
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 22,

2002 **Coming Sundays**

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, May 5, Rev. David Vigen (Iowa City, Iowa)

Sunday, 10 AM, May 19, Rev. Sydney Morris/Children's RE

Sunday, 10 AM, June 2, Wenda Sheard

Sunday, 10 AM, June 16, Rev. Sydney Morris

Sunday, 10 AM, June 30, Betsy Schussler

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. ▪

Joys & Concerns

We extend our sympathy to Katie and Mark Bruhy on the loss of their grandson. ▪

"Embracing a love ethic means that we utilize all the dimensions of love – 'care, commitment, trust, responsibility, respect, and knowledge' – in our everyday lives. We can successfully do this only by cultivating awareness. Being aware enables us to critically examine our actions to see what is needed so that we can give care, be responsible, show respect, and indicate a willingness to learn." Bell Hooks (from Marshfield Newsletter) ▪

With her Four-Minute Speech Minetta Koblings qualified and joined twenty other Lakeland Union High School students for the State Forensic Contest in Madison, April 12th.

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Lately there have been lots of favorable comments about the wonderful music at the NUUF thanks of our Music Director, Joyce Barnes, the voices of our choir, Tom Sommerfeld, et al. The words of Karen Bruno, the Appleton UU Music Director, seem right to share our joy: *“For almost 10 years, I have had the same New Yorker cartoon tacked onto my office bulletin board. The drawing shows a man looking at a bird in a tree. The bird is explaining to the man. ‘I don’t sing because I am happy, I am happy because I sing.’ How many times have you found yourself involved in music...and realized that the simple act of expression makes you feel happy?... Thank you Joyce. Thank you choir. Thank you Tom. ▪*

A very special thanks go to Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld who have given the NUUF the wonderful organ that Joyce played for us for the first time this past Sunday. ▪

Announcements

Recital at Don and Joyce Barnes' home, Sunday, April 28, featuring violinist Robert Schubert and pianist Bea Kerner, playing works of Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Smetana, Saint-Saens, and Faure. Suggested donation for the musicians, \$15.00 per person. Checks may be made out to Robert Schubert. A buffet featuring Greek cuisine follows the 4:00 PM recital. Attendees may bring a bottle of wine or a Greek dish to share. Suggestions for dishes or recipes may be obtained from Joyce Barnes at 358-2793. Directions to Barnes': Hwy 70 W to Squirrel Lake Road. Follow till Squirrel Lake Road "y's" off to the left. Stay straight, on Schroeder Road for short distance, to Miner Lane, marked by two stone pillars. Right on Miner Lane, short distance to the first right. Sharp right, immediate left into driveway. Call for reservations early, seating is limited, and this is a popular event. ▪

There will be a **highway cleanup** at 47 & F, Saturday, May 4, 10 AM. Bring gloves. (Katie and Mark Bruhy). ▪

Y'all come **Planning Retreat**: On May 19 the Rev. Anglea Merkert will lead us in a planning retreat for next year. Angle is our District Executive and she will lead us in exercises designed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Board, Minister, and Congregation as well as goal setting for our upcoming congregational year. Please bring a dish for a gala potluck following the service to get us all fat and happy for the afternoon, which will last until around 4 PM (Sydney Morris). ▪

The **NUUF Annual Meeting** to approve the budget and elect officers and board members will be Friday, May 31, at a time to be announced. ▪

The Building and Grounds Committee is planning a potluck picnic and **work day** after the service on Sunday, June 2. We will be painting walls inside and doing yard work and planting flowers outside. Bring appropriate clothing and tools, something to grill and a dish to pass. Please let Katie Bruhy know if you can help, or if you have questions contact

her at 356-5745 or eganbru@newnorth.net. ▪

Starting this past Sunday, April 21, and continuing monthly from noon to two o'clock on most the Sundays that Rev. Sydney Morris has the pulpit, she will lead us, over lunch, in the **history of Unitarian Universalists**. The next session will be June 16. We urge you to come if for no other reason than Woodrow Wilson's warning that "*those who ignore history are bound to repeat it.*" Note that a lot of our forebears were burned at the stake. ▪

UUA annual **General Assembly** will be June 20-24 in Quebec City. Midwest Leadership School will offer two sessions in Beloit this summer, July 17-24 and July 27-August 8. ▪

"Celebrating the Goddess" is the theme of the CMwD UUWF Annual Fall Conference, November 8-10, at George Williams Bay Campus on Lake Geneva, keynote speaker, Patricia Monaghan—a leader of the contemporary goddess movement. Contact Sharon Burdick, 262-634-6906 or Psharma@aol.com. ▪

Homecomings, the UU Bed & Breakfast Travel Directory, the annual edition is now available for \$17. Call (941)492-4167 or see www.uuhomecomings.com. ▪

First Warmth

By Andrea Potos

On the hard and matted grass,
my daughter finds last year's leaves,
pocked and brown, limp from snow.
She lifts them as if greeting them
from the dead, passing them
tenderly from hand to hand.
I close my eyes beside her
in this first bask of warmth,
remembering the winter we barely
escaped,
weeks of air like dry ice.

