



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 10, Number 8

February

15, 2009 **Coming Sundays**

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

March 1: Trish Kirk: *"Ethical Eating: Compassionate Choices Food and Environmental Justice"*

March 15: Besty Schussler: *"Rabindranath Tagore: Poet of Bengal, UU @ Heart"*

March 29: Rev. Glenda Walker *"Grist for the Mill"*

"Worship is the central act of the religious community.... The root of the word worship is the Anglo Saxon for worth, and worship is the way we celebrate what we hold worthy."

---Rev. William Sinkford

Adult Religious Education

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

We continue a sixteen lecture series entitled *Power Over People: Classical and Modern Political Theory*. The course is taught by Dennis Dalton, PhD,

of Barnard College. "These lectures examine some of the fundamental questions that have shaped Western political thought since its inception in Athens in the fifth century BC, together with some of the most influential answers that political theorists have proposed.... The first involves the essential characteristics of human nature and the good society.... The second set of fundamental questions involves the relationship between the individual and the society.... The final set of questions involves theories of change."

February 22: Special Program with Trish Kirk on Ethical Eating

March 8: Hitler's Use of Power

March 22: Gandhi's Use of Power

Please join us for this highly stimulating series of lectures.

From the President

One of the joys of traveling around the country is being able to visit other UU churches and fellowships. Here in San Jose, California, there are three within driving distance. After looking at the websites of each on the internet, I decided to go up to Los Gatos last Sunday and attend services at the Los Gatos UU Fellowship. Although they have been around a lot longer than we have (since 1949) they have had a somewhat similar history. They began to meet in someone's home, later met in a community building, and finally constructed a building of their own. For most of their history they have been lay-led, hiring a full-time minister just a few years ago. Currently they have about 110 members.

The sermon topic was what really pulled me in. Rev. Victoria Ingram spoke on "Is This Really a Church?" I have been particularly interested in this ever since one of my former high-school classmates, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, tried to get the tax exempt status of the Red River Unitarian Church of Denison, Texas taken away. Carole, who was a lot more sensible when I knew her in high school, has had a successful political career, becoming the first woman mayor of Austin and finally getting elected as State Comptroller of Public Accounts in 1998. In 2004 she suddenly decided that Unitarian Universalists, since they did not hold to a single system of beliefs, or require a belief in a supernatural being, were not worthy of being called a religion.

She initially vowed to fight the case all the way to the Supreme Court, but was forced to backtrack when someone reminded her that Unitarians and Universalists have been around for several hundred years, and that a number of notable individuals like John Adams claimed membership.

Rev. Ingram's message was different. She acknowledged that many of us have had negative experiences with the word "church," since it has sometimes been associated with rigidity, dogma, and inflexibility. To her, churches are primarily communities of people who come together to seek spiritual, emotional, and intellectual support. This was brought home during Joys and Concerns when one of the members thanked all those who had come to his support during a recent personal crisis. I was impressed by the warmth and love that I felt in this congregation, even as a visitor. I felt very welcomed, as I know that all visitors do when they come to services at our fellowship. And as I left the Fellowship, I couldn't help but feel a bit sorry for my friend Carole, whose view of religion seems so narrow and stilted. If I ever get the chance, I'll be sure to invite her to Church. Jim

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

February 22: Adult RE Program on Ethical Eating Issues

March 5: Social Justice Committee meeting

March 9: Budget requests due

March 12: Women's Friendship Circle

March 21: JazzWorks Concert

April 21: 6:00 p.m. - Soup supper and Restorative Justice presentation

May 19: 7:00 p.m. - John Viste and Elaine Strite on the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict

June 19: 6:00 p.m. Annual Fish Fry and fundraiser for Kids Against Hunger

Upcoming Services

March 1: "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice" was chosen at the General Assembly to be a 2008-2012 Congregational Study/Action Issue of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Trish Kirk will introduce this CSAI and discuss the social

and environmental consequences of our food choices.

March 29: Rev. Glenda Walker writes, "'*Grist for the Mill*' is a reflection on how character and soul are developed through life's difficulties, using examples from my life, other people's lives and the lives of religious leaders, i.e. Jesus, Muhammad, the Buddha. I also draw on Wm. Blake's poetry in Hymn #17 in our Hymnal: "Joy and woe are woven fine, clothing for the soul devine" as well as a poem by the Sufi poet Rumi."

Special Adult RE Program

On Sunday, **February 22**, Trish Kirk will present a program introducing issues related to ethical eating and environmental justice. This will be in conjunction with the service she will present on March 1. Please join us for this important program.

Food Pantry News

Tuesday, **March 3rd**, is the NUUF day to help out at the Food Pantry. We need volunteers from about 8:15 to about 11:30 AM. We are now at our new location: The Hwy. 51 Plaza at 1707 U.S. Hwy. 51, Arbor Vitae. All able bodied volunteers are ask to park on the lot furthest from the building. If you are available to help please call Mel Hoff at 588-1409.

Reminder for Committee Chairs

Budget request forms for the 2009-2010 fiscal year have been sent out. Please return your completed form to Tom Sommerfeld no later than **March 9**, either by email, by snail-mail, or by hand.

Women's Friendship Circle

The Women's Friendship Circle will hold its monthly program and potluck luncheon, Thursday, **March 12**, at 10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship. Sharon Van Raalte will present the history of the Northwoods UU Fellowship, from the origin of a few people meeting at the home of Paul and Irma Braunstein to the 80-person membership we now have on Peggy's Lane, the story will unfold.

