



NOVEMBER 2012

The Chronicle

MARQUETTE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

The Balancing Act IV



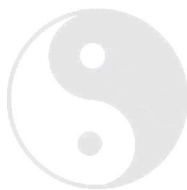
"I know I don't have an excess of energy right now to volunteer for much at MUUC, but I still regard the congregation to be a community of acceptance and love. I come to the Spring to drink." How beautifully stated from one of our members. We all balance our time, energy, talents and financial contributions for our beloved congregation. There was a time in the 70's when I could offer to teach RE and direct the junior choir at West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, Ohio, but I had very little to give in the way of a pledge.

This month I would like you to consider where you might be able to slide in to help out with some of the ideas/hopes/dreams which came out of an October meeting among MUUC committee chairs or representatives, staff and Board members.

Some dreams are ones where we can all step up to the plate, such as: more joy, a spiritual focus with longer meditation time, more diversity in responsibilities, the creation of a mission statement and covenant of right relations, and help in making MUUC a vibrant, jumping place! :o)

Others were more project specific. If you are interested in helping out with any of the 10 listed below, please take the initiative to contact the person whose name is next to the idea or contact me at 273-1174 where there is no name listed. Ask questions, specify any time and energy constraints, and share ideas you may have about how you'd like to be involved. If you have an interest or the talent to help out, I really hope you will step forward to encourage someone and make a dream come true! Think what a wonderful way to help make some congregation members especially grateful this Thanksgiving.

- social action opportunities for all ages
- an "event-worthy" kitchen
- a webmaster and updated website
- librarian(s) for our bookshelves
- connections with other UU congregations
- choir - **Jeanne Trost, 226-6865**
- remodeling of the front of the sanctuary - **Michael Erdmann, 346-4245**
- more support for prospective General Assembly participants (Louisville, KY, June 19-23) **gg gordon, 360-4302**
- creative engagement outside our doors - **Nancy Irish, 249-1296**
- new service leaders - **Tom Sullivan, 249-3790**



Do help fill our desired "Spring" with nourishment by your presence or a jump-forward spring, as you perhaps support one of those 10 dreams!

Remember to check the Board meeting minutes if you are interested. Thanks to Sarah Redmond, they are posted on the fuzzy gray wall next to the bookshelves and mail slots.

Next Board Meeting: 6:30 pm, Thurs., **November 15**, 2012 MUUC Meeting House *All are welcome!*

In shared ministry,

Barb Michael, Board of Trustees President

MEETING HOUSE LOCATION: 1510 M-28 E. Harvey, MI • PHONE: 906-249-9450



We are on the www!

www.mqtuu.org

And find us on Facebook

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

November 15th at 6:30 at the Meeting House.

All members are welcome to attend.

MUUC Board of Trustees - e-mail addresses:

Barbara Michael, President michael.barbara.102@gmail.com

gg gordon, Vice President plumskiter@gmail.com

Sarah Redmond, Secretary shelterbay2006@yahoo.com

Michelle Halley, michelle.halley@sbcglobal.net

Cherokee Helms-Gleason, cherk71@gmail.com

Fundraiser for Harbor House

DATE: Sunday, November 11, 2012 **TIME:** 3:00 pm

PLACE: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation Meeting House (M28 East; 2.5 miles east of the US41/M28 intersection in Harvey—watch for the rainbow flag)

Suggested Donation: Generous! Donations will be accepted by check, cash, or major credit card

Can't attend but want to donate? Mail check made out to "Harbor House" to MUUC; Box 687; Marquette, MI 49855

Music and dance performance:

Michael and Erica Waite

With singer/songwriter Rebecca Rego of Chicago

Also featuring a tribute dedicated to the founding mothers of Harbor House:

3633 Nights: A Poem for Four Voices



Pie! Donated by the Sweetwater Café *Sponsored by the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation*



Don't forget to bring your Econo sales slips, used ink jet cartridges and used cell phones to the meeting house. We collect these items and get cash for the congregation in exchange!

Monthly newsletter submissions deadline: 22nd

Please send all text inclusions for *The Chronicle* to Dave as Word attachments if at all possible.

