

# Mair visit highlights party

Braving a snow storm, national Sierra Club President Aaron Mair made a special visit by invitation to our Holiday Party fundraiser Dec 4. After addressing earth justice and recruitment, he honored Huda Alkaff as our Environmental Hero of 2016. Although he left soon afterward to catch a return flight to San Francisco, his energy was felt throughout the evening.

Revelers were entertained with holiday tuba music by Cheri and Tom Briscoe while connecting with old friends and making new ones. Aladdin's Middle Eastern buffet was bountiful and delicious, complementing our good time. After dinner, acoustic guitarist Peter Donalds led us on a memorable sing-along, rounding out the evening.

An affectionate thank you to all our volunteers, especially Chris Zapf and Jane Schneider, and to those who donated auction items: Ed Anderson, Mary Kay Anderson, Jon Bales, Bill Baurecht and

Helen Bannan-Baruecht, Dianne Dagelen, Eddee Daniel, Dave Hetzel, Tim Maher, Trish Miller, Jane Stoltz, David Thomas and Chris Zapf.

We are grateful to the following businesses who donated auction items and ask you to please show your appreciation by patronizing them:

Clearwater Outdoor Store, Usinger's Famous Sausage, Outpost Natural Foods, Colectivo Coffee, Trader Joe's, Vintage Glass Garden, Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store, Rainbow Children's Bookseller, Clock Shadow Creamery, Landmarks Gallery, Riveredge Nature Center, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Urban Ecology Center, Mitchell Park Domes, Museum of Wisconsin Art, Milwaukee County Zoo, Harley Davidson Museum, Florentine Opera, Sunset Playhouse, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Wild Space Dance Company, Danceworks, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, Sherper's, Janus Massage & Yoga, Stella's Hair Salon & Spa, Wheel & Sprocket, Rutabaga Paddlesports, Little Read Book Store, Barb & Dick's Wildflower, Empire Fish, Laacke & Joys, Square One Art Glass, Highlands Café, Cold Spoons Gelato, Purple Door Ice Cream.

We need a volunteer committee for our 2017 Holiday Party fundraiser. If you're interested, contact our Volunteer Chair, Chris Zapf.

## Apostles await camping tour

Up to 16 campers are welcome to join us on an Apostle Island Adventure that will include three to six nights of camping, depending on individual preferences.

The full six-night trip beginning Sunday, July 2, features two nights on Stockton Island and three nights on Oak Island. We're hoping for lighthouse tours of Michigan and Raspberry Islands, all by public cruise service.

We will return on Friday, camp on the mainland and do a one-day guided kayak trip on Saturday. Kayaks are provided by the outfitter. Anyone interested in participating should e-mail trip leaders.

In celebration of the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service, the John Muir Chapter sponsored this very successful outing last year, and we are looking forward to doing it again.

**Date:** July 2-8, 2017 (3-6 nights; island camp; optional sea-kayaking).

**Leaders:** David Thomas, 414-344-1044, [thomasdp@thomerwald.net](mailto:thomasdp@thomerwald.net), Tom Ryan, 608-807-8245, [thryanl@gmail.com](mailto:thryanl@gmail.com).

**Limit:** 16 participants.

## Huda Alkaff scholar, hero



*Huda Alkaff*

Dr. Huda Alkaff, environmentalist, educator and activist, was honored at GWG's Holiday Party Dec. 4 as our Environmental Hero of 2016.

Dr. Alkaff is the founder and director of the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin (Wisconsin Green Muslims), formed in 2005. She is an environmentalist with degrees in conservation ecology, sustainable development and environmental education from the University of Georgia, and she has taught environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin.

She was also one of twelve American environmentalists to meet with President Barak Obama at the White House on July 15, 2015 to be honored as a Champion of Change for their efforts in protecting our environment and communities from the effects of climate change.

A founding member and leader of the Interfaith Earth Network, which is part of Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, she is president of Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light. Nationally, IPL has greened 4,000 houses of worship while growing a network of congregations from every major religion who see the transition to clean energy as a moral issue.

Huda is an activist and advocate with Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT). She is a supportive member of Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter.