

# UNITY OF INNER PEACE NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE, 2016

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Dear Unity Friends,

We all love this extraordinary place we call the upper peninsula of Michigan. The woods, the rocks, our lakes, especially The Lake, are a gift in the life of each of us. Yet, isn't it good to get away now and then? Don't we see things differently when we are in a new environment? I had such an experience recently while sitting in an airport waiting for the call to board my flight. We do sit rather close to one another in such circumstances, perhaps noticing the people at our elbows far less than those sitting across from us. With them there is that eye contact thing. Eye contact is really very intimate, and we sometimes have a tendency to shy away from it if there is anything questionable in the encounter. So in this airport two men settled themselves in the seats across from me. I noticed that they were Asian, then perhaps Japanese. Next, I couldn't believe what my own psyche did, as I regard myself as a pretty universal thinker. My mind popped back to World War II, and there was a moment of suspicion. One of the men was far older than the other, and was receiving instructions about the information on his ticket from the younger man. Neither spoke English. I tried not to stare, but something was drawing me to keep stealing glances. They were quiet in their conversation, looking at me occasionally because they couldn't avoid it. Then something happened. The longer I looked, the more I was taken by the nature of the older man. There was an incredible calm, an incredible sweetness to his whole demeanor. I so wanted to know who this man was, wanted to know this man. Was he a Buddhist priest in street clothing? Just the way he sat, with pant legs creeping up, showed me that he was entirely unselfconscious. I didn't speak, though I wanted to, may have if we had been there longer. Instead, as life would have it, the call came, I arose and boarded the plane to move on with my life, newly aware that I had old prejudices that could pop up when least expected. But even more than that, that there are people in this world who move us deeply, lift us to higher levels just by their very presence, their very essence. Who was this man? I do not know, will probably never know, but I have been forever changed, and I am grateful.

Judy McGowan

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## SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

### June 5:

CD & Discussion. **Adyashanti**. Continuing the series called "Resurrecting Jesus - Embodying the Spirit of a Revolutionary Mystic."

### June 12:

Speaker, **Sue Schenck-Drobny**. "A Yooper Chick's Travels in the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky - Mongolia."

### June 19: (Father's Day)

CD & Discussion. **John O'Donohue**. Continuing the audio series "The Divine Imagination - Wisdom from the Celtic World."

### June 26: (Potluck Sunday)

Speaker, **Mary Wardell**, *Mining Journal* reporter and columnist. "Getting around to R/Evolution: Navigating uncertain times with the gifts of the spirit."

*Description:*

*"In the political sphere, talk of revolution is galvanizing millions of people across the country. We see simultaneous movements toward hatred and love that have been stewing for decades, even centuries. Human beings are faced with challenges that seem insurmountable, but we've actually had the tools and wisdom to meet those challenges for a couple thousand years. How do we apply and integrate the cumulative spiritual wisdom we've inherited? How do we avoid the pitfalls of despair and blame? How can people with opposing views possibly overcome the fracturing and duress of modern times. How do we 'become the change,' when we feel stuck and powerless?"*

*"I choose to believe we can fulfill our true potential as peaceful, interdependent beings with a proud future on this Earth. A deeper freedom is possible, but only if we transcend the fear, hatred and delusion that chain us down, and find the courage to lovingly and honestly inhabit this crazy, unpredictable, paradoxical, heartbreaking and majestic life."*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1) By now you have all received a survey form, either as an e-mail or as a hard copy at a Sunday morning service. Your Unity Board, which is consistently working to make your relationship with Unity more fulfilling, made the decision to go directly to you for your opinions as to what pleases and inspires you about Unity, and what insights you might offer for greater satisfaction and growth. Steve Schmunk, our computer guru, thus offered to create and facilitate this survey. If you have already responded, we thank you. If not, we invite you to make your voice heard. You are Unity.

2) Something we rarely talk about at Unity of Inner Peace is money as we always want you to feel free to make your love offering just that, an offering lovingly given. What you donate is what you feel inspired to give and can honestly afford. However, the Board feels it important that you know what our actual expenses are. For example, our rent for using the Women's Clubhouse is \$60 per Sunday. We pay our speakers \$75 for their time and effort. There are also expenses for The Daily Word Magazines which you are invited to take with you. We pay for ads in The Mining Journal for a box at the post office, for miscellaneous supplies. And as is traditional in all Unity Churches, we tithe on all donations. Why am I telling you this? Because the Board feels that you should know that our income is not matching our payouts, that we are using our savings to continue our time together on Sunday mornings. Below is a letter we recently received from a tithe recipient:

*Dear Unity Church of Inner Peace Members:*

*On behalf of the Women's Center and its program, Harbor House, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$61.00. Your donation contributes to the essential community support required to provide women, men and children impacted by domestic and sexual violence with lifesaving shelter, support, and advocacy services. We will be using that money to cover basic needs at the Women's Center.*

*In 2015, the Women's Center provided:*

*4,222 shelter nights*

*Answered 2,719 crisis calls*

*Served 968 domestic violence and sexual assault survivors*

*We are grateful that we can answer the call for women, men and children in crisis with nowhere else to turn. We continue with great passion to implement our mission of Protect, Advocate,*

*Council, and Empower. (PEACE). Through your generosity we will continue to be a resilient community asset today and tomorrow. For our clients, staff and volunteers, thank you, again for you continued support.*

To this I would like to add a note from our Unity mentor, Rev. Phillip Pierson. "You are a small group, but very clearly a light of consciousness in our world. I feel we are at a critical point in our evolution as a human race and every bit of light is important to tipping the scale toward the positive transformation that is needed."

In conclusion I ask you to recognize with us, The Board, that though we are small, that which we do is mighty. We ask that you consciously consider your monetary contribution to our work.

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### **PRAYER SUPPORT:**

It is always a warm feeling to know that others support us with affirmative prayer during our times of challenge, whatever the source. With this in mind, I invite you to continue that show of encouragement and support, that Divine Optimism for the following people: Jim Clumpner, Helen Haskell Remien, Carol Birnbaum and Dorit Stilling. Please let us know if there are others you would like added to the prayer list.

If you feel a need for added prayer support for you or another, we recommend calling Silent Unity at 1-800-NOW-PRAY or [1-800-669-7729](tel:1-800-669-7729). Your calls will be graciously answered 24/7. The service is free or by love offering, and all calls are confidential.

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**BIRTHDAYS:** "June is busting out all over..." We are grateful for these stellar Beings in our midst, and wish them the happiest of birthdays.

Jan Cloutier, June 1  
Sue Schenck Drobny, June 14  
Gail Razavi, June 16  
Barbara Marcum, June 18  
Roslyn McGrath, June 22  
John English, June 25  
Diana Oman, June 26

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Our meetings/services are held at the clubhouse of The Marquette Federated Women's Clubs at 104 W. Ridge St. Marquette, MI 49855. We begin at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. Please check our website at [unityofinnerpeace.org](http://unityofinnerpeace.org) or visit our Facebook page at [HTTPS://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/](https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Inner-Peace-918296191554881/) for further information.

Our Board Members are as follows: Judy McGowan, President; Steve Schmunk, Vice President & web master; David McGowan, Treasurer; Ann Russ, Secretary & Facebook page creator. Members at large are Militza Georgevich English, Bob Lamb, Gail Razavi and Bill Waters.

**"Our vision is a healed world."**