
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 13

August 11,

2003 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, August 24, Rev Sydney Morris. "Creating Safe Congregations," something all denominations.

Sunday, 10 AM, September 7, Rev Sydney Morris.

Sunday, 10 AM, September 21, Julie Wambach, "'The Deserving'"--

Our NUU Fellowship mission includes a commitment to "active involvement in social issues and problems." But how do we decide who is deserving?

Sunday, 10 AM, October 5, Rev Sydney Morris.

Sunday, 10 AM, October 19, Rev. Jane Moore

Adult Religious Education

On alternate Sundays we meet at 10 AM to discuss topics relating religious and ethical issues to current events. We consider things that contribute to the spirit and meaning of our group.

The President's Message

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and that school will be starting soon. Our Board will be having our meeting this Friday at 9:30. Anyone is invited to attend. We will be going over the hard work of the Long Range Planning Committee. Doris Eberlein and her committee have worked very hard to get us started on our plans for the future. We're also going to be talking about our financial policies so that Board members and committees have improved communication.

Please call me or talk with me about any Fellowship business you have suggestions or questions about or if you want to talk about anything we can do to improve our Fellowship community.

Terry Hoyt ▪

Joys & Concerns

Iraqis, Israelis, Arabs, Americans, Afghanis, Chechens, Columbians, Filipinos Liberians and more. People continue to die in armed struggles around the world. Here in the north woods, the weekly community silent **peace vigil** continues on Fridays from noon to 1 pm at Our Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church in Woodruff. Please join us. Elinore Sommerfeld ▪

Announcements

Mel and Sue Bernay of Plover announce the **engagement** of their son Aaron Micah to Emma Carlson-Berne of Cincinnati, Ohio. An August, 2004 wedding is planned. Aaron is currently a graduate student at Harvard University. ▪

The **Welcoming Congregation Workshop** will meet for its final session and dinner, Wednesday, August 20, at 6 PM, at Tara and Jerry's home, 8395 Woolpy Drive. **Everyone is welcome whether or not you have been to other sessions.** The agenda includes 1) A discussion about how homophobia hurts everyone, gay or straight; and (2) a discussion about next steps, if any are wanted and what they might be. Flash: The famous shore dinner chef, Harley Erbs and his would-be assistant, sues chef Jerry, have agreed to provide a fish boil for the truly devoted and others. Please let us know if you are coming. 356 6276 or jerryw@earlham.edu ▪

Children's Religious Education 2003-04

The Children's RE Committee of Andrea, Susan, Wenda and Sydney (with regrets from Katie) met for a wonderful dinner from the Billings/Kobes and Koblings summer garden. It was decided to have two children's RE classes this year. The older kids will have the Church Across the Street curriculum, and the younger ones Holiday and Holy Days. The Committee agreed to investigate the possibility of having a paid RE position this year. Wenda agreed to create a Children's RE brochure.

The Children's RE program starts with a bang on the 21st of September. Please pass out the RE brochure to anyone you think might be interested, or might pass the invitation on. We will also need congregation members to sign up for one children's RE class as a support person over the course of our year. Last year's congregational participation was a great boost to the program, and we invite everyone to take a turn.

September 7th will be an Intergenerational Program. ▪

SJ Public Forum Votes to Revoke Patriot Act

Tim Kratz

The July 3rd "Patriots against the Patriot Act" meeting at the Rhinelander Public Library was very successful thanks in large part to all of you. The room was overflowing.

I heard one estimate of about 75 people. After Sydney and I, as co-moderators, made some introductory remarks, we heard short presentations from Paul Ehlers of Rhinelander and our own Jerry Woolpy. We then had 30 minutes or so of free and open discussion.

The press was there in force, represented by one television station, two radio stations and at least two, but possibly more newspapers. Alan, you will be pleased to know that a reporter from the Tomahawk Leader was present. Sydney was interviewed by at least two radio stations prior to the event. Jerry Woolpy was interviewed by, I believe, channel 12 immediately after the event.

Joe Strauss, Terry Hoyt, and Diane Reupert made important points from the floor during the discussion period that kept things moving in the right direction. Among the "action" items was a call for individuals to contact their local political representatives (from town supervisors, to their alderman, to their local county board member) to inform about the Patriot Act and to perhaps lead to local governments passing resolutions similar to what at least 130 other local bodies of government have done. The meeting ending with a straw vote of those in favor or against repealing the Patriot Act in its entirety. The voice vote was unanimous in favor of repeal. This voice vote was captured by the radio microphones and television camera, so may receive some air time. I didn't get a chance to watch or listen to any media last night, so I don't know how much air we received.

UUs from our Fellowship were well represented at the meeting. There was also a strong showing of representatives from the Libertarian Party, some coming from as far away as Green Bay. Ed Thompson, the Libertarian candidate for governor in the last election, was there and spoke briefly during the discussion period. Representatives from the Democratic Party and at least one member of the Green Party were there as well. The group as a whole was able to focus on common ground rather than their differences.

Thanks to Kris Adams-Wendt and the Rhinelander Public Library for hosting the event, as well as her advice in meetings prior. ▀

Ministers Message

It was great to be with intrepid travelers Paul, Irma, Dick and Mary Ann, Tom and Elinore, the Zoars, Wenda and Richard at the Marquett/Houghton/Woodruff joint picnic and worship at Van Ryper State Park Sunday the 10th. It was a particular joy for me to celebrate with the Marquette minister, Kayle Rice. Dan Padburg ably filled the pulpit at NUUF, allowing me to preach later this month. My topic will be, "Creating Safe Congregations," something all denominations are attending to these days. A great big thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Welcoming Congregation Adult Ed class this summer. Special thanks to co-leaders and planners Joyce Barnes, Candace Zahn Cain, and Jerry Woolpy and to the Sommerfelds and Jerry and Tara for hosting memorable evenings. I know I learned as much from you all as I shared from the curriculum; it has been a great experience. Our last session is a y'all come on Wednesday the 20th down Woolpy Drive.

Do please be thinking about what you would like in the way of adult ed over the fall and winter; our lifelong spiritual discipline of growth and learning brightens the flame of

Tips for Talking about President Bush with Your Children

(A revised "Book of Virtues" not of Bill Bennett but borrowed shamelessly from Katrina vanden Heuvel, *The Nation*, 8/10/03)

1) Think about your values as they relate to this situation. What are your family's values about telling the truth? What would you do if your child lied to you and when you scolded him or her, s/he replied: "I am not a fact-checker." Or added, "Isn't it time to move on?"

2) Ask your children to tell you what words mean to them. Explain that words have consequences and lies can come in two, six or sixteen words.

3) Clarify facts. Give short, age-appropriate answers. Explain that shifting strategies at damage control only lead to more unanswered questions. Make clear that even if facts are malleable for President Bush, they're not malleable in your home. Explain that even though the White House strategy may be to say whatever is necessary, even if they have to admit later that what they said the first time wasn't exactly true, you don't do it that way yourself.

4) Use these talks with your child to encourage good decision-making. Let them know that if they grow up to become president and lead a nation into war, the right thing to do is take responsibility for their words and acts. (This is a good opportunity to explain what the saying, "The buck stops here" means.)

5) Use television news as a springboard for discussion. However, do not let children younger than thirteen watch this coverage alone. It can be ugly and disturbing for children to watch the President and his aides scapegoat their subordinates with so little compunction.

6) Help your children understand the larger issues. Let them know that it's not just about sixteen words. You could explain that there appears to be a pattern of dishonesty well beyond the uranium scandal that is extremely worrisome. Explain that the American people are entitled to the truth and they have a right to know if President Bush, Vice President Cheney or any White House officials misrepresented the facts to justify war.

7) Keep the lines of communication open. Talk. Remember that this is not a one-time or a one-way discussion. Your children need your ongoing support in dealing with their President's tenuous relationship to the truth. Unfortunately, this sad situation is currently a fixed element of the political landscape they are growing up in. ▪

An NUU View

Question: Rev. Nels Oas, in his pulpit essay, "Emerson on Ethics, Ecology, and the Ego," June 29, encourages us to read Forrest Church, "Emerson's Shadow" (*UU World*, March/April, 2003, pages 29-31). Here Church writes, "Emerson's shadow blocks us from becoming who we might be, should we ever decide to grow up." Emerson, Church writes, "was the quintessential adolescent sage...chafed at every form of servitude...sovereign individualism and self-reliance does not address today's need for interdependence... If we

are ever to grow up, the anti-institutionalists who gravitate to our institutions must take a little of their precious Emersonian freedom and invest it more generously. Only then will we bond together in redemptive community. Until we, as Unitarian Universalists, come out from under Emerson's shadow, we will not mature as a movement." Why is this "Oas-Church caveat" so noteworthy and what does this mean to our faith?

Answer from Wenda Sheard: The "Oas-Church" caveat is another ying/yang thingy. Intellectual arguments that fly around faith, at their cores, are all ying/yangish. Emerson says great things, and Emerson's great things have downsides. God is wonderful and all-powerful, but God doesn't eliminate suffering. Jesus says great things, and Jesus' teachings have downsides (ask me about the ten-hour Jesus Seminar workshop I attended at SUUSI last month with the amazing Rev. Davidson Loehr).

The "Oas-Church" caveat and other ying/yang conundrums feed our intellects, but they do little to nourish our souls. In order to nourish our souls, we first must acknowledge that life is filled with caveats and conundrums, and then we must find ways to enjoy living despite the dark sides of those caveats and conundrums. Faith, which "requires practice and experience and intuition," includes practicing, experiencing, and intuiting ways to transcend intellectual arguments. ■

The question for the next NUUSLETTER is: While President Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress (Senators: Hatch, Santorum, Frist, and Representative Musgrave) consider The Federal Marriage Amendment to the US Constitution to assure the heterosexuality of marriage, UUs here and around the country discuss how they can become more hospitable to our gay and lesbian friends. As conscientious champions of social justice, is sexual preference a freedom we ought to ignore, support, or proscribe?

Send answers to jerryw@earlham.edu by **September 21**. ■

Getting the NUUSLETTER

In addition to the usual Microsoft Word format, the NUUSLETTER is now available in Adobe PDF format that is readable by any computer, Mac or PC. If you do not have an Adobe Reader you can download one free at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

With this software the NUUSLETTER will be formatted as it is in Microsoft Word, but the Word program will not be required. Let me know if you want it sent to you in PDF format, jerryw@earlham.edu.

Previous NUUSLETTERS and the congregation directory are available at nuuf.com. Click on "Members Only." The user name is NUUF. But you need to remember the secret password. If you have forgotten it, contact me.

Place Stamp Here

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, September 21, 2003

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED