
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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

Terry Hoyt President, 356-3908, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, jerryw@earlham.edu

Volume 5, Number 6

August 26,

2002 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, September 8, Rev. Sydney Morris, "Our Fifth Principle:

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."¹

Sunday, 10 AM, September 22, Julie Wambach, "I Believe: Personal Credo"²

Sunday, 10 AM, October
Sydney Morris, "Our
Principle: The goal of
community with peace,
justice for all."³

Sunday, 10 AM,
Rev. Paul Beckel,
Church in Wausau.

Sunday, 10 AM,
Rev. Sydney Morris

*The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
requests the honor of your presence at the
Installation Service*

*of
The Reverend Sydney Amara Morris
at*

*three o'clock in the afternoon
Sunday, September 29th, 2002*

6, Rev.
Sixth
world
liberty, and

October 20,
minister UU

November 3,

Adult Religious

Education

*Peggy's Lane,
Woodruff, Wisconsin*

¹ We will explore the ways that this principle of Unitarian Universalism informs our lives as individuals and as congregations of religion.

² Two dozen of our members have been attending a six-session ~~7-11-11-11-11-11~~ summer to create their own credo. This service will concentrate on this activity, unique to Unitarian Universalists, and present some members and their personal statements of belief.

³ This principle of our faith raises many questions, including: Whose peace? What is justice? And, can anything be dictated to all of the people all of the time?

Rsvp to Julie Wambach

wambach@earlham.edu

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

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and school is starting in a week. Two months into my term as president of the Fellowship and I still haven't gotten into the swing of things for writing this column. It has been a productive two months and I am looking forward to our installation ceremony for Sydney.

The trip to Big Top and the picnic at Sylvania were great fun.

Joan's service was very moving.

Terri and I got our tickets to go to the Conserve School outing. We hope you can join us in the UU block.

I've just gotten a packet of materials from the Central Midwest District that includes the Early Bird Full Time Registration Form for the UUA General Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts June 26th - 30th , 2003. Terri and I are definitely thinking about going to this GA. It should be great to have this in Boston. We are looking forward to a number of members from the Fellowship attending.

The Board has been reviewing our committees and their responsibilities. Everyone will be receiving information about their committees in the very near future. If you have any suggestions or requests about how to meet our Fellowship goals, please don't hesitate to let me know. Rev. Morris is also ready to help us out with everything.

Please make it a point to plan to participate in our installation ceremony on September 29th.

Terry Hoyt

Joys & Concerns

From Ardie Buckholtz: "Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to do a reading for you and your friends...Please extend my thanks to all who attended." Ardie has agreed to return next summer for another poetry reading. ▪

Note our new and improved web site, <nuuf.com> **thanks to Brad Toberman.** Soon this will contain NUUSLETTERS and a password protected directory. Way to go Brad! ▪

Announcements

Verizon has restored the phone number of our fellowship hall to **356-4123**, which they had inadvertently changed without consulting us. ▪

Big Top Chautauqua makes history at Conserve School: In the first in a series of performing arts events at the school, Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua, is coming to Conserve School in Land O' Lakes. On Sept. 27, 2002 at 7 PM the Conserve School auditorium will be filled with the sounds of big top's talented musicians performing 30th star, a celebration of 150 years of Wisconsin statehood. Reserved seating tickets for the Big Top Chautauqua 30th Star Performance are \$10. Tickets can be purchased through Conserve School by calling: 715-547-1332. ▪

The Committee on Ministry is coordinating the Installation of Reverend Sydney Morris as our first minister of the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. This is an opportunity for us to show Sydney, as well as visiting clergy and guests, how much we appreciate her and our Fellowship. The service will be more formal than we are accustomed and the visiting ministers will wear robes. So, we are planning a special service, followed by a festive tea. We hope everyone will dress up a bit and come ready to enjoy some unique touches. If you can offer us the use of a tea service, nice serving plates, or a punch bowl, call

Bev Strauss. If you can bring flowers or volunteer to be a greeter contact Tim Kratz. Please plan to attend this singular occasion. ▪

Children's Religious Education: An exciting curriculum is being developed for our kids this year, called Travels Through Time. The kids will build a time machine downstairs, and then test it to see if it works. If it does, people from our Unitarian and Universalist and other important figures past will appear, in costume, to share their stories and answer questions. We have every confidence that the time machine will work perfectly -- but we need YOUR help. The spirits of Susan B. Anthony (women's rights), Theodore Parker and Harriet Beecher Stowe (abolitionists), Joseph Priestly (discovered oxygen), Henry Bergh(created the ASPCA), Louisa May Alcott (writer), Julia Ward Howe (pacifist), Henry David Thoreau (environmentalist), John Murray (brought Universalism to America), Ethan Allan (colonial rebel), Clara Barton (nurse), Dorothea Dix (mental health reform), Lotta Hitchmanova (started UUSC in Canada), and others like Isaac Newton, Martin Luther King Jr. and Scott Nearing will visit and speak only if congregation members are willing to play them. Use material we give you, or do your own research --we'll help you with outfits or do your own -- give the kids a 20 minute interview and have a lot of fun. We will call people and ask, but please give us a call and volunteer! It's going to be a great year in children's RE.

Susan Knight, Andrea Billings
, Lisa Woods, Sydney Morris ▪

Minister's Message

How can fall come so soon, and suddenly! A series of great summer storms, and then one that brought in a new wind, a wind with a bit of a tinge; now we can feel the descent into the autumnal equinox.

The summer has been a great triumph for the Fellowship: the new adult education series on alternate Sundays, strong representation at the Cancer Walk, work at the food pantry, the trip to the Big Top, the picnic with Houghton, events in people's homes, visitors and visiting galore. And the love and support shown to Joan Hauer and her family by the Fellowship. The early summer work party headed by the Bruhy's readied the building for the summer; it was filled by great summer of programs, Candace Zahn Cain's birthday party, and an ongoing home for weekly Zen meditation. Special congratulation to Terry Hoyt and this year's Board for a hard-working start to the Fellowship year!

I myself would like to try an experiment this fall, called The Minister Is In. On Wednesdays each week, I will be in the Fellowship building from late morning through dinner and into the evening, available for people to drop by, call or throw a raspberry. It will be a nice centering time for me to be there in the beautiful space. I encourage you to consider stopping by on Wednesdays

Soon it will be the year anniversary of the fall of the Twin Towers. Most of our UU societies are commemorating the moment. I'm on a listserv of small fellowship ministers, and we are all in accord that it should not go unnoticed. I'd like to have a quiet time of memory and hope, by candlelight on the eve of the 11th of September, Wednesday, at 8 PM for an hour at the Fellowship. We can have some music, and sharing, and reading, and silence together. Let's make it open to the community, with something in the paper, and encouragement to invite friends and neighbors.

It is good to be together in the turning of the year.

Sydney ▪

A Poem Selected by Sydney

Gaggle

You could study their walking-stick heads
For days, and not know what they think.
Walk among them –
they will rush away;
you will never rub with expensive oils
their spatula feet.
Duck, duck goose, you used to say,

Tapping the soft head of your friend.
But he was not one of them,
nor are you.
Look how their plumage lifts thickly,
then settles:
wings of brown ash.
They will leave you,
they will –
fill the sky like a giant arrowhead,
never look back.

Marilyn Annucci ▪

Limits to Tolerance

NYTimes, 8/17

Everyone has boundary problems, it seems, even atheists. The Council for Secular Humanism has questioned the qualifications of two groups backing the Godless Americans March on Washington scheduled for Nov. 2.

American Atheists, the New Jersey-based organizers of the march, has invited "all groups and individuals who sincerely declare themselves to be 'Godless Americans' " to be listed as endorsers of the march, a protest against a long list of actions and attitudes considered prejudicial to nonbelievers.

Two of the many groups that responded, the Order of Perdition and the United Satanic Convenire, describe themselves as satanist; and satanists, in the view of the Council for Secular Humanism, are **insufficiently godless.** ▪

More from the Quebec GU

NYTimes, 8/17

Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness (U.U.P.A.) are coming out, "hoping to take their place beside the divorced, the intentionally single, gays and lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people as fully accepted people," according to a report of a June 22 workshop at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly held in Quebec.

The group defines polyamory, the report says, as "the philosophy and practice of loving or relating intimately to more than one person at a time with honesty and integrity."

The group is quick to distinguish polyamory from "swinging" or "cheating." Polyamory "involves intentional open long-term loving relationships," not recreational or covert sexual activity. U.U.P.A. speakers at the workshop left open whether polyamory was "a choice or a genetic predilection," the report said, but they urged that being "openly polyamorous" should be as accepted as being openly gay and not subjected to prejudicial "labels such as 'adulterer.' "

So far, the group is only "related" to the Unitarian Universalist Association and not a formal "affiliate," a status that would require a vote by the association's board.

"The board would have a lot of questions about how their agenda fits with the values and principles of the organization," said Janet Hayes, the Unitarian Universalists' public information officer. She called the group "cutting-edge in the sense that its time has not yet come — but I wouldn't want to say it won't." ■

NUUF BOARD MEETING

7-17-02

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

Minutes of last meeting: corrections were made. Terry approved minutes at a later date.

Treasurer's Report: approved- expenses.....\$840.99	
revenue.....\$6693	balance.....\$16,399.07
fiscal year totals: revenue.....\$31509	
expenses....\$27594	

Minister's report: Sydney reported that the next UU Review session will be about historical examples of theological credos which will be consistent with the Adult RE focus. To help us with growth issues, Sydney has asked UU district directors, Angela Merkert and Ann Heller, for part of the program, "Decisions for Growth".

New Business: Committees: After discussion Alan Van Raalte moved to require committees to give advance notice of meetings, advance notice of agendas, and to report to the board president who will report to the board. Joan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was discussion about having committees meet at least once a year to formulate a budget by March 15. Terry will send committee information to members asking them to sign up for committees and notifying Terry as to which committees they would like to be on.

Alan moved to appoint the following committees in addition to the standing committees, to our bylaws: Social Activity Committee, Hospitality Committee, Music Committee, Publicity Committee, Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Adult RE Committee, Endowment Committee, and Newsletter Committee. Patty seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Building Use: After discussion, Ruth moved to approve allowing Cindy Scrobell to use our building Mondays at 4:45 for organ lessons. Alan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

"Installation" ceremony: The committee on the ministry recommended having an "installation" ceremony to celebrate calling Sydney as our minister. September 29 was

suggested. Other UU ministers and others from the community will be invited. Patty moved to have the ceremony and to ok \$750 to come from the surplus. Alan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 6, 11:00. Future meetings will be held on the third Tuesdays of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler ▪

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	6/30/2001	6/30/2002
ASSETS		
Cash & Checks	0	0
Checking Account	2985	15654
Operating Fund CD	4286	0
Building Reserve CD	2167	2269
Nepal Bank Account	3259	3688
Building & Furnishings	127257	129219
Memorial Garden	<u>2848</u>	<u>3438</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	142802	154268
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES, RESERVES & FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Capital Notes	5460	0
Accounts Payable	125	0
Memorial Garden Fund	380	550
Nepal Account	<u>3259</u>	<u>3688</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	9224	4238
RESERVES		
01-02 Pledges	1015	0
02-03 Pledges	0	5017
Building Reserve	<u>2167</u>	<u>2523</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	3182	7540
FUND BALANCE		
Accumulated Surplus	128909	138575
Net Current Acct-Oper Fund	<u>1487</u>	<u>3915</u>
	130396	142490
TOTAL LIABILITIES RESERVE & FUND BALANCE	142802	154268

Treasurer' Reports
Ruth Erbs

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
 TREASURERS REI2001/2002
 FY ENDING 06/30/02

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUE			
Pledging Units	27024	29300	-2276
Mid-Year Pledges	2515	1800	715
Donations	1545	1800	-255
Playground Eq Refunc	243	0	243
Coda Donation	40	0	40
Meditation Donation	50	0	50
Stationary	10	0	10
Bank Interest	<u>82</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>82</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	31509	32900	-1391
EXPENSES			
Ministry Compensation	7031	7030	-1
Program	2674	4500	1826
Religious Education	388	1140	752
Adult Education	76	400	324
Music	<u>425</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>25</u>
LIFE LONG SPIRIT GR	10594	13520	2926
Dues	2965	3000	35
Publicity	522	650	128
Social Justice	1500	1500	0
U U Service Committee	300	300	0
Meeting Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
COMM PRES & DENOM SUPPO	5287	5950	663
Newsletter	271	611	340
Hosp/Coffee	166	200	34
Membership	137	200	63
Social Activities	0	50	50
Finance	43	100	57
Library	0	0	0
Office Expenses	250	300	50
Bank Expense	<u>37</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-37</u>
MEM GROWTH & SUPPORT	904	1461	557
Mortgage	4281	4410	129
Add Debt Reduction	1350	1350	0
Natural Gas	470	500	30
Electricity	391	400	9
Snow Plowing	245	395	150
Telephone	390	450	60
Insurance	404	405	1
Maintenance	82	270	188
Memorial Garden	590	590	0
Building & Grounds	<u>2062</u>	<u>2070</u>	<u>8</u>
ORG GROWTH & DEVELOP	10265	10840	575
CONTIGENCY	44	629	585
BUILDING RESERVE	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	27594	32900	5306
EXCESS OR LOSS			
REVENUE	3915	0	3915

Correspondence from an International Traveler

On our trip to Vietnam this summer with Earlham alumni, we listened (through a translator) to an 80 year old Viet Cong general in charge of munitions. He was taking delight in telling us how the Viet Cong, with nothing at all, “whupped” the Americans with all their weaponry. One of the secret Viet Cong "weapons" were honeybees that they had trained to attack American soldiers. They did this by stealing soap from the soldiers, and then training the bees to get mad when exposed to the scent. Then they'd turn the bees loose when soldiers were around. To insure that the bees would always return to the Viet Cong, they fed them on sugar water with salt added -- the bees then had a craving for a taste that couldn't be found in nature, but only with the Viet Cong. ▪

Interfaith Conference on Global Warming

Here’s an opportunity for interfaith social action that already has attracted UUs throughout the state. The conference will be held at UW-Stevens Point on September 22 from 12:30 to 8:30 P.M. in the University Center. Rabbi Dan Danson will be a panelist at 7:10 P.M. The suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Dinner (organic vegetarian) will be served at 5 P.M.

The WI Interfaith Campaign is an effort to educate religious congregations on the dangers of global warming, to help them find effective ways to meet those dangers, reduce their environmental footprint, and to persuade elected officials to take bold action.

A remarkably broad spectrum of 14 faith groups across Wisconsin join with 21 other state campaigns to involve the American faith community in the dialogue around global climate change. They seek to help congregations and their members to take personal action to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy conservation. It is a foundation-funded project of Wisconsin Interfaith IMPACT, a religious advocacy coalition on public issues.

The campaign's overall sponsor is the National Religious Partnership for the Environment that includes the National Council of Churches, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the US Catholic Conference, and the Evangelical Environmental Network.

This North Central Wisconsin Regional Conference in Stevens Point is the fifth of seven conferences for Wisconsin. A similar conference will be held in Eau Claire on Sept.

28, 2002.

"We intend to move the challenge of climate change from the science laboratories and the halls of diplomacy to the pulpits and pews of the American heartland." -Rabbi Daniel Lehrman, Milwaukee

Schedule: Sunday, September 22

12:30-Registration and Exhibits

1:00 Welcome: Virginia Helm, UW-SP Provost & Rev. Ed Hunt

1:10 Religion Tells Us: Dr. Calvin DeWitt Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies and UW-Madison Institute of Environmental Studies, Madison

2:30 Science Tells Us: Dr. John J. Magnuson, Professor of Limnology and Global Researcher, UW-Madison. Tom Brown, Architect Specializing in Environmentally Responsible Design, Stevens Point

4:00 The Policy View, Rich Bogovich, Energy Policy Director, WI Environmental Decade

4:30 What Can A Congregation Do? Rev. Dave Steffenson, WI Campaign Coordinator

5:00- Organic Vegetarian Supper and Exhibits

6:00 Workshops * The Hydrogen Future, Wayne Stroessner, alternative energy specialist. * Pop Goes the Weasel-More and More Humans, Ned Grossnickle, UW-Marathon County & Jo Seiser, North Central Conservancy Trust * How to Shift the Winds Without Rocking the Boat (Talking With Your Congregation and Others), Dan Sivek, UW-SP Natural Resources & Megan Karth, local church lay leader.

7:10 Workshops * Sorting Out Doublespeak: Misconceptions About Global Warming, Jennie Lane, Energy Education, UW-SP. * Interfaith Perspectives on the Eco-Crisis & Climate Change (Religious Leaders' Panel), Rabbi Dan Danson, Sr. Betty Wolcott, OSF, Rev. Ed Hunt. * Sustainable Design and Practical Actions to Take To Your Congregation and Home, Tom Brown, Architect

8:15-Wrap-Up, ends at 8:30 p.m.

Bring a group from your congregation "Global warming is an inescapably religious concern. Our climate is God's creation." -- Bishop Roger White, Milwaukee Episcopal Diocese. ▪

NUU Views

Commentary on the censorship question and the Adult RE Videos Rev Glenda Walker writes:

I have two thoughts: UUs, I hope, would begin to talk about the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Bible, rather than the New and Old Testaments, even if the RE program titles them New and Old Testaments. As you well know, the Hebrew Bible is not old to Jews.

Two, when we talk about editing, UUs edit the words to Christmas Carols, and write New words to "Amazing Grace, etc.▪

Question: In a decision deplored by many in congress and by the administration, the San Francisco Federal Appeals Court declared in June that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because the phrase "one nation under God" violates the separation of church and state. As responsible citizens of the USA and UUs how should we think about this decision? (For background see <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/27/national/27PLED.html?todayshadlines=&pagewanted=print&position=top>).

Answer from Wenda Sheard: As responsible citizens of the United States, we should realize that the pledge decision was correct and long overdue from a constitutional law perspective. Almost anyone who studies constitutional law will tell you that the First Amendment's anti-establishment clause prohibits the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance (and prohibits references to God in other state and national documents and practices).

BUT, and it's a big BUT, we must remember that what's constitutionally correct and what's politically feasible are sometimes two different things. Many times in our history judges have ruled against what they believed to be constitutional. Why? Because judges recognize that there are political limits to what they can do. Yes, judges understand their role as protectors of minority rights, but they also understand that they will have no power whatsoever unless they protect the institution of the court. Without the support of the people in our nation, the court system (and indeed the entire constitution) means nothing.

The pledge decision is also correct from a humanist Unitarian Universalist perspective. We Unitarian Universalists never wish to "shove religion" down the throats of unwilling individuals.

BUT, and it's a big BUT, we must remember that Unitarian Universalists, if and when they truly recover from the post-traumatic stress disorder caused by their Catholic or other strict religious upbringing, do not suffer pain when uttering or hearing the word "God." Instead, they understand that "God" or "god" is or can be a code word for all we don't understand in the universe.

If you're one of the walking wounded Unitarian Universalists, next time you recite the pledge, think: one nation, under quantum mechanics. Or, one nation, under the power of nature. Or, one nation, under whatever the next Einstein might discover. That way you'll not only help yourself heal from the injuries of your childhood, but you'll also ready yourself for honest human-to-human peace-making dialog with ordinary people of all religious stripes and colors.

Hence, in my opinion, Unitarian Universalists have more important battles to fight than

the battle of whether the phrase "under God" should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answer from Julie Wambach: Would that all questions were this easy. Though it may challenge some, for me the answer is clear and simple. Should "God" be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance? Absolutely, Yes! Should "In God We Trust" be removed from government buildings and the back of U.S money? Absolute, Yes! Article One of the U. S. Constitution is clear. It denies congress the right to pass laws respecting the establishment of religion. Yet, Monotheism has been the implied religion of our country. The Pledge should be to the United States and not to a religious monotheistic dogma. The money is created by the Federal Government, not a monotheistic religious institution. For those who think all the world believes in their God, it's time for them to broaden their education. There now. I feel so good being sure of something this once.

Answer from Dick Fields: The decision of the San Francisco Federal Appeals Court to declare the phrase "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance violates the separation of church and state, I believe was a correct decision, but the decision will not hold up under further review.

Because of this country's religious heritage many Americans, if not a majority, favor leaving things as they are regarding references to God in the public arena. Public support for the status quo and political pressure will reverse the Federal Appeals Courts decision.

If by chance the Federal Courts decision was upheld then there could be an effort to remove In God We Trust from our currency, remove references to God on public buildings, and censor all public and political references to God. And of course prayers would be eliminated before the opening sessions of congress. Many would support these changes, but I believe they are in the minority.

Some may believe the term God in the Pledge of Allegiance does not violate the separation of church and state as we are not being told who or what God is. Because of our diversity of beliefs regarding God I feel it would be improper for the UUA or the Northwoods UU Fellowship to take a public position on this matter. This is a no win issue.

Answer from Alan VanRaalte: There has been much "flap" about the recent ruling of a panel of three federal judges that found the required recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional. And I would suggest that the monologue (it hasn't really been a dialogue because dissenters have been shouted down) has had more "flap" than substance. The controversy, in its current form, only serves to distract people's attention from the really important issues we face as a country and focus it on two words; two words, the meanings of which for some people, change the pledge from a patriotic statement, to a religious one. The important issues from which attention and public debate are distracted are those of returning democracy to the people in the form of campaign finance reform; Global warming which threatens the costal plains, coral reefs and fresh water supplies all over the world; Economic globalization which has enormous potential for both good and ill; The war on

terrorism which threatens our national security as well as our civil liberties; The proliferation of nuclear weapons and the current administration's articulated policy of their preemptive use which has the potential to render all other issues mute: but this commentary is not intended as a discussion of those issues. The debate over the Pledge of Allegiance in the face of this litany of other issues, reminds me of a saying we had in the corporate world when the focus of the group became mired in relatively insignificant details to the exclusion of important concerns: we are stopping to stomp ants while the elephants are stampeding.

I am not proposing a ban on the Pledge of Allegiance, although I find its mandated recitation, whether with or without the words "under God", troubling and question whether any state or federal law should require it. While I believe that schools can and ought to promote patriotism, they should not do so at the expense of someone's deeply held religious beliefs. What I am trying to promote is a greater understanding of and sensitivity to people of character and good will and deeply held beliefs, religious and otherwise, who perceive in the pledge the imposition of majority opinion onto those convictions. How can a teacher whose religion instructs that the Pledge of Allegiance is a form of idol worship and therefore a violation of the first commandment, in good conscience, lead a class in its recitation? Who is going to tell that teacher that she must either give up her religion or lose her job?

A democracy, while implying majority rule, condones neither mop action nor silencing the voices of dissent. It respects the rights of minority groups to survive, to flourish, even to proselytize. The European founders of this country, while representing the majority of its citizens, Native Americans excluded of course, were once a minority in the countries from which they or their ancestors immigrated and were mindful of the rights of minorities, African slaves excluded of course. Protection of the rights of the individual, even the individual who is a member of a minority group, is why our constitution contains the Bill of Rights.

The strength of a democracy lays not in the unanimity of religious belief. That, by definition, is a theocracy. The true strength of a democracy lays in its ability to weave disparate threads of beliefs and values into a single cloth; a tartan or plaid, the strength of which results from the many different colored threads which make up its fabric, the beauty of which results from the ability to discern each thread as a single entity while recognizing it as an integral part of the whole.

Answer from Jerry Buerer: Since there are plenty of other willing respondents on this issue, I'll be brief. Before the "under God" notion was inserted in the Pledge at the height of the McCarthy Period (which, remember, was brought to the nation courtesy the voters of Wisconsin), during the 20th Century the U.S. won two world wars and accomplished our goals in Korea. The first significant war we fought after the inclusion of "under God", the Vietnam War, was the first major war loss citizens of this nation (excluding southerners) ever experienced. Is there a message there? ▪

The question for the next NUUSLETTER is: 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? ▪

(Please send answers by October 6th to jerryw@earlham.edu.)

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 more than \$500. ▪

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, October 6, 2002.

**Homework from
Jerry Buerer’s Service**

Suppose Jerry Buerer, George Bush, Alan Greenspan Bill Clinton Jesus Christ, and Jerry Falwell, were to predict the expected outcome of a random sample of 100 people who experienced good or bad events. Here are their various expectations for the results of an unbiased survey. These are called contingency tables and the outcomes predicted are all significantly different from random expectations. (p<.000000001)

Go	Bad			Go	Bad
5	45			45	5
45	5			5	45

Go	Ba			Go	Bad
45	45			5	5
5	5			45	45

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Go	Ba			Go	Bad
5	45			45	5
5	45			45	5