
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/>

Tim Kratz, President, 356-3731, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, jerryw@earlham.edu

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2002 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, February 10, What Gives Us Hope, Diane Reupert¹

Sunday, 10 AM, February 24,

Rev. Sydney Morris

Sunday, 10 AM, March 10, Risking for a Better World—a bit about the UN World Conference Against Racism and a bit about being white and becoming an anti-racism activist, Amy Owen.

Sunday, 10 AM, March 23, “UUSC Sunday,” Terry Hoyt

Sunday, 10 AM, April 7, "Finding A Sense of Place, of Beauty, of Spirit," John Bates

Sunday, 10 AM, April 21, Rev. Sydney Morris

Sunday, 10 AM, May 5, Wenda Sheard ▪

Adult Religious Education

On alternate Sundays at 10:30 AM, when we do not have services, we discuss topics relating religious and ethical issues to current events and we consider things that contribute to the spirit and meaning of our group. ▪

Note from the President

Back in the 1980s, when the NUUF started, few of us would have guessed we would be where we are today. Starting with a few more than a dozen original members, we have

¹ On Sunday, Feb. 10 everyone attending fellowship is invited to bring something that gives you hope. That something could be a picture or a piece of artwork, a song, a poem or words from a book, etc. The sky is the limit. This service is an exploration of the word hope. If you cannot be at service that Sunday but would like to share something with the Fellowship, please contact Diane, 282-5400 or ahcc-n@newnorth.net.

grown to almost 60-strong. From meeting in member's living rooms we have progressed to having our own building nearly paid-off. We have gone from having few in our community know much of UUism to having a community presence. Activities like the Peace Forum our Social Justice Committee organized on Jan. 26 serve to strengthen our beacon of light in the Northwoods.

With the actions taken at the last All-Fellowship meeting, our journey together has taken a new direction. With an overwhelming majority of not only those voting, but of the entire membership we decided to call our first minister. This decision was the culmination of several years of debate, struggle, and discussion over our future. What makes me most optimistic about this Fellowship, is not the particular decision we made (although it certainly is an optimistic one), but how we made it. There was open, honest, well-attended discussion. Where there was disagreement, it was acknowledged and discussed. We avoided making enemies of our opponents. This willingness of the Fellowship to take broad perspectives and to see the merit in other's argument, while not necessarily agreeing with them is most encouraging.

I'm really looking forward to see what the next few years bring. I am confident that not only did we make the right decision, but that we made the decision in the right way. Our beacon burns a little brighter today.

Peace, Tim ▪

Joys & Concerns

Jerry Buerer is not healing sufficiently from the accident injuries suffered this fall and may have to undergo more surgery and four more weeks of neck collar 24 hrs/day. We keep him in our prayers. He can be reached jaybeedi@hotmail.com. ▪

The UU Service Committee, devoted to advancing human rights and social justice throughout the world has made a grant to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission to counter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status. ▪

What can one little congregation do? The Bismarck-Mandan UU Fellowship in Bismarck North Dakota initiated a comprehensive interfaith anti-racism program, defended a Job Corps center when the community objected to black kids in their midst, lobbied to make a Christian baccalaureate service voluntary rather than compulsory, helped open a "Christian-only" community prayer service for September 11th to make it inclusive of all people, and they welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons to their congregation. Not bad for a 48 member lay-led group who say about themselves, "We don't have mass, but we have velocity. And if not us, who?" They send delegates to General Assembly to bring back ideas and keep the fellowship connected to the larger movement. And, they pay to send members to other justice related conferences in their area. In their

battle against racism they have discovered that many people in their area want to dismantle it but too often don't act because they are not aware of others who agree and would support them. This congregation connects people to amass the power to make change happen. (Excerpted from InterConnections at the request of Dawn McCusker Wasko and Harley Erbs) ▪

