



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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From the Board of Trustees



Your Board of Trustees last met on March 14. The next two months are very busy ones for the board. We are in the midst of our annual pledge drive and are preparing for the congregational budget meeting on May 20.

GG Gordon, our stewardship chairperson, is leading our pledge drive. As you consider at what level you want to pledge for the next fiscal year, please keep in mind that your pledge is a way of showing support for the accomplishments of our congregation. Your pledges allow our children to benefit from the RE program, Peace Camp, and the OWL program. Your pledges show support for our service project with Harbor House. Your pledges support Nancy Irish's efforts in providing the Enneagram program for our members. Your pledges affirm the efforts of our congregation over the last year to develop a policy for dealing with disruptive behavior, for developing a policy for admitting sex offenders into our congregation, and for creating a policy for child and youth protection in our RE program. We have accomplished a lot over the last year so lets continue to invest in the future of MUUC.

At our April 11 meeting, the board will be completing the annual evaluations of the RE coordinator and our Celebrant. If you want to send some kudos or brickbats regarding our employees for the board to consider, then please email them to me.

At our congregational budget meeting on May 20, the Board of Trustees is going to offer a by laws amendment for the congregation to consider. The board would like the congregation to make a commitment in our by laws that obligates us to pay 100% of our UUA national and district dues from our pledge funds each year. The last two years the congregation has not paid our full dues. We paid our Central Midwest dues this year, but we have only paid about one third of our national dues. This situation has had a negative effect on our relationship with the UUA. We have had trouble trying to get

advise from our congregational services director at times. The UUA provides important resources for our congregation through its website, through the General Assembly, and through district staff. gg gordon led a Sunday service earlier this year to make us more aware of how important it is to pay our dues annually. As our congregation grows, we will need to rely on these resources more. It is important for our congregation to meet its financial commitments to the UUA.

I would like any future Board of Trustees candidates to know something very important. When I got on the board almost 2 years ago, there were many times that I wish that I had had an instruction manual. Well, I want you all to know that our board secretary, Amy Fletemier, has put together a Board of Trustees Manual. When the two new board members start their terms in July, they will have a very well organized binder of materials to orient them. This manual will make the learning curve for effective board participation a lot easier/faster. I feel that the manual is a resource that will make future boards much more effective in serving the congregation.

Our next Board of Trustees meeting is on April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the meeting house. Please feel free to attend the open forum and offer us your ideas.

Mike White

President of the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

My life may have shifted by the time this newsletter reaches you all, so I think I'll just keep quiet this month, make up for my March verbosity, and focus my energy on more urgent matters in our circle this week (e.g., helping to care for Kathy Klos, whose partner Denis is, in her words on March 26, "75% gone"). Shift happens; if it doesn't, at least I will not have spoken too soon.

However, I would be happy to share some pictures to paint a few thousand words about one of the more interesting months I've known. Most interesting of all, I have stepped into Indian country this week for a year of eating at least a third of my calories from pre-colonial regional foods along with 24 other Native and non-Native research subjects. If you would like to see a few photos, please send an email to that effect to uunancyirish@gmail.com.

May abundant April showers come to bring on May flowers!

Love,
Nancy Irish
Celebrant and Coordinator

Enneagram Self-Study Question for March:

Do you drive yourself (and others) a bit crazy with your perfectionism?



Religious Education News

March News: The older kids are continuing their Pay it Forward project and exploring how other religions speak to the concept of kindness towards others. They are also making plans for their April 15 service.

The youngest UUs will spend the rest of the year learning our 7 Principles and how to integrate them into their lives. They are making watercolor frames for a children's version of the principles. We're making use of the UUA online Tapestry of Faith curriculum as well as integrating the inspiration and gifts of our own volunteers.

We're enjoying a continuation of youth leading classes for teens and younger kids with volunteers Hailey Spillane, Laura Sabourin, and Marty Lexmond-Gray.

Thank you to the other March volunteers: Amy Doughty, Sarah Johnson, Kim Frost, Michelle Lexmond, Morgana Penglase, and Teri Rockwood.



*Melissa Middleton
RE Coordinator*

Easter Bonnets from Spring 2011



On Hospitality for our Guests and Newcomers

It's a guest! It's a guest!

Sakes alive, well I'll be blessed!

(From Beauty and the Beast)

To show up for a Sunday morning service in an unfamiliar faith tradition not knowing anyone is, for most people, an act of courage. How we respond personally to someone who takes that step is a huge determining factor in whether a guest returns. How we continue to respond determines whether a guest becomes a friend, or even eventually joins our circle of seekers. The Community Development Committee, or "CDC," focuses in part on helping to make newcomers feel welcome, but that mission belongs to everyone in our UU community, especially on Sunday mornings.

We are starting a new practice of having a MUUC member sit at the welcome table in the entryway every Sunday starting around 10:45am. This person will be able to greet everyone who comes in the door, invite newcomers to make a name tag, and begin to introduce them to our Meeting House and Sunday morning rituals. If you are willing to take a turn at this, please let Nancy Sullivan, Janine Adams, or Nancy Irish know, or sign the sheet created for the purpose, and we'll get in touch with you. Young people are strongly encouraged to join an adult.

We might not be able to conjure up dancing dishes, but together we can help make guests and newcomers feel welcome and wanted.

Nancy Irish

Community Coordinator and Celebrant

The video, "Who is UUSC," provides a clear understanding of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's approach to human rights. We hope you will be inspired by the examples of human-rights defenders who partner with UUSC all over the globe. If you are a UUSC supporter, please consider forwarding this video to your friends and family so they, too, can witness what happens when you plant seeds of justice. Together, we can motivate others to get involved in making social change. Check it out through uuscs.org.

- your MUUC Social Action Committee

Earth Day

On Earth Day, Sun., April 22, Jill Baker will return from Ann Arbor to speak - this time to present her entry in the UU's for Justice in the Middle East "sermon contest." Part of her qualifications include presenting her talk to other UU's. The subject is: *What actions do UU principles, history and values call us to take in the movement to end the occupation and human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine?* Jill's words, as well as other elements of

the service, will touch on the Earth Day theme. Please support Jill and join us as we begin to celebrate Earth Day, knowing really that Earth Day is every day.

Barbara Michael

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

From our Green Team: Get Green and Dirty on Sunday, May 1st

Spring is coming and plans have been made to plant trees and bushes purchased from the Marquette County Conservation District after the service on **Sunday May 1st** on the grounds. Bring a shovel or digging tool, watering can if you have one and gloves to participate in greening of the UU grounds. We are expanding the plantings near the RE rooms. We will plant two Montmorency Cherry trees, two Gooseberry and Red Currents and ten each of Pin Cherries, Sand Cherries, and Service Berries



A hardy crew of five started pulling Knap Weed this month. Shown here are Nancy and Tom Sullivan, Sari Embley and Rolf Swanson. Taking the photo is Bill Joswiak.

bushes and trees. I have dreams of the children stepping out the RE door to pick berries from their plants and making their own fruit rollups!

I encourage all RE volunteers and children who helped plant bushes and trees in 2011 to see the new growth showing up. Shortly there will be 55 flowering cherries of five different varieties to find. Look for the small two foot tall bushes and trees with small white blossoms along the parking-lot on the highway side. Later this summer, check to see if there is fruit growing after these blossoms fall. Gardening is an activity where the results can be seen and remain to be enjoyed by all.

Last year someone cut down a flowering crab apple tree, which we replaced thanks to some extra member donations. The replacement is the weeping branched tree full of fruit to the right of the front door. It has come through the winter just fine. We should have flowers on all the neighboring trees this spring as well. Last year these small trees resembled planted sticks no branches with only a few leaves. I have re-planted the damaged, cut trunk because it had such a good root system and have noticed new growth near the ground on that one too. So, I have great hope that it will grow back.

*Sari Embley
Green Team*



Lindsay Michael (seen holding the book above) has moved to Miami for her new job directing ESL programs there. We shall miss the warmth and fun which she brought to our beloved community.

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Apr. 1	“What Is a Fool?” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“Experiences Visiting Other UU Congregations.” Hosts: Nancy and Tom Sullivan
Apr. 8	“Got Water? International Human Right to Water” (UUSC Justice Sunday Service). Service Leaders: MUUC Social Action Committee	“Meditation: Renewing and Opening Ourselves for Spring.” Host: Melissa Middleton
Apr. 15	“The Youth Teach the Adults.” Service Leaders: RE Youth and Michelle Lexmond	“Health Improvements.” Host: Kathy Klos
Apr. 22	“Staying Awake and Overcoming: A Unitarian Universalist Response to the Israel-Palestine Conflict.” Service Leader: Jill Baker	“Talking to Friends and Family About Transition Topics.” Host: Sarah Redmond
Apr. 29	“Little Things Mean a Lot: The Power of Protest.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Raising Chickens.” Host: The Lexmond/Gray and Halley/Gluesing Families
May 6	“Evolving.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“Women’s Clothing in Earlier Times.” Host: Kathy Klos

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To:

