
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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April 9,

2001 **Coming Sundays**

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, April 22, Allison Slavick, Earth Day-joy in the face of seemingly endless attacks.

Sunday, 10 AM, May 6, Terry Hoyt, Mother's Day

Sunday, 10 AM, May 20, Children's Program (See Children's Service page 2)

Sunday, 10 AM, June 3, Sister Ann Wittman

Sunday, 10 AM, June 17, Rabbi Dan Danson, Relearning the Art of Community: A look at Jewish mourning customs.

Sunday, 10 AM, July 1, Rev. Spenser Hoyt

Adult Religious Education

On alternate Sundays at 10:30 AM, when we do not have services, we watch and discuss videotapes on religious and ethical topics. On April 15th we begin a new series of tapes on The Old Testament described as follows. "These 12 lectures [by distinguished scholar and Vanderbilt Divinity School Professor Amy-Jill Levine] offer an introduction to the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel and early Judaism... Attention is given not only to the content... but also to the debates over their meaning and the critical methods through which they have been interpreted."

April 15: "In the Beginning." April 29, "Adam and Eve." May 13, "Murder, Flood, Dispersion." May 27, "Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar." June 10, "Isaac." June 24, "The Jacob Saga." July 8, "Folklore Analysis and Type Scenes." July 22, "Moses and Exodus." August 5, "the God of Israel." August 19, "Covenant and Law I." September 2, "Covenant and Law II." September 16, "The Conquest."

Note from the President

The Board meeting on March 12 was largely devoted to discussing the process by

which we as a fellowship can come to an informed and wise decision about whether to expand our building. We did not discuss whether we should or should not expand the building, but rather the process by which our Fellowship can come to that decision. At the meeting, which was attended by several members in addition to the board, a consensus emerged that included the following:

- 1) We will prepare separate reports discussing financial options and building plans. These informational reports will be published in the NUUSLETTER that is scheduled to appear near the end of June. We plan to include several potential floorplans and their estimated costs as well as an analysis of how much we can afford. These reports are intended to provide the basis for an informed discussion.
- 2) We will schedule an All-Fellowship meeting in mid-July to discuss this information. This meeting is intended to give everyone a chance to discuss their views and to learn from each other. No decision will be made at this meeting.
- 3) We will schedule either a second discussion meeting or a decision-making meeting in mid-August, depending on whether a consensus seems to be emerging.
- 4) If necessary, we will have a decision-making meeting in mid-September.

I believe that whatever decision we make, it is important that it reflects the will and collective wisdom of our Fellowship. For this to happen the decision-making process must be open, informed, and engage all of us. I know that we will be willing to listen carefully to each other and to value each other's opinions, because I have seen us do this repeatedly in various discussions in our Fellowship.

Peace. Tim Kratz •

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

Boston Luncheon Fund Raiser: On Sunday, April 8 the fellowship once again showed great support for our youth. Donations totaled over \$300 at our fund raiser luncheon. This money will help finance some interesting activities on our trip. Some of the things being discussed are various museums, historical places, theater performances, whale watch, trip to Salem, as well as the UUA offices and UU churches in the area. The excitement for the trip is beginning to build. Thanks again for all your support.

Children's Service: Sunday, May 20 will be the annual children's service. This is a service mostly designed and presented by the youth in our fellowship. This year the service will consist of a presentation by our 1st - 7th grade group as well as the traditional Coming of Age service. Our COA class will prepare and present statements about their beliefs as well as share special readings and music. The service will be a recognition of their completion of

the children's R.E. programming the continuation of their life long spiritual journey. Please come and share this special day with these 9 youth and their families. ·

Are you sure?

