

---

# 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/>

Pat Harrington, President, 277-3476, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu)

Volume 2, Number 5

July 20, 1999

---

## Coming Sundays

---

**Sunday**, July 25, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 24: "Joyce: From Religion to Art."

**Sunday**, August 1, 10 AM, Susan Urban.

Susan writes: *You are a child of the earth.*

*We will reaffirm our sacred connections with Mother Earth, and celebrate the traditional Celtic Festival of Lammis, or First Harvest. Bring a summer gift from the Earth (grain, fruit, vegetables, bread, flowers, etc.) to church for our Lammis ritual.*

**Sunday**, August 8, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 1: "Philosophy and Religion as Traditions."

**Sunday**, August 15, 10 AM, Barbara Kellett, "Synchronicity—meaningful coincidence and the possibilities in everyday experience." Ms. Kellett is Spiritual Director of a UU church and candidate for the Masters of Divinity at United Theological Seminary in St. Paul.

**Sunday**, August 22, 10 AM, Rev Sydney Morris. *[Note this service has been rescheduled on an adult RE Sunday.]*

**Sunday**, August 29, 10 AM, Dr. Helen Bishop, UU District Executive.

**Sunday**, September 5, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 2: "Plato's Inquiries: The Gods and the Good."

**Sunday**, September 12, 10 AM, Dan Rondello.

**Sunday**, September 19, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 3: "Plato's Spirituality: The Immortal Soul and the Other World."

**Sunday**, September 26, 10 AM, Natalia Graf.

**Sunday**, October 3, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 4: "Plato and Aristotle: Cosmos, Contemplation and Happiness."

**Sunday**, October 10, 10 AM, Rev Ms Denise Tracy.

**Sunday**, October 17, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 5: "Plotinus: Neoplatonism and the Ultimate Unity of All."

**Sunday**, October 24, 10 AM, Mary Ann Fields. •

## **Note from the President**

At its last meeting the Board accepted the Memorial Garden/Park operating policy recommendations of the membership as expressed at the Annual Meeting. We understand that we will receive guideline cost estimates from the Committee as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Garden looks beautiful! If you haven't seen the dedication poem on its presentation stand, or the new brick benches, or the memorial wall, do visit. Thanks to the Committee.

I have asked Diane Reupert to be responsible for getting appropriate messages of meetings and gatherings to the women of the Fellowship. So far there has been no need to make a similar appointment for the men--at least that I've noticed.

The Board has recommended that a Long-Range Planning Committee be formed. The following have agreed to serve: Tim Kratz and Jerry Woolpy, co-chairs, Dick Fields, and Merle Wasko. The Committee will file its report at the next Annual Meeting, and may request a Town Hall meeting and/or a membership questionnaire during the year. Any others who would like to help with this work should contact one of the co-chairs.

Also formed by action of the Board is a Foundation Committee. This will be chaired by Terry Hoyt, and include Pat Buehler and Don Barnes. They will get us the forms and the format to handle sizable gifts to the Fellowship. Their recommendations will be made to the Board.

Do you remember when we discussed whether or not the Fellowship should meet in the Summer? Some felt that our lives get so busy for those three months that there would be little attendance. Others thought that although our own numbers might dwindle, visitors might be attracted. And so it seems to be--attendance is level, but the attendees are different. It has been wonderful to meet all the Northwoods visitors who have joined our services this summer! I wish they could stay with us when our regular members return.

Stay cool!          Pat Harrington •

## **Getting to know UU's**

Dick Fields was born in Southern Illinois, in a town called Benton, and grew up in nearby Norris City. The people in these towns were white and either Methodist, like his family, or Baptist. Dick met his first Catholic in Junior High School. His grandfather

worked for a coal mine, his father was a school teacher, during WWII became a supervisor of the war emergency oil pipeline in the area, and then owned and operated a shoe store. His mother was a homemaker, worked in a munitions factory during the war and later worked with his father, who became Director of the Cottage Division of the Illinois Training School for Boys in St. Charles. When Dick was growing up his family read from The Book of Prayers everyday, said grace at meals, went to church on Sundays, and observed the sabbath. Despite this he became doubtful about religion and God during high school but kept his thoughts to himself.

