
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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August 13,

2001 **Coming Sundays**

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, August 26, Rev. Sydney Morris, Youth Worship Service.

Sunday, 10 AM, September 9, Angela Merkert of the UU Central Midwest District, Growth as a Spiritual Exercise.

Sunday, 10 AM, September, 23, Rick Wambach, Religious Diversity Among Native Americans.

Sunday, 10 AM, October 7, Rev. Denise Tracy. °

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. Recently we began a series of tapes on The Old Testament. They are scheduled as follows:

August 19, "the God of Israel." September 2, "Covenant and Law I." September 16, "Covenant and Law II." September 30, "The Conquest." °

Note from the President

I want to thank all of you who shared your ideas and opinions about the potential building expansion either at the fellowship meeting on July 28 or by letter or conversation. As one would expect of this Fellowship, there is a range of opinions, but also, and more importantly, a sense of respect for those who hold opinions different from our own. Opinions on the building addition range from "do it now" to "are we really sure we want to grow?" Most people seemed somewhere in the middle, and I think it is fair to say that there is an emerging consensus that we should approach this issue slowly and with lots of thought and care. Elsewhere in this issue of the NUUSLETTER you will find a article that attempts to capture the range of ideas expressed at the July 28 meeting.

So, where do we go from here? At the July meeting, we agreed to hold another meeting towards the end of September. At the September meeting I think we should move towards a decision of either A) let's drop consideration of a building addition, or B) let's continue to move ahead toward a building addition and start to engage in discussions of timing, cost, and design. I welcome other opinions about possible goals of the September meeting. The date of the meeting is not yet set, but will be announced soon.

My hope, as we deliberate about this issue, is that it serves to unify rather than divide us. The tenor of the discussion at the July meeting strengthened my belief that our Fellowship will ensure the former occurs. And for that, I thank and congratulate you. Peace.

Tim Kratz °

Joys & Concerns

Paul Braunstein has notified the Salvation Army that as a result of their discrimination against gay and lesbian applicants for positions within the organization he is no longer willing to coordinate collection or other local operations in their behalf. NUUs are advised that we will not be “ringing the bell” for the Salvation Army this winter unless they change their position. However, we may be able to collect for our food pantry and/or another local not-for-profit instead. From the New York Times, August 6: *A Salvation Army spokesman, David A. Fuscus, said the group was not trying to get permission to discriminate against hiring gays and lesbians for the majority of its roughly 55,000 jobs and merely wanted a federal regulation that made clear that the charity did not have to ordain sexually active gay ministers and did not have to provide medical benefits to the same-sex partners of employees. Mr. Fuscus said the Salvation Army, which is a church, did not want to undermine its theology, which holds that there should be no sexual activity outside marriage.* °

Our hearts and prayers go out to Annamarie Beckel and the Kratz family wishing Annamarie's mother a speedy recovery following her recent hospitalization; and we wish Mary Ann Fields a speedy recovery from the hip replacement she is about to undergo. °

Announcements

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our newly created youth group, will gather Sunday morning, August 19th at 10:30. “Bring your pictures of the Boston trip! We'll plan the youth part of the worship service the following week. Think about next year's youth activities.” (Sydney Morris) °

Paul Braunstein requests our presence to help at the Food Pantry, bagging, Saturday, August 25, distributing, Tuesday, August 28. Call Paul if you can help. 356 2428. °

Mark and Katie Bruhy invite you to join them in celebrating a wonderful summer, on Saturday August 25th, after 5 PM. They live in the Timber Ridge subdivision (golf course), 3 mi south of Minocqua off USH 51. Turn right into subdivision, take first

right on Forest Dr., 4th house on left, 7403. They will provide meat, please bring a dish or beverage to share. °

ERBS FISH BOIL: We are planning to have a fish boil for all UU's on Saturday, September 15 starting at 4 p.m. Location is 5010 Isle View Drive, Rhinelander. Reservations are necessary for planning. Phone #362-2643. We would appreciate no cancellations on day of fish boil. Harley & Ruth °