When I look up, I see it - bliss
breaking the bounds of new sun
spilling light all over,
hidden flames revealed
in the tendrils of her hair. ▪

Minister's Musing:

Wherever you live is your temple, if you treat it like one (Buddha).

I remember the first Earth Day – it may have been 1971; we were so excited that the attention granted to mothers, valentines, turkeys and the Irish was now being granted to the earth. I was 21, and still believed that if the government willed reverence for our planet, then it would be so. Affected by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, noting the unimpeded loss of species – it was around that time that eagles seemed to disappear from our Northern Wisconsin summers – and encouraged by the burgeoning environmental movement, this late April date was welcomed with joy. Little did I know that it was merely the beginning of a many-generation struggle.

The Jesuit paleontologist Peirre Teilhard de Chardin said, "This world, this palpable world, which we are wont to treat with the boredom and disrespect with which we habitually regard places with no sacred association for us, is in truth a holy place, and we did not know it. *Venite adoremus.*"

We live in a gloriously beautiful region, the goal of pilgrims making their seasonal or annual pilgrimages to the shrine of nature. I suppose that makes us keepers of the holy site, guardians of a temple. The Hebrew Bible recounts Yahweh speaking:, "Take off your shoes: the ground on which you stand is holy."

I used to go barefoot all summer long, barely able to squeeze my calloused heels into city shoes in time for school. It felt so good: the pillowy soft wetlands moss, the slippery pine needles, the rough bark of fallen logs, the curves of worn stone, the occasional sandy spot in the lake. "A place will express itself through the human being just as it does through its wild flowers," says Lawrence Durrell.

My Earth Day prayer is that we let this place speak through us, for its preservation and its glory. May we know, with Thomas Merton, how essential it is "to experience all the things and moods of one good place." Rev Sydney Morris ▪

Come with rain, O loud Southwester!

Bring the singer, bring the nester;

Give the buried flower a dream;

Make the settled snowbank steam;

Robert Frost (from *Prairie Lakes*) ▪

NUUF BOARD MEETING 1-2-02

Present: Tim Kratz, Dawn McCusker, Ruth Erbs, Patty Buehler, Paul and Irma Braunstein, Doris Eberlein, and Harley Erbs.

Minutes of last meeting: Approved

Treasurer's Report for 11-26-01 to 1-1-02 was approved.

Expenses-\$4496.41

Revenue-\$4678.89

Ending balance-\$10213.49

New Business: Social Justice Committee: Dawn announced plans for a peace forum dealing with responses to terrorism to be held at the Nicolet College Theatre on January 26, at 1:00. There will be a panel discussion among UW professors, and other participants yet to be determined. Mic Fiocche will be the moderator.

Organ: Sommerfelds have an organ to donate to the fellowship. Irma saw and heard the organ and recommended that we accept the gift. The board agreed. Patty will notify Joyce to arrange for the delivery.

Calling a Minister: A total of \$13,530 annually was pledged toward a minister's salary. Our mortgage will be paid off in a few months, so funds that went for mortgage payments should be available to support a minister. The board agreed to call an All-Fellowship meeting to determine whether to call a minister. The board agreed to direct the ad hoc committee to write a covenant between the fellowship and the minister, and to make a recommendation to the board before the meeting. The board also agreed that Tim will compose a letter to be sent to the fellowship informing members of a meeting to be held on January 20. The letter will state issues to be voted on, i.e. calling a minister, revising the budget, and calling Sydney Morris specifically. Proxies will be allowed at this meeting. The length and term of the covenant will be determined by the board, not voted on at the meeting.

Next Meeting: to be determined after the All-Fellowship meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler ▪

NUUF BOARD MEETING 3-20-02

Present: Tim Kratz, Ruth Erbs, Joan Hauer, Sydney Morris, Patty Buehler, Harley Erbs

Minutes of last meeting: approved

Treasurer's Report for 1-2-02 to 3-18-02 was approved.

Expenses-\$3889.53

Revenue-\$6838.08

Bank balance-\$13162.04

New Business: Miscellaneous: Ruth confirmed that we are certified. Ruth asked Sydney to check on the fee to be on the Lakeland Ministerial Association list. The board decided to eliminate the Building Addition Committee, as long as someone continues to count attendees at services. Patty said she would. A mortgage burning ceremony and potluck was discussed, possibly for 4-21-02.

Sydney's telephone and office hours: Sydney will check into the cost of "smart ring"

and voice mail. Sydney's office hours will be Tues., Wed, and Thurs. 11-3, Wed. nights and Sunday after services she gives. Sydney offered to do some special things, like spiritual growth gatherings or new member orientations from 7-9 Weds.

Committee on the Ministry: We need 3 members to serve on this committee who aren't on the board, who are good listeners, to act as liaisons between the membership and the minister. Tim is willing to serve after his term as president has ended. Tim will talk to Irma, Joe, Myrle, Julie, and Andrea.

Goal Setting session: Discussion included an annual review of the minister, having a session before the annual meeting, having Angela Merkert as facilitator.

Revised Budget: Ruth revised the budget to reflect the ministry compensation, the added pledges and other changes made to balance the budget. See Revised Budget sheet. Ruth sent letters to all who pledged for the ministry compensation.

