
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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

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February 24,

2003 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, 10 AM, March 9, Rev. Sydney Morris. The Liberal Church and Homosexuality?

Sunday, 10 AM, March 23, Eric Yonke, Professor of History, UW-Stevens Point

Sunday, 10 AM, April 6, Rev. Sydney Morris.

Sunday, 10 AM, April 20, Terry Hoyt

Sunday, 10 AM, May 4, Rev. Sydney Morris.

On alternate Sundays we meet at 10 AM for adult religious education. 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.

Joys & Concerns

Claire Polfus was a Lakeland Athlete of the Month for December. As co-captain for the girls' Lakeland Nordic Ski Team her enthusiasm, experience and skill are "an asset to all the members of the team." Claire's goal is to help retain the state title for the team for a fifth year in a row and again to ski for the USSA. ▪

Kyla Norris was Lac du Flambeau Elementary School student of the month of November for the seventh grade.

Announcements

The Membership Committee would like to assemble **historical information** (written & pictures) on the fellowship and put it into pamphlet form. If anyone is interested in helping with this project or has any appropriate items, please e-mail Sharon VanRaalte at vanraalte@klinktech.net ▪

There will be a **Social Justice Committee meeting** on February 26, 2003 at 3 p.m. at the Fellowship. The agenda will include discussions of: The Laramie Project, the budget and the Patriot Act evening. Everyone is invited to attend. ▪

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a viewing of the HBO movie "**The Laramie Project**" following our Fellowship meeting on March 9th. This is the movie

about the murder of Matt Shepherd, a gay student, in Laramie, Wyoming. There will be a discussion after the film. Bring a sack lunch. If anyone is in need of child care during the showing of the film and discussion of the Laramie Project please email Audrey at adala718@centurytel.net or call her at 715-762-3434 before March 1st. ▪

Friday night Film night is scheduled for the second Friday night of every month at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. In February we viewed a Chinese film "The King of Masks." Everyone agreed that it was very well done. Tim and Anne Marie are selecting the film that will be shown March 14. If it is available, they plan to show an Iranian film called "The Children of Heaven." ▪

The Social Activities Committee are planning an **evening of music and story telling** followed by a potluck on March 30th at 4 p.m. This is a participatory, family affair and everyone is encouraged to attend, sing-a-long, perform and/or tell a story. Tom Sommerfeld and Joyce Barnes are co-ordinating the event. There will be an open mike, but if you would like to arrange your performance in advance you should call Joyce at 715-358-2793. Because we want to be sure to include everyone, we are asking that you keep your story or performance to about three minutes. We want everyone to participate, young and old, so please mark your calendars and plan to join the fun. ▪

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a **discussion of The Patriot Act and other civil liberty issues** on April 7, 2003 at 7p.m. Chris Ahmuty, Wisconsin Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union will speak and lead the discussion. Mark your calendars. More information will be available at a later date. ▪

Brainstorming session, April 6 following the coffee hour to consider **youth activities**, a means of providing a unique service and acquainting families with the fellowship. Open to all interested persons. (Joan Hauer) ▪

The second annual Bed and Breakfast **weekend hosted by The UU Fellowship of Door County** (UUFDC), in Sister Bay, WI will be held July 18, 19 and 20, 2003. See webpage uufdc.org ▪

Central Midwest District Annual Meeting: April 4-6, at The Unitarian Church of Evanston. ▪

Midwest UU Leadership School: Sessions July 16-23 or July 26-August 2, foster effective lay leadership to benefit congregations. Email Jan Steinmark, Registrar, mrsmosaic@aol.com ▪

Minister's Report

February 18th 2003

Growth Workshop: As the Board may recall, after researching and consulting colleagues and District Execs around the country, I designed a workshop to address the question of growth, which I conducted on January 11th, 2003. The timing, duration and content of this workshop were explicitly discussed at October and November Board meetings. It was intended to be part of a partnership between the Minister and the Board to address the issue of membership growth at NUUF.