At the University of Illinois Dick got his bachelor's degree in agronomy and then worked as Pest Control Specialist for Libby McNeal and Libby. He went back to graduate school at the University of Minnesota for a master's degree in plant pathology and worked for Velsicol Chemical Corp. in technical sales, first in Maryland for three years, and then in Chicago at corporate headquarters interpreting data on experimental herbicides. Later he became their herbicide manager and then was in charge of commercial development, then marketing, and eventually industrial vegetation sales manager. Meanwhile, through merger and acquisition, the company became Sandoz, and then Novartis. After retiring in 1994 Dick did consulting for the company for the next two years.

At college in Champaign, Dick met Mary Ann, a Presbyterian from Northern Illinois. She agreed to marry him despite his lack of faith. They have lived happily together for the past 43 years raising three children in the process. Dick's formula for connubial bliss, "When Mary Ann is happy, I'm happy."

Together Mary Ann and Dick visited various churches shopping for a suitable religion that fit both of their values and aspirations. At a party with friends in Park Forest IL, they described their thoughts about what a religion ought to be. The friends concluded they belonged with them as Unitarians and brought Dick and Mary Ann to church the next day. They have been U's and then UU's for the past forty years. When they moved to Maryland, they joined the Paint Branch UU Church at Adelphi where Dick was on the board of directors. When Dick transferred back to Chicago, they lived in Geneva and joined the UU church in Elgin, became active on various committees and on the board of directors. Seeing a notice in the Lakeland Times of the founding of our fellowship, Fields have been with us since our early meetings in members homes and are charter members. They are still active members of both our fellowship and Elgin.

Fields bought a lot in the Northwoods at Natural Lakes in 1972, built their house in 1980, and made it their permanent residence in 1991. Dick is president of the Natural Lakes Owners Advancement Association. Two years ago, after a few winters without golf they have decided to make their winter home in Mesquite Nevada.

Both Mary Ann and Dick have made enormous contributions to our fellowship, Mary

Ann as president, and on various committees, Dick with our real estate purchase, with the finance committee and for the memorial garden. The experience they bring from other UU congregations provides us with especially useful guidance.

Dick, who now refers to himself as a secular humanist, praises our fellowship for its vibrant socializing and warm welcoming. He is a strong advocate of expanding to include a new sanctuary attached to the west side of the present building and converting the existing sanctuary into a community center for coffee hours and other recreation. Dick argues that prospective members may be discouraged by a lack of seating in our present sanctuary and that we do not have the space to accommodate weddings and memorial services. He suggests that next year we could pay off the mortgage of about \$14,000, take out a new loan with the same payments, and so manage the addition without a fund drive.

We are twice blessed to have such a generous and productive couple who set an example of dedication for us all. •

**A revised membership and friends list** will be available in September. Please call Mary Ann Fields, 356-2975 to let her know of any changes in addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail. Also please let her know if you need new name tag. •

## **Long Range Planning**

Please contact Tim Kratz, Merle Wasko, Dick Fields, or Jerry Woolpy with suggestions for the agenda of the Long Range Planning Committee. So far we have the following items to consider, improved parking facilities, expanded sanctuary, professional RE, a part time minister. •

## **NUUs Travel**

**Joan Hauer, Travel Editor**

The underground system in London is extremely efficient, inexpensive, and used by business persons and tourists alike. Anyone of average intelligence can master the maps and color codes on well placed signage. People are surprisingly helpful, which blows the stuffy image one might have. A day or week pass is a entree to the vast riches the city has to offer, all for five or sixteen pounds.

Buses are the double decker variety, great for sightseeing, people seem a little less pressured and let you know when you're headed in the wrong direction. But that was the problem, I often seemed to be headed in the wrong direction, so opted more for the tube where choices were simpler, less distracted by the scenery perhaps.

A Londoner compared the state of the tube to the health care system, somewhat ill

financed and dilapidated. Sections are blocked off forcing bus detours, power failures with massive snarl-ups not uncommon.

The variety of people who inhabit London are well represented. Whole family groups will engage in animated conversations oblivious of others until their stop appears. I met a young American who has homes in Minneapolis, Denver, and London, also a summer home in Minocqua. He overheard me talking and joined in. People generally were more reserved however, very patient with the discomfort, crowding, and queing-waiting in line everywhere. As someone described, everyone uses public transportation; exception being the royalty and their helicopters.

Coming up to find what historic spot one had arrived at was always exciting. Except very early in the morning, streets were crowded and one had to plot the course carefully or get swept along. There were lots of others consulting their maps. Trafalgar square had as many pigeons as people, provided a place on Sunday for preaching, one person at a time. Convent Garden has entertainers who provide audience participation activities, pass the hat at the end. A July 4th celebration in Leicester square featured bands, mimes, comics, and Budweiser for four pounds, about six dollars. •

## Social Activities

A great turnout and good time was had by folks at the second summer cookout-picnic held Sunday, July 20, after a wonderful sermon on why we are not likely to rid the world of evil by Max Gaebler. Thanks to Mary Ann and Dick Fields.

Joan Hauer and others are beginning to organize an NUUF visit to Big Top Chautauqua. So far *Riding the Wind* is the most likely choice. Look for announcements or call Joan. *Riding the Wind* consists of lively songs and stories of the boom towns in northern Wisconsin—of lumberjacks, sailors, and the like. It is on, July 31, August 11, 20, and September 10. •

## NUU Views

**Question:** A majority of the US House of Representatives, but not the necessary two-thirds, recently voted for a resolution to recommend prayer in public schools. According to those who voted against the resolution and many liberal religious leaders, it would have breached religious freedom under the first amendment to the bill of rights. What, if any, Unitarian Universalist principles bear on the issue of school prayer?

**Answer** from Terry Hoyt:

Unitarian Universalists have seven principles. Each of these principles deal indirectly with the issue of school prayer. Let me deal with each with a short comment on how the principle is violated.

1. *The inherent worth and dignity of every person.* The implication of prayer being required in school is that without the prayer kids do not have worth and lack the dignity necessary to conduct their lives. Clearly those who do not pray are suspect. The refusal to participate in the prayer would clearly draw adverse attention to the person.
2. *Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.* Focusing on prayer will become a way to judge people. Minority beliefs will be publicized and exposed to ridicule--or hidden tending to cause resentment.
3. *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.* This calls for the practice and development of religion in our congregations--not our schools.
4. *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.* Who believes that having government (school boards, etc.) writing a school prayer is a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.* Our democracy has set up a procedure to change our constitution to allow for the establishment of government religion. The method being used by the Republican majority in Congress apparently does not believe in that process.
6. *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.* Apparently wrapping yourself in the flag of this country isn't good enough to promote nationalism. Some think we have to clearly prove to children that we have God on our side as well.
7. *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.* I have no faith in government making school prayers compatible with this principle. Telling all children that they must pray implies that there is someone who will listen and respond. It tweaks the web of all existence like some big hairy spider waiting for its prey to get caught up for later devouring.

Having dealt with the principles let's deal with some of the other obvious problems. Who writes these prayers? And, who will decide when our children must prostrate themselves to say them? Will their heads need to be covered or uncovered? Will the girls be separated from the boys? Will women be able to lead the prayers, or only men? Will they need to be said in Arabic? Will the prayer be "Our Father who art in heaven. . ."? Will the prayer be to one god, three gods or to many? Is animal sacrifice okay?

*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. •*

# Wedding Invitation



Perry and Nancy  
will be married  
August First, 1999  
at Conover Town Park

Please join us in  
a celebration of  
love, life/nature & recovery

Ceremony at 1:00 pm  
Concert at 3:00 pm  
Pot Luck following concert



Nancy Keck •

## Another Wedding Invitation

You are all invited to help celebrate the marriage vows of Patty Buehler and Jerry Woolpy, complete with harp, flute, and sing-a-long piano, Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM, at their home. Come early to swim. Dinner after the ceremony. No gifts please, but, by arrangement, cooks are invited to bring a dish. From Paul Bunyan's on 51 north in Minocqua, take Old Highway 70 west 1 mile to Dr.

Pink, turn left. Take Dr. Pink south  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to Woolpy Drive, turn right. Take Woolpy Drive  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the end, at 8395.

Let us know, that you are coming by Sunday, August 8, --- 356-6276. •

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, August 29, 1999.



Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter  
P.O. Box 253  
Minocqua WI 54548-0253

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