Annual Meeting: date set for May 31

Next Board Meeting: Wed. April 10 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler ▪

A poem for the season

by Archibald MacLeish

(Suggested by the Marshfield Newsletter)

Why, it was wonderful;
Why, all at once there were leaves,
Leaves at the end of a dry stick,
 small and alive
Leaves out of wood.
It was wonderful,
You can't imagine.
They came by the wood path

And the earth loosened, the earth
relaxed, there were flowers
Out of the earth! Think of it!
And oak trees
Oozing new green at the tips of
them and flowers
Squeezed out of clay,
soft flowers, limp
Stalks flowering.
Well, it was like dream.
It happened so quickly, all of a sudden
It happened. ▀

NUU Views

Question: Suppose we define terrorism as acts of war against civilians designed to affect the policies of the government that leads those civilians or to bring that government down. For example the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11th or Sherman's march through Georgia in the Civil War, or Sheridan's attempts to exterminate various American Indian tribes in the American West, or Great Britain's WW I naval blockade of Germany in an attempt to starve civilians, or Germany's retaliation with submarine warfare against British shipping, or in WW II the Japanese rape of China, the Luftwaffe's blitzing of London, or the Allied fire-bombings of Germany and Japan, or the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or most of the US war efforts in Viet Nam... So if acts of war are inevitable, what can we Unitarian Universalists suggest to make it better?

Answer from Jerry Buerer: On a scale from zero to ten, "zero" meaning nothing and "one" meaning very, very little, I'd say we're somewhere in between, but I can't be too precise. It's too bad, but that's life!

Answer from Dick Fields: Most acts of war are caused by either greed, desire for power, hatred or self-preservation. These are all human characteristics. This explains to me why wars have always existed and will continue to be so.

If there were some way to remove the hatred that exists between religions and culturally diverse individuals, there would be fewer conflicts in the world. I would think the better educated and affluent an individual (nation) is the more open-minded and understanding he/she would be toward others. If so, we should encourage and support literacy and education in this country and throughout the world. Those that live in poverty and have lost hope may harbor hatred for those more fortunate.

What do we do about greed? I see nothing wrong with working hard to better one's

life. Success is not about making money it is about having more available options. This is not greed. Greed is an excessive desire for wealth and history is full of examples of wars fought over one country's desire to obtain the wealth of others by force.

Power is the ability to do or act and can result in one nation having influence over another. Power in itself is not necessarily harmful but if in the hands of the wrong people or nation can result in conflicts.

How can UUs make acts of war better if they are inevitable? I will leave the answer to this question for those that have more insight than I do.

Answer from Julie Wambach: I understand that Jerry Woolpy began his question with a definition of terrorism. While governments and media use the term daily, all assume we know what distinguishes a terrorist from a soldier. Having said that, I must add that Jerry's definition and applications are way too broad. We can't learn much about contemporary terrorism by equating it with all violent actions that kill nonmilitary personnel.

In The Battle for God, a study of fundamentalism within the three monotheistic religions, Karen Armstrong maintained terrorism is an extreme reaction to what some see as the hegemony of modern life. "Fundamentalism exists", wrote Armstrong, "in a symbiotic relationship with an aggressive liberalism and secularism, and under attack, invariably becomes more extreme, bitter, and excessive" (p 178). Armstrong described reaction to Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick's 1922 sermon, "Shall the Fundamentalists Win," as "visceral disgust" that led produced "a landslide movement toward the fundamentalist camp" in virtually every Christian denomination in the United States (p. 174).

Rather than contribute to further polarizing the world, UU's might consider learning more about the religious and political views of those who so fear a world we celebrate as inviting, freeing and exhilarating.

Answer from Terry Hoyt: As long as the United States is in such a position of power and influence we need to speak up in our democratic institutions to persuade our fellow Americans to not engage in such acts of war and to use our economic and political influence to discourage other countries around the world from doing the same.

We are the most powerful and influential country in the world. It is our time to lead and set an example towards peace and justice. Acts of war are inevitable when greed, pride and self-indulgence take a front seat to justice, equality and fairness. We need to tame our nationalistic tendencies and expand upon the web of connectiveness that should be our motivating force in the 21st Century.

As Unitarian Universalists we should never surrender to the belief that war is inevitable. ▪

Luke, 9, writes of brother Rob, 12

My brother and I have an in-and-out-love-and-hate-relationship. He tells me different things, like what the biggest number is, the story about the guy who had to run into the deer because of the traffic behind him, and what “ventriloquize” means.

Of course we fight sometimes. In fact, about a week ago, we had a big argument about whether white was a color or not. Just yesterday we were yelling and screaming over whether luck existed or not! Darn, sometimes he can be so annoying. Although I don’t doubt he feels the exact same way about me. ;-)

Ever hear the expression ‘brotherly love’? Sometimes we are like that. Other times we could put up a huge fight over whether we go to Chuckie Cheeses’ or Discovery Land. ▪

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 55 out of 74 subscribers who, by use of email, have helped to reduce our NUUSLETTER budget by \$500.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, June 2, 2002.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