As discussed over the spring and summer of 2002, our relationship is one of a

mutual ministry. My work in three areas of our Letter of Agreement -- nurturing the Fellowship community, relating to the surrounding community, and denominational connection – is largely discretionary. I work cooperatively with committees (coordinating with Membership, Long Range Planning, Social Justice, Finance and Program particularly). The fourth area in our Letter of Agreement, growth, has been agreed upon as a joint project between the Board and the Minister, in coordination with the whole Fellowship and especially Membership and Long Range Planning.

While my report gives a full accounting of the workshop, two points from that workshop may be appropriate to address at this Board meeting. The need for clarification of “how things get done around here” was particularly noted. Participation by members can be subtly and unintentionally undercut by the desire to just “get it done” with the result that people unconsciously start to pull back. All of a sudden the “just get it done” folks feel that “no one does anything around here but me.” The nurturing of participation may not seem efficient, but in the long run it is the only thing that insures a healthy participatory congregation.

Secondly, there was agreement that growth in membership of people with younger children would be wonderful. So far, Charmaine Winters is interested in helping, I have begun to contact others, and it was discussed at Membership Committee meeting. I look forward to working with Joan Hauer who is on both the Board and Membership Committee to develop a way for the Fellowship to address this issue more thoroughly.

State Incentive Grant: A three-year grant has been awarded to a consortium organized by Bob Kovar to develop programming for youth. There will be about \$118,000 available per year. The project goals are outlined in the grant:

“The Wisconsin Youth Risk Survey (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2002) states that, “A youth’s behavior is influenced by a complexity of experiences and influences. The positive influences that shape behavior are assets. These assets can protect youth from risk behaviors as well a promote healthy behaviors.” The challenge for many youth prevention programs is to find a method for youth to access healthy behavior as an outcome when tempted or faced with reacting to a situation that involves high-risk behaviors. A great deal of research is currently focused on understanding the concept of resilience or why some people do well with adverse situation and others do not. Resiliency is defined as the human capacity to face, overcome and be strengthened by experiences of adversity (Grotbery, 1997). Resilience proposes that prevention programs best succeed by focusing on the promotion of holistic health-emotional, social, physical, intellectual and spiritual (Bernard, 2001).”

The consortium, of some 30 people representing agencies and groups across Vilas County and from Lac du Flambeau, has been meeting every other week to begin to design programming for youth. I am there representing the Lakeland Minister’s Association, where I am the Vice President. (There is no President, but there is a convener, Chaplain Bob Barnes from Howard Young Hospital). I initiated a discussion at the ministerium meeting regarding these matters, and we will discuss it more fully next month. In order to bring our perspective to the ministerium, I would like to ask you the question we are requested to address at the consortium: What, in your experience, works well in youth

programs?

[ADDENDUM: The Board responded to this request with the following:

Hands on projects: Building something together, contributing to the community together. Starting at an early age Adults and kids involved together. Programs need to involve families, give complete information and wholistic (not just legalistic) perspective, use up to date teaching methodology, truthfully name the situation regarding drug use in our communities and in the country. Support for adults in dealing with kids. Help not just letting drug use go, help advocating for and struggling with the kid. Address adult substance abuse with the adults. Intercultural Leadership Initiative is doing good work] Sydney ▪

Musicians Sought For Sunday Services

Fellowship musicians of all ages who are interested in playing, either during offertory or accompanying hymn singing may sign up on a schedule which will be posted in the kitchen of the fellowship hall. The members of our congregation enjoy hearing each individual musician and appreciate the time and effort expended in learning the music.

