



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

April 2016

CHRONICLE

1510 M-28 East, P.O. Box 687, Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 249-9450 ~ mqtuu.org



COMING UP...

April 3

9:45am Forum: “Congregational Conversations about...”

Host: MqtUU Board of Trustees

11am Service:

“UUSC Justice Sunday.”

Service Leader: MqtUU Social Action Committee

April 10

9:45am Forum: *UU World* Discussion

11am Service: “Legacies.”

Service Leader: Kathy Klos

April 17

9:45am Forum: “Short Answers....About Climate Change.” MqtUU Social Action Committee

11am Service:

“Whose Garden Was This? Celebrating Earth Day.”

Service Leader: February Sky

April 24

9:45am Forum: “Origins of Extreme Fundamentalism.”

Host: Dr. Mohey Mowafy

11am Service: “Religion Does Not Poison Everything— Everything Poisons Religion.” by Dr. Mohey Mowafy. Service Leader: Barb Michael.

A NOTE FROM MqtUU PRESIDENT:



Spring is upon us. We have now passed the spring equinox and the sun is getting noticeably higher in the sky. Spring flowers are starting to emerge, greenhouses are readying their seedlings, and trees are waking up. This time of the year is perfect for looking ahead and

thinking about what you want to grow and manifest in this growing season. What projects do you want to see come to fruition for the harvest in autumn? This is the time to put our energies towards those things so we can rejoice in the completion later.

There are plenty of opportunities to assist in the growth of this congregation and projects that many have underway and in the works. As the saying goes, “many hands make light work”. This fits from everything to the “worker bee” parties, to serving on the board of trustees, and everything in between. No one person (or a small handful) can do the work alone. If we *all* come together to lend our time, talents, and funds, we can see much accomplished, and have much to rejoice for, come harvest time.

Dea Kowalczyk

HELP WANTED!

MqtUU Needs a Religious Exploration Coordinator (Sunday School Teacher)

If you or someone you know is interested in earning extra money while enjoying an awesome experience working with our UU kids, check out the Employment Opportunity tab on the mqtuu.org website & please contact Dharmini Robertson, dharmi Robertson@gmail.com.

OMG!! THIS MONTH!

Regional Assembly is April 29 – May 1!



We are headed to St. Paul, MN to learn, refresh and rejoice! Looking forward to a great experience and returning to share with you!



7 Principles of UU Children

We believe:

that each and every person is important;

that all people should be treated fairly and kindly;

that we should accept one another and keep on learning together;

that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life;

that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them;

in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world;

in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things

FROM: Religious Exploration Committee

During the month of March, the RE class for children ages 6-12 continued to focus on our 7 UU Principles. We celebrated Women's History Month, learned about Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and discussed the importance of fighting for what you believe in and fighting for what is right. The following week, Tim VanderVeen led a session for 10 children. During, 'What It Means To Be Family,' Tim talked with children about what it means to be family, shared a story showing the wide range of what families look like, and then helped the kids create pictures of their family (with cling-ons the children could take home and use on windows or cars). Afterwards, Ruby Jean Myron said, "That was the most special time I've ever had in RE." Special thanks to Melinda Meehlander for volunteering. On March 20th, Simone Chiodini and the children explored Taoism and created yin yang decorations. And on Easter Sunday, Heidi Gould provided childcare. Attendance is usually low during school breaks so we only offer childcare and a fun activity rather than a full-RE service.

We are in need of volunteers for April and May. As you can see from the month of March, it is easy to tie your personal interests and passions to our UU Principles. If you are not feeling creative, the RE Committee has brainstormed several ideas for lessons (such as prepping for events listed below) and will help you create a lesson and guide you through the entire process (including execution). Please contact Tim VanderVeen @ timhvv@gmail.com or 346.2122

Ten Middle schoolers continue to participate in Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, liberal, human sexuality curriculum. The year-long program is led by Gary Stark and Ursula Stock and ends on May 1st. We know from former OWL participants that OWL is impactful and long lasting. Quinn Cook, age 25, participated in OWL the first year it was offered at MUUC. She said, "OWL gave me a great foundation. I made better decisions because of it and I was able to support my friends when they were going

through difficult times." Quinn's parents, Mike and Rebecca Cook added, "Sending our children to OWL was one of the best parenting decisions we made. The information they learned helped them to navigate difficult relationship decisions and made them advocates for their friends." OWL is offered at no cost every other year. It is taught by volunteers and draws in families from our community. This year, 9 of the 10 OWL participants come to us outside of our MUUC community.

RE Events-Mark Your Calendar:

April 24th- Earth Day Clean Up and A Picnic with Alice

We will continue a tradition started by Alice McMahon and participate in an Earth Day clean up at Tourist Park. Meet at Tourist Park after the service by the playground equipment. Following our clean up, we will BBQ hot dogs and veggie burgers. Please bring a dish to pass and a pair of work gloves. Everyone is welcome.

(con't)



May 6th- RE Meal for Room at the Inn

We are excited to continue another RE tradition of having the children of MUUC plan, prepare and serve a meal, and dine with guests of Room at the Inn. During RE, children will continue to discuss the issues surrounding homelessness and the importance of social action. They will plan the menu, divvy responsibilities, create decorations, and choose a blessing.

June 5th- Last Day of RE

The last day of Religious Exploration for children ages 6-12 is June 5th. On this day, we will reflect on learning and celebrate the beginning of summer. From June 12th until school begins, childcare will be offered during the Sunday service.

Thank you,
Sarah Johnson



Room at the Inn-We need YOU!

MqtUU is hosting Room at the Inn (RATI) during the week of May 1st-May 8th.

We need to fill approximately 90 volunteer slots and there is truly a job for everyone. Options include: preparing and serving a meal (continental breakfast OR dinner), washing linens, volunteering for a shift (must have attended formal training--see below), helping with set up before the service on 5/1 or clean up the morning of 5/8, and donating snacks and toiletries (list of needs is on sign up sheet at MqtUU). RE is hosting dinner on Friday, May 6th and we welcome your help with this event.

Please see the sign up at MqtUU or contact Sarah Johnson at 458.3915 or Michelle Halley at 361.0520 to let us know how you can support. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION: April 21st, 2016

New volunteer training will be offered on the third Thursday of each month (unless it falls on a holiday), from 6-8 p.m. at the Warming Center, located at 447 W. Washington Street. All new volunteers are required to attend this training prior to volunteering for Room at the Inn.

<http://roomattheinn.org/>

FYI... Can't make it to a UU Sunday service in Chocolay Township? Under the weather or out-of-town with no UU congregation nearby? Or just want to check in with other UU's around the country? You can catch *Quest for Meaning* and the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's regular online service at:

8 pm Sunday evenings or 2 pm on Mondays afternoons

<http://www.questformeaning.org/worship/>

Another option is the live-streamed First Unitarian Church of Portland service:

12:15 pm Sunday afternoons

<http://www.firstunitarianportland.org/videos>

FROM: Stewardship

We are in the final 3 weeks of our pledge campaign. We currently have 26 pledges compared to last year's 41 pledges. We had set a goal of 45 pledges to our congregation for this year. That leaves us with 18 pledges left to meet our goal. Last year we finished the pledge drive at \$52,700. This year we are at the considerably lower level of support of \$40,834. Without more support from our membership, next year will be a very lean year for our congregation's work.

I don't have to bore you with details of our budget and finances. Those details were provided in the pamphlet that I mailed to you earlier this year. I do want to challenge you to commit to continuing the work that our congregation has done over the last few years:



- We are a place to have fun. We had the very entertaining Elden Kelly guitar concert on March 19. All who attended raved about the music and fun.
- continuing our Religious Exploration program for our youth;
- supporting the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program which is currently being led by Gary Stark and Ursula Stock;
- the chair yoga program by Dharmini Robertson;
- the United By Light & CUUPS Gatherings
- hosting Room at the Inn at our meeting house
- our Social Action Committee accomplishments:
 - Sponsoring the Women's Center benefit on February 28th with music from Kerry Yost, Dylan Trost and Michael Waite.
 - The social action committee added a subcommittee for UU's for Justice in the Middle East.
 - We were instrumental in the passing of the Non-discrimination Ordinance in Marquette, the first of its kind in the U.P.

