivan,
Nance249@gmail.com



Getting to Know ... Beth King

Marquette native Beth King has led an eclectic life. After graduating from high school, she left Marquette and took a year off to "sow her oats." She then "buckled down" and went to Kalamazoo College, earning a degree in anthropology. This was the beginning of a twenty-five year absence from the Upper Peninsula.

Graduate school in medical anthropology in Kentucky was next. She left after a year, however; it did not meet her expectations. Lexington, Kentucky, was very conservative, as were the students in the college. Beth came back to Marquette for six months and then moved to Madison, WI. For the next two years, she worked odd jobs in food coops and restaurants among other places. She worked for the Tenant's Union and went door to door raising funds for the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Beth met her former partner in Madison; they moved to Seattle in 1987. There she worked in fish shops and food coops and went to carpentry school.

It was in Seattle when Beth became involved in medical research. She did random sampling and began interviewing people about their health behaviors for public health cancer research. The information that was collected was contributed to a nationwide study. Some of the questions asked were: how many sunburns have you had in your life, do you use sun screen and describe your diet and exercise habits. While the purpose of these epidemiological studies was to see what people do, they also gave a picture of health behaviors in the country as a whole: who had cancer and who did not. With data from large numbers, researchers can make some assumptions.

From there, she became a project manager and was involved in large studies about public health, exposure to radiation and other similar topics. While it was not Beth's intention to work in this field, she found it interesting. It tied in with her interest in medical anthropology and social and public health studies. She continued doing interviews and moved into other work. She implemented studies for scientists who were interested in a specific idea and helped write grant proposals, mostly to the NIH or the Cancer Institute. She learned the protocol for securing grants, hired and trained people to do interviews, found subjects for studies and collected data. She basically managed an entire project. Beth loved the work.

After an amicable split with her partner of ten to twelve years, Beth decided she wanted to adopt a child from China. It took two years to complete the adoption process: a year to do the paper work and another year of waiting. Once she got the news of the pending adoption, including a photograph and description of the baby, she had to be in China in three weeks. Beth wanted a girl; 95% of babies in the orphanages are girls. Beth adopted Zoe in 2001 when she was a year old. She was very touched that her parents accepted her invitation to go with her to pick up the baby. Her mother was with Beth when nannies brought the babies in. The babies were already named by the orphanage and, when the name was announced, the parent would say, "That's mine!" Beth kept part of Zoe's Chinese name as her middle name. It was an extraordinarily wonderful experience for all concerned.

Beth and Zoe moved back to Marquette when Zoe was five. She decided to come back for several reasons. In Seattle, Beth was raising Zoe alone. While she had a lot of good friends

and a support system, she had come to a point of wanting family close by. Her parents live in Marquette. The cost of living in Seattle was very high. They had a small house, and it was expensive to move up. Child care was also costly. They lived in a good neighborhood, but she was not comfortable with Zoe going two or three blocks away. If she had decided not to adopt Zoe, she would have probably stayed in Seattle. But then she loves Marquette and the area here, too. Wherever she has lived, she has been torn between Marquette and elsewhere. Beth loves the lake and the woods here; they are "in her bones."

Beth works for the Cardiology Associates in Marquette doing cardiovascular research including clinical trials. She was contacted and hired when she was still in Seattle by one of the doctors here who knew of her work. He asked her to apply for the research position they had; it took a year to go through the process. The program she started from scratch does clinical trials for new heart-related drugs and devices, comparing one drug with another and with drugs already on the market. She had to learn about cardiovascular medicine from the outset; it was on-the-job training.

Sailing is Beth's favorite thing in the world to do. She has been sailing on the lake since she was twelve and now has her own boat as of last summer. She also likes cross country skiing. The accessibility of skiing is another reason why she was happy to return to Marquette. When she was in Seattle, she had to drive to the mountains to find snow, a good hour and a half one-way trip. Here she can go to the fit strip during lunch and make one or two turns around.

One of the best experiences in Beth's life was living in Sierra Leone. She spent six months there in a foreign exchange student program when she a junior in college. She studied at a small college that focused on agriculture and education. It was located in a large village, not a town, and the students became part of the community. She did not want to leave. There is a possibility she might be able to go back next year for a reunion. The program was eliminated a year or two after Beth was there; the civil war between Liberia and Sierra Leone developed, and it all "turned into a mess."

When she lived in Seattle, Beth became interested in black and white photography and took classes for two years. With her job and Zoe, she has put these energies on hold. She also does not have a dark room in her house. She has "tons of negatives" but nowhere to develop or work with them. She joined a local art group of seven or eight women who convene once a month and talk about their art and projects. Beth has been doing some sculpture with metal, barbed wire and old vintage girls' dresses. The sculptures are then photographed although they can also stand alone. She hopes to photograph some of the sculptures in different environments.

