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# 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/>

Pat Harrington, President, 277-3476, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu)

Volume 2, Number 2  
1999

February 16,

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## Coming Sundays

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**Sunday**, February 21, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 13: Justice and Poetry: Dante's Book of the Dead.

**Sunday**, February 28, 10 AM, Joan Hauer, Bio-Medical Ethics continued.

**Sunday**, March 7, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 14: Ugolino: Dante's Last "Sympathetic Sinner."

**Sunday**, March 14, 10 AM, Kay Lizee.

**Sunday**, March 21, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 15: "Cantos I & II of *Purgatorio*: Typology and Poetry."

**Sunday**, March 28, 10 AM, Tim Kratz.

**Sunday**, April 4, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 16: "*Utopia*: Between Heaven and Earth."

**Sunday**, April 11, 10 AM, Candace Zahn Cain and Terry Hoyt.

**Sunday**, April 18, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 17: "Luther and the Reformation."

**Sunday**, April 25, 10 AM, Jane Winkler.

## Note from the President

I wish all of you had heard Dave Burton, Administrator of the minimum security McNaughton Correctional Camp, speak on Sunday afternoon at a Northland Historical Society program. I would book him to talk to us if our schedule were not already so full. He believes that wrongdoers need both to be punished and to make restitution, but that they also need to change before they return to society. His philosophy involves treating the men in his facility with respect and dignity, something most of them have never experienced. It involves teaching them literacy (the majority are functional illiterates), how to behave

socially, how to bank, shop, parent, budget, etc. Most come to the Camp with little respect for women.

Every prisoner is required to get up every day and go to work, and to work hard if he wants promotion. They start on the woodpile at \$.17 per hour and can go eventually as far as \$1.00. They can earn the privilege of joining a group that goes into the community to work raking leaves, cleaning gutters or what not. One or two even are hired as "regular" employees by employers like Bosacki's or a lumber company. Dave gives them the opportunity to succeed in small ways and gives recognition for the success.

So, I asked him during the discussion period if there were a use for volunteers at the Camp. I said I had a group in mind who might be interested if we knew what was needed. He lit up! He wants to meet with the group. We could help with any of the literacy or socialization skills, or provide something for them to do in the evening, or help the staff with paperwork, or whatever. They would welcome art classes, crafts, etc. Two members of the audience have already spoken to me about being part of the volunteer group.

Please call Joe Strauss at 547-3385 if you would like to explore the possibility of volunteering at the Camp.

Pat Harrington

## Getting to know UU's

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Tim Kratz's parents were grade school teachers. His father taught physical education and his mother was a reading specialist. Tim attended Catholic school through sixth grade. He learned the requisite catechism questions and answers, and daily attended morning mass. As a result, after leaving for college, Tim avoided churches for many years. Explorer Scout high school friends introduced Tim to the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota and wet his appetite for nature.

As a math major at University of Wisconsin, Madison, Tim thought he could learn to identify trees by taking a botany course. This led to a conference with a Quantitative Plant Ecologist, the kind who is always looking for a mathematically inclined student to help with dynamic ecosystem modeling. So, Tim became a botany major. In botany courses he learned the parts of trees but had to learn to identify them on his own using a tree key.

In college, starting in 1971, Tim experienced the protest of the Viet Nam war. He remembers the challenge of marching along State Street between the University and the Capital without being tear-gassed.

After graduating from Madison, Tim went to the University of Minnesota department of Ecology and Behavioral Biology for a Master's degree. For his thesis, he surveyed the vegetation of Northern Minnesota bogs. While doing classwork at the Lake Itasca field station, Tim met doctoral student Annamarie Beckel, who was studying river otters in the same department. For a few years, they traveled together ostensibly to view otters, and then, in 1977, they married. Meanwhile Tim finished his Masters and went back to the

department of Botany at Madison for his doctorate. The pair came to the Northwoods for Annamarie's Otter observation, on the Tomahawk River, and Tim's doctoral research on the development of kettle hole peatlands over the past 10,000 years, headquartered at the Trout Lake Station.

As a child, Annamarie attended the United Church of Christ. In Minocqua she attended the Episcopal church where she became active as the manager of the food pantry through which she and Tim met Paul Braunstein who recruited them "to ring the bell" for the Salvation Army. Annamarie left the Episcopalians and for a while attended the Methodist church across the street. In 1988, "Brother Paul Braunstein" recruited both Annamarie and Tim to the founding meetings of the NUU Fellowship in the Braunstein living room.

After barely making it through a rare contact with an Episcopal Minister at Megan's Baptism in 1983, Tim was amazed at being drawn to our fellowship. Although his grandmother was a Unitarian Universalist, our Sunday meetings were the first time he ever looked forward to going to anything religious. In fact, some of the early meetings of our fellowship were held at Annamarie and Tim's home.

After his doctorate Tim continued work at the Trout Lake Station, University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology, where he is now in charge of the research program for long term studies of lakes and surroundings. Until recently, observations on these ecosystems were done for periods of three years or less and so were of a little value in projecting the long term effects of climate change, eutrophication, species introduction and extinction, and the impact of humans.

Now, thanks to Tim and other ecologists at twenty-two different sites around the country, we are accumulating data to make meaningful projections and plans that protect our delicate ecosystems. Moreover, ecologists like Tim are no longer studying only pristine wilderness, but have legitimized the analysis of human interactions as important factors in dealing with ecology. They are even teaming up with social scientists that study what lakes look like to humans before, during, and after the intervention of "civilization."

One question these teams are currently tackling is how do we use detailed knowledge about a limited number of lakes to make inferences and wise policy judgements about thousands of lakes. Explaining his interest in Lakes, Tim quotes famous limnologist G. Evelyn Hutchinson, "A group of lakes confronts the investigator as a series of very complex physicochemical and biological systems, each member of which has its own characteristics and yet also has much in common with the other members of the group. It is this diversity in unity that give the peculiar fascination to limnology." (And, UUs for the matter!)

On a Sunday this spring Tim will tell us about his work with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science reviewing the management of the Glen Canyon Dam, the structure that impounds the Colorado River just upstream from the Grand Canyon. Research at the dam is supposed to regulate and protect conflicting claims on the ecology and resources of the Colorado River.

Of the Fellowship today, Tim says, "I enjoy it, love the diversity, the people, and the effective religious education that it provides for our children." We are grateful to Tim for his work on our board of directors and to Annamarie, Megan, Amy, and Tim for their many contributions to the life and diversity of our congregation and community.

## **Treasurer's Report, 98-99 FY**

Ruth Erbs

## **Meet Our UU Youth**

Steven Cyra is my name. I am ten years old and my birthday is on April 13, 1988. The sports that I like are football, basketball, and baseball. I like snowboarding, wakeboarding, kneeboarding, and tubing. Recently I went snowboarding at Black Jack. Sometimes I read comic books like Calvin & Hobbes.

I'm Cora Holt, a seventh grade girl at North Lakeland Elementary School. During this time of the year, most of my spare time is spent on basketball, Odyssey of the Mind (a creative problem solving group), and preparing for music festivals with piano, trumpet, and voice. When I'm not involved with these activities or schoolwork, I like to hang out with my friends or read. I enjoy fantasy books written by Mercedes Lackey. I'm looking forward to the end of the school and summer when I get to play soccer. This is my favorite sport, perhaps due to the fact that Tim Kratz and Bob Polfus are such great coaches, and all my friends play, too. Another reason I look forward to summer is because I get to pursue my never-ending obsession with frogs. I catch frogs from the lake I live on, keep them in a terrarium for a few days, and then release them back into their home. I hope someday to become a herpetologist, somebody who studies frogs.

Kenzie Reupert: I am a freshman at Rhinelander High School and am in the Fellowship's Coming of Age Program. I play high school soccer and tennis and am a member of Key Club. Our major activities in Key Club were the blood drive, serving food to the needy at Thanksgiving through Kiwanis, baking and delivering cookies for the elderly at Christmas, and helping out with school activities. I am running for Key Club secretary for next school year. I also play the piano occasionally. My favorite subject this term is Chemistry. I want to go on to more advanced Chemistry next year.

## **Children's RE News**

### **Annamarie Beckel**

In the past few months, the youth in the Coming of Age class -- Megan Kratz, Jean Polfus, and Kenzie Reupert -- have been exploring their spirituality through whatever means they have chosen -- reading, journaling, discussions, social actions, attending UU fellowship

services,  
and so forth. They will be meeting in February to plan a Coming of Age ceremony for May and to decide what kind of trip or activity they would like to do to complete their journey.

## **Social Activities**

### **Marie Adams**

January 16 was a very special day for our Fellowship. We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a social evening at our Fellowship building. The gathering was well attended, and after the potluck dinner, we heard many charter members and others sharing thoughts and memories from the early years. Rev. Denise Tracy, who had offered much support during the charter process, was a guest that evening. A highlight of the evening was the surprise appearance of Jack and Joan Hafner. Jack was the first president of our Fellowship and Joan did all of the work on our Banner, which hangs between the two big windows.

## **Budgets Requested**

### **Pat Buehler**

The finance committee is distributing forms to each committee to propose a budget for the next three fiscal years. We urge committees to meet and consider their budgets. The following members have received or will soon receive forms for their committees.

Joe Strauss--Program  
Dawn Holt--Children's RE  
Pat Buehler--Finance  
Joe Strauss--Social Justice  
Ruth Erbs--Publicity  
Marie Adams--Social Activities  
Bev Strauss--Hospitality  
Joyce Barnes--Music  
Terry Hoyt--Adult RE  
Pat Buehler--Membership  
George Adams--Blding & Grounds  
Irma Braunstein--Memorial Garden  
Jerry Woolpy--NUUSLETTER

The Finance Committee, including Pat Buehler, Joe Strauss, Ruth Erbs, and Myrle Wasko, requests that the forms be completed and returned to any of them by March 28th. These budget forms will help the finance committee determine our financial needs.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

NUU Pledge Sunday--April 11<sup>th</sup> .

UUA Central Midwest District Annual Meeting, Peoria, Il, April 16-18.

NUU Annual Meeting--May 21<sup>st</sup> .

UUA General Assembly, Salt Lake City, June 24-28, Theme: Fulfilling promise to help one another.

## **Town Meeting on Memorial Garden**

**Pat Harrington**

Prior to the annual meeting there will be special meeting to discuss the by-laws of our Memorial Garden. Three representatives from this meeting will be appointed to summarize the recommendation of the meeting for consideration at the annual meeting on May 21st.

## **NUUs Travel**

**Joan Hauer, Travel Editor**

Nestled in the heart of a national rainforest along the magnificent Pacific coastline lies a quiet tropical paradise aptly named 'Poor Man's Paradise'. The small family run resort offers a taste of Costa Rican culture with the added benefit of an English translation. It is owned and operated by Jenny Bond, who spends her summers working as a nurse in the ER of HYMC, and husband Pincho Amaya. The Amaya family offers a warm Costa Rican welcome to guests staying at the resort. (Jenny's mom, Nadine Bond, lives near Squirrel Lake.)

The available activities can be suited to almost any taste, from the thrills of deep sea fishing with seaworthy guides to quiet walks along the miles of unspoiled beaches. A short walk to Corcovado National Park is punctuated by groups of chattering monkeys swinging overhead and the cries of scarlet macaws. For the more adventuresome, horseback rides along the beach and through the rainforest are breathtaking, only taking a close second to the thrill of snorkeling off of Cano Island.

The resort lies in San Josecito of the Peninsula de Osa, the last frontier of Costa Rica. Due to the lack of roads, this magical corner of the world has maintained its natural beauty. A variety of accommodations include beachfront cabins with a private bath to large cabin tents with beds overlooking the ocean. The food, prepared by the Amaya family consisting of national dishes and fresh fish from the ocean, has been described as "unsurpassed". To

learn more of this unique vacation opportunity visit the web site at [www.gotovacation.com/paradise](http://www.gotovacation.com/paradise).

## Special Thanks to

Mary Ann and Dick Fields for the gift of a bronze plaque for the Memorial Garden.

## Help at the Food Pantry

The NUU Fellowship will be distributing food to needy folks on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to assist between 10 AM and 1 PM in the basement of the Minocqua Community Building please contact Paul Braunstein, 356-2428.

## Junior Olympic Fundraiser

To help send Jean Polfus, our own Midwest USSA skier, to the Junior Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska, March 7-14, there will be a fundraising pasta dinner in the commons area of Lakeland Union High School, Monday, March 1, 5-7:00 PM.

## NUU Views

**Question:** Our NUU covenant and Mission statements show us to be a here and now people. However, our Judeo-Christian heritage includes consideration of afterlife. What has been and what is the Unitarian Universalist discussion of afterlife?

**Answer:** Unitarians and Universalists came from a Christian background that believed in an afterlife. The Unitarians of course had their parting of the ways with traditional Christian beliefs when they rejected the Trinity (and hence became Unitarians). Works and a life that followed the teachings of Jesus were the route to heaven. Universalists of course rejected the whole idea that God would send anyone to a place like "Hell" and taught universal salvation (and hence were Universalists). All would be allowed into heaven by a "forgiving" God.

There has been a great influx of influences in what is now known as Unitarian-Universalism. The covenant and Mission statements of our fellowship reflect this diversity. Our religion is most influenced now by Humanitarians who put much of importance on the here and now.

Death and dying is one of the most difficult things to explain to children. It is an unknown to all of us. For the many of us who are seeking the truth about what happens after life, we can best answer the question by saying we don't know. Some will say it is preposterous to think of a heaven. Others will say that they are keeping their options open--whether it is heaven, reincarnation, or some type of mystical experience. I personally think it is very important to us to have some security in believing that our afterlife will be a peaceful one. We should live our life in such a fashion that when our time comes to pass

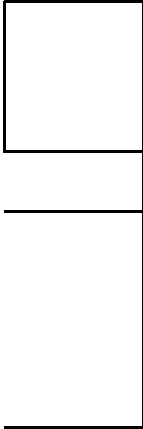


into the afterlife we are at peace with ourselves. Terry Hoyt

*In this column, NUUs are invited to answer questions of a religious and spiritual nature. If you are willing to share your opinion on these kinds of questions please let the editor know.*

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, March 28, 1999.

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter  
P.O. Box 253  
Minocqua WI 54548-0253



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

