
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 14,

2001 **Coming Sundays**

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, February 25, Laszlo Balogh

Sunday, 10 AM, March 11, Rev. Glenda Walker, For Good People To Do Nothing.

Sunday, 10 AM, March 25, Rev. Charlotte Saleska of the UU Church in Wausau.

Sunday, 10 AM, April 8, Dan Rondello, The Quest For Spirituality

Sunday, 10 AM, April 22, Allison Slavick

Sunday, 10 AM, May 6, Terry Hoyt, Mother's Day

Sunday, 10 AM, May 20, Children's Program

Sunday, 10 AM, June 3, Rabbi Dan Danson

Adult Religious Education

Sunday, 10:30 AM, February 18, Video "Medical Ethics" followed by a discussion.

On alternate Sundays at 10:30 AM, when we do not have services, we watch and discuss video tapes on religious and ethical topics.

Committees Urged to Meet to Propose Budgets

Patty Buehler

The finance committee is distributing budget request forms for the next fiscal year, July 1-June 30, via email to the chairs of each committee. The chairs will also receive a copy of their last year's budget request. We urge committees to meet soon to consider their budgets. The following members will be sent these materials for their committees.

Terry Hoyt—Program

Dawn Holt--Children's RE

Patty Buehler—Finance
 Joe Strauss--Social Justice
 Ruth Erbs—Publicity
 Dawn McClusker--Social Activities
 Bev Strauss—Hospitality
 Joyce Barnes—Music
 Terry Hoyt--Adult RE
 Patty Buehler—Membership
 Bob Dallapiazza--Blding & Grnds
 Doris Eberlein--Memorial Garden
 Jerry Woolpy--NUUSLETTER
 Don Barnes—Building Planning

Please let Patty Buehler know if the materials should be rerouted to another committee member. And, please complete the forms and return them to Patty by April 1, (triciab@centurytel.net, P.O. Box 483, Minocqua, WI 54548, 356 6276). These budget forms will help the finance committee determine our financial needs.

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

Fund Raiser: The fellowship high school students will be offering a luncheon after the April 8th service. This will be a fund raiser to support their trip to a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Chicago. They will be working at the shelter over a weekend in late April. This trip is being planned with the help of Rev. Ms. Denise Tracy. There will be more information to come ---- But put this date on your calendar and come see what these youths cook up.

Coming of Age: This year's COA class is looking at a busy spring. The youth will be working in a homeless shelter, writing their faith statements, preparing for their May 20

NORTHWOODS UU FELLOWSHIP			
2ND QTR REPORT ENDING 12/31/00			
	BUDGET	AMT TO DATE	
REVENUE			
Pledging Units	24800		14640
Midyear Pledges	1200		365
Sunday Donations	1500		1216
Hymnal			31
Note Paper	0		15
Memorial Garden	0		40
New sletter	0		32
Interest	0		29
Debt Reduction	<u>0</u>		100
TOTAL		27500	16468
EXPENSES			
Program	4000		1185
Childrens R.E.	4660		2227
Adult R.E.	350		0
Music	<u>250</u>		<u>100</u>
SPIRIT. GRWTH & LRN		9260	3512
Dues	2900		2912
Publicity	760		185
Social Justice	500		0
UU Service Comm	300		300
Meeting Fund	<u>500</u>		<u>0</u>
COMM PRES & DEN SP		4960	3397
New sletter	1080		311
Membership	200		149
Hospitality	200		101
Library	50		0
Social Activities	100		60
Finance	100		0
Office Supplies	<u>300</u>		<u>61</u>
MEMBER GRWTH & SP		2030	682
Mortgage	5450		2723
Addl Debt Reduction	1200		700
Natural Gas	475		211
Electricity	325		208
Snow Plow ing	375		175
Telephone	400		236
Insurance	400		403
Maintenance	125		47
Building & Grounds	500		0
Building Planning	750		0
Memorial Garden	<u>250</u>		<u>0</u>
ORG GRWTH & DEV		10250	4703
CONTINGENCY		500	0
BUILDING RESERVE		<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL		27500	12294

program, and planning their year end trip to Boston. This is an exciting time. As of now there are 9 youth involved in COA and 4 COA graduates that will be traveling to Boston. We are in need of a male chaperone for this trip. If interested please contact Dawn Holt at 543-8168. (You do not need to be a parent of one of these youths to chaperone.)

Joys & Concerns

Terry Hoyt is back with us and doing well!

Thanks to the prompt attention of Building and Grounds Chairmen, Bob Dallapiazza the locks on our two outside doors work again and so does the dishwasher. Bob reminds us to use only dishwasher soap and not dish detergent in the dishwasher, else it's likely to over-suds and clog.