Concerts at NUUF

Last month, more than 50 people enjoyed The Garlic Mustard Pickers in concert at NUUF. Next month, on **March 21**, we welcome local favorite *JazzWorks*. We expect to have another great evening of music, dance, food and friendship. We hope you can join us. For more information, contact Barb Beutler at 715-362-2609

Social Justice Committee News

The Social Justice Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a success. We sincerely appreciate all your efforts. Ada E. Deer was very impressed with the warmth of our Fellowship. After the event, we had several visitors wanting information as to how they can get involved in the community or wanting to keep in touch and a request for a list of the books Ada Deer used in her talk. We raised \$325 for the Intercultural Leadership Initiative.

Now the committee is on to other things. Here are a list of dates to add to your calendars:

March 5, 6:30 p.m. - Social Justice Committee meeting.

April 21, 6:00 p.m. - Soup, bread and bars supper followed by a presentation on Restorative Justice. Money donations go to the food pantry.

May 19, 7:00 p.m. - John Viste and Elaine Strite talk about the Palestinian /Israeli Conflict.

June 19, 6:00 p.m. - Annual Fish Fry and Fundraiser for Kids Against Hunger

Community Project.

Audrey Williams

Consultancy Services

If any committees or individuals would like to meet with Rev. Groth during her visit, please make arrangements by contacting her directly. Her phone number is 414-764-0612, and e-mail is gooseknoll@copper.net (This is her preferred method of contact). She will next be available on **April 11**.

Requests for Sermon Topics

Rev. Groth is soliciting ideas for her remaining two sermons. If you have ideas, please contact her at the above email or phone number.

Ethical Eating: It's Your Choice Why Do Seafood Choices Matter?

From Trish Kirk: The choices we make as consumers drive the seafood market place. Your purchasing power can make a difference by supporting those fisheries and fish farms that are better for the environment.

Some of the key problems that help evaluate whether a fishery is sustainable include the level of bycatch observed, the fishing methods and their impact, if it is farmed how it is farmed, and how well the fishery or aquaculture operation is managed. With nearly 75% of the world's fisheries either fully fished or overfished, these issues are more important than ever. By using the Seafood Watch pocket guide you are making choices based on the best available information and supporting environmentally friendly fisheries and aquaculture operations.

Download a 'Seafood Watch Guide' at:

http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_MidwestGuide.pdf

Green Tips

From Trish Kirk: Before we sing the virtues of using cloth napkins again, let's get the facts straight. According to the EPA, the U.S. generates approximately 3,430,000 tons of tissue, napkins and paper towels of waste. That's a lot of trees...all non-recyclable. It's enough to make you go on a paper purge.

So once again, let's toast to the eco-friendly cloth napkin:

Cloth napkins can be used and reused over and over again.

Cloth napkins dress up your table.

Cloth napkins help with spills.

Cloth napkins take up less wash (in cold water) than a bulky tablecloth.

Cloth napkins are classy and chic.

Cloth napkins feel good.

UUA News

Winter WomanSpirit 2009: Weaving Our Sacred Tapestry; February 20-22, 2009, Peoria Il. www.peoriauuchurch.org

International Convocation of UU Women, February 26 to March 1, 2009,
Houston TX www.icuuw.com

Central Midwest District Assembly: April 24-26, Waukesha WI--Watch
for details soon!

Chalice Lighters: The spring call has gone out for Chalice Lighter donations to support the UU Fellowship of Door County in Door County in their efforts to purchase a new sound system for their expanded building. Donations are due by the end of March. See Elinore for more information or donation forms.

UU's in the News

"UU minister challenges S.C. 'I believe' license plates" Judge stops legislature's plans to issue license plates depicting a cross.
<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/128302.shtml?n>

Knoxville shooter to plead guilty

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported February 4 that Jim David Adkisson will plead guilty to all charges in the July 27, 2008, shootings at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville. Members of the church tackled Adkisson and held him for police after he opened fire on the congregation during a children's play. Two people died in the shooting and six others were injured. (Knoxville News Sentinel, 2.4.09; AP/New York Times 2.4.09)

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor: Immediate Opening. No experience needed; will train. This is only a two-year commitment. Familiarity with Word useful. Remuneration: Comparable to other NUUF positions. Rewards: Priceless. Contact Elinore at 385-2407 for more details.

Joys and Concerns

Our condolences go out to Tim Muench and Trish Kirk on the death of Tim's

mother on February 8.

Milestones

Jack Hafner	02-21
Ardis White	02-25
Tom & Elinore Sommerfeld	03-02
Jan Anderson	03-02
Tony Zoars	03-09
Iris Linder	03-10
Ed Semon	03-11
Sally Back	03-12
Dick Fields	03-12
Nancy Junkermann	03-12
Charles Reed	03-13
Dick Pantalone	03-13

Closing Thoughts

For Valentine's Day and all those in love (or lust?). Try reading this aloud.

Sonnet LVII

Being your slave, what should I do but tend
Upon the hours and times of your desire?
I have no precious time at all to spend,
Nor services to do, till you require.
Nor dare I hide the world-without-end hour
Whilst I, my sovereign, watch the clock for you,
Nor think the bitterness of absence sour
When you have bid your servant once adieu;
Nor dare I question with my jealous thought
Where you may be, or your affairs suppose,
But, like a sad slave, stay and think of nought
Save, where you are how happy you make those.
So true a fool is love that in your will,

Though you do any thing, he thinks no ill.

--William Shakespeare

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