



From the Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees last met on April 11. GG Gordon is winding up our annual pledge drive and we are heading toward our annual congregational meeting on May 20. Please mark this date on your calendar. We need a quorum of members present to do business and this meeting is probably the most important one of the year.

At the May 20th meeting, we will be setting up our budget for next fiscal year. We will need your input to determine how the congregation's financial resources will be utilized.

We will also be electing two new board of trustees members. Cathy Church and I will be finishing our terms this fiscal year. A Nominating Committee has been set up to recruit candidates for the election. Cherokee Helms-Gleason and Gary Stark have been appointed to the committee. Please contact them if you are interested in serving the congregation in this vital capacity. We will also be presenting 3 bylaws amendments at this meeting as well.

The first bylaws amendment concerns our congregation's relationship to the UUA. The board would like the congregation to make a commitment in our bylaws 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 advice 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.

The second bylaws amendment concerns the relationship of our congregation to the board of trustees. Currently, there is no mechanism in our bylaws by which the congregation could dismiss a board. If the board of trustees were to insist on pursuing a course of action that a significant group of members was opposed to, then there is currently no good mechanism to resolve such a conflict. This bylaws amendment would define a power for the congregation that would allow a board to be dismissed by a three-quarters vote of a quorum of members. If a board was dismissed then a nominating committee would be charged with setting up new elections and recruiting new candidates within 45 days of such a vote.

The third bylaws amendment concerns the relationship of the congregation's employees to the board of trustees. Currently, our bylaws state that "the board shall have general charge of the property of the congregation and the conduct of its administration,...." The bylaws do not specifically state the Board of Trustees can hire employees or supervise them. The board is proposing an amendment to remedy this deficiency. The amendment proposes defining a power of the board of trustees to hire, contract with, supervise, evaluate, and if necessary terminate employees. As our congregation has grown, the number of paid employees has also increased. We now are employing a celebrant, RE coordinator, bookkeeper, music coordinator, and janitor. Our bylaws need to keep pace with the growing complexity of our organization.

The next meeting of your board of trustees is on Wednesday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the meetinghouse. All members are invited to participate in the open forum to give the board any feedback that you feel is important.

Mike White
President of the Board of Trustees

Last call for anyone considering joining MUUC in time to vote at the annual membership meeting:

There will be an intergenerational ceremony to welcome new members into the congregation on Sunday, May 6, during the regular service.

May 20th, 12:15pm, after Sunday service:

All member and interested congregants please join the Board of Trustees at **our annual meeting** to approve the budget and vote for two new BOT officers. In addition, the BOT will ask members to vote on the approval of several bylaw amendments that would keep our bylaws in alignment with our organizational structure. Please bring some finger food. Childcare will be provided.



Dear Friends at the time of Beltane,

Oh, lusty month of May ~
the creative power of the cosmos
surges through you in
daffodils blossoming
birds kissing
bears wakening
and children running in greening meadows.

May we listen to your voice
singing us from sleep
in the wind moving through pines
inviting us to join our power with yours
to create anew
something as timeless and beautiful as you.

Nancy Irish
Celebrant and Coordinator



Religious Education News

Sunday morning programming:

We are winding down on our 2011-2012 child and youth religious education year. The youngest UUs are finishing up an introduction to the seven principles. The older kids are completing their pay it forward project. We enjoyed the service they hosted April 15. They will be hosting a Pay it Forward day throughout the Marquette community one day this month. All will be encouraged to commit random acts of kindness in the spirit of the UU principle 1: every person has inherent worth and dignity.

We celebrated Earth Day with shovels and watering cans. Many new trees were planted thanks to Sari Embley, the UU kids and their parents. Thank you to Dave Stensaas for clearing all the trash from our property along M-28.

Thank you to April RE volunteers:

Michelle Lexmond, Sarah Johnson, Sari Embley, Tim Vanderveen, Deb Helms-Gleason, Morgana Penglase, Hailey Spillane and Laura Sabourin.



An especially big thank you to the volunteers who committed to the Sunday morning programming every month for this education year: Michelle Lexmond, Hailey Spillane, Laura Sabourin, Sarah Johnson, and OWL volunteers Lisa and Tom McKenzie.

Without volunteers RE doesn't happen. We are especially blessed with a group of gifted and dedicated teachers. It's been an honor to coordinate this crew.

Tree planting April 29

Camp MUUC:

We welcome your family to participate in the **fourth annual peace camp** hosted by the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation (non-members welcome) **August 24-26**. This is a day camp running from Friday noon to Sunday noon for 7-14 year olds, 2:00-6:00 on Saturday afternoon for children ages 2-6. Families have the option for the family to camp for the entire weekend. See attached registration form for details.

We are an intentional community for the weekend. We intersperse the principles of cooperation, appreciation for the web of life, living gently on the land, and mindfulness into a fun array of activities: experiential nature activities, woods, field and stream exploration, arts and crafts, cooperation and team building games, yoga, mindful community meals (with an emphasis on local and environmentally friendly food), camping, campfires and music.

New this year we are offering facilitated opportunities for parents and volunteers to cultivate relaxation, renewal, and peace while the children are engaged in activities.

Please register early as space is limited. Please share the registration form and this information with others who may be interested.

Call for summer childcare volunteers:

The last day for RE '11-12 is May 20. I will be circulating a sign up sheet for childcare for June- August in the near future. We need two adults to volunteer for each Sunday in order to make childcare available during the Sunday service. There are generally a low number of children and numerous supplies are available. Please consider helping if you are able.

Thank you all for another wonderful year. Have a great summer. I'll look forward to learning, growing and having fun with you and the UU kids in September.

Melissa Middleton, RE coordinator

Many Hands make Light Work

Would you like to get more involved in the inner workings of MUUC but don't know what needs doing? Filling a need among the many and varied tasks involved in keeping our organization ticking is a good way to connect with others and to help prevent that old bugaboo, volunteer burnout, for those who are (beyond!) ready to pass a task on to someone else. Please consider seriously taking on one or more of the following:

- Organizing volunteers on an ongoing basis for setting up coffee service before or during the adult forum
- Organizing the same kind of help for kitchen clean-up after the service
- Being on a "TLC" list of members and friends who can be called on when someone is going through a hard time for whatever reason and is in need of food, visits, errands, etc.
- Taking a turn now and then organizing "TLC" for a member in need
- Serving as a point of contact for a newcomer
- Other tasks of other committees – ask the chairperson of the committee you're interested in working with (see back of MUUC Directory for a list of committees and their chairpersons)

A big thank you to two new members of the Community Development Committee, Dave Stensaas and Patty Sarvello. Dave has volunteered to put together the Chronicle, and Patty, to become more involved in connecting with newcomers and exploring the possibility of forming small groups within the congregation. New blood is invigorating!

*Nancy Irish,
Celebrant and Community Coordinator*

Getting to Know Teri Rockwood



Teri Rockwood moved with her family from Illinois to a small farming community in central Wisconsin, Wild Rose, a town of 700, when she was nine years old. Her siblings (two older sisters, a twin brother, and a younger brother) and her mother still live in central Wisconsin. After high school, Teri went to the technical college in Appleton. Upon graduation, she was a secretary for a while before deciding to go to college. She earned a degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. To put herself through school, Teri worked at several group homes for adults with mental illnesses. After 10 years, she was managing four residential programs and the staff for people living in their own homes. But Teri was missing biology and wanted to work in that field. She loves being in the woods and living in the country. When she decided to make a career

change, everything fell into place.

She applied for an internship for a turtle study with a herpetologist at the Milwaukee museum and was hired. After working all day as a Program Manager, she put on her waders and checked turtle traps. This experience confirmed her decision. She gave notice, not knowing what the future would hold. Within a couple of weeks, a friend called her from Idaho asking if she would like to be his field assistant for his Ph.D. project. It was a five-month job beginning in January, and she had a week to decide. The hook was a potential Master's degree program for her. She moved west and felt free.

In Idaho, Teri was involved in a snowshoe hare study. She live-trapped them, put on radio collars and did a variety of tests needed for the study. Teri worked in the forest on snowshoes, sometimes by herself, sometimes with the Ph.D. student, and lived in northern Idaho, near Priest Lake, about 25 miles from the Canadian border. When the study was over, it was too late in the summer to get a job with the forest service. Teri took her GRE's for the Master's program, but the funding changed and that option was no longer available. The fire towers were staffed for the season, but, by the end of the week, one fellow in a fire tower had injured his leg and could not climb the stairs. She was asked to fill in. After answering some basic questions, such as, are you allergic to bees, are you afraid of heights, can you read a map and a compass, can you be by yourself..., she was hired.