Minutes of the Annual Meeting “tentative” and not yet approved

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, May 19, 2001

In attendance: Sydney Morris, Dawn Holt, Andrea Billings, Art and Doris Eberlein, Joan Hauer, Paul and Irma Braunstein, Dick and Mary Ann Fields, Bob Dallapizza, Liesa Nesta, Dawn McClusker, Myrle Wasko, Susan Knight, Joyce and Don Barnes, Patty Buehler, Jerry Woolpy, Harley and Ruth Erbs, Janice and Charles Reed, Laszlo Balough, Dan Rondello, Tim Kratz.

President Tim Kratz called the meeting to order at 8 PM, at the Fellowship Hall. Minutes of last year's meeting were reviewed, spelling errors were corrected, and the minutes were accepted.

Ruth Erbs presented the Treasurer's reports. [See page 6] She stated that because the fiscal year had not ended, the projected budget receipts may be conservative. Actual expenses may be somewhat different than indicated as well. A question was asked regarding the special Nepal project that the Fellowship handles. (Diane Reupert is the contact person.) Ruth clarified that, although the account is in the Fellowship name but it does not involve Fellowship funds. Don Barnes raised a question about the mortgage balance, to which Ruth replied that by the end of June 2001, the balance would be \$5500.

Mary Ann Fields brought up the issue of having a student minister, and suggested that we fill out the papers and submit them by April for next year if we decide to request a student minister. (This would be for six services during the nine-month period, September through May.) Mary Ann stated that student ministers have current information about UU policies and recommendations. She further commented that a student minister would be able to help with children's programs. The cost would be \$150 per Sunday. We would provide housing, and \$0.345 per mile transportation expenses. Adult RE would be \$75 per Sunday, committee meetings, \$35. If we decide to have a student minister, we should hold a workshop with that person prior to engaging services, so that expectations from both sides would be clear. A workshop would cost between \$100 and \$150. Paul Braunstein moved, Joan Hauer seconded a motion to file the paper request. The motion passed with one dissent.

President Kratz asked those in attendance to review the written committee reports that each person had been given and to make additions and corrections if needed.

Patty Buehler made a correction to the Membership Committee report stating that we have 53 members and 7 associate members.

Dawn Holt brought up the topic of making audiotapes of services, stating that the fellowship had agreed that this would be done on the regular basis. She questioned whether we need a committee to take the responsibility to have this accomplished. Dick Fields volunteered to do this during the months in summer when he is here. Terry Hoyt stated that he tapes the programs routinely. Liesa Nesta stated that it would be good to have a box of tapes with labels to make it more convenient for the person taping the services. It was suggested that the Program Committee be the logical persons to see that the taping is done.

Jerry Woolpy encouraged all those with email to take the NUUSLETTER by email rather than through the Postal Service in order to save the fellowship over \$1 per subscriber per issue.

Greeters, Snack Providers, and Cleaning people are needed. People are encouraged to sign up on the sheets for those purposes.

Dawn Holt announced her resignation as Chair of the Children's RE Committee effective July 1 and she asked for volunteers to take her place.

Proposed Budget

There are 29 pledge units responding that pledged a total of \$24,990 for the coming year. The Finance Committee, Ruth Erbs, Patty Buehler, and Joe Strauss, estimated that between \$1200 and \$1800 additional income was expected from mid-year pledges and Sunday offertory donations. Budget requests from the various committees totaled less than the aforementioned anticipated income so all the committee requests were met. Last year, \$600 more than the required mortgage payment was budgeted to debt reduction to prepay on the mortgage. This coming year the committee proposes to prepay \$1800. Building and Grounds request is increased to pay for parking lot improvements, a shed, installing the playground, excavating, and staining the front of the building. Irma Braunstein moved and Dick Fields seconded a motion to accept the proposed budget, which motion passed unanimously.

Possible Building Addition

President Kratz discussed the process we might use for consideration of an expansion of our building. He stated that the next NUUSLETTER would include an analysis of the financial implications and copies of possible floor plans. These would form the basis of an all-congregation meeting for discussion that will give us a chance to share ideas and feelings about the possibility of such an addition. Mary Ann Fields added that the July meeting ought to include a talking circle, an idea that was widely approved. *[Summary of Talking Circle Comments from July meeting follows these minutes.]*

Patty Buehler asked that counts be taken of the number of attendees, both children and adults, at each of our services in order to get a measure of our sanctuary needs. These

counts could be part of the responsibility of greeters. Dick and Mary Anne offered to take the responsibility for this task during this summer. Irma Braunstein agreed to continue it after Fields left in the fall. Tim Kratz suggested having a notebook for this purpose, and keeping it in a special place known to all and easily accessible.

The building discussion continued with Dick Fields stating that the board's recommendations for careful discussion were sound. Jerry Woolpy said that at some point, if and when we establish the parameters of our needs, but before we proceed with details and contracts, we will need to know how many members, associates, and friends are prepared to pledge how much for a building addition, and how much more funds, if any, folks are prepared to pay annually to support the increased maintenance costs of an addition. We ought not proceed with a building unless and until we have established the sources of necessary funds for the down payment, the mortgage payments, and the maintenance costs. Else we risk an end to our present budgetary tranquility.

Other Business

Paul Braunstein nominated Sydney Morris to represent the fellowship at this summer's meeting of the UUA General Assembly. Ruth Erbs stated that there was \$500 available for supporting travel to meetings. Tim Kratz recommended that Sydney be authorized to vote her conscience regarding any issues about which she might be asked to represent us. Dawn Holt asked that her daughter Amy might accompany Sydney with the support of the fellowship. Those in attendance readily agreed all of the above.

Joe Strauss and Nancy Junkermann were appointed to the Nominating Committee according to a motion of Irma Braunstein that was seconded by Mary Anne Fields, and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Don Barnes, Secretary, with the cooperation of Joyce Barnes and Jerry Woolpy. °

Notes from Talking Circle About Possible Building Addition

Patty Buehler

Nineteen members gathered for a potluck supper and a discussion about the pros and cons of a building addition, Saturday, July 28. Plans expanding the building to the south and to the west were considered. (See the last NUUSLETTER for details)

Tim Kratz reported that the fellowship is healthy financially and that we will pay off the building mortgage this fiscal year.

A talking circle brought out many ideas including the following:

We need space for weddings, memorial services.

*We need more space to attract new people.
Growth can split a congregation.
We need a crying room.
Do we want more members?
We need to keep the fellowship solid.
Go slowly. Make sure we can afford it.
We don't want to do a lot of work ourselves.
Keep track of attendance. Most of the time we don't have a space problem.
Quaint, friendly, small is good.
Expand to the south. (South was favored 6 to 1 over west)
Joyce needs more space for her organ.
We should grow more before we build.
We don't want a debt that's a burden.
I feel claustrophobic at times.
We've had people sitting on the table we've been so crowded.
We're not seeking more members. We just want to be comfortable.
Growth is inevitable, and we need to be welcoming to those who want to join us.
Wait until the mortgage is paid off, save for a year or two, and then decide.
Pledges will increase to pay for an addition.
Don't rush.
Don't borrow more than \$60,000.
We need to hear from the people not here.*

Have we heard your thoughts? If not, you'll have another chance to voice your opinion at a meeting to be held in September. °

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

6/30/2000 6/30/2001

ASSETS

Cash & Checks	0	0
Checking Account	4582	2985
Operating Fund CD	4043	4286
Building Reserve CD	1546	2167
Nepal Bank Account	3763	3259
Building & Furnishings	124600	127257
Memorial Garden	<u>2598</u>	<u>2848</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	141132	142802

LIABILITIES, RESERVE
& FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Capital Notes	11616	5460
Accounts Payable	1222	125
Memorial Garden Fund	340	380
Nepal Account	<u>3763</u>	<u>3259</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	16941	9224

RESERVES

00-01 Pledges	390	0
01-02 Pledges	0	1015
Building Reserve	<u>1546</u>	<u>2167</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	1936	3182

FUND BALANCE

Accumulated Surplus	117617	128909
Net Current Acct-Oper Fd	<u>4638</u>	<u>1487</u>
	122255	130396

TOTAL LIABILITIES

RESERVE	141132	142802
& FUND BALANCE	=====	=====

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
TREASURERS REPORT FY 2000/2001
ENDING 6/30/01

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUE			
Pledging Units	22670	24800	-2130
Mid-Year Pledges	1235	1200	35
Donations	1764	1500	264
Debt Reduction	100	0	100
Stationary	15	0	15
Bank Interest	85	0	85
TOTAL REVENUE	25869	27500	-1631
EXPENSES			
Program	2776	4000	1224
Religious Education	4522	4660	138
Adult Education	240	350	110
Music	<u>169</u>	<u>250</u>	81
LIFE LONG SPIRITUAL GR	7707	9260	1553
Dues	2912	2900	-12
Publicity	464	760	296
Social Justice	500	500	0
UU Service Committee	300	300	0
Meeting Fund	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	0
COMM PRES & DENOM SPPT	4676	4960	284
Newsletter	543	1080	537
Hosp/Coffee	114	200	86
Membership	196	200	4
Social Activities	60	100	40
Finance	21	100	79
Library	0	50	50
Office Expenses	<u>172</u>	<u>300</u>	128
MEM GROWTH & SUPPORT	1106	2030	924
Mortgage	5446	5450	4
Addl Debt Reduction	1300	1200	-100
Natural Gas	619	475	-144
Electricity	359	325	-34
Snow Plowing	420	375	-45
Telephone	431	400	-31
Insurance	403	400	-3
Maintenance	112	125	13
Memorial Garden	250	250	0
Building Planning	616	750	134
Building & Grounds	<u>437</u>	<u>500</u>	63
ORG GROWTH & DEVELOP	10393	10250	-143
CONTINGENCY	0	500	500
BUILDING RESERVE	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	24382	27500	3118
EXCESS OR LOSS			
REVENUE	1487	0	1,487

NUU Views

Question: Now seventeen years after “1984” privacy is in the news and being discussed in Congress. Technology has provided the ability to monitor the temperature of our homes to see if we have grow lights, a man was convicted of a sex offense based upon what he did not do but did write in his diary, there is a record of the websites we visit, our emails may be monitored, our library use and counseling records may be subpoenaed, and soon our genes could be made available to insurance companies and others. Lakeland Union High School is considering random drug testing of student athletes as a condition of participation in interscholastic competition. Meanwhile we seem to be ignoring the Bill of Rights: *The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.* Do we as UUs have a special responsibility to come forward and defend the rights of individuals and especially their dignity? What should we do?

Answer from Julie Wambach: A man who spends 3 weeks here at his cottage called to convey the distress of someone using his cottage. The visitor witnessed actions of someone none of us had met. While I was aware of the incident I didn't realize it could be illegal. Send an anonymous tip, urged the caller. I refused and said I'd rather contact the people directly and express my concern. We don't even know these people, replied the caller; anonymous tips are the government's way of protecting your privacy.

My response may seem to contradict an agreement that as UUs we have a responsibility to defend personal privacy; that's what social action and justice is all about. Yet, consider. If you want blatant examples of a government violating our Bill of Rights, look no further than Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Oneida County Board.

Sounds like radical rhetoric, but check it out. Members of Oneida County Planning and Zoning Committee have given themselves unlimited police power to enforce written laws that "shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the County" (Sections 9.26 and 9.120 of 1999 Shoreline Ordinance). According to the Lakeland Times and public testimony, a building permit allows these zoning and DNR police to slink about your property and ruminate until they determine what to restrict, even if it goes beyond your permit request. These two governmental entities have transferred private land to the State with no intention of compensating owners and have caused citizens to lose thousands of property and legal dollars. All in the noble pursuit of lake water

preservation. And all, according to growing reports, without any scientific data to show the laws will protect water.

How is all of this possible? In part because the issue of privacy is complicated and human rights violations can be disguised as something that initially sounds commendable. Anonymous tips, rather than protecting individual privacy, are a strategy of divide and conquer that discourages people from creating communities of helping friends and neighbors. Only recently have isolated property owners realized theirs is not a unique case of governmental abuse.

How to protect your privacy and property rights? Speak out against injustices done to others. With the local example, demand laws designed to protect the environment be based on legitimate hard science, not laws that satisfy the aesthetic bent of some faceless enforcer. Find and support good candidates. And don't snitch on a neighbor. It's a dainty step to children reporting their families.

Answer from Dick Fields: We are privileged to live in a country that has a Bill of Rights and a Constitution that protects our individual rights and allows us to criticize and protest policies and events in which we disagree. We should always be watchful that the minority view rights are protected from the majority, even on issues in which we might disagree. The ACLU is noted for backing unpopular minority causes.

Because of technology we have had for some time the capability to monitor individuals' activities and research their personal backgrounds. Because of advancement in technology this will become easier to do and will result in the capability to get even more details.

This capability can be put to good use in preventing domestic and foreign terrorism, fighting the drug war and preventing, stopping or catching many other criminal acts. Where many of us have a problem is when this technology is used to monitor honest, law abiding citizens. This may be the price we have to pay to protect ourselves from the crazies of this world.

Answer from Terry Hoyt: The repressive political practices of our government have been steadily growing for most of my lifetime. Growing up in a Universalist household believing in religious freedom--a Republican household believing in the libertarian roots of the party, it was not what I believed in when I saw the actions of Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, J. Edgar Hoover, Mayor Richard J. Daley, etc. Unfortunately, the American people seem ever gullible for the "quick fix"--"the end justifies the means" approach to any perceived problem.

Where Nixon, McCarthy, and Hoover looked to violate (or eliminate them) individual rights for political reasons, as we move into this new century the religious fundamentalists have started to take these practices to new levels. Where Nixon had used the war on drugs as a way to attack his political opponents, these new drug warriors see the war more as a

modern day crusade. Turn away from drugs and turn to Jesus, submit to the greater power. Repression of gays is another religious crusade. Repression of discussions on reproduction is another.

The opening words of the Unitarian Universalist Association principles and purposes is, "We. . . covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. . . ." To subject persons to searches of their homes, their persons, their automobiles without the grounds necessary to get search warrants degrades them and does take away their dignity. We should not be some totalitarian police state where our rights are taken away for the "greater good" of society when this "greater good" is decided upon without regards for our individual rights and freedom. I do not want our community to see it as acceptable to require our children to submit to drug testing. If parents want their children tested for drugs then they should do it. Our schools have already been asked to take on too many parental roles. Now some are asking that they be allowed to become the "big brother" who will make all children pee in a jar to be sure the children are "safe".

I think every UU should look at our present drug laws and reevaluate their purpose and their effect upon our society. I personally believe in the legalization and regulation of almost all of the present illegal drugs. The millions of dollars presently being spent on law enforcement and incarceration of our population could be much better spent on education and regulation. °

God Almighty?

New York Times, August 13, 2001: *The researchers, who surveyed 596 elderly hospitalized*

patients in 1996, found that those who said they "wondered whether God had abandoned me," "questioned God's love for me" or "decided the devil made this happen" were more likely two years later to have died than patients who did not endorse such statements. The patients in the study were almost exclusively Christian, with the majority representing conservative or mainline Protestant denominations.

New York Times, August 13, 2001: *"If man is made in God's image," Allan Wilson, a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, once said, "then God must be a chimpanzee."* °

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 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 31 out of 60 subscribers who, by use of email, have helped to reduce our NUUSLETTER budget by \$500.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, September 23, 2001.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