We cannot continue to produce these kinds of initiatives without your financial support. Please send in your pledge form today.

Mike White
Stewardship Chairperson

United By Light Community Invites You...



Friday April 22, 5:30 p.m.
Full Moon Gathering
(at the MqtUU Meeting House)



If you chose to, bring your favorite game, or enjoy and learn one brought by someone else!
Please bring a snack to share, and a small event donation.

FROM: Social Action Committee

April "SHARE THE PLATE" Recipient:



The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) - or Quest for Meaning - doesn't think there are "throwaway people." We want to reach out in love to those who really need it. In a letter from one of our prisoner members in 2014, we read about how

prison makes people feel like society's garbage, like a "throwaway person" for having made a mistake. We read further how through CLF's prison ministry outreach, this fellow CLF Member felt more like a human with dignity, worth, and love. Let us live out more deeply our UU ethic of love in the world, by affirming there are NO throwaway people, not even in prison. For more information, go to: <http://www.questformeaning.org/programs/prison-ministry/>

FROM: The MqtUU Board

Everyone is Welcome to Attend the All Committee Gathering on Monday, April 4th @ 5:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to share with other committees and the board members what your committee is up to and flesh out the projects that may cross committees and provide any assistance in accomplishing the goals of the committee and our congregation. Bring a dish to share and enjoy great food, community and accomplishment!

THANK YOU!

~*~*~*~

MqtUU April Calendar

Sunday Services are listed on the front page and all other events scheduled are at the MqtUU Meeting House

April 4 @ 5:30pm Monday	All Committees Gathering & Potluck
April 10 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
April 17 @ 12:30pm Sunday	Social Action Committee
April 22 @ 5:30pm Friday	United By Light, Full Moon Gathering GAME NIGHT
April 30 @ 9am Saturday	Congregational Workday



COMMUNITY Event:

*An awesome opportunity to volunteer, Celebrate Earth Day
and wear your green UU shirt!*

Increased traffic from mining and mineral exploration has left the roadsides of the Yellow Dog Plains full of trash. Let's clean them up, eh! Afterwards, enjoy socializing around a bonfire and snacks.

When: Sat., April 23 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Meet-up at Big Bay Outfitters (Big Bay), and carpool to the Plains. Plan to arrive EARLY; group will depart promptly at 1pm.

RSVP: (906) 662-9987

FROM: Marquette Interfaith Forum

The next MIF Meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 1, from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM** at "Little Jimmie's" on . We will discuss the first four (of 10) chapters of the book *Anger: Wisdom For Cooling the Flame* by Tich Nhat Hahn. The final 6 chapters and the entire book and concept as a whole will then be our May topic. I hope to have the identities of our facilitators soon. The book is available at Snowbound books, the NMU and Peter White Public Libraries (only a few library copies) and on-line book sellers. ~ Aaron Scholnik

Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service

The Marquette Interfaith Forum and Temple Beth Sholom present the annual Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service on Tuesday evening, April 19, at 7 PM. It is hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Ridge, Marquette. All are welcome.

The Guest Speaker is **Peter Kenez, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of History (Emeritus) at University of California Santa Cruz and survivor of both the Nazis and the Communists in Hungary. His talk is entitled "**The Lessons of the Holocaust: What History Teaches Us About Ourselves**".

Two of Dr. Kenez's books, "The Coming of the Holocaust: From Anti-Semitism to Genocide" and "Varieties of Fear: Growing Up Jewish Under Nazism and Communism" will be available for autograph by the author at the post-service reception.

The service will include participants from **multiple faith groups** and presentation of the 2016 NMU **Cohodas Essay Awards**. The **MSHS Chamber Chorale** and the **Marquette Male Chorus** will present choral selections.

For further information, contact APSMD@aol.com or (906) 869-6543.

