

NUU'S LETTER

MAY 1992

UPCOMING SERVICES:

May 31: Denise Tracy will be here. Her sermon will be entitled "Spiritual Empowerment".

June 14: Bobbie Groth will be here for the service.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

Amy Kratz's birthday 5-5
Joan Hafner's birthday 5-8
Toni Polfus' birthday 5-9
Jean and Henry Haskell's 34th anniversary 6-20

IF WE ARE MISSING YOUR BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY OR SOME OTHER IMPORTANT DATE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE YOU ON OUR LIST.

OTHER ITEMS

For those of you who missed it, the following article was in the Lakeland Times: "Erica Wulff, daughter of Georgia and Chip Wulff of Minocqua, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester by earning a grade point average of 3.8

Wulff is a junior dance major at UW-Milwaukee. She has also performed with the university's professional theater company in their fall production of "The Grapes of Wrath" and will be seen this spring in the musical "Guys and Dolls."

Nice going Erica!!

CANOE TRIP

We will have a canoe trip on Saturday May 30th. Departure is from the Lake Tomahawk Community Center as close to noon as possible. There will be a potluck afterwards. Arrangements have been made to leave food at the Lake Tomahawk Community Center. If you have questions, please contact Pat Guilday (277-3263), Pat Buehler (356-7834) or David Boustead (356-7785). See you there!!

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

We will sponser a fundraiser with Common Ground to send money to Los Angeles for food. The fundraiser will be on Saturday, June 6th from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Minocqua American Legion Hall.

Kitty Dallapiazza (356-9245) is organizing the food which will consist of soup and bread. Toni Polfus is a member of Common

Ground, a local creative potters group, who will donate the bowls which for a \$10 donation can be kept by participants as reminders of the continuing struggle of hungry people in the world. Tim Kratz is working on publicity. All of us should be working on getting people there.

The entire donation will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles-- Located on the edge of Los Angeles' Koreatown, First Unitarian sits in the midst of what their minister describes as "a bombed out war zone." More than 5500 buildings were destroyed and people have almost nowhere to buy food. If they can find food they have little or no money to purchase it. Many have lost their businesses or places of employment. The church has established a food bank, is addressing the need for temporary shelter, and is making a special effort to aid children.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 31st annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be Calgary, Alberta, Canada from June 25 to 30. Registration information is in the new issue of "The World".

The Final Agenda for General Assembly has just come out and the resolutions that will be considered are:

1. Federal legislation for choice;
2. Violence against women; and,
3. Justice for indigenous peoples.

Please let our delagate, Paul Braunstein, or alternate, Irma Braunstein, know what your position is on these three resolutions.

In addition resolutions that were referred for rewriting will be considered this year. These include a resolution entitled "CHILDREN HELD BY THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE", "SAFER SOURCES OF ENERGY", and "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE". The final agenda will be at the Sunday service on May 30th if you would like to look at these items.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We say we value democracy in our churches and in society at large, but it is unclear precisely what we mean by democracy. If democracy means taking votes and letting the majority rule, it is a poor system for a church. The typical outcome of votes is the division of the community into the majority and the minority, the winners and the losers. The minority feels they should have won, and would have if they had been able to present their position better. The minority does not accept or support the decision, does not work to make it successful, and looks forward to a chance to win themselves.

Churches find consensus works much better. Consensus is not unanimity. Not everybody necessarily agrees with the decision, but everybody is encouraged to present their facts and opinions to the

best of their ability. People do not simply "feel they have been heard"; they **have** been heard. When the decision is made (often informally), those who opposed it have no reason to believe it would have come out differently if they had been allowed to present their case more fully; they were allowed to present it fully. They can say, "The group was informed of my position and understood it well. They did not choose as I would have, but they are entitled to their choice. I have nonetheless helped to shape the consciousness of the community, and I will support the community."

AND LAST--UUs IN HELL

There was once a Unitarian Universalist who died. She found herself walking along a road. She came to a fork. A sign with an arrow pointing to the right said, "To Hell." A sign with an arrow pointing to the left said, "To A Discussion on Hell."

She turned left and after a while came to a circle of empty chairs where she sat down and waited for the others to arrive.

She had not waited a long time, not a long time at all by the standards of that place, before she realized that the signs had lied.**

From "Wind on the Water", Volume 1, Number 9, copyright by Thomas W. Christopher.

** Editor's note: As a hard core Universalist I know this joke could never actually take place--the room will be full.