Congratulations to Dawn McCusker and Dianne Reupert and the Social Justice Committee for their excellent work organizing the community forum Responses to Terrorism and our Civil Liberties last Saturday at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. It was well attended, videotaped and reviewed on Channel 12 that night. The speakers were excellent, presenting informed and thoughtful insights into our situation (1) in regards to civil rights and our own historical ambivalence toward them and (2) the international climate past present and future which we have helped to shape. We feel proud to be part of a Fellowship and a faith that invites us to stick our necks out and go the extra distance. We have been encouraged to forgo nationalism for true patriotism, to do the hard work of being educated citizens -- so that a strong and resilient democracy can flourish. ▪

Announcements

WhaleCoast Alaska is a program operated by wUUrld for five UU Fellowships in Alaska to bring UUs' to visit them and explore Alaska. In 2002 10 days trips are June 20-30, and July 21-3, a 17 day trip is July 24-August 10. Trips are limited to 30 travelers each. www.uuwhale.org and [whalecoast @uuwhale.org](mailto:whalecoast@uuwhale.org) or 1-866-889-4253. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, guides. Sommerfelds, were delighted by their experience in this program last summer. ▪

Minutes: NUUF BOARD MEETING 11-26-01

Present: Tim Kratz, Ruth Erbs, Joan Hauer, Dawn McCusker,
Patty Buehler

Minutes of last meeting: amended to include treasurer's report, then approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nov 6-26

expenses-\$796.39 revenue-\$665.84 bank balance-\$10031.01

New Business:

Use of the building: The board agreed to require members to get board approval (three board members approving) for use of the fellowship building, and to note the events on the church calendar in the kitchen. This issue was raised when an ad on the radio was heard advertising an event at the fellowship, and no board members were aware of the event or a request to use our building.

Coffee hour donations: The suggestion to put out a cup for donations during coffee hour was made. The board agreed that this would not be a good idea.

Social Activities: There currently is no committee for social activities. Joan Hauer volunteered to coordinate circle dinners during this winter. Patty Buehler will try to find someone to chair this committee.

Calling a minister: The board agreed on a final version of the letter to be sent to the fellowship members asking for informative pledges. Responses should be returned by Dec. 16. Our goal was to get pledges totaling \$15,000. If we come close to or reach that goal, an all fellowship meeting will be called to vote on calling a minister and revising our 2001-2002 budget.

Next Meeting: to be scheduled after the holidays. Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler ▪

Treasurers Report

NUU Views

Question: Suppose you were the duly elected president of the US reviewing the following statements of your predecessors: In 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, about US disproportional consumption of resources, the then President Bush said, “*The American lifestyle is not up for negotiation.*” Regarding the genocidal crises in the Balkans Clinton said, “*We are not prepared to risk the life of a single American in order to reduce the risk of civilian casualties.*” Regarding the Kyoto Accord the now President Bush said,

"We will not do anything that harms our economy, because first things first are the people who live in America." Now as president suppose that you were meeting with your cabinet to formulate a revised foreign policy reflecting the need for peace and love and in accordance with your best UU principles, what would you say?

Answer from Julie Wambach: Pretend I am the duly elected United States President. Don't hoot!

Let's say I'm responding to my predecessors who on several occasions refused to ask U.S. citizens to disrupt their lives to prevent the devastation of peoples and environment that share our planet. The foreign policy change I offer will begin at home in the U.S., and that change will improve things elsewhere. I'm going to concentrate here on the natural environment because the U.S. has continued to say their contribution to sustainable development consists of exporting more than we import.

Not enough!

Here's a bit of the background from a United Nations Earth Summit report:

1. North America and Europe constitute 15% of the world population and we use 56% of the earth's resources. Petroleum, alone, makes up 95% of our energy source and between 1997 and 2020, it is estimated the exhaust from that petroleum will rise 75%.

