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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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## 2000 Coming Sundays

### Taking the Pulpit

**Sunday**, January 30, 10 AM, Patty Buehler, "We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands"

**Sunday**, February 13, 10 AM, Rev Glenda Walker, UU Church, Wausau.

**Sunday**, February 27, 10 AM, Jerry Woolpy, "If you don't already know, it would be hard to explain," GWB.

**Sunday**, March 12, 10 AM, TBA

**Sunday**, March 26, 10 AM, Susan Urban, "Spring Equinox"

**Sunday**, April 9, 10 AM, Rev. Sydney Morris.

### Adult Religious Education

**Sunday**, January 23, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 12: "Jewish Rationalism and Mysticism: Maimonides and Kabbalah"

**Sunday**, February 6, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 13: "Classical Theism--Proofs and Attributes of God"

**Sunday**, February 20 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 14: Medieval Christian Theology--Nature and Grace

**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

Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 16: Protestantism--Problems of Grace

## **Notes from the President:**

Larger churches hold a 'what we're all about' session for prospective members before they sign up. That way each member has the same orientation, and each understands what he/she is joining. We have tried to accomplish this through hand-outs and occasionally through get-acquainted meetings. However, without the continuous input of a real grounding in UUism, the risk is always that we stray into our own version of what we, as a UU fellowship, should be. We expect individualism among members, but it needs to be within a framework--otherwise each church and fellowship reinvents chaos. I think it's kind of like modern art--you need to have mastered perspective, contrast, color theory, etc., before you can make an intelligent decision to follow, change or ignore these basics.

Which brings me to the Board's wonderful news! We will be offering a professionally led Retreat on the meaning of Unitarian Universalism on February 19 at Trees for Tomorrow. Obviously everyone's input is essential. Long-time UU's should benefit from a refresher, newer UU's will welcome the chance to become grounded in their religion. Everyone will gain from the exchange of ideas.

Please put February 19 on your calendars right now. We'll pass a sign-up sheet for attendance, lunch if you'd like to buy it (\$6.50 for a hot dish , salad, beverage and dessert), and child care. We'll start at 9:30am with sweet rolls and coffee, and conclude at about 2:30. Retreat leader will be Doug Zan Nostran from Barrington, Illinois.

Pat Harrington ·

## **Budgets Requested**

**Patty Buehler**

The finance committee is distributing forms to each committee to propose a budget for the next three fiscal years. Each committee will also receive a copy of their last year's budget request and the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee. We urge committees to meet and 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  
\_\_\_\_\_--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

Please let me know (356 6276) if the materials should be rerouted to another committee member.

The Finance Committee, including Patty Buehler, Dick Fields, Joe Strauss, Ruth Erbs, and Myrle Wasko, requests that the forms be completed and returned to any of them by March 12th. These budget forms will help the finance committee determine our financial needs. ·

## **Children's RE News**

**Dawn Holt**

The middle school youth group has been busy. They decided to enter a competition sponsored by the Unitarian Sunday School Society. The society gives out awards for worship services which best express UUism in the context of children's or intergenerational worship. They base their awards on originality, timeliness of issue, clarity of focus, call to involvement, and dramatic quality. The 4 girls who presented the children's service last spring made packets describing the service and mailed them to the 6 judges. We wish them well.

These same youth and other middle schoolers have been visiting other churches in the area. In Dec. they attended Our Lady Queen of the Universe (Catholic). In January they visited Ascension Lutheran Church and Faith Free Evangelical Church. Plans for Feb. includes visits with people from Christian Science Society and Jehovah's Witnesses. Remember your food pantry items. Collections will be made at each service. ·

### **Revised Greeter Instructions**

The Membership Committee would like visitors and late comers to feel more comfortable at services so we suggest that members sit toward the front and that the last row of chairs be set up just before the beginning of the service. The following instructions are posted next to the greeter's sign up sheet in the kitchen.

**GREETERS SHOULD:**

· Arrive no later than 9:40 AM

- Pass out programs at the door
  - Pass our visitor information to new visitors and invite them to take other brochures
  - Write down the names of visitors and where they are from
  - Have visitors sign visitor's book, providing their addresses and phone numbers, and give them a name tag
  - **Invite regular attendees to sit toward the front and set up last row of chairs a few minutes before the service begins so there will be vacant chairs at the back for visitors and late comers**
  - Announce visitors' names during service
  - Pass the offertory plate
- HAVE A GOOD TIME! ·

## **Joys & Concerns**

Thanks to Patty Buehler, Jerry Woolpy, Don Barnes, Barbara Beutler, Tim Kratz, Connie Lefebvre, Waskos, Betty Zausner, and Paul Baunstein, who together helped with the packing and distribution of food at our December NUUF food **pantry** social action. We served 87 families with 112 children and 107 adults. •

Thanks to Patty Buehler, Jerry Woolpy, Don Barnes, Bob Dallapiazza, Connie Lefebvre, Chip Wolf, Bob Polfus, Lee Zausner, Paul Braunstein, and Tim Kratz who rang the bell for the Salvation Army for a couple of hours between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Altogether we collected \$4500. •

## **Announcements:**

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the service on Sunday, February 13. Bring a dish to share and if you want, bring a beverage. Come and enjoy fellowship with friends.

Women, Wisdom and Wellness...Making Connections Sponsored by the Women and Religion Committee of the Central Midwest District of the UUA. Jan 28-30 in Milwaukee at

the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. Margot Adler is the keynote speaker. Contact Diane Reupert for brochure. 282-5400.

WUURSHIP means, "Why Unitarian Universalists Respect Spirituality, Humanity, Individuality, & Peace." Young adults, 18 to 35, are encouraged to participate in this organization created exclusively for them in the Central Midwest District . Weekend-long gatherings geared to young adults will be held in January and May. E-mail CMWDUUYAN@YAHOO.COM for more information.

Mark your calendar for the Central Midwest Annual Assembly 2000 taking place in Appleton, WI from April 28-30. Our theme is "Music: Our Unifying Spirit." Keynote speaker will be Carolyn McDade (Composer of "Spirit of Life"). Our guest artist is Trevor Stephenson, 18th and 19th Century keyboard artist. There will be many workshops built around the musical theme. Several workshops designed by and for the youth of the district will also be offered.

"Circle of Drums", "Sweet Harmony", "Joyful Noises", "Musical Chairs" - these are just some of the workshops. You won't want to miss the keynote speaker, Carolyn McDade, composer of "Spirit of Life"! Also on hand, will be guest artist, Trevor Stephenson, an 18th and 19th century keyboard artist. There will be lots of great food and fun. The deadline is March 31st. The cost is \$55 per adult, (\$75 after March 31st). See you there!

Registration brochures will be mailed in January. •

## NUU Views

**Question:** Question: What is meant by spirituality in the Unitarian Universalist tradition?

**Answer:** from Dick Fields: In most religions the belief in God is essential to an individual's spirituality. In ours it is not, although many of our members believe in God (A Supreme Being), others don't. Our religion does not require a belief in an intelligent entity that is roaming outer space observing and keeping track of our activities, to determine if we are going to heaven or hell. Although some UU's don't believe in an after life many or most believe they possess a spirit or soul. What does spirit or soul mean? These terms have been defined "as the animating force within living beings", or "a person's emotional or moral nature", while religion has been defined as "a specific system of belief and worship often involving a code of ethics". Based upon these definitions it is not necessary to believe in God to be spiritual or religious.

Some have stated that there is not enough spirituality in our Fellowship services but when asked to explain what they mean by spirituality they are unable to clearly define it. When attending a Sunday service that incorporates areas of spiritual love then most times I have an experience that would be classified as spiritual or emotionally uplifting. I find most of our services spiritual in nature. Spiritual feelings can also occur when singing or listening to music, looking at art or even watching our children leave the sanctuary on their way to attend religious education classes. Spirituality can overcome one with an emotion that some would say is a religious experience.

**Answer** from Terry Hoyt: Hopefully, nothing in the Unitarian Universalist "tradition" subverts the meaning of spirituality. Member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." This is one of our seven basic principles. We should note that acceptance of one another is paired to encouragement to spiritual growth. This recognizes that a rejection of another may be a discouragement to another's spiritual growth.

My children's dictionary has two definitions of "spiritual": 1) To do with the soul and not with physical things; and, 2) To do with religion. I think UU's are more comfortable with the first definition because it can include the second definition, but the second definition cannot accept that anything that say a "humanist" or an "atheist" does is "spiritual".

Spirituality in the UU tradition is encompassed by the Seven Principles of our association. We recognize in ourselves that there is something more than physical needs. We have emotions. As a community we want to be a supportive, loving community. We like to feel the warmth of interconnectedness flowing between our community, our environment, and us. When we get together for our services we want this warmth of spirituality to flow between us. We look for inspiration, we look for positive reinforcement, we look for acceptance.

In a sermon given in 1869 by Unitarian minister Thomas Lamb Eliot entitled "Spiritual Sympathy" Eliot "acknowledged that most individuals experience a secret unrest based in their longings for a better life. What distressed Eliot was not the fact of this restlessness and dissatisfaction but 'the difficulty of expressing to another these inward thoughts.' The tragedy of life is not that there are trials, disappointments, and dissatisfaction but that there is so little sympathy among fellow sufferers of the same malaise.

'There seems to me no sadder truth than this, that men should live on, year in, year out, dreaming that they must stand alone.' It is for this reason that Eliot saw an important place for the church as a means of relieving this crushing isolation. 'The bond of the church is this,' he wrote 'the brotherhood of man--Sympathy.' He went on to define the church as 'a fellowship of striving souls,' a definition that attempts to balance the competing claims of individual aspiration and communal sympathy." *The Unitarians and the Universalists*, David Robinson, Greenwood Press, p. 101.

Let me just finish this with the lyrics of one of my favorite hymns from *Singing the Living Tradition*. "Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice. Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me."

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## “SCIENCE”

### FROM 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

- Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.
  - Mushrooms always grow in damp places which is why they look like umbrellas.
  - The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard, and vinegar.
  - Some people can tell what time it is by looking at the sun, but I never have been able to make out the numbers.
  - When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.
  - Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.
- . • Water vapor gets together in a big cloud. When it gets big enough to be called a drop, it does
- There is a tremendous weight pushing down on the center of the Earth because so many

people are stomping around there these days.

- The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.

- Thunder is a rich source of loudness. You can listen to thunder and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, February 27, 2000.



Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

