
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

P.O. Box 253, Minocqua, WI 54548 <http://www.newnorth.net/~beckratz/nuuf/>

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2001 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, January 14, Patty Buehler and Jerry Woolpy, "U and U History: a continuity of ideas through time."

Sunday, January 28, Susan Urban & Kathryn Morski, "I Was Thinkin' 'Bout Time." Time on our hands, not enough time, time past, time yet to come - our lives are fenced in by this elusive - some would say illusory - concept of time.

Is it possible to find a balance?

Sunday, February 11, Katey Bruhy, Cultivating Good from the Garden of Good and Evil.

Sunday, February 25, TBA.

Adult Religious Education

Sunday, January 7, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

Sunday, January 21, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

Sunday, February 4, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

Sunday, February 18, TBA.

Notes from the President

Tim Kratz

January is named after Janus, the two-faced god of Roman mythology, who was able to see both forward and back. Such is the way it is at this time of the year, a time for both reflection and anticipation. However, in this article I want to look forward more than look

back. What are the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our Fellowship? Three come to mind.

First, we need to maintain the strength, diversity, and excellence of our programs. The Program Committee has done an outstanding job in the past years and we all look forward to another year of challenging, informative, and rewarding services. The development of our choir has been wonderful. I believe the excellent services are the core that keeps our fellowship strong and helps attract new members. All of the other good things that come from our fellowship would not be possible without these strong programs.

Second, we need to find a way to satisfy our common goal of advocating for social justice. Individually, members of our fellowship do a lot of good in the community. Collectively, we work at the food pantry, raise money for the Salvation Army, and keep our section of Hwy 47 looking as it should. Many of us feel we should be doing more, but it is unclear just what that “more” is. I look forward to seeing an active Social Justice Committee and am glad that at the last board meeting several board members expressed interest in getting the committee jump started for the new year.

Finally, I think a big challenge for us in the coming year will be to come to a consensus on what to do about our physical space. Do we need to expand our building? Are we just fine the way we are? If we need to expand, when and how should we do it? An ad-hoc committee will be meeting with an architect this winter to explore our options. I hope that space issues will be a point of Fellowship-wide discussion this spring; a discussion in which, to quote one of our favorite hymns, everyone who speaks “feels they have been heard.”

There is much to look forward to.

Peace.

Joys & Concerns

As a continuing social action of our Fellowship, Peter Zenti, Sydney Morris, Kathy Graber, Patty Buehler, Jerry Woolpy, David and Rae Woolpy (Jerry’s son and daughter-in-law) helped Paul Braunstein serve over 100 people at the Minocqua Food Pantry, November 21st. Then on Thanksgiving weekend Tim Kratz, Rose Gabert, Amy Kratz, Cora Holt, Melanie Cyra, Erick Boustad, Susan Knight, Peter and Eliot Frost, Connie Lefebvre, Andrea Billings, Minetta and Avery Kobling, Bob and Joey Dallapiazza, Sydney and Emerson Morris rang the bell at Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army. And then again on Christmas weekend, December 23-24, Bob and Joey Dallapiazza, Tom Graber, Myrle Wasko, Katie and Mark Bruhy, Jerry Woolpy, Patty Buehler, and Paul Braunstein rang the bell at Wal-Mart. Over the holidays we helped collect a record \$11,450 for the local Salvation Army.

Our choir is a **JOY!**

What Should Be Our Mission?

Experienced UU Minister, Glenn Turner, discusses mission statements in an article suggested to us by Jerry Buerer. Typically, they read:

We are Unitarian Universalists who come together in the pursuit of truth, who use reason as our guide, who believe in the worth and dignity of each individual, who provide a religious education for our children, and bring our Unitarian Universalist values to bear in all our community relations.

But in his paper, *Transforming Our Churches With Small Group Ministry*, Turner argues that it would be better if they read:

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church is to address the social isolation and rootlessness that is characteristic of modern life, to minister to the hurts and hopes of those in our community, to radically define our community beyond our membership borders, seeking to bring other people who need our support into our churches and into our lives, and to nurture deepening relationships between members as they share their lives and their faith together.

The paper, which is available online at www.meadville.edu/jlr.htm, discusses the importance to a congregation of any size of regular meetings in groups of about eight persons to discuss topics from a religious perspective, get to know each other, and begin to fulfill each others spiritual needs. He has much to say about size and growth and what people seek in a UU congregation.

Home Concert in Minocqua

Patty and Jerry invite you to share STRONG VOICES with us on January 27th 7:30 PM at our home at 8395 Woolpy Drive off Dr. Pink. Strong Voices is not a group - they're a show with three acts for the price of one (\$10): Chicago area songwriters Susan Urban and Kathy Folkerts (with Kathy's stepdancing daughter Irene), and Upper Peninsula songwriter Kathryn Morski with her daughter Caitlin. Strong Voices performs "in the round," or workshop style, so there's lots of room for improvisation and spontaneity. Humor, reflection, great stories and joyful singing - they're all here! Guitar, banjo, drum, flute and pennywhistle round out the vocal skills of these three great acts. Let's us know that you'll be there, 356-6276 or jerryw@earlham.edu.

Announcements

There will be choir practice at 8:30 AM, January 14.

The Building and Grounds Committee will meet after the service on January 14.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Would you like a "NUU Sweatshirt" like the ones you see some folks wearing around the Fellowship that have Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on the front with a chalice and "We light this candle..." with a chalice on the back? Let Jerry Woolpy know ASAP. They come in all sizes and colors and cost less than \$15. Incidentally, they are designed and made by my son, David, owner of Rose City Sportswear in Richmond Indiana.

WomanSpirit 2001 Winter Conference will be held in South Bend, Indiana at the Continuing Education Center of Notre Dame University, Friday 6:30 PM through Sunday noon, January 26-28, refer www.buuf.org/river.htm. Susan Wittig-Albert is the keynote speaker.

Meadville Lombard Winter Institute will be held at The Lowell Center on the University of Wisconsin Campus, February 15-17. The theme: "Continuing education for ministers, religious educators, lay leaders, and all others interested in topics that inform and enrich contemporary liberal religion."

The Central Midwest District Annual Assembly will be held in Springfield IL, April 27-29. The keynote speaker is Cynthia Breen, UUA Director of Religious Education. Register in March.

Five Alaskan UU Congregations invite you to visit them this summer for the WhaleCoast Eco-Spirituality Tours for 10 or 17 days in July and August. Stay in UU homes, enjoy parties with them and see Alaska's breathtaking fjords, glaciers, Mt. McKinley, wildlife, totem poles, native art and dancing, national parks, train trips and cruises. Contact uuwhale@aol.com or toll-free 1-866-889-4253 or www.uuwhale.org. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, guides.

Homecomings is the Bed and Breakfast Travel Directory for UUs and all religious liberals. Call or write Charles and Margaret Walker now to receive a host application for the April 2001 annual addition, Homecomings International, Box 884, Venice FL 34284, 941-492-4167. Non-Host memberships, including the Directory, \$17.

OWL, a UU Sex Ed Program

Adapted from UU Eau Claire Newsletter

OWL, which stands for "our whole lives," is a series of sexuality education curricula for five age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and adults. The program and its supplements provide accurate information for children, families, and parents to learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our religious communities.

OWL is based on the philosophy of comprehensive sexuality education, which helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human

development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, comprehensive sexuality education provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skill, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social, and political aspects of sexuality as well.

OWL is a joint venture with the United Church of Christ. It has a companion religious resource, Sexuality and Our Faith, that explicitly integrates with UU principles. OWL supercedes the previous UU sex education program, AYS (about your sexuality).

NUU Views

Question: Many think the US Supreme Court ruled for Bush against Gore on political rather than legal and constitutional grounds. As a “reasoning from heart” UU, put yourself in the position of a Supreme Court Justice, how would you manage to make legal judgements not unduly biased by your politics in a case that you felt strongly about? (Readers are encouraged to answer this and other questions and comment on the answers provided by others.)

Answer from Dick Fields: Those that believe the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Bush on political grounds are mainly Democrats that voted for Gore. Those that believe the FL Supreme Court changed the rules after the election was over by voting in favor of extending the deadline for Certification and voted in favor of a manual recount were mainly Republications that voted for Bush. All the words we heard for 35 days after the election about “every vote should be counted” and “we had a count and a recount” had nothing to do with the democratic process. It was all about politics and which party controls the White House and the national political agenda for the next four/eight years. This past election demonstrated the length politicians and their supporters would do to obtain power.

There were several court rulings that extended the election contest beyond anyone’s imagine and it was like it would never be over. I believe the U.S. Supreme Court realized they had to put an end to the election controversy before it went to the FL legislature. If the Supreme Court had not acted as they did the U.S Congress would have become involved and their actions would have further polarized this country and caused a severe Constitutional crisis.

Regarding the question did the U.S. Supreme Court Justices act on legal and constitutional grounds or political grounds. Justices are appointed for life and need not curry favors with any political party. They are people like any one else and had their own social and political beliefs before they become justices. To be an effective justice in making decisions that the public will support they have to put aside their personal biases and decide issues on constitutional and legal grounds. I believe the Supreme Courts decision favoring

Bush was based on legal findings and what was best for the country and was not a partisan act.

Answer from Terry Hoyt: I have never believed that the US Supreme Court rules on legal and constitutional grounds. Judges and juries seem to always let their politics enter into their decision. Do you think a jury of white men would have found OJ Simpson not guilty? And that's the way most decisions are made. The facade says the decisions are based on legal and constitutional grounds, but the important decisions come down to "reasoning from the heart"--or lack thereof.

I am quite cynical about America's system of justice when it is operated by "bad" people. Yes, we have laws to point people in the right direction, but the Supreme Court's election decisions shows how subject it is to abuse when put it into the hands of **bad** people. The justices we have now are very intelligent (except perhaps for Clarence Thomas) and have very intelligent law clerks researching for them. When they want to find precedent for their political agenda it isn't hard. Their political decision was a foregone conclusion to me. Every chance they get they will make the same kinds of decisions. And our newly selected idiot son is not likely to appoint anyone with a kinder gentler heart.

If I was a Supreme Court Justice I certainly wouldn't make decisions based on politics, but I wouldn't worry too much about having my decisions grounded in reasons from my heart. They're a lot better than decisions grounded in reasons from my wallet.

Attention NUUSLETTER readers

Those who are not members may receive the NUUSLETTER by email or may opt to pay \$12 per year to have it mailed to them through the US Postal Service. Members are encouraged to arrange to received the NUUSLETTER by email or they may have it posted to them. Notify jerryw@earlham.edu to receive the NUUSLETTER by email.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, February 11, 2001.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