Joyce Barnes, Music Committee Chairperson, has requested two or three volunteers for membership on the music committee, to help plan the programs for the upcoming fiscal year. Joyce will continue to be available as the musician for those services which are not otherwise assigned. ▪

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board Meeting 1-09-03

Present: Terry Hoyt, Ruth Erbs, Alan Van Raalte, Sydney Morris, and Patty Buehler

Minutes of last meeting: Alan Van Raalte moved to accept the minutes as modified. Ruth Erbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report: 11-17-02 -1-8-03 expenses-\$5342.79

revenue-\$4389.78

bank balance-\$17405.95

2nd quarter report:

expenses (July 1, 2002-Jan 1, 2003) \$17782

Alan Van Raalte moved to accept the report. Patty Buehler seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Minister's report: The report was received.

Growth workshop: The board approved a growth workshop facilitated by Sydney Morris on January 11 from 12:30-3:00.

Chalice Lighters: Terry Hoyt will write an article about Chalice Lighters for the NUUSLETTER.

UU Women's Heritage Society: The board has sponsored Irma Braunstein as a sustaining member.

Green Sanctuary: No action has been taken.

Certification for General Assembly: Ruth Erbs moved to designate Terry Hoyt as our one delegate. Patty Buehler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Building Use Request: Patty Buehler moved to approve the use of the building by Betsy Schusler for yoga classes on Thursday from 11:00-12:30, starting on Jan. 23. Ruth Erbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Committee Report Summaries:

Building and Grounds and Membership meeting: At a joint meeting, those in attendance agreed to have the carpet cleaned and to address the purchase of a bookcase and a chair rail at a later date.

Social Justice: The Martin Luther King observance was discussed. A committee statement of purpose was approved. Tim Kratz will be invited to the next Social Justice meeting to present the film "Laramie Project". (Copies of reports may be obtained through a request to Patty Buehler.)

Fire Proof Box: Alan Van Raalte moved to authorize Terry Hoyt to purchase a fire proof box for our Member Book and Memorial garden records and to use contingency funds. Ruth Erbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Past minutes: The board directed Patty Buehler to check on the state of minutes from meetings from past years, and to report at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 9:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Buehler ▪

Crossing Bridges

A poem by Alan VanRaalte in response to the loss of our friend Brian Hutton

We can only build bridges over troubled
waters

We cannot calm the raging torrents
We can reach out in love and compassion
But whether we embrace is not for us to
decide

Some will find within themselves
the courage to cross the bridge
to the other side and to feel
the shelter of welcoming arms

Some will be unable to venture out
perhaps because they learned once
not all bridges are safe
not all arms are welcoming

Others will start across the bridge
but either by fate or by doubt

lose their way and fall into the abyss
before they reach safe havens

But we can only build the bridge
We can only encourage their crossing
We cannot cross the bridge for them
They must cross it themselves

We welcome those who cross the bridge
and rejoice in their crossing
We mourn those who cannot cross
or try but lose their way. ▪

From Cuba

Amy Holt

Hello all! I am currently somewhere between Cuba and Brazil. Things are great and Cuba was absolutely amazing. I really don't have the words for it.

I got to meet students from the University of Havana and they showed me and my friends around the city. I also got to have a Santeria reading done (Santeria is one of the religions found in Cuba). To top it all off, we were all able to go to a speech by Fidel Castro especially for us. It was pretty incredible. He's really intelligent and well read and can talk for hours on end. The city was full of history and a variety of walks of life. There was music everywhere and the shops and food were amazing. Everyone emphasized the difference between the American people and the American government. I really wish I could describe it better for all of you. I took lots of pictures and I can't wait to see them.

Life on the ship. It's amazing how quickly one adjusts to completely new surroundings. It is no longer strange to look outside and see nothing but water. Although many of my friends have been sick, the motion of the ship has had very little effect on me. I've now been to all my classes and they seem interesting, but they're classes none-the-less.

Well, I'm off. We'll be in Brazil in about a week. I'm really looking forward to it. I miss being able to share these experiences with all of you, but I'm having an amazing time. Miss you all. ▪

From Brazil

Amy Holt

So, after 10 days at sea I've been in Salvador Brazil for the last 5 days. I love it. Ship life is great. The ocean is so beautiful and I can watch it for hours while I pretend to do homework. (Yes, I am studying, don't worry.)

We crossed the equator on Feb 2 (I think) so we celebrated Neptune Day. This involved getting fish guts dumped on my head, wading across the pool to clean off and kissing a fish. For some people, the festivities also included shaving their head. After long and hard deliberation, I decided that I couldn't go through with it. I do not regret my

decision at all. It was a great day and the only day of no class that we've had on the ship.

We got to Brazil a few days ago islands and swam and sunned. (By the way, I hope you are all enjoying winter because this weather is beautiful.) Yesterday I went to a pre-Carnival parade and I think it was my favorite part of this port. It was so high energy, with amazing costumes and dancing. The other thing I love about Brazil is that there is music everywhere. Most of it is samba variations or capoeira music. However, the internet cafe I'm in right now is playing Eric Clapton. I feel like there's so much more I could say. You'll all just have to wait to see pictures to see what I'm really doing. ▪ and that means we got mail. Thanks Mom, Dad, and Cora for your card. It made my day. Salvador is hot. It's been over 90 everyday and it's humid as well. The first day here I went to a favela (very poor area) and we visited a school. It was really hard but a wonderful experience. I also got to go to a capoeira school, which I loved. And today, we went to 2

From South Africa

Amy Holt

Greetings from Cape Town, South Africa. It's beautiful here, much like Wisconsin only tropical and without humidity. Perfect weather. Where to begin...The first day I was here I got to participate in Operation Hunger. It was a wonderful experience but very depressing. We went to very poor informal squatter settlements and weighed children to determine if they were undernourished. Fortunately, not many of them were. But it was still an emotionally challenging day. I think it may have been one of the best SAS trips I've been on because we actually got to participate and interact with the people rather than just stare at them. I also got to just visit one of the townships and see the District 6 Museum. It's a memorial to those who were displaced during the Apartheid regime. We didn't have nearly enough time to really explore it but what I saw reminded me of the Holocaust Museum in DC. This morning I went out to Robben Island and toured the prison where political prisoners were kept during the Apartheid years. Wow. More fun things: saw whales coming into the port at 4:30am, saw seals in the harbor, fun shopping, dinner with Jen Curran from LUHS, amazing street musicians, Table Mountain at sunset (was a wuss and took a cable car instead of hiking), and more that I can't remember. I think that everyone from the ship fell in love with Cape Town immediately. Maybe it's because everything is easy here with no language barriers. It's just beautiful and everyone is really friendly and asks about our trip (Our ship is the biggest one in the harbour). I quite take in the fact that I'm in Africa right now. But I'm loving it. More latter from Tanzania. Take care. I miss all of you. ▪

NUU Views

Question: Imagine what freedom must mean to those who seek it desperately, people in bondage from the action of governments. Why are the revolutionary principles of freedom upon which our country was founded so dear to us? Are they still "self-evident"?

Are we willing to give them up in the name of security? True conservatives, libertarians, and liberals once agreed that the fundamental rights of each American were protected from the majority no matter what, and that they were entitled to be treated by their government as individuals and not as members of groups. But the USA Patriot Act, authored by the administration, passed last October before many members of congress had read it. This bill enhanced the power of the executive and abrogated much of the fundamental constitutional judicial review to which, until now, we have been entitled. In the name of security we can now be searched without warrant. The Attorney General can designate any group we belong to as "domestic terrorist" including political and war protest, and then he can deny us our fundamental rights. (See Wendy Kaminer, UU World, Jan/Feb 2002, page 21 ff.) Question: Is this consistent with UU principles and is it ok under the circumstances?

Answer from Wenda Sheard: Most Americans no longer see the revolutionary principles of freedom upon which our country was founded. Although most Americans live and breathe benefits from those principles, the principles themselves have disappeared into the backdrop of their minds. Most Americans, blinded by bitter combinations of complacency in their lives, ignorance of the past, and fear of terrorism, passively permit the Patriot Act's erosion of their liberties.