According to the newsletter of the Prairie UU Society of Madison WI, a father was preparing to put salve on his son's injured skin. The son asked, "Are you sure it won't hurt?" The father answered, "If I was sure of anything, I wouldn't be a UU." ·

Joys & Concerns

For her outstanding cross country skiing performance, Jean Polfus was named a Lakeland Union High School Athlete of the Month for January. She is a junior and member of three State champion cross country ski teams!!!! This being Passover week, we could say "*Dayeinu*" (*it would have been enough*) but then last week Jean's 3200 meter relay team set the conference indoor invitational record, 11:00.74! Wow, some of those UUs sure can run. ·

Melanie Cyra took third place in the high jump clearing 4'8" at the Lakeland T-Bird Indoor Invitational. ·

The LUHS Freshmen Girls Basketball team finished their season 15 and 1. Congratulations to Cora Holt, most assists, and Melanie Cyra, most rebounds and highest field goal percentage. ·

Thanks to Kate and Mark Bruhy, Myrle and Dawn Wasko, Bev and Joe Strauss, and Don Barnes, who helped Paul Braunstein represent our fellowship in serving 73 persons at the Minocqua Food Pantry on March 20. ·

Consider the Shakespearean quality in expressing anger and insult. What a contrast to today's sheepish bleating of hackneyed profanities! How the immortal bard could soar so surpassingly high and dip so deliciously low. "Thou drone, thou snail, thou slug, thou sot!" "You malmsey-nose knave. You tickle-brain. You scullion. You ramballian. You fustilarian." "Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!" Contrast that expression with 80 blurts of the F-work in a single script from one of this year's Academy Award nominees. (From the Wausau UU newsletter.) ·

What do we learn in school? Also according to the Wausau UU newsletter, a math teacher asked her class to make a list of the students in the class, think about the nicest thing they could say about each one of their classmates, and write it down. Later the teacher compiled the comments about each student and distributed them to the student. Before long the entire class was smiling. Some years later the teacher discovered that a number of the students retained their lists for several years to come. ·

Announcements

The NUUF Board will meet at the Fellowship Monday, April 16, at 5:00 PM and Monday, April 30, at 5:00 PM.

Help us clean up highway 47 south of county F at 9:00 AM, Saturday, April 21st. ·

The Heartland UU Choral Festival, “Music and Love,” featuring Wedding Cantata, Daniel Pinkham; Night and Day, Cole Porter; O Gentle Heart, Johannes Brahms; and Let Me Be the Music, David Friedman will be held in Indianapolis, April 28-29. Participants will rehearse and then perform. Call Joyce Barnes, 358-2793 for details. ·

Help the Building and Grounds folks assemble the new playground equipment, clean up the yard, and work on the memorial garden, 9:00 AM till noon, Saturday, May 12. Bring gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, and lopping shears. If this date proves to be too early the work-fun will be postponed until May 26. Call Bob Dallapiazza, 356 9245 or Patty Buehler, 356 6276. ·

The Annual Meeting of the entire congregation will be at 7:00 PM, Friday, May 18th at the Fellowship. It will be preceded by a pot luck supper starting at 5:30 PM. The principal agenda item for the meeting will be the discussion and approval the 2001-2002 budget. In accordance with the by-laws agenda and materials for the meeting will be distributed 15 days prior to May 18th.

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.

UU Summer Assembly will meet at Lake Geneva, July 1-7. For information call Paul or Anita Jencks, 630 971-1680 or lgsa@uua.org.

Time Tested Convergent Ethics

From the Newsletter of the UUs of Ripon

Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. *Taoist*

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. *Islam*

That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself. *Zoroastrian*

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. *Buddhist*

Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do not unto others what you would not have done unto you. *Confucian*

This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you. *Hindu*

What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. That is the entire Law; all the rest

is commentary. *Jewish*

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. *Christian* .

Overheard from the Keweenaw UU Newsletter

According to the treasurer a practicum minister could come twice a month and add \$6000 to the budget. A halftime minister might cost \$18,700. A full time minister might cost \$46,000. .