2. The report of the June 2001, regional roundtable held in Vail, Colorado, in preparation for the United Nations 2002 Earth Summit agreed that North America and Europe are using an unfair amount of resources, and further have a "special responsibility for eradicating global poverty." Our generation, the report said, may be the last that can correct the present course of unsustainable development. Despite the strong words, the report suggested merely a public awareness campaign.

Not enough!

As President, I plan to make environmental responsibility part of a national policy. As a first step, my administration will ask Congress to provide tax breaks and grants for individuals and corporate entities that offer implementation plans for large scale replacements of petroleum. The automobile and heating industries would be targeted first. I will establish a plan that includes a deadline by which this country will be petroleum free.

Second, I will encourage visionaries to offer living environments where people use fewer resources. Not only multiple petroleum eaters, such as boats and trucks, but multiple shoes, coats, and fishing poles. Yes, a push toward simplifying.

Here is the most important part of the plan to make Americans accept responsibility for sustainable development. We Americans need to acknowledge that our vast consumption, our growing greed, our continued usurpation of the earth's resources has not brought us happiness. Such a plan could offer us personal happiness and contribute to a more peaceful world. For Unitarian Universalists and for everyone.

Okay. Now you can hoot.

Answer from Jerry Buerer: As a pragmatist, most likely I would not couch my arguments for a radical change in foreign policy in terms such as "peace and love"; instead, I would use the following argument:

(1) Given that as four percent of the world's population, the USA has been consuming approximately 35-40 percent of the resources consumed world wide each year;

(2) Given that the world's population has increased by 50% since 1977, and evidently will continue to increase at a high rate these next decades;

(3) Given that it looks as if terrorism, rather than a competing super power, will be the name of the defense game far into the future;

(4) Given that the "have nots" will most likely turn more and more to terrorism in response to U.S. greediness;

Therefore:

If not out of humanitarian concerns, but rather long range concerns of self-preservation, it behooves us to greatly increase our foreign aid to the impoverish world (presently we spend about \$10 billion per year on such aid, half of which goes to Israel and to Egypt as a bribe to be nice to Israel). If anything, the events of September 11th should have taught us that you need not have "smart" weapons to have a huge impact. With this in mind, the laudatory long range goal is to arrive at the point where our military budget (presently about 30 times the amount we spend on foreign aid) can not exceed the amount of money we spend on peaceful measures such as foreign aid.

Answer from Dick Fields: I am not sure I would change things any differently as expressed by the Presidents cited in the question. I see nothing wrong with wanting to better our life style, safe guard our citizens from harm or to improve our economy. ▪

Riddles!

Like this: Riddle: What is the ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter?

Answer: An Eskimo Pi

“Answers” are given on the next page. Try not to peak until you have tried to answer all of them.

Score yourself as follows: Getting answers for all ten different from those given: “Creative genius.” Getting all the answers given below: “Child Prodigy.”

Anything in between: “Truly Human.”

- 1 What is 2000 pounds of Chinese soup?
- 2 One millionth of a mouthwash?
- 3 The time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement?
- 4 Units of weightiness of an evangelist?
- 5 Three-hundred-sixty-five days of drinking low-calorie beer?
- 6 Half of a large intestine?
- 7 One thousand aches?
- 8 Units of laryngitis?
- 9 Shortest distance between two jokes?
- 10 One millionth of a typical musky?

Attention NUUSLETTER Readers

Those who are not members may receive the NUUSLETTER by email free of charge. Members are encouraged to receive the NUUSLETTER by email or they may have it posted to them. Notify jerryw@earlham.edu to receive the NUUSLETTER by email. We give special thanks to the 46 out of 66 subscribers who, by use of email, have helped to reduce our NUUSLETTER budget by \$500.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, March 10, 2002.

Answers:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Won ton | 6 A semicolon |
| 2 A microscope | 7 A kilohurtz |
| 3 A bananosecond | 8 Hoarsepower |
| 4 Billigrams | 9 A straight line |
| 5 A lite year | 10 A microfiche |

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