Yes, the Patriot Act violates our UU principles. In fact, it violates almost all of them. I am appalled that our leaders have forgotten history and started us down the road to becoming terrorists ourselves. I am appalled that the United States Department of Justice has been drafting even worse legislation, the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003 (dubbed "Patriot II").

I have faith that both the Patriot Act and the proposed Patriot Act II will die if and when they reach the United States Supreme Court. If at all politically possible, our Supreme Court justices, sworn to uphold the Constitution, will recognize that the legislation unconstitutionally infringes upon our basic civil liberties.

Yes, our Supreme Court justices do consider politics when rendering their decisions, but luckily they require only a scintilla of politics to sway them to act in a manner consistent with the Constitution. We UUs, together with other civil libertarians and librarians, can supply the needed political voice to help the justices do what's right. We have work to do.

I urge all UUs to speak against the Patriot Act and prevent Patriot II. Visit the American Civil Liberties Union website (www.aclu.org) and the American Library Association (www.ala.org) websites, among others, for more information. ■

Answer from Alan VanRaaltes: It is impossible for me to imagine what freedom must mean to those who don't have it. As repressive as the most onerous provisions of the USA Patriot Act are, they hardly compare, at least for US citizens, to what the people of Iraq, Saudi Arabia or the old People's Republics of Anywhere in Eastern Europe have experienced.

I think that the principles of freedom on which our country was founded are as much evolutionary as they are revolutionary and that love of liberty is hard-wired into the genes of all human beings. However, some who have always been free may take that freedom for granted as polls today suggest that a substantial number of Americans are willing to forfeit

their civil liberties to insure their own security. But I see security as an illusion if it comes at the expense of liberty.

From what I know about the USA Patriot Act many provisions not only violate UU principles, but also violate the Constitution, specifically the Bill of Rights, and it is not OK under these or any other circumstances to suspend the liberties guaranteed by them. Benjamin Franklin warned that those who would sacrifice liberty for security are apt to lose both. Liberties lost to the war on terrorism are victories for the terrorists. Historically, liberties lost during times of war and civil strife (the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, the invasive wire taps of the NAACP and Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement, the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 and the incarceration of those who openly opposed WWI) have taken decades to regain.

The USA Patriot Act makes judicial overview particularly problematic. If the administration gets away with detaining people it claims to be terrorists, trying them in secret military courts, denying them access to counsel and keeping secret from the press, the courts and their families, the names of detainees, how can the courts ever protect the rights of those caught in this nefarious web?

As I watch those who actively oppose the administration's rush to war with Iraq and its assault on the privacy of its citizens in the name of fighting terrorism, I see that they often come under attack as being radical, unpatriotic and even un-American by those who seem to put security ahead of liberty. Surely Germans of the 1930's and 1940's who were criticized by Americans after the Second World War for not opposing Hitler's pursuit of world domination and genocide would have experienced remonstrance by "patriotic" Germans had they done so. But can we do less than we expect of others? I believe that we cannot allow this grossly misnamed assault on civil liberties to go unchallenged. As we would have had conscientious Germans speak out against tyranny, so too must we speak out against our leaders driving the nation down the slippery slope of unbridled fear.

Answer from Dick Fields: In fighting terrorists that are intent on destroying us and our way of life the governments strategy is to get them before they get us. That is the purpose of the Patriot Act. No one wants to see their individual rights infringed upon but we are living in a time that maybe the most dangerous period in the history of the United States. If implementation of the Patriot Act saves human lives, by allowing our government to investigate and stop those planning terrorism acts, would it be justified? I hope so. ▪

Place Stamp Here

The question for the next NUUSLETTER is: Unitarian Universalism is a catholic religion in that we are in sympathy with all people and attuned to a wide range of ideas not limited to our immediate experience. Explain and provide an example that illustrates our roots in this descriptive word that comes from the Greek, *kata*, in regard to, plus *holos*, the whole.

Send answers to jerryw@earlham.edu by April 6th. ▪

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. **Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, April 6, 2003**

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