NUU Views

Question: Question: The movie Traffic has reminded UUs and our countrymen of the enormous difficulties of our national approach to the use of mind altering drugs in the USA over the past three decades. Is this our problem and if so what factors should we consider and how should we proceed to contribute to the solution? (Readers are encouraged to answer this question and comment on the answers provided by others.)

Answer from Jerry Buerer: There is no solution to the drug problem. Like so many other social problems, we hopefully can reduce or better control the situation, but it will not be eradicated.

It's obvious that the present US drug policies leave much to be desired. We didn't need the movie "Traffic" to tell us this, though it does a decent job of reminding us and highlighting the problem. All my adult life I've longed to agree with William Buckley on something and now I finally do. Like Buckley, I feel we have to at least experiment with some form of drug legalization. Of course, we do that already. We regulate alcohol and tobacco usage by age, and we highly tax both. We name baseball parks after the manufacturers and hawkers of these drugs and we use some of them at UU gatherings without batting an eye at the same time we hunt down and punish producers of other drugs, even the milder ones such as pot.

The case for legalization is based primarily on the old supply-demand notion. Our present policies tend to reduce supply, which, of course, simply drives up the price and makes drug trade more lucrative at every level.

By legalization I don't mean we'd do such things as fly over school playgrounds at recess and do free drug drops, but rather that addicts could receive reasonably priced drugs in exchange for registering and agreeing to undergo education and treatment. Admittedly, some people will never break the habit since evidently there exists an "addictive personality" type.

You've known them, I've known them--people who would become addicted to unbuttered, unsalted popcorn if they tried it. But apart from this type, there are hosts of folk who might not become involved in the drug culture were circumstances such as supply

altered. Legalization might take much of the fun and excitement out of drug usage for many. Knowing teenagers the way I do, tongue in cheek I've thought that the best way to reduce use among them might be a law requiring all of them to use drugs and then watch for them to rebel. It might not work, but possibly it would be as effective as present policies.

Much of "Traffic" focused on drug use among snot-nosed upper middle class kids in this country. One thing that can be said for the existing drug culture--it sure minimizes social class and racial boundaries, that's for certain. Yet it does seem ironic that so much of the drug problem involves so many of the "better off" people in our society, particularly so many suburban youth (not much different than school shootings in that sense). The McCarthyites of fifty years ago, of whom Bill Buckley was one, decried the evils of "Godless Materialism."

The extent of drug use in the middle and upper classes in the wealthiest nation the world has ever witnessed, and one in which in excess of 90 percent attest to a belief in God, makes one wonder a bit about the success of "Godly Materialism," doesn't it? ·

Answer from Terry Hoyt: As UUs we have always attempted to search for the truth in things and the truth of things in our countries drug policy is that it is a huge failure. It neither curtails the demand for drugs nor significantly reduces the supply of drugs. What our policy does is create a huge criminal enterprise that tears away at the fabric of our society while creating prison overcrowding, disenfranchisement of significant numbers of the poor and undermining education programs that need to tell the truth about the dangers of drug abuse.

Thirty years ago I wrote a paper entitled "Heroin in America." In that paper I stated, "The United States has the largest population of heroin addicts in the world. According to the Justice Department, there are presently an estimated 560,000 U.S. heroin addicts." "Up to half of all metropolitan area property crimes stem from the addict's need to support his habit." Thirty years later the problem has greatly increased and about all we have accomplished is the need to build a great deal more prisons.

Different approaches to these problems are available and should be the subject of inquiry by all UUs. The blanket illegalization approach does not work. But as a recent article pointed out, Bush would not have been elected president if all of the disenfranchised individuals who had drug convictions in Florida would have had the right to vote. And of course he would not have been eligible for president if the law was applied equally to rich people and he had been convicted for his use of cocaine. ·

Dick Fields: Will be back with us for the next issue. Please let us know if you would like to help answer these questions. ·

Attention NUUSLETTER readers

Those who are not members may receive the NUUSLETTER by email free of charge

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, April 8, 2001.

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