Teri did not have to fight fires; she just had to be watchful. From the tower, one can only see smoke, not flames. One challenge was to learn how to "read" distance. There was a large, fixed compass in the middle of the tower, and, with maps, one could pretty much estimate miles and locate the fire. The first time was a "freaking out" experience for Teri. The tower she was on was in an experimental forest area and had a research station with lodges and cabins for the workers.

Again, after fire tower duty was over, another opportunity fell into place for Teri. Someone working on a reforestation crew could not continue, so Teri was asked to join that crew. Then the Ph.D. candidate needed someone again for the snowshoe hare study during the five months of winter. She continued to string along jobs, when one ended, another one materialized.

By the next summer, some researchers she had previously met were looking for crews to work in fire ecology. The crews researched areas where there had been a fire the previous year. They moved in and took various measurements for the researchers, noted what was growing and measured trees where there were now stumps. They were piecing together the structure of the forest before the fire. The data was put into a program that recreated the structure. They traveled in Montana and Colorado, where there had been many fires in 2001. Teri found it to be very adventurous.

Teri met her husband, Dave Stensaas, in 2001, the year after she lived in the fire tower. Dave and his crew were on another research project and lived in the cabin next to her. It wasn't long before she and Dave paired up and moved to Idaho. Dave continued working for his research station based in Utah, and Teri worked for the Moscow station.

Before long they married in Nelson, British Columbia, quit their jobs and moved to Spokane, Washington. Dave entered a Master's degree program for city planning. Teri worked with the school district in Spokane doing environmental education. They lived in town next to the Spokane River. Before their son, Liam, was born, they traveled back and forth from Spokane to the Midwest where they both have ties, Teri in Wisconsin and Dave in Ishpeming and Lower Michigan. Dave finished his degree, and, in January 2006, they moved to Evansville, Indiana, where Dave had landed his first job as regional transportation planner. In January 2011, they moved to Marquette when Dave became Marquette's city planner.

Teri was raised a Catholic, but her family was not committed to church every Sunday. Catholicism did not serve her spiritual needs. She thinks of herself as more earth centered. When she went to college, she took a world religion class and began exploring other religions. One Sunday, in 1994, in Ripon, she went to what she thought was a lecture by a Native American who was speaking on the Colonial period and the religions of that era. She has always been interested in Native American spirituality. She discovered she had actually gone to the UU congregation, not realizing that the congregation met on Ripon's campus. This experience was the beginning of her involvement with the UUs, and she has been a Unitarian ever since. The Ripon fellowship was small and met twice a month. They never had a full-time minister. It was "discussion" oriented, more like a forum than a church service. During this time, Teri also visited other UU churches in Wisconsin as well as the big ones in Milwaukee, Appleton, Wausau and Madison.

When Teri had gone out west, to Idaho, she wondered which churches would be in the area. There was a Congregational church near where she lived so she found her church community there. The closest UU congregation was 82 miles away in Spokane. It was a big church, with 400 to 500 members. Teri then attended the UU church in Spokane, making a weekly weekend trip of it. After she and Dave were partnered in 2002, they lived near Moscow, Idaho, and attended the small UU church in Moscow. When they moved to Spokane, they went to the large UU church there, the same church Teri had previously gone to. They attended the Spokane UU church for more than two years and became members. When they moved to Evansville, Indiana, they found a small UU church there. They then came to Marquette and joined our congregation.

Teri has always been active in the UU churches she has attended. She has been on program committees, worked with the coming of age and RE programs, been a worship leader and a board member. She first did services for the church in Ripon and was the worship leader. She feels the challenging part about the UUs is there is not as much "reverence." She thinks there needs to be more than just a fellowship of people coming together. In the smaller churches, it is a real challenge especially if there is no minister or someone to hold the congregation together. She has not experienced this in the larger churches she has been to because there was so much going on; one could find a niche and give and receive what one needed from the church. Teri also enjoys preparing services and has had lots of experience. She knows what she likes and others also seem to enjoy the same. She has been to lots of leadership workshops and

has had many conversations with different kinds of ministers: full time, interim, etc. She was on a worship committee in Evansville and learned a lot from that experience. She has hopes for what could be. It is a challenge to make it happen, to make a commitment.

On a daily basis, Teri thinks of our world as an interdependent web, the connectedness of things living and non-living. To explain UU to a non-UU, Teri would tell that person that it is a diverse group of people, usually non-creedal, who draw from lots of religions. Someone could come on one Sunday and not really care for it and then come on another Sunday and really like it. She thinks one of the benefits of our faith is the ability to dialog and have conversations about religion. Teri admires this about the UU faith. It is not an "us and them" situation. She loves the UU magazine and the variety of articles in it. It is an open concept of faith. We need to be flexible. In conversations with others, she describes herself as a UU. As a parent, one can feel a little pressure in providing that whole concept to one's children as something that will help them in life, about having some kind of spirituality.

Teri loves Marquette. She loved it when she first visited, and Dave has loved it since being here as an NMU student. She loves the north woods and the northern habitats. This is one of the reasons she loved Idaho. She has been volunteering at the Moosewood Nature Center doing school programs. As a family, they walk the trails in the area. They are hoping to take Liam on his first backpacking experience this summer.

She has also been doing some substitute teaching in the elementary schools whenever there is an opening. Michigan does not require a teaching certificate for substitute teachers although the state does require a certain amount of college credits. She gained some teaching experience in Spokane.

Teri loves to cook and bake and make breads. She spends a lot of time in the kitchen. This summer, she will be doing some baking for the farmer's market. She attends the Tasty Reads book group at the Peter White Public Library, a complement to her interest in cooking and food. When the weather warms up, they hope to put in a vegetable and flower garden in their yard. And she also enjoys crocheting.

She likes to connect people with nature. For three weeks this summer, she will be a co-teacher for the "Turtle and Toads" camp for kids at the Seaborg Science Center. They will go on field trips to different locations and look for whatever they have been talking about, such as salamanders, turtles, snakes, frogs, etc. And she is on the city's Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee (PIPAC). She is working on the new playground at Presque Isle and has volunteered to be on the PIPAC Playground Committee.

Teri hopes her family will be able to remain in Marquette and continue a healthy life style. Marquette seems to be a positive environment for Liam. She would like him to grow up here. She hopes to continue being an active member of the community and of UU.

Rachel Crary

News from the Social Action Committee:

With respect and affirmation for the interdependent web: The Mining Law of 1872 needs to be buried

The Mining Law of 1872 has been in effect with only minimal changes over the past 150 years. While major revisions were attempted in 2007 and 2009, neither bill succeeded in passing both Houses of Congress. What might have seemed helpful and needed after the chaotic Gold Rush of 1849, is outdated and weak 150 years after it was written. The law contains no environmental protections.

As it stands at this point both major political parties have impeded progress toward what many see as much needed reform. It is suggested that UU congregation members may want to research the current law and the latest attempts to revise and update the 1872 Law and contact Rep. Benishek, Senators Levin and Stabenow, as well as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Bob Abbey, and Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, asking for action on this out-dated and ineffective Law. Please consider this in respect and affirmation for the interdependent web. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-4822. *A synopsis of writings reviewed and condensed by Tim VanderVeen*

Returning to the Scene of the Crime: Phoenix, Two Years Later

Two years have passed since the implementation of SB1070, and for the first time since my conviction for peaceful civil disobedience while protesting this law in Phoenix, I will join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the country, other people of faith, our local social justice partners and residents of Arizona. We will gather in peace, in solidarity and to bear witness to the truth. - *Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President*

Justice General Assembly starts on June 20. Log on to uua.org to find out how you can follow along. Join on for news about migrant rights and other issues for this unique "Justice" GA. Send your positive energy southwest for MUUC delegates Nancy Sullivan and gg gordon!

The Central Midwest District Assembly was held April 27-29 in Chicago. Friday night's opening ceremony featured special guest [Rev. Bill Schulz](#), president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and past president of the UUA. UU minister, [Rev. Marilyn Sewell](#) was the keynote presenter on Saturday morning who delved into theological and spiritual dimensions of leadership development. Interesting workshops filled up Saturday afternoon. In the evening, there was a showing of Rev. Sewell's documentary film, "Raw Faith." <http://movies.nytimes.com/2011/06/24/movies/raw-faith-review.html>.

The winner of our District Assembly Sermon Contest was presented at the Sunday morning service. There was lots of music throughout the weekend, opportunities to connect with old friends and meet new ones, and times for spiritual reflection.

- *submitted by Barb Michael, MUUC's 2012 delegate to the CMwD Assembly*

Your faith in action...step by step

Look for a Social Action Committee member collecting signatures at a table following the services on the first two Sundays in May. This will relate to a possible new U.S. Immigration Services ruling.

Sunnyvale tech consultant braves the Boston Marathon for charity

San Jose Mercury News article by Alia Wilson, adapted.



"While runners dropped like flies [record-breaking heat] as heat warnings intensified for the Boston Marathon on April 16, Sunnyvale resident Raghav Raghavacharya (shown at left) stood his ground, finishing with a time of 4:39:14.

It was the second time the veteran marathon runner participated in the race, driven by the desire to raise money for the **Unitarian Universalist Service**

Committee, an international human rights organization based in Cambridge, MA...Raghavacharya said. 'I was deliberating all weekend whether I should [run], but when I thought of all the people behind the cause, I knew I should keep going forward.' Since 1940, UUSC has worked to defend civil liberties and democratic processes, promote workers' rights and fair wages, and preserve human rights during disasters. Prior to fundraising for UUSC, Raghavacharya used to raise money for a secular organization called Asha for Education, which focuses on basic education of underprivileged children in [his native] India. He received marathon training through the organization and hopes to set up a similar program through UUSC..."



Another runner, a member of the UU Church in Reading, MA and part of the faculty of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University in Medford, MA says, "Over the years that my family has belonged to the UU church, I've come to appreciate the importance of the work it does to promote the Seven Principles . . . UUSC in particular works tirelessly toward that goal, and it gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to run the marathon this year in support of its efforts." Here's a 5 min. look at some of what UUSC does: <http://vimeo.com/34969609>

From the Editor: As in past years, we will be suspending publication of the Chronicle for the months of June and July. Service, forum and event information will be sent out with the weekly This 'n That. A brief printed update of the service & forum topics along with other event announcements will be placed for distribution on the table of the church entry way. Should a congregational meeting be called this summer, those not receiving email will receive printed copies either by mail or hand delivery.

It takes many hands to create and distribute “our” MUUC Chronicle. I would like to detail for you the contributions of those who made it happen this year.

Assembling, editing, and soliciting articles: Sarah Redmond, Sarah Johnson, Melissa Middleton, and Nancy Sullivan

Copying, slow mail and email distribution: Sari Embley & Shirley Zimmer

Proof reading: Tom and Nancy Sullivan

Wrote articles, columns, submitted information on a regular basis: Mike White, Nancy Irish, Melissa Middleton, Barb Michael, Rachel Crary, Tom Sullivan, Sarah Redmond

Submitted photos: Nancy Sullivan, Nancy Irish, Melissa Middleton and Cathy Church.

And thanks to all who occasionally submitted an article or photo too. Please welcome Dave Stensaas as your new editor starting in August.

Have a great summer!

Nancy 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 Johnson, Religious Education Committee Chair

Nancy Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Tom Sullivan, Program Committee Chair

Michael Erdmann, Building Committee Chair

Nancy Sullivan, Community Development Committee Chair

gg gordon, Stewardship Committee Chair

Barbara Michael, Social Action Chair

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
May 6	“Weaving the Fabric of Community.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	“Women’s Clothing in Earlier Times.” Host: Kathy Klos
May 13	“Motherhood Through the Eyes of a Child.” Service Leaders: Tim VanderVeen and Kathy Wright	“Community Gardening in Chocolay Township.” Hosts: Tina Hall & Bill Joswiak
May 20	“Renaissance: Chance or Choice?” (about changes in life). Service Leaders: Morski Family	“Life on an Idaho Fire Lookout (with photos and discussion).” Host: Teri Rockwood
May 27	“Toxic Religion.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	TBA
June 3	“I Will Come Back Again—Reflections on the Possibility of an Afterlife” (thoughts on religions big questions). February Sky	“Does Toxic Behavior Impact Your Life?” (help define toxic behavior, identify its elements, and acquire tools to neutralize its negative effects). Host: Cathy Church
June 10	“The Gift of a Journey.” Service Leader: Nancy Irish	TBA
June 17	TBA	TBA
June 24	TBA	TBA

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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To: