

**NUU Youth Win Best  
Expression of UUism from  
UU Sunday School Society**

Dawn Holt

Minetta Koblings, Claire Polfus, Amy Kratz, and Cora Holt won the Children's Intergenerational Award in the contest sponsored by the Unitarian Sunday School Society.

This award is given in recognition of a service which best expresses UUism in the context of children's or intergenerational worship. It is a great honor. Ideas used in their 1999 spring program will be published as curriculum ideas. They will receive \$500 and they are also invited to present their program at the General Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee in June. We have just found out about this award

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# 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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February 28,

**2000 Coming Sundays**

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**Taking the Pulpit**

**Sunday**, March 12, 10 AM, Sister Ann Wittman, A Meditation on the Aramaic Our Father.

**Sunday**, March 26, 10 AM, Susan Urban, "Singing the Winter Away - A Spring Equinox"

Celebration.” Northern climes in late March are seldom Spring-like, and we find it hard to believe that Winter will ever come to an end. We will reflect on the darkness that is nearly past (believe it or not!), and consider what seeds of life we will plant for ourselves in the coming season of renewal.

**Sunday**, April 9, 10 AM, Rev. Sydney Morris, The Spirituality of Everyday Life.

**Sunday**, April 23, 10 AM, Pat Harrington, Spring is the Mischief.

**Sunday**, May 7, 10 AM, Rev. Carl Nelson

**Sunday**, May 21, 10 AM, Dawn Holt, Children’s Program

**Sunday**, June 4, 10 AM, Rabbi Dan Danson, Sex and Religion.

**Sunday**, June 18, 10 AM, Dr. Robert T. Pennock, The Creationist Controversy.

### Adult Religious Education

**Sunday**, March 5, 10:30 AM

Philosophy and Religion in the

Modern World, Video Lecture 15: Late-Medieval Nominalism and Christian Mysticism

**Sunday**, March 19, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 16: Protestantism--Problems of Grace.

**Sunday**, April 2, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 17: Descartes, Locke, and the Crisis of Modernity.

**Sunday**, April 16, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 18:

Leibniz and Theodicy

**Sunday**, April 30, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 19:

Hume's Critique of Religion

**Sunday**, May 14, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 20:

Kant--Reason Limited to Experience

**Sunday**, May 28, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 21:

Kant--Morality as the Basis of Religion

**Sunday**, June 11, 10:30 AM

P & R in Mod World, Video Lec 22:

Schleiermacher--Feeling as the Basis of Religion

### Notes from the President:

What a shame that storms south of us kept Doug Van Nostran from coming here from Illinois to lead our Retreat. Some of us were really looking forward to getting in touch with our roots. We'll try to reschedule the Retreat in more dependable weather.

The Committee charged with developing a strategy for handling bequests has been hard at work and will soon have recommendations for the consideration of the membership. The nominating committee has also been busy looking at candidates for Board positions and a Memorial Garden Committee member. Elections will be at the Annual Meeting in May.

Is there someone who would like to assume leadership of the Social Action Committee? Or would we rather just continue to do our community service on an individual basis? I've led this horse to water as many times as seems practical.

This weather makes me worry that the expression "nipped in the bud" is going to apply heavily in this area. The unusual warmth for February has conked the maples and oaks in my yard into bud. Branches have that slightly blurred silhouette that normally means the beginning of Spring. Oh, dear.

But maybe it's "if February comes, can Spring be far behind?"

Pat Harrington ·

## **Children's RE News**

Dawn Holt

The middle school youth continue their journey to churches of other faiths. In February the youth invited a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses to our fellowship to speak to them about her beliefs. They also attended a church school class at the local Christian Science Society. In March and April they will have a visit from a member of the Baha'i Faith, talk with Jane Winkler about paganism, and visit the Jewish Synagogue in Wausau. This will conclude their visiting unit and then they will begin to prepare their service for the fellowship to be presented in May. ·

## **Budget Requests Due March 12**

Committee chairpersons need to return their budget requests by March 12 to the finance committee—Patty Buehler, Joe Strauss, Ruth Erbs, or Myrle Wasko. These requests are necessary to determine our financial needs prior to **Pledge Sunday, April 2.** ·

## **All Families Seder Planned**

On the eve of Passover, Wednesday, April 19, at 6:00 PM, NUUs will again celebrate Exodus, the mother of all liberations. Including ceremony, music, and traditional foods for

dinner. We will explain “Why this night is different from all other nights.” Please make your reservations with Jerry Woolpy (356-6276, jerryw@earlham.edu) or Paul Braunstein (356-2428, paul+irma@centurytel.net) by Saturday, April 15. ·

## **Joys & Concerns**

We wish Ron Reupert a speedy recovery following his recent brief visit to the hospital.

**NUUs Ski:** Congratulations to Jean Polfus for her part as a member of the Lakeland Girls Cross Country Ski Team in their first place in the Wisconsin State High School Cross Country Ski competition. Congratulations to Joey and Tony Dallapiazza for their fine showing in the boys competition and to Claire Polfus for her fine finish in the Girls Junior Varsity.

**Welcome new members** Katie and Mark Bruhy. (The Membership Committee promises a more thorough introduction to Katie and Mark and other new members in our next issue.)

**Elated** Mary Ann and Dick Fields announce the expectation of their first grandchild! Their daughter Cathy, who lives in Texas, expects in September.

**Thanks** from Paul to Bob Dallapiazza for getting us ready for the fire inspector. (We may wonder just how many UUs it takes to change a light bulb.) •

## **Announcements:**

James Reeb U-U Congregation is hosting an area conference for high school youth from Wisconsin. The event is Friday night, March 24, through Sunday morning March 26: youth depart for home by 9:00 AM that morning unless they wish to stay for services. It is possible to come on Saturday or to leave on Saturday, if necessary. The first night will be spent at homes of congregation members; the Saturday night will be spent at our church, as is customary at these kinds of events. Please invite your youth to attend, and make it possible for them to do so with transportation and an adult advisor. Please contact me if you are new to this and want to learn more about how this works. Arthur Thexton, athexton@hotmail.com, 1721 Porter Ave., Madison, WI 53704-3830, 608-249-2702, fax 2746, work 608-266-9814.

Mark your calendar for the Central Midwest Annual Assembly 2000 taking

place in Appleton, WI from April 28-30. The deadline is March 31st. The cost is \$55 per adult, (\$75 after March 31st). See you there!

The General Assembly of the UUA will convene in Nashville, Tennessee, Thursday, June 22, at 7 PM. •

## Letters from UUSC

Dear Friends,

Please thank the members of your fellowship for supporting the work of the UUSC with Guest at Your Table gifts totaling \$519, with we received on January 12, 2000.

UUSC works to advance justice by combing human rights education and advocacy in the US with direct support for grassroots initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and the US.

Your support helps fulfill our role as a powerful voice for human rights and the values we share. On behalf of the UUSC's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and project pratners, than you for this generous gift.

Dear Friends,

Many months have passed since events in Kosovo prompted so many in our nation to show their commitment to human rights and dignity by donating funds for relief to those suffering from war in that region. I marvel at the response to Unitarian Universalists to our appeal for assistance at that critical moment. I'm writing today to thank you for the role you played in that extraordinary joint effort of the Service Committee and the UUA, and to provide your with a final update on the use of the funds that were contributed, more than \$400,000 in all.

Those funds have been committed to the relief and infrastructure building effort in Kosovo... Your support has also provided ongoing medical assistance and resources to rebuild the medical infrastructure in Kosovo...

Our efforts do have an impact; together we can, as the founders of the Service Committee believed 60 years ago, change lives and make the world a better place.

Thank you again for the role you are playing in the struggle for human rights and the relief of suffering in our world.

Editor's note: We have Terry Hoyt to thank for arranging our contribution to the Guest at Your Table fund and Paul Braunstein for our contributions to Kosovo Relief. Our congregation is fortunate to have their leadership, energy and commitment to a more

compassionate world. Thank you Terry. Thank you Paul.

We also have a note of thanks for “kindness & generosity” from the Vilas Food Pantry of Eagle River that I have not been able to attribute to any particular member. And we have yet another UUSC letter thanking us for our budgeted contribution of \$260. •

## Letter from the UUA

Dear Congregation President,

Enclosed you will find a certificate of appreciation for your full Fair Share support of the UUA of Congregations this current fiscal year. It is a testimony to your congregation’s commitment to stewardship of our larger faith community, so we ask that you display it proudly!

Our movement is growing: 6.3% increase in adult members during the past decade... Grants to congregations, students, ministers, districts and special projects have also risen to almost \$6 million per year. We see these trends continuing into the new century, as long as congregations such as yours continue to share and support the vision for the growth of Unitarian Universalism and the expression of our common religious values in the wider world... •

### E-Mail Addresses of NUUFs?

It would be helpful to have your e-mail address to include with the following that are already listed. Members and friends whose addresses do **not** appear below may send them to [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu). Thanks.

Don & Joyce Barnes, [djbarnes@newnorth.net](mailto:djbarnes@newnorth.net)  
Warner & Alicia Blackman, [warneal@centurytel.net](mailto:warneal@centurytel.net)  
Paul&Irma Braunstein, [paul+irma@centurytel.net](mailto:paul+irma@centurytel.net)  
Patty Buehler, [triciab@centurytel.net](mailto:triciab@centurytel.net)  
Ruth & Harley Erbs, [hoerhe@newnorth.net](mailto:hoerhe@newnorth.net)  
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Lee & Betty Zausner, [Lzaus@newnorth.net](mailto:Lzaus@newnorth.net)

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## **Chalice Lighters**

**The Power of \$30:** Did you know there are 860 Unitarian Universalists in the Central Midwest District who believe in the power of our faith and want to share it with others? They are Chalice Lighters and each year they donate \$30 to help three churches in the district fulfill their mission to include more people in Unitarian Universalism.

Chalice Lighters began in the spring of 1996 by the district's Growth and Support Committee. Since then over \$43,000 has been donated for eight churches in the district. A Chalice Lighter is an individual who pledges to give a minimum of \$10 three times a year for a specific project related to membership growth.

Just this fall over \$5,800 was raised for the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin. In order to reach out to people with physical disabilities in its community, it held a capital campaign to install an elevator and an electric chair in its historic building. Chalice Lighters helped Olympia Brown reach its goal.

In 1997 the Unitarian Church in Hobart, Indiana used its Chalice Lighter Award to launch a three-year, area-wide publicity program in Northern Indiana. In 1998 Emerson Chapel in Ellisville, Missouri used its Chalice Lighter award to hire a Chapel Coordinator to reach out and welcome its many visitors. In 1996 a new church start in Chicago, Church of the Open Door, received the first Chalice Lighter award.

Each church in the district may apply for a Chalice Lighter Award. Chalice Lighters from small churches support larger churches and Chalice Lighters in larger churches support smaller churches in their efforts to bring more people into Unitarian Universalism.

Chalice Lighter Awards are given for the following: initiating a new congregation, acquiring or enlarging meeting space for an existing congregation, hiring professional staff, for outreach or public relations and publicity programs.

The Growth and Support Committee, using specific criteria, decides which applying church received the Chalice Lighter Award.

If you believe in the power of Unitarian Universalism and want to share it with others, become a Chalice Lighter. It just might be the best tax deductible money you give all year. See Terry Hoyt for more information. (Submitted by Mary Ann Fields) ·

## **“The Assignment”**

**By Robert R. Walsh**

When I am away, here are some things I want you to do. I want you to take care of yourself. Button up your overcoat. Fasten your seat belt. Eat your vegetables. I want you to take care of someone else. Look for ways to help. Say, “I love you” (if you do). Hug a

friend. I want you to take care of your soul. Keep the different parts of your self in touch with one another. Listen for quiet clues about the path your life should be following. Be aware of what kind of world you are helping to make each day. Take good care of yourself.

(submitted by Paul Braunstein ) ·

## NUU Views

**Question:** According to Edward Rothstein in a New York Times Editorial, January 22, American intellectual academic, Stanley Fish, characterizes *liberalism*, “that grand achievement of the Enlightenment, that belief in a government of laws, that conviction that every individual deserves respect -- is bunk. It doesn't really exist and a lot of very bad things are done in its name... Liberalism enshrines reason and pretends disinterested nobility. But its notions are actually self-serving for a small group of believers. Liberalism preaches tolerance. But that means taking no point of view too seriously. Liberalism, like every system of belief, is just another form of narrow-minded, self-serving politics... He [Fish] actually likes a lot of the results of liberalism; what he objects to is the pretense that it is superior to any other doctrine... Mr. Fish rejects all such transcendent standards. There are no rules, only a messy adjustment to each situation. Without immutable principles, the only thing possible, Mr. Fish proposes, is a form of "inspired adhocery". Conflicting ideas must make their own way, case by case, continually vying for supremacy.” Are Unitarian Universalists with Fish supporting inspired adhocery or do we actually have transcendent standards of liberality?

**Answer** from Dick Fields: In my almost 40 years of being a Unitarian Universalist and being involved in 5 UU Churches/Fellowships in 3 states I early came to the conclusion that the majority of our members are left of center, liberal democrats. This is not surprising as we are a liberal religion and attract liberal thinking people. This is strength for those of us who are members and wish to be with like-minded people but is a weakness for the growth of our denomination as we have trouble attracting more conservatives minded people. Some of our members like it that way.

My dictionary defines a liberal as: a. Open minded, tolerant. b. Favoring civil and political liberties, democratic reform and protection from arbitrary authority. I agree with b. but have not found liberals to be more open minded and tolerant than conservatives. It has been stated that the objective of liberals should be to work for the “enlargement of the individuals opportunity to realize his/her full potential.” I do not believe all liberal causes and subsequent laws have done that. It is essential to have a safety net for people that can not make it on their own, but our laws should find a way for these individuals to become self sufficient as soon as possible. Time has shown that some causes that first appear to help



people actually end up keeping them from realizing their full potential. Some conservatives blame individual or groups of individuals for taking advantage of the system, what they should be doing is blaming the system and trying to correct it.

Are UU's supporting liberal issues as they arise or do we have an agenda for the better good of mankind? I would answer yes to both these questions. There are some that have not met a liberal cause that they could not support. I feel that liberals believe they are acting to support causes that will benefit mankind and have done so in many cases by protecting individual citizens against powerful interest groups and from hardships that they have not brought on themselves.

The seven Unitarian Universalist Association Principles, which decorate the wall in our Fellowship building, are directed to the value of the individual in our society. We agree with and support these Principles. How we accomplish these liberal goals is the issue.

**Answer** from Terry Hoyt: I must admit that I have no idea what "inspired adhocery" is and therefore have no notion if I have ever fell prey to it. I know my attitudes toward political and economic "liberals" always found me falling along the lines of Fish's skepticism.

When it comes to religious "liberalism" as practiced by Universalists I have never had that problem. It is bottom line "liberation"--being freed from any particular stigmatizing creed. It is the message of universal salvation. It is the message of love everyone and everything. No Baptist conservatism here--"believe as we do or go to hell, directly to hell, and stay in hell." Nope, Universalists are liberally accepting that everyone is going to be with them in the afterworld. I suppose these "liberal" notions start to lose their simplistic empowerment if you view things as only happening here on earth. We have a much greater tendency to get judgmental about others. If you think you have to be right then you're not a religious liberal. Ghandi was always my role model as to how to be a religious liberal.

So let me answer the question--true Universalists--those who believe as historical Universalists believe were truly religious liberals. Unitarians had a way of viewing Christian beliefs that were oriented towards "we're right and your wrong", but because they found themselves sharing Universalist's liberality merged with them and considered themselves religious liberals. So sometimes Unitarian Universalists do support inspired adhocery and sometimes they actually have transcendent standards of liberality. Our new liberating attitude--so we don't have to convince people of an afterlife--is that we are all part of the great circle of life--the interdependent web of existence. We're all on this trip together--so stop fighting in the backseat and enjoy the ride. •

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, April 9, 2000.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