☞ Religious Education News ☞

Thank you to October volunteers Amy Doughty, Michelle Halley, Deb Helms-Gleason, g.g. Gordon, Sarah Johnson, Beth King, Hailey Spillane, and Kathy Wright. Thank you too to the Flooring Outlet Center on Brookton Road for donating the carpet samples most useful in our yoga classes and learning games.

Sarah Johnson, Beth King, and Hailey Spillane have volunteered for the entire year. RE can flourish when we have such skilled and dedicated commitment from volunteers.

The littlest UUs, we call them the Tadpoles, were blessed by a gift of new playthings and furniture from the Frost Family. Our smallest classroom is now outfitted with a fine wooden fully stocked kitchen and dining furniture. Stop by for tea and cookies sometime!

The kids in the age 6-10 class have extended their first steps into paths, noting what they have learned from our lessons in trust (when and how to trust, how to be trustworthy), their sources of inner strength, how to be empowered to search for their own beliefs, and UNICEF. We've continued to enjoy daily YogaCalm activities to center and empower.

Our youth group is at present our largest group of kids, holding strong in their interest in our little congregation and UUism. They meet each Sunday to explore their individual and collective path. This month they are honing in on their plans for service projects this year. Stay tuned, you may hear about them making and serving cookies at the Jacobetti Center or dinner at Room at the Inn.

Thank you for your support,

Melissa Middleton, RE Coordinator

Announcing the 8th Annual Heifer Dinner:

Yes, eight years of soup, deserts, fun, children washing dishes, and thousands of dollars to support Heifer International!

Spread the word and join us this year on Saturday December 8th.

Seamstress needed

Minor repairs are needed to parachutes used in the UU children's program. Let me know if you are interested in sewing a few handles back on our parachutes. We use this in fun teamwork building games. Melissa: 906-236-4433, mlmelissa@live.com.

A big thank you to Shaun Devlin, Barb Michael, Sarah Redmond and Michael Erdman. Shaun for all his time getting our carpets clean and other building improvement matters, Mike for the windows in our classrooms doors, Barb Michael

Archivist Sought

Wanted: History buffs and organized persons to take several boxes of documents and pictures to create Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation archives.

If you like PBS's *History Detective*, you'd like this task. If you want to help the congregation without a committee meeting required, this might be before you. Ideally, we'd like one long time member and one newer member to team up on this project. Hint, if your favorite TV program is *Hoarders*, might want to give this a pass. Barb Michael and Sarah Redmond (and Amy Fleitemier last year) made the first pass at the materials so you'll not be starting from scratch. Members have done an excellent job of keeping our history and now it's time to consolidate and refine. You'd not have to create the system; lots of material on the internet on how to do this. If you're a real techie, some congregations have even put their documents on CD ROMs for distribution. So, if you're looking for a good Winter project and a way to help the congregation, contact Barb (273-1174) or Sarah (892-8173) and we'll get you started."

Getting to Know...Tim VanderVeen

Tim grew up in the small farm town of Lowell, east of Grand Rapids. Every summer since he was a child, his family (parents, two sisters and brother) came to the Upper Peninsula on holiday. They left early in the morning, took the ferry across the Straits and camped either at Baraga State Park or McLain State Park. After he moved out west, Tim continued to return to Michigan, pick up his mother and bring her to the U.P. to sight-see and visit his brother who has settled in the Ishpeming area. Tim always wanted to live here. A year ago last summer, he found a rental, "a place on the beach east of Harvey, on M28, a 'funky' apartment over a garage" which he shares with his dog. He moved in last November. Tim's cousin and her family live in the area, too, and own the Everyday Wines store on Baraga Avenue.



When Tim was 11 or 12 years old, he had a paper route in Lowell. The paper took him and other boys to the little towns and farm communities where they went door to door signing up subscribers. It was a state wide contest, and Tim came in second in the state. He was competing with kids from Detroit and other large cities. Another boy from Holland, who had been in the U. S. for just a few years, came in third. The two boys won a trip to Florida and went by train to Jacksonville. The winners stayed in the Roosevelt Hotel and had their own room. One night, they went out around 11 p.m. for Krystal 15-cent hamburgers. The movie, *The Blob*, with Steve McQueen, was playing. A box outside the theater was set up so one could shake hands with the Blob, but the boys were too scared to do so. During their time in Florida, they were taken to the beach and to St. Augustine. Tim drank from the fountain of youth when he was 12 years old! This trip was a good experience for him as he learned not to be afraid of traveling and adventures.

In 1967, when Tim was 22, a friend and he drove Tim's Volkswagen from Grand Rapids to Mexico City. There they rented a motel room. Wanting to be big men about town, they ordered room service, asking for Coca Cola and potato chips. Forty-five minutes later, room service delivered freshly made chips and Coke. From there, the boys drove on to Acapulco. A friend of theirs in Grand Rapids had a Mustang, and all the girls were enamored of him. Tim and his buddy sent this hotshot a postcard saying they were in Acapulco. Doing so was one of the reasons they wanted to go there. They spent an hour on the beach and headed home.

Tim was a letter carrier in Grand Rapids until he was in his early 30's, when he decided to go back to college. College was free in California then so Tim moved to the San Diego area and established his residency by working in a gas station for a year. One summer, he hitchhiked to Canada and stumbled onto Humboldt State University in Arcata, in northern California, a rather isolated college town, infamous for huge crops of marijuana. The area was a lot like the U.P. but survived on the lumbering industry rather than mining. It was on the ocean, and there were many whaling towns. He ended up moving there, got a degree in public relations through the journalism department and stayed on to earn a graduate degree in psychology and his credentials in school psychology. Tim enjoyed being in school. He became involved in student government right away and was a voice and mentor to some of the younger people on campus. It was a tremendous experience for him.

Tim has always done some kind of counseling even at an informal level. When he was first in California, he saw an ad in the paper for crisis intervention counselors. He signed up right away, went through the training and worked with suicide attempts, etc., often in the middle of the night. The people there were passionate about helping others in the community, and he found it extremely meaningful. A school psychologist for many years, Tim worked with preschool to high school kids. Most of his career, however, focused on middle school children. He has credentials in Arizona, Washington and California to work with physical, emotional and learning disabilities.

Getting to Know...Tim VanderVeen - Continued

One student he worked with made the national news on CBS; he plotted to blow up the school. This was shortly after Columbine. The student had put together an arsenal of guns and had a specific hit list. Fortunately another student squealed, otherwise the boy would have gone through with it. He had a cache of guns near the school; the plan was to trigger alarms and hit people as they were coming out of the building. The boy told Tim he had not been on the hit list.

Another student had to be physically restrained in a type of wooden enclosure because he was so violent and unpredictable. He was confined for his own safety as well as for others. The boy was being counseled, and they were trying to educate him on site. A special classroom was constructed for him. Many of the kids Tim worked with were from broken homes or had parents who were having difficulties. Some kids lived in cars or flop houses or hotels in the poorer parts of town. Tim really enjoyed working with the families and kids and misses the interaction.

For a few years, Tim lived in the old fishing town, Gig Harbor, in the state of Washington, not far from Tacoma, and worked in school districts there. It was an affluent area, but he worked in a school on the peninsula that was poor. Families were very supportive, and they all helped raise money for the school. Tim had thought of retiring at this point but changed his mind. He found a company that contracts with school districts all over the U.S. and Europe and took specialists like psychologists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, etc., and placed them in districts. Tim was hired by this company and asked to be placed in Arizona or New Mexico. He worked in Phoenix and lived in a little mining town about 60 miles east of there. Commuting through rolling hills, cacti and desert, he loved the color and music of the largely hispanic communities there. Whenever he had a chance, Tim chose to work in a district that reflected the lower socio-economic class and a more ethnic, diverse class. He had also worked in Bakersfield, California, in a poor school district with a lot of farmers and hispanic families. He feels these areas reflect his own background, a poor kid growing up outside of Grand Rapids.

Tim loves to travel and has done a lot, on his own and through programs with student groups. He became involved with the People to People Student Ambassador program that was initiated by President Eisenhower. Students were recruited from various school campuses and raised money for expenses. They went to meetings to learn about the countries they were going to, what it was to be an ambassador and traveling in general. Tim was the facilitator; he set up presentations at community colleges and talked with families, promoting the program. He traveled a lot with the senior high school students. The organization asked him to be the area director for southern California and paid him to organize meetings and interview teachers. He found people in the area who were from the countries the kids were going to, and they came to talk to the students about life in these countries, history, language, etc. Tim often went on the trips as a chaperone and was in New Zealand, Fiji, Australia, Spain, Denmark, France and Italy. He has returned on his own to visit friends he made on these trips.

On a trip to New Zealand, Tim and his junior high students stayed on a Maori "reservation" and learned about their way of life. They met politicians, planted trees, went down rivers and visited steam fields. They came home by way of Fiji and went to a village where they drank Kava, which is made of crushed leaves. It can be consumed like tea, but it makes one's tongue go numb. It was very relaxing!

Before a trip to Italy with students, Tim found a family that had connections with an orphanage outside of Rome. He got in touch with the priest who had organized this orphanage in W.W.II, for children who were living on the streets. Tim's group spent the day there. They had a simple lunch and all sat at a big table. His students had the chance to see something most tourists never see and interact with these young men and children. He later received a letter from the priest thanking them for coming.

Getting to Know...Tim VanderVeen - Continued

A year ago, just before settling into his new home in Marquette, Tim went to Paris and London and spent a week in Warsaw with a friend whom he had met some time ago in the catacombs of Rome; she had heard him speaking English and struck up a conversation. Tim has also been to Cambodia a couple of times. On one trip, he hired a fellow with a motor bike and went to the killing fields. He has gone up the Mekong River in a wooden boat and visited the Angkor Wat temples. Phnom Penh, the capital, still has a lot of French influence: bakeries, architecture, etc.

Tim grew up in the Methodist Church. When he was 11 or 12, he joined the Michigan Women's Temperance League; he had been led to believe that drinking was wrong. His family was not ultra conservative, but he was raised in a Christian family, sang in the choir and went to Sunday school. He liked it because they brought people in from other churches for the youth group; Mormons visited and talked about their religion, and they visited a synagogue. But through the years he pulled away from the Christian beliefs. Tim's sister lived in Santa Monica in the 1960's and 1970's and became involved with the UU congregation there. When he visited, he went with her a couple of times. He liked the politically and socially active focus and the diversity and openness in welcoming people. As Tim moved around in his career, he usually found a UU fellowship.

When he moved to Marquette, he was aware of our congregation, having seen the sign, and he made a point of attending. He becomes involved with things he believes in and says he does not have a lot of patience with thinking and contemplating and should I or might I..... All organizations need new blood, new ideas, new energy. Tim is very excited about being on the Program Committee and, more recently, the Community Development Committee, and coming up with ideas. He would like to develop contacts within the greater Marquette community where we can serve and where others can learn about our fellowship. We are currently active with the Women's Center. Tim enjoys working with groups and melding ideas, compromising and finding the energy to get things done.

He would like to do more services and is enjoying figuring out how to put one together. He has lots of ideas. UUs think the way he thinks about community activism and politics; if he plants a new idea or suggests a new direction, it will not fall on deaf ears. He is thinking about how to promote UUs more in the community. A "Standing on the Side of Love" banner and/or wrist bands could be taken to events to advertise our presence. He would like to see something on the web site and see students become more involved. A service on the beach, T Shirts and an Adopt a Highway program are all positive images for the UUs.

Tim is not enthusiastic about political agendas and whole services devoted to them. He is political and knows what is going on in the world and would like to find a sanctuary from that. On Sunday, he would rather talk more about spiritual considerations and finding good things to do in the community. He enjoys a give and take style in the services, more like a forum rather than a presentation.

With the upcoming election, Tim has been working with the local Democratic party as well. He sometimes finds it difficult to rally the energy but digs deep down to knock on doors and man the phones. He has helped at the caucuses and signed up to be a representative of a precinct. He is compelled to do so for the outcome.

Tim also volunteers with the VA here as he had done in Arizona. He is a Vet from the Viet Nam era but never served in combat. One of a pool of drivers of the Veteran's van, he takes men from Jacobetti in Marquette to the Veteran's hospital in Iron Mountain about every other week. Many need to talk and often unload when he is driving, sharing stories. He is hoping he can do some outreach work with Vets on the reservations in the U.P. and in rural areas. Many are not aware of the services available through the VA or how to access them. They are all from different conflicts, with guys from W.W.II to those just back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Getting to Know...Tim VanderVeen - Continued

On Friday evenings, he spends a couple of hours at Jacobetti in the special needs and the Alzheimer's units. He takes his dog who seems to bring comfort to the men and draws them out of their shell. So often the men are angry and frustrated or silent and withdrawn. He also reads to them, often some favorite childhood book like Laura Ingalls Wilder's, *Along the Banks of Plum Creek*. These books have brought back memories of his childhood, and he thought the men might feel the same. He has found that reading picture books and talking about the visuals can get them to engage.



He also helps through the dinner hour by sitting and socializing with them. Many of the vets want to talk about their past; others can only communicate with gibberish. Fishing and the out-of-doors are popular conversation topics. He wants them to be part of life. Tim is recharged by his involvements and is a great asset to the UU's and our community.

NYC, **Chicago**, **Boston**, **Tampa**, **San Diego**, **Seattle**, **L.A.**, **Minneapolis**, and **Marquette!!**

Iyad Burnat

of the Non-violent Popular Committee in Bil'in, Palestine
Erie Rm, University Ctr, NMU campus
7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19!

Iyad Burnat leads the Bil'in Popular Committee, the village's non-violent popular resistance movement. Since 2005, citizens of Bil'in have held weekly demonstrations against the building of the Israeli separation wall through the community's agricultural lands, and against the steady encroachment of illegal settlements. The demonstrators are joined by Israeli and international peace activists and have maintained a commitment to non-violent methods of resistance in spite of armed, military opposition that has resulted in many injuries and some deaths.

The demonstrations are the subject of the recent award-winning documentary film, *5 Broken Cameras*, which was made by Iyad's brother, Emad Burnat. Among the 16 awards, are: * **Best Picture** in The **Traverse City** Film Festival, **Best Documentary** in Durban Film Festival, **South Africa**, **Best Feature Documentary** at **Jerusalem** Film Festival, Tempo Film Festival – **Best Documentary (Sweden)**, and the * **SUNDANCE 2012 World Documentary Directing Award**.

During his 2012-13 U.S. tour, Iyad will tell the stories of Bil'in and life in the occupied West Bank, and talk about strategies for non-violent popular resistance with a goal of peace for all people. His presentations are accompanied by photos and videos.

Come, be a part of this possibly once-in-a-lifetime event,
as we continue our education about Israeli/Palestinian issues
at Northern at 7 pm on the 19th.

This event is partially sponsored in name by our MUUC Social Action Committee. For more information, please contact Barb Michael at bmichael@chartermi.net



Photo Updates

Anyone wishing to have a new/updated photograph for the "Who Wall" should be prepared for that opportunity on Sunday, November 4th. Nov. 18th will be the last opportunity this year. Dave Rockwood will take pictures after the services. Committee pictures may be taken as well, if your committee is prepared.

SERVICE AND FORUM SCHEDULE

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Nov. 4	“The Doctrine of Discovery.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Congregational Conversation about ..Right Relations.” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
Nov. 11	“My Ancestors Were Soldiers.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	“Can We Embrace the Military?” Host: Tim VanderVeen
Nov. 18	Intergenerational Thanksgiving Bread Service. Message: Heather Shumaker. Service Leader: Teri Rockwood.	“Thinking Renegade Thoughts: Why welcoming conflict can teach us more than peace songs.” Host: Heather Shumaker, author of <i>It's OK Not to Share</i> (www.heathershumaker.com)
Nov. 25	“Thoughts on Thanksgiving.” Service Leader: Kathy Klos	“Eat For Equity” with Carole Patrikakos. Host: gg gordon
Dec. 2	“Building Beloved Community.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Congregational Conversation about .” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Barbara Michael, President; GG Gordon, Vice President; Sarah Redmond, Secretary; Michelle Harrison, Treasurer; Shirley Zimmer, Bookkeeper; Cherokee Helms Gleason

Staff:

Nancy Irish, Community Coordinator & Celebrant; Melissa Middleton, Religious Education Coordinator

Other Positions: Tom & Nancy Sullivan, Building Use Coordinators; Sarah Johnson, Religious Education Chair; Tom Sullivan, Program Committee Chair; Michael Erdmann, Building Committee Chair; Nancy Sullivan, Community Development Committee Chair; gg gordon, Stewardship Chair; Teri Rockwood, Gary Stark, Paul Kiesling - Mediation Council; Gail Griffith, Social Action Chair; Dave Stensaas, Newsletter Coordinator; Vacant, Music Coordinator.

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

P.O Box 687

Marquette, MI 49855

To:

