
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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Coming Sundays

Sunday, August 2, 10 AM, Rev. Robert Reed (see page 7). Saxophone music played by Marcia VanBrunt.

Sunday, August 9, 10:30 AM, More Christian Religions and Religious Fundamentalism--last session.

Sunday, August 16, 10 AM, Rev. Sydney Morris. Harp music played by Mary Robertson.

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 AM, New series for adult religious education (see page 3): The Bible and Western Culture, Lecture 1: Gilgamesh Epic followed by discussion.

Sunday, August 30, 10 AM, Rev. Robert Eddy. Classical guitar music played by Daniel Henly.

Sunday, September 6, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 2: Genesis followed by discussion.

Sunday, September 13, 10 AM, James Threinen.

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 3: Exodus followed by discussion.

Sunday, September 27, 10 AM, Myrle & Dawn Wasko.

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 4: Job and the problem of evil.

Note from the President

This is my first opportunity to tell all of you as a group how proud I am to have been chosen to serve you in this office. Thank you for your confidence. And thank you in advance for putting up with my "mere" humanity--"Senior moments" come closer together than they used to.

My intention will always be to be fair, to be creative in trying to fulfill your wishes in a manner that is the most effective and beneficial for the Fellowship, and to stay in touch with our needs as a church community.

One of my highest priorities is identifying a need in the greater community which our group can appropriately fill--one which will engage our membership in the kind of social action project which we have been seeking. It doesn't seem fair to ask a committee to come up with the answer: for all of us: they will have enough to do providing guidance to the rest of us in carrying out our project once we identify it. So, please, YOU meditate on what we can do to help our neighbors, and pass your suggestions along to a Social Action Committee representative or to a Board member. May pearls and roses fall from your lips!

Pat

Getting to know UUs

Our Treasurer, Ruth Erbs, has kept the NUU books for the past five years, which has meant, we always know where the money is and how much of our budgets we have spent. Fortunately for us, she has another year to go on her third term as Treasurer. She and her husband Harley have been NUU members nine years since the fellowship met in Paul and Irma Braunstein's living room.

Growing up in Tomah, Ruth remembers listening to radio broadcasts of the Unitarian minister, Kenneth Patton. Had there been a Unitarian church available, her family would have joined. Ruth married Harley in 1951 and they became members of the First Unitarian Church in Madison in the early 1960s. That's the one Frank Lloyd Wright designed, where Max Gaebler was the minister. The Erbs also attended the earliest meetings of the Prairie Society, a group that is now another UU fellowship in Madison. In 1966 Ruth and Harley moved from Madison to Iron River and then in 1969 they moved to Rhinelander. Except for occasional visits to the UU church in Wausau between 1969 and 1989 the Erbs were without a UU congregation. They were delighted to hear about the founding of our fellowship and they joined. After raising three children, Ruth got an accounting certificate from Nicolet and then served eight years in the accounting department at Sacred Heart St Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. Later she worked for the Wisconsin Lottery, but never bought a ticket. She just gave out money and prizes. Then she worked for Senior Center in Rhinelander, did tax returns for H & R Block, and most recently helped with the "dress rehearsal" of the next US Census, going door to door and spot mapping each house. Ruth also helped start the Institute for Retirement at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. For the past twelve years she has worked the "hot line" for the Tri County Women's Shelter. For fifteen years she helped run the local chapter of the National Organization of Women and served as treasurer and president. Since the local chapter closed she maintains membership in the national organization. Ruth and Harley are both active in support of local democratic candidates.

Ruth gardens raspberries, corn, potatoes, beans, peas, lettuce, onions, broccoli, squash, apples, and lots of flowers. In winter she skis cross-country and in summer she bicycles. Once a year she helps Harley fish for food for their annual fish boil held in their yard for the benefit of the entire NUU fellowship. This involves a trip to a secret spot in Lake Superior, steering the boat, cranking the downriggers, and netting Harley's fish. The

limit is three lake trout apiece. This year they had to catch eight, because Harley didn't buckle the stringer and two got away. She loves the fellowship for its diversity and the stimulation it provides. But, she adds, "We aren't as democratic as we ought to be. Given our size, it behooves us to let all interested parties know what is going on and to consult widely before making decisions." We are indebted to Ruth for her accurate bookkeeping, for her loyalty to the fellowship, and for the inspiration she provides as a model citizen and friend.

Children's R.E. News

Religious school will begin this fall on September 13. Once again classes will be held from 10:15 to 11:15 (during adult services). New interesting and thought provoking curriculums have been purchased for the program. Watch for more information in the next NUUSLETTER. [Dawn]

UU Youths & Young Adults

Steven and Melanie Cyra finished in the top 16 in three events of Badger State swim competition: Steven in the 100-meter breaststroke and Melanie in the 50-meter butterfly and the 50-meter backstroke.

Minetta and Avery Koblings, Steven and Melanie Cyra, helped Paul Braunstein, Betty Zausner, Andrea Billings, and Jerry Woolpy distribute food Tuesday from the Minocqua Food Pantry. The children were most helpful in carrying provisions to the cars of the recipients. Hopefully we will be able to recruit four Fellowship children on a regular basis to help in this way.

A Lakeland Girls Soccer team including Amy Kratz, Cora Holt, and Claire Polfus "won the gold" for the second consecutive year at Badger State. On an older girl's soccer team Jean Polfus and Megan Kratz won the Eau Claire tournament and played well at Badger State. These teams are coached by Tim Kratz and Bob Polfus, who, to quote a delighted soccer mom, "not only teach our children the fundamentals of the game, they encourage respect and camaraderie among the players. Each child is valued for his/her contribution to the team and each child is supported through positive feedback and no put-downs by teammates or coaches. Enjoyment of the sport is the number one goal of their program.

"Along with contributing time and energy to the local youth soccer organization, Tim and Bob have been promoting girls soccer in the area... Because of their efforts (and those of others), Lakeland Union High School will, for the first time in spring of 1999, offer girls soccer as a WIAA sport. Thank you Tim and Bob."

Bible & Western Culture

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 AM begins a new video tape series for adult religious

education called The Bible and Western Culture. It consists of twenty-four 45 minute video taped lectures by Michael Sugrue, Andrew Ford, Robert Hollander, and David Thurn described as follows: "This course is a scholarly, respectful treatment of the Bible as literature that examines the historical origins of the Bible and its conspicuous influence on human history and literary traditions." Led by Terry Hoyt, ten to twenty NUUs meet alternate Sundays to watch and discuss a videotape. NUUs and their guests are cordially invited to join us.

Memorial Garden Policy

There will be a meeting to set policy regarding the future use of our memorial garden, August 2 following the Sunday service and before the Cook-Out. [Dick]

Winter-Dinner Adult Education

This year's winter-dinner adult education is "Ed and Op-ed". We will discuss topical editorials from major national newspapers and nationally syndicated columnists. There will be no prior reading; reprints will be passed out at the dinner. We will meet four times, on the second Tuesday of November, January, February and March. To try something new, we will meet and have dinner at local restaurants. The first four people to sign up will get to select the restaurants. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to join this years group, call Lee Zausner, 356-3047.

[Lee]

Dinner Theater

Remember to let Lee Zausner (356-2047) or Marie Adams (479-9886) know if you would like to attend Northern Lights presentation of "Murder at the Howard Johnson". The date is October 10; the cost is \$22 for dinner and theater. See the last issue for the details.

[Lee]

Another Cook-Out

The cookout on June 21 was such a huge success that we are planning another after coffee hour on Sunday, August 2. This is meant to be a slow-paced, relaxing time to socialize. So come prepared to kick back and enjoy the company and conversation! Bring something to cook on the grill, a dish to pass and a lawn chair. Rain or shine, outside or indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate. [Marie]

Building & Grounds

A group of members spent Saturday, June 27, working on the grounds. Don, Joe, Paul, George, and Marie worked on the cement patio area outside the lower level doorway, and on the retaining walls. It was a beautiful (hot) day with a pizza lunch, thanks to Paul! PS: If you are wondering why the carpeting looks so nice--Ruth and Harley brought their own carpet cleaner over and cleaned the carpets! Nice job! [George]

Announcing another fabulous NUU Garage Sale August 22.

Please bring donation items to the Fellowship on Friday, August 21. The sale will be held at the Fellowship from 9 to 1 on Saturday, August 22. We need help Friday for pricing and Saturday for selling. Unsold items that are not picked up after the sale will be given away. Helpers contact Pat Buehler, 356-7834.

How about a Kid's Overnight?

There is still time for kids to sign up to sleepover at the Fellowship, Thursday, August 20, 6:30 PM. Bring a sleeping bag, dish to pass--preferably made by "the kid," a flashlight, games, and you can even bring a friend with a sleeping bag, flashlight, and dish. The Party's over at noon on Friday. If needed rides can be arranged. If this sounds like a good idea let Pat Buehler (356-7834) or Jerry Woolpy (356-6276) know of your interest. [Pat]

NUU Views

Question: What do you think religions are doing and ought to do to promote toleration and peace in the world? *In this column NUUs are invited to answer questions of a religious and spiritual nature. If you are willing to share your opinion on these kinds of questions please let the editor know.*

One NUU's answer: Each of the major religions of the world have as part of their basic tenets a belief that is designed to promote tolerance and peace in the world. Practitioners of these religions have historically ignored these teachings by becoming overly narrow in how they interpret these beliefs. They have interpreted the teachings to apply only to practitioners of their particular religion--to the detriment of others.

Growing up in the Universalist church we emphasized the common belief of all of the major religions in the so-called "Golden Rule." Let me repeat these:

Hinduism: Men gifted with intelligence should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated.

Buddhism: In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and familiars: by generosity, courtesy, and benevolence, by treating them as he treats himself, and by being as good as his word.

Taoism: Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

Confucianism: What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.

Judaism: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Christianity: All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them.

Islam: No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

Religions are putting too much emphasis on what will happen after one's death and ignoring the behaviors we must demonstrate during our lifetime. Religions must keep the simple messages stated above. As long as religions compete for converts there will not be tolerance or peace in the world. We can only hope that leaders like Ghandi continue to arise to give religious direction to the world. Religions need to promote tolerance and peace by being outspoken advocates of practicing tolerance and demanding peace.

Perhaps we would be better off if the members of our Fellowship and other readers of this newsletter would become more cognizant our own intolerance. Too often we seem to act out of smugness and a basic belief that we have the only answers. It is too easy to be the critic and find fault in the beliefs of others. If we truly believe our thoughts are right, then we can take this message from an old song to heart: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, all the time."

Thanks to members who cleaned the building recently: Bev & Joe Strauss, Bob & Toni Polfus. And those who have agreed to clean it soon: Mary Ann & Dick Fields. We may still member-cleaners for August 16 and the month of September.

Thanks to member greeters: Joan Hauer, Bev & Joe Strauss, and Marie & George Adams. We still need greeters for most of August.

Thanks to members who brought or are bring snacks for the coffee hour: Myrle & Dawn Wasko, Bev & Joe Strauss, Jerry Woolpy & Pat Buehler, Andrea Billings, and Toni & Bob Polfus. We may still need snacks for August 2.

"The Big Rocks & The Jar"

A high school science teacher wanted to demonstrate a concept to his students. He takes a large-mouth jar and places several large rocks in it. He then asks the class, "Is it full?" Unanimously, the class reply, "Yes!"

The teacher then takes a bucket of gravel and pours it into the jar. The small rocks settle into the spaces between the big rocks. He then asks the class, "Is it full?" This time there are some students holding back, but most reply, "Yes!"

The teacher then produces a large can of sand and proceeds to pour it into the jar. The

sand fills up the spaces between the gravel. For the third time, the teacher asks, "Is it full?" Now most of the students are wary of answering, but again, many reply, "Yes!"

Then the teacher brings out a pitcher of water and pours it into the jar. The water saturates the sand. At this point the teacher asks the class, "What is the point of this demonstration?"

One bright young student raises his hand and then responds, "No matter how full one's schedule is in life, he can always squeeze in more things!"

"No," replies the teacher, "The point is that unless you first place the big rocks into the jar, you are never going to get them in. The big rocks are the important things in your life -- your family, your friends, your personal growth. If you fill your life with small things -- as demonstrated by the gravel, the sand, and the water -- you will never have the time for the important things.

So, what are the "Big Rocks" in your life? Spending time with your children, your parents or your spouse? Taking the seminar or class to get the information and perspective which will enrich your life? Making the time to set goals, plan or evaluate your progress? When you are hassled because there is no time, remember the story about the Big Rocks and the Jar!

[Anonymous story received by email from Amy and Michael Selmanoff]

Thanks to Pat Harrington, Dawn Holt, Terry Hoyt and Pat Buehler for helping with this issue. Other editors are taking a brief summer break. The deadline for the next issue is Sunday, August 30. If you would like to respond to a question in the NUU Views column or do other writing for the NUUSLETTER please let me know. Thanks to the many folks who have already provided feedback to the editor. Your opinions and suggestions are appreciated.

P.S. Bob Reed will be responsible for our service this Sunday, August 2. His remarks, "Thank you Jolie," will be a reflection upon the sudden death from illness of a young teenager in Columbus, Indiana this past May. The values that others experienced in her, and some meanings that they might have for us. The experience of the death will also be the subject of the children's time. [Bob]

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