Thanks to Paul Braunstein, Jerry Woolpy, Patty Buehler, Joyce and Don Barnes, and Bev Strauss for bagging groceries, keeping records, and passing out goods at the Minocqua Food Pantry February 12th and 13th. Eighty-eight adults and forty-nine children were served.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth Erbs

Announcements

Robert Schubert is giving a violin concert at the home of Joyce & Don Barnes Sunday, Feb. 18, 4:30 PM. The concert will be followed by a Greek Feast. Donation, \$15 apiece.

The Finance Committee will meet, Sunday, February 25th, after services.

The Social Justice committee will have its next meeting on February 25th after the service. At the last meeting (2 weeks ago) the committee discussed some possible activities. One of those was volunteering at a cultural fair put on by the Intercultural Leadership Initiative on June 23rd. This group works to bring Native American and non-Native American kids together. For more information about this project contact Dawn McCusker.

The Central Midwest District Annual Assembly will be held in Springfield IL, April 27-29. The keynote speaker is Cynthia Breen, UUA Director of Religious Education. Register in March.

Five Alaskan UU Congregations invite you to visit them this summer for the WhaleCoast Eco-Spirituality Tours for 10 or 17 days in July and August. Stay in UU homes, enjoy parties with them and see Alaska's breathtaking fjords, glaciers, Mt. McKinley, wildlife, totem poles, native art and dancing, national parks, train trips and cruises. Contact uuwhale@aol.com or toll-free 1-866-889-4253 or www.uuwhale.org. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, guides.

See Willie Play

Willie Nelson will be performing at the Big Top Chautauqua near Bayfield, Wisconsin, Wednesday and Thursday, July 19 and 20 for \$75, \$60 or \$40 a ticket. Tell Terry Hoyt ya' want to go! thoyt@newnorth.net or 356-3908. You'll hear songs like, It's a Bloody Mary Mornin, Phase and Stages, No Love Around, Sister's Comin Home, It's not spos-ta be that way, I still can't believe you're gone, Pretend it never happened, Down at the corner beer joint, Amazing grace, If you can touch her at all, A couple more years, Pick up the tempo, The star spangled banner (as sung at the world series—when he couldn't remember the words), Night life, Ain't it funny how time slips away, Blue eyes crying in the rain, Georgia on my mind, My heroes have always been cowboys, On the road again, Crazy, Hello walls, Night life, Good hearted woman, Ain't life hell.

And, Loretta Lynn, The coal miner's daughter, is coming to Big Top on Saturday, August 4; Ralph Stanley, blue grass Bill Monroe's successor, will be there on Tuesday, August 7.

(See <http://www.bigtop.org/>)

NUU Views

Question: Question: In the 3rd century, addressing the question, "What is the final authority in our lives?" Origenes said, "Study science, philosophy and astronomy. Study history and other religions. The Bible is a gift for the educated and compassionate heart. Do not take it literally. The Mount Sinai that counts is not the mountain in the desert, but the heights inside your heart. Miracles are NOT events outside your heart." How are UUs informed by Origenes and what is the final authority in our lives? (Readers are encouraged to answer this question and comment on the answers provided by others.)

Answer from Dick Fields: My research indicates Origenes was a Greek born in Alexandria Egypt. He was a Christian, a teacher and a biblical scholar and was imprisoned and tortured for his teachings and died a few years thereafter. He was a Unitarian in that he believed Christ was subordinate to God in power and dignity.

Our Newsletter Editor asks the question, "What is the final authority in our lives?" I find this a difficult question to answer, even though I believe Origenes stated it is faith in love and the pursuit of freedom. To me this is not a satisfactory answer as it is too general and there has to be more to it than that. I feel more comfortable with the question, "What or who is the final authority in our lives?"

I do not believe the final authority is a Supreme Being. It is easy to say that the individual is the final authority and has to accept responsibility for his/her action. But it is selfish and uncivilized to believe one can do anything he wants to do as long as it feels

good, as some preached in the 60's. To live in a civilized community, including our Fellowship, one has to consider what effect his actions has on others and he has to abide by certain rules/laws. For example, there could be utter chaos during our annual meetings if we did not follow an agreed upon system, such as Roberts Rule of Order or follow the democratic process. I do believe the individual is the final authority, but in order to coexist for the benefit of society one has to follow an ethical and thoughtful standard of behavior. If you are an ethical and loving individual then the "heights inside your heart" will inspire you to do the right thing.

Answer from Terry Hoyt: Origenes reinforces the tasks that UUs have set out for themselves. We seek the truth in all its hiding places: science, philosophy, astronomy, history and other religions. Long ago UUs rejected a literal interpretation of the Bible, but continue to find innumerable truths in the Bible.

The search for truth for UUs allows them to find final authority in different places. And it is what they have taken into their hearts that gives them strength, understanding and comfort.

We call ourselves a "beacon of light in the Northwoods". Our "beacon" is a beacon of illumination. We are willing to shine the light upon ideas that might otherwise be hidden. But our "beacon" is not to be confused with a light that is the source of all knowledge.

Here are words that I grew up with (and continue to believe in), "As Universalists we believe that mankind's spiritual development is best served through an attitude of free inquiry and of open mind. We impose no fixed creed but are associated in the spirit of these words:

Love is the doctrine of this Church,
The quest of Truth is its sacrament,
and Service is its prayer;
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve mankind in fellowship,
To the end that all souls shall grow into
harmony with the Divine:
Thus do we covenant with each other
and with our God.

What is a Worship Service?

Excerpted from newsletter of First UUs of Wausau

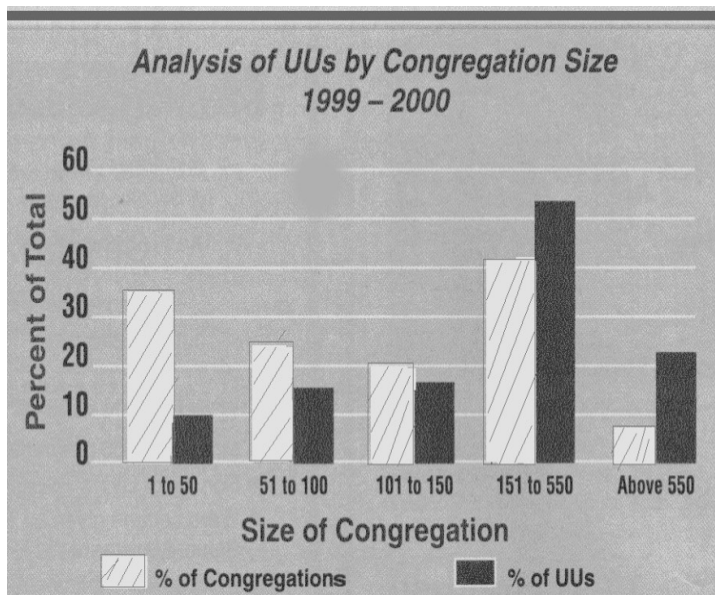
Some UUs don't like the word, "worship" because it conjures up images of prostrating oneself before a God who is demanding, harsh, and maybe even sadistic. And the word may be distasteful to some who have bad memories of childhood worship services.

The word itself comes from the Old English, with the meaning, “worth-ship,” a concept suggesting that we pay attention to that which is of worth.

Worship services should be meaningful. First of all, they should speak to our innermost concerns—our anxieties, our hurts, our fears, and also to our joys, our loves, our excitements. They should speak to our togetherness as a congregation, bringing us closer to one another as a community. While the sermon is usually the main portion, all the other parts—the music, the silences, the candles, the sharing of announcements about our church and community activities, the readings – all should work together, bringing a sense of unity and purpose and speaking to both our heads and hearts.

People come to church with varieties of feelings and needs: some may be on a high; others may be in a sort of ordinary, uninteresting place...and there are some people who come to church deeply hurting, with soul pain. And so, although humor and lightness may be appropriate to a certain degree, the worship service as a whole must speak to those varieties of spirit conditions. The service may serve people in a variety of ways; it may lift their spirits, challenge them, give them new hope, give them a change of direction...

UU World Reports 155,449 UUs in 1051 Congregations



Distributed as shown in the graph below.

Notice that a third of the UUA congregations have 50 or fewer adult members and more than half of the congregations have 100 or fewer adult members. (See UUWorld Magazine Jan/Feb p 54 and

Slow Dance

Anonymous poem of a dying child
from Marshfield UU Newsletter

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?
You better slow down. Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last.
Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask, "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?
When the day is done do you lie in your bed
With the next hundred chores running through your head?
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last.
Ever told your child/spouse/parent/friend we'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste, not seen the sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die 'cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last.
When you run so fast to get somewhere You miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day.
It is like an unopened gift thrown away.
Life is not a race. Do take it slower.
Hear the music before the song is over.

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 arrange to received the NUUSLETTER by email or they may have it posted to them. Notify jerryw@earlham.edu to receive the NUUSLETTER by email.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, April 8, 2001.

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
