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# NUUSLETTER

## NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

P.O. Box 253, Minocqua, WI 54548, <http://nuuf.com>

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Volume 5, Number 7

October 6,

## 2002 Coming Sundays

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### **Taking the Pulpit**

**Sunday**, 10 AM, October 20, Rev. Paul Beckel, minister UU Church in Wausau, Be Sure When You Step.<sup>1</sup>

**Sunday**, 10 AM, November 3, Rev. Sydney Morris

**Sunday**, 10 AM, November 17, Rev. Glenda Walker, "She Thinks I'm Real!"<sup>2</sup>

**Sunday**, 10 AM, December 1, Rev. Sydney Morris

**Sunday**, 10 AM, December 15, Terry Hoyt with the Guest at your Table Program.

**Sunday**, 10 AM, December 29, Dan Rondello, "2003"

### **Adult Religious Education**

On alternate Sundays at 10 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. **Please note that Adult RE sessions have been changed permanently from 10:30 to 10 AM.**

### **Note from the President**

I was very happy with the turnout and wonderful installation ceremony we had for Rev. Morris. It was very, very nice. Thank you to all who helped out with the planning, setting up, making food, and cleaning up. You did a great job.

And all of us who were able to participate in the "Building Your Own Theology" series on our alternate Sunday adult RE program owe a very big thank you to Julie Wambach (and her assistant, Rick) for her effort in putting it together for us. I know she really enjoyed doing it. It wouldn't have happened the way it did without her.

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<sup>1</sup> Awkwardness comes in many forms: physical awkwardness, emotional awkwardness, moral awkwardness. Is it possible to live lightly and even with a sense of humor when things are out of balance?

<sup>2</sup> The sermon is a reflection on Martin Buber's "twofold attitude of humanity" dealt with in his book I AND THOU.

There are lots of little projects that we can all do to make our Fellowship a better place so take some time to decide which ones you might be able to lend a hand with in the next few weeks.

We're nearing a time when we will want to take a vote on the establishment of our endowment fund. If you have comments or think we should have an informational meeting on the fund, please let me know. And if anyone has anything they want to talk about regarding Board business, please don't hesitate to call me, e-mail me, or talk to me in person. Our next Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 17th at 10:00. So if anything needs to be brought up please let me know. Also if you have had a committee meeting since our last Board meeting, let me know about it. I am trying to keep up with all of the meetings that might be going on, but I may have missed one.

We were all saddened to hear of Diane Reupert's loss. Her father just passed away. Our prayers go out to her and her family. Terry Hoyt▪

## Joys & Concerns

"Every gun that is made, every warship that is launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children...This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron." ▪

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953) ▪

"The more I puzzle over the great wars of history, the more I am inclined to the view that the causes attributed to them – territory, markets, resources, the defense or perpetuation of great principles – were not the root causes at all but rather explanations or excuses for certain unfathomable drives of human nature. For lack of a clear and precise understanding of exactly what these motives are, I refer to them as 'the arrogance of power.' ▪

J. William Fulbright (1966) ▪

David and Corliss Fields are off to Mongolia November 2, to pick up Benjamin another wonderful grandchild for David's parents Dick and Mary Ann.▪

Our hearts go out to Diane Reupert in condolence for the death of her father.▪

Dear Family and Friends,

We arrived in Tarpon Springs on schedule. It was, as always, a long trip.

We went over to Cincinnati after we got South of Chicago, then came South east of the storm. It was a good route, only about a hundred miles longer than the usual and much nicer weather. We had a nice visit with Jean, Molly and Winston.

It is good to get back to Florida. We went to Church this morning and saw a lot of friends. It was the first service after the summer break. Many brought water from the place they went during the summer. It was interesting to hear their stories. We had a lunch after the service.

The parking lot looks great. We worked hard to get the project under way.

It was great to see it completed.

My term on the Condo board was about up, but since my condo has sold, I resigned from the board. I may still do the newsletter for a while. The place looks good with its new paint and new roof.

The weather here is impressive. It was about 90 this afternoon. I was in shorts and wondering why we left Wisconsin so soon!

We send our love.

Sally O'Brien and Dan Padberg ▪

## Announcements

There will be a **Peace Rally and Prayer Vigil**, Monday, October 7, from 4 pm until dusk at Our Lady Queen of the Universe Church Grounds, Hwy 51 and Margaret St., Woodruff. Their message: Wage Peace.... Not War! They write: Join us as we show our American spirit and express our desire and concern for Non-Military Solutions to the Iraq Situation. Let your voice be heard! ▪

There will be a meeting of the **Membership Committee** at noon on Thursday, October 10, at the Fellowship.▪

Anyone especially concerned with **Long Range Planning** for the Fellowship should come to a meeting at the Fellowship, Sunday, October 13, at 9 AM..▪

The **Board** will meet at the Fellowship, Thursday, October 17, at 10 AM..▪

There will be a **Finance Committee meeting** on Thursday, October 17, at noon, at the fellowship, following the board meeting. The agenda will include review of the financial status of the fellowship and finance committee duties, especially next year's fund drive. I anticipate the meeting will last 1-1.5 hours. Everyone is welcome. Bring a lunch if you like. Patty Buehler ▪

Come one, Come All - to help with the Fellowship's Fall **Highway Cleanup**. The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the corner of STH 47 and CTH "F" at 10AM. Please wear bright colored clothing and bring gloves. The more the merrier! Hope to see you there! Katie and Mark Bruhy ▪

**Painting Party:** There is a painting party schedule for Sunday, October 27, after RE. Everyone should bring their own sack lunch..▪

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** Don't forget our traditional gathering at the Fellowship for Thanksgiving dinner. All are invited.▪

**Needed:** Greeters, cleaners, coffee hour hosts, and RE teachers. Please sign up. ▪

Our friends Dawn, Myrle, and Solomon **Wasko**, now live at 929 Vallejo St, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, (707)568-5143, mwasko@msn.com. ▪

## **Minister's Message**

In these uncertain time, it was good to come together for the Installation Service, and a week later for the program and workshop the following Sunday. It is good to be together in our concern, fear, anger, hope and love. This is community.

Special thanks to Joyce Barnes and Bev Strauss for the Installation reception, ably aided by Katie Bruhy, Dawn Holt and Elinor Sommerfeld. Thanks to Tom Sommerfeld for singing, Joyce for her beautiful playing; thanks also to service designers Joe Strauss, Marianne Fields and Tim Kratz. Tim, Joe and the rest of the Committee on Ministry, namely Julie Wambach, were wonderful shepherds of the entire process. Thanks to Toni Polfus for flowers, and to everyone who helped clean up. Thanks to all of you who sent your good wishes; even though unable to attend, your presence was felt.

I am praying that our country will be able to forge with the other nations of the world a common accord, and that the questions of the eradication of weapons of mass destruction will involve heartfelt soul-searching by every nation in the world. How shall we rid our planet of the means to manifest hatred, if not of hatred itself? It is so hard to find the path of effective moderation. My own temptation toward warring is war on pollution, an environmentally justified war in which multinational forces root out polluters and dedicate themselves to replacing the destructive with the sustainable. But my faith is in the conversation. My most fervent hope in this delicate time is that the conversation among the nations will result in furthering cooperation and mutual goals that obtain more security, and more peace.

In hope,

Sydney

P.S. Please feel invited, if you are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, or you are considering joining the Northwoods Fellowship, to come to dinner at my house this Friday, or the next. RSVP 356-0188. I'm looking forward to lovely autumn evenings with great people!

## **King of October**

by Jeri McCormick, selected by Sydney

Midas has strolled through here,  
that monarch with the loaded smile

and eighteen carat fingers.  
The trees are laden  
with his largess, the pathway  
strewn with posh excess.  
Even the sun, that ancient shekel,  
spends itself anew.▪

## **Northwoods UU Fellowship Board Meeting 8-6-02**

Present: Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer, Ruth Erbs, Sydney Morris, Alan Van Raalte, Patty Buehler

Minutes of last meeting: Joan moved to approve the minutes. Alan Van Raalte seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report of Ruth Erbs: 7-14-02--8-5-02 expenses, \$1848.63; revenue, \$420.00; balance, \$14970.44. Patty Buehler moved to approve the report. Joan Hauer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minister's report: Sydney Morris spoke of three ways to benefit from the presence of a minister: coordination, communication and cooperation. An example of good coordination is Sydney Morris and Julie Wambach coordinating Building Your Own Theology with UU Review. Sydney Morris will use the next UU Review to present different credos of Unitarians and Universalists throughout time. An opportunity for coordination will occur when her article on UU's and social action is printed, to remember that visitors may have questions about that. Communication has been doing well: members have been phoning, emailing and chatting with her about situations as they arise, with only one exception when it was a week before she heard of a need. She welcomes hearing from people. An example of cooperation is the agreement between Sydney Morris and the Board to work together on growth. She requested that if the Board agenda is passed out at Fellowship when she is not there, that she be sent one by email.

### New Business

Installation ceremony: The ceremony will be on Sunday, September 29, probably at 3:00. Sydney Morris will invite ministers to speak. Sydney Morris informed the board that the Committee on the ministry could plan the ceremony with approval of the board. Patty Buehler moved to direct the Committee on the ministry to handle the ceremony as they see fit. Joan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### Standing Committees:

After discussion of combining some committees, Joan moved to combine the following committees: publicity and NUUSLETTER, program and music, hospitality and social activities, and children's RE and adult RE. Patty Buehler seconded the motion. The motion carried. Alan Van Raalte moved to have the president phone members of the committees that have been merged with another committee to notify them of the change. Patty Buehler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Alan Van Raalte moved that the board approve the following process of organizing committees: 1. The president shall notify all of the designated committees of the

fellowship, and those who appear to be on the committees or request to be on the committees, that they are members of this committee and what the responsibilities of this committee are. 2. The board would like to know who is the chair. (If there is a chair, the board will recognize that chair, unless the committee indicates otherwise.) 3. If we haven't heard within 2 weeks, the board has authorized the president to convene a meeting of the committee in question, in order to select a chair. Joan Hauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee Report: (attached in archives) Terry Hoyt informed the board that the report is based on the Wausau Endowment Declaration. The congregation will need to vote to establish elected trustees. The board will discuss the report at the next board meeting.

Bank signature card: Joan Hauer moved to have Ruth Erbs and Terry Hoyt authorized to sign checks. Alan Van Raalte seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Use of the building: Joan Hauer moved to allow the drumming group, represented by Linda Schmelter, to use the building one time during the week, but that use on an ongoing basis, especially on weekends, conflicts with our use of the building. Ruth Erbs seconded the motion. the motion carried.

Alan Van Raalte moved to allow Terry Hoyt's grandchildren to use the building on the last Friday in August for a party. Patty Buehler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17 11:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Buehler ▪

## NUU Views

**Question:** As a UU with a strong belief in the importance of the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. What evidence, reasoning, and/or principles would you need to be convinced to support the US invasion of Iraq with the objective of changing the government there?

**Answer** from Wenda Sheard: What a \*huge\* question! I'm afraid I have no answers; I have only reflections.

Thirty-one years ago I attended a continental Liberal Religious Youth Conference at Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, New York. I have vivid memories of watching the draft lottery on television during that conference. We were a UU community together, feeling emotions explode as our young men saw their numbers drawn on television and learned they would be drafted into the Vietnam War. Some, with the help of UU and Quaker adults, had completed the paperwork for conscientious objector status. Others fled to Canada through underground networks supported by UUs and others.

Our government and the media lied to us during Vietnam. There is little reason to believe that the lies are not present at this time. While I was in Boston last month

attending the American Political Science Association annual meeting, I heard a debate between a Bush administration senior official and the president of the ACLU. The Bush official argued that the ACLU president did not have all the facts. I was watching in horror as he told her some facts for the first time, facts about the anti-terrorism detention of 1,200 Islamic men, facts about the questioning of 5,000 plus another 3,000 young Islamic men, facts that the government had not revealed up to that point.

I'm afraid that my own response about a possible war with Iraq will be an uninformed response. The government will not tell me all the facts. Perhaps governmental silence and misinformation is in our collective best interest, but silence and misinformation offend both my sense of justice and my sense of social responsibility.

My response, though uninformed, is strong, emotional, and religious. I object to the murder of thousands of faceless people. I am appalled that our media does full stories on each American killed in our high tech sterile fighting, but includes not even a name for the thousands upon thousands of native peoples we have killed in Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, and Afghanistan over the past ten years.

I enjoy my warm home, my ample diet, and my comfortable existence here in our country. But I carry a profound sense of guilt that I'm part of a nation that leaches the natural resources and human resources of third world countries, and uses military action to ensure the continued leaching of those resources. I deeply regret the fact that there's a likely connection between my comfort and the untimely deaths of thousands of nameless people in the far corners of the earth.

**Answer from Dick Fields:** In 1981 Israel bombed a nuclear site in Iraq that they felt was a threat to their nation. The world, including the United States, condemned the Israelis for this preemptive strike. In hindsight almost everyone agrees that the Israelis took the proper action in protecting themselves and the rest of the world from Iraq becoming a nuclear power. We have seen in the past where Saddam Hussein has used weapons of mass destruction (chemical) on his own people and many feel he would not hesitate to use them on his enemies, including Israel and the United States. Also almost everyone agrees that he has continued developing and stock piling chemical and biological agents and is working on developing a nuclear device that will be operative in the near future.

Should we invade Iraq and remove Saddam Hussein from power? Before this action is taken a case will have to be made to the American people and our allies that Iraq is a major threat to the world, i.e. is developing a nuclear device and would not hesitate to use it on its enemies. I believe it would be to the best interest of the United States and the rest of the world if Saddam Hussein were removed from power. How this is accomplished must be left up to the best minds in our government and elsewhere with the goal of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the transition of a dictatorship to hopefully a democratic state.

I am not willing to join the anti-government Iraq action movement because of this

lingering question. If I did support the non-interference movement and we were successful in preventing our government from taking action in Iraq and Sadden Hussein in the next five years develops a nuclear devise, what would he do with it? If he supplied it to a terrorist organization and it was brought to the U. S., killing thousands of our citizens, and causing financial chaos then what would I do to make up for my mistake in not supporting, if necessary, military action? What would I do to make up for my part in allowing and participating in such mass destruction? I have no answer to this question but I guess I could say it was not my fault and blame the government for not protecting us?

**Answer** from Alan VanRaalte: There are three circumstances under which I could consider supporting an invasion of Iraq. 1) Iraq actually attacks our country or attacks a number of our embassies and/or military bases. 2) Iraq attacks Israel and we are requested to come to their defense, which I believe, would be a treaty as well as a moral obligation. 3) The Iraqi government commits atrocities against it's own people (as it did against its Kurdish population during the Iran-Iraq war and their insurrection after the Gulf War) and we intervene for humanitarian purposes, much as we did in Kosovo.

Any preemptive strike against Iraq for what our leaders “think” it might do (although I think the real reason is to secure oil contracts for George W. Bush’s campaign contributors and distract attention from other issues like a flagging economy, the President’s past involvement with Enron, failure to apprehend Osama bin Laden, etc.), not only violates international law and many treaties to which our country is a signatory, but also violates any standard of moral behavior that should guide the actions of a peace loving democracy, and most particularly if oil and distraction are the goals.

**Answer** from Jerry Buerer: As I recall, the last time a U.S. president was obsessed with an “Evil Empire,” the opposing sides met at a summit in Iceland and somehow managed to work things out peacefully. Why can’t similar negotiations be carried out now? The answer apparently is that the myopic Bush Administration is obsessed with the notion of “regime change” by “taking out” Saddam Hussein. Such wonderful euphemisms! I fail to see the logic involved in the notion that since 15 of the 17 Twin Tower terrorists were from Saudi Arabia we should therefore bomb Iraq. Until someone, somehow, manages to convince me of that logic involved in that “reasoning,” I will strongly oppose “taking out” someone to facilitate a “regime change.”

**The question for the next NUUSLETTER is:** In his recent pastoral letter, “Responding to the Threat of War,” UUA President, Rev. William G. Sinkford, quoted Olympia Brown. In these troubling days and all those that lie ahead, my deepest prayer is that we stand in this faith with Universalist Olympia Brown, who wrote, over one hundred years ago, *“Every nation must learn that the people of all nations are children of God, and must share the wealth of the world. You may say this is impracticable, far away, can never be accomplished, but it is the work we are appointed to do. Sometime, somehow, somewhere, we must ever teach this great lesson.”* (For full text of Sinkford’s message see <http://www.uua.org/news/2002/020920.html>) Given the UU penchant for individual

responsibility, under what circumstances and to what extent can we accept Rev. Sinkford's moral leadership? Moreover, is it reasonable for us to expect others to accept our attempts at moral leadership on the matter of war with Iraq? (Incidentally, unlike the UUA webpage, an unsystematic google review of the webpages of other religions--Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Catholic, Jewish--revealed little or no mention of Iraq, whereas Sinkford's message leads at UUA.ORG.) **Please send answers by November 17th to [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu).) ▀**

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**Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, November 17, 2002.**

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