Beth never belonged to a church or religious organization before coming to UU. Her parents were Episcopalians, and Beth went to their church when she was a child. By the time she was in 3rd or 4th grade, her parents were not going to church much anymore. Beth had gone to Sunday school, but it never made any sense to her. She sang in the choir but did so because she liked the big purple robes. When she was 10 or 11, she told her parents she was agnostic and "did not get the God thing." As a young adult, Beth explored Native American religions, Buddhism and other earth-centered spiritualities.

When she was in Marquette for a visit before moving back here, the first people she met were Michelle Lexmond and Paul Gray. Beth and Zoe were biking around Presque Isle. Michelle and Paul approached them and asked if she had adopted Zoe; they were interested in adopting. They talked for quite a while. When Beth returned to Marquette for good about a

year later, she was looking for a house on the east side. There was one for sale on Pine and Arch streets; the Grays were moving. Paul showed Beth and Zoe the house and remembered meeting them the previous year. They reconnected and in the course of the developing friendship, Michelle and Paul talked about their involvement with UU. After a while, Beth decided to check it out. UU was still on Brickyard Road. She loved it, especially the smallness of it (something she misses now). She liked the other people, the messages and values and that it is a welcoming community. She felt a belonging, something she had never experienced before in any organization.

Beth enjoys being a part of a community of people having the same values in the way others are treated, in our respect for the earth, in our tolerance of diversity and in our wish to be supported by our guiding principles. Everyone is welcome: Christians, Jews, atheists, Native Americans, spiritualists... She feels UU is more like Christianity was meant to be at the beginning, before it lost its way. Beth also likes the religious education program for Zoe. She is happy that Zoe is being exposed to the UU principals as well as other religions and the concept of religious tolerance. We are indeed fortunate that Beth decided to give UU a try.

Rachel Crary

Notes from g.g. gordon...

1. I'd like to thank the seventeen families and individuals who responded to the call from the Women's Center to provide Christmas gifts for nine families in need. Through our efforts, every family who asked for help was adopted! I personally enjoyed shopping and wrapping for my "adoptee", as well as hearing your stories of the good feelings you experienced by participating in this project. And Diane Betts from the Women's Center just called to tell me that there were many "tears of joy and appreciation" on Christmas morning when our gifts were opened and that we exceeded her highest expectations. Great job everyone.

The Women's Center project now moves into a new phase whereby we will be scheduling training for those who would like to volunteer at Harbor House. If you are interested, please pick up an application at the meetinghouse, fill it out, and return it to g.g. gordon or directly to the Women's Center. Once we have submitted a critical mass of applications (enough to justify setting up training sessions), the Women's Center will coordinate with us on when and where to hold the training. This is not intended to preclude any of you -- who are so motivated -- to continue contributing money and/or food to Harbor House, but is intended to encourage those of you who are so inclined to start giving of your time and labor towards this worthy cause. And finally, if you are still working on Boxing Day (getting rid of unused stuff), please consider Pak Ratz, the Women's Center resale shop, when you give things away.

2. No time like the present to pay your share of our Unitarian Universalist Association dues! \$74 per member. Just write "Association Dues" on your check, and the money will be properly credited. This does not apply to your pledge, but will help us to support and remain in good standing with our parent organization.

3. Recycling: Don't forget that we can now recycle Ipods, mp3 players, Blackberry's & other personal devices and gps units, in addition to used ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Just put them in the collection box at the meetinghouse.

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Jan. 1	“Where Should Our UU Values Take Us in 2012.” (talk back). Service Leader: gg gordon	NO FORUM
Jan 8	“Note to Self: Work on Humility and Patience.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Is There Wisdom in Punk-Rock Music? Bad Religion and Other Bands.” Host: Gary Stark
Jan. 15	“All the Stories Are True” (A service exploring the idea that the non-literal truth in stories, tall tales and myths can be just as important - or even more important - in shaping our lives as the literal truth of consensual reality.) February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban)	“Are Your Affairs in Order? Legal Documents Everyone Should Consider.” Host: Cathy Church
Jan 22	“Anger: The Core Growing Edge for the Enneagram Personality Type One.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“Gazing Into the Transition Town Crystal Ball.” Host: Sarah Redmond
Jan. 29	Keweenaw Green Sanctuary. Service Leaders: Rev. Sydney Morris and KUUF Green Sanctuary People	Host: Keweenaw Green Sanctuary
Feb. 5	“The Psychology of Denial Behind Peak Oil, Climate Change, and Economic Chaos.” Service Leader: Sarah Redmond	“Dancing With Pauling: Learning to Walk With a Leader Dog.” Host: Simone Chiodini

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To:

