



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

Volume 7, Number 1

July 15,

**2005 Coming Sundays**

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## **Taking the Pulpit**

**July 24:** Elinore Sommerfeld, *“The Jesus Mysteries”*

**August 8:** Wenda Sheard, *“Travel Within and Without: Adjusting UUism for Circumstances”*

**August 21:** Ed Clark, *“The Church as a Healing Community”*

**September 4:** TBA

**September 18:** TBA

**October 2:** TBA

**October 18:** TBA

## **Adult Religious Education**

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

## **News and Announcements**

### **Flowers for Services**

The membership committee suggests having flower donations for Sunday Services to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, memorialize loved ones, or honor friends. The sign-up form can be found on the kitchen bulletin board. Contact Sharon Van Raalte if you have questions.

### **Capital Fund Drive**

We are in the process on conducting the Capital Fund Drive. We are currently canvassing the membership and have reached the sum of \$72,900, with several members yet to

canvass. We will also be sending out a canvass letter to associate members and friends. Canvass Committee members are: Terry Hoyt, Dick Fields, Paul Braunstein, and Tom Sommerfeld.

Dick Fields [dmafields@yahoo.com](mailto:dmafields@yahoo.com)

### **Web Master Needed**

The Fellowship is in need of a web master to update and maintain our web site on a regular, on-going basis. If you or someone you know might be interested in this, please contact Terry Hoyt.

### **Meet the Author**

Former member, Annemarie Beckel will attend the service on July 24, and will have copies of her new book, *Dancing in the Palm of His Hand* available for sale. She will also be doing a program at the Rhinelander District Library for the 2005 Author Series on Monday, July 25, at 7 pm, and a program for the Minocqua Public Library on Tuesday, July 26, at 6:30 pm. There will be books available at those programs as well.

### **Manitowish River Canoe Trip**

The NUU Manitowish River canoe trip will be held on Saturday, July 23. At 9:30 a.m., bring your canoe or kayak to the wayside located on Hwy 51 about 3 miles south (east) of the intersection of Hwy 51 and Hwy 47, between Manitowish Waters and Manitowish. You can leave your car and lunch there and a shuttle will take you and your gear to the put-in where the Manitowish River crosses under Hwy. 51, about three miles further south toward Manitowish Waters. Bring everything you need for the trip, including sunscreen and drinks. Since the river may be low in spots, wear shoes you can wade in. The entire trip will take about two hours. We will eat lunch together back at the wayside around noon. If you don't have a canoe, one may be rented at Hawk's Nest, a local canoe rental located on Hwy. 51. If you have questions, call Jim Williams at 715-762-3434. See you there.

### **New Books in the NUUF Library**

The following books have recently been added to the library:

CELEBRATING EASTER AND SPRING: AN ANTHOLOGY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST READINGS compiled and edited by Carl Seaburg and Mark Harris  
FROM AGE-ING TO SAGE-ING: A PROFOUND NEW VISION OF GROWING OLDER by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Ronald S. Miller  
THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS by Houston Smith  
WALDEN by Henry David Thoreau  
THE HEDGEHOG, THE FOX, AND THE MAGISTER'S POX: MENDING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES by Stephen Jay Gould  
SEASONS OF THE SELF by Max Coots (poetry about the seasons in one's life)

## **“The Amorous Flea”**

Tom Sommerfeld will be appearing as the lead in the Festival Aurora Borealis' production of “The Amorous Flea”. Shows will be at 7:30 pm on August 2 and 3 at the Lakeland Union High School. Admission is free. Contact Tom, if you have questions.

## **Service Auction Update**

Thanks to all the members and friends who donated items for the auction and to those who purchased them. Also many thanks to Alan Van Raalte and Elinore Sommerfeld, my husband, Dick Fields, and, of course, to Jerry Buerer, our auctioneer. The auction could not have been so successful without all their help. We made over \$2000. There is still room to be included in the William's family picnic on August 13th, for Sherry Zoars nature walk on August 21st and for Hoyt's campfire cookout. Let me know if you would like to be included in these events. Thanks to all again for making the Third Annual Service Auction again successful. Mary Ann Fields

## **Big Top Show**

Terry Hoyt has ordered tickets for a show at Big Top on August 18. The cost is \$32. The show will feature an 8-member brother/sister act, performing Irish music and dance. Contact Terry for more information or to reserve tickets.

## **Summer WomanSpirit Retreat At Camp Ronora**

The CMwD Women and Religion Committee is pleased to announce the 12<sup>th</sup> annual summer retreat at Camp Ronora in southwest Michigan, August 5-7, 2005. Summer WomanSpirit provides a time and a place to connect with the elements of land, sky, fire and water, as well as with each other, and with our inner selves. We offer a special maiden program for girls 7-16 and childcare for younger children. Registration and brochures are available on line at [www.womenandreligion.org](http://www.womenandreligion.org).

## **UU Friendly Creativity Camp for Youth**

Attention all UU youth interested in role-play, literature, acting and creative exploration—The *Frogwarts School of Wizardry* role-play and creative camp, (August 15-20) just outside of Dubuque, Iowa, will offer \$50 off the regular registration fee for UU members. Call (563) 542-5452 for more information or visit our website at [www.GreatMidwesternETC.com](http://www.GreatMidwesternETC.com).

## **CMwD-UUWF Fall Retreat**

The Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation announces their fall retreat November 11-13, 2005 at Lake Geneva. The theme this year is “Creating

Joy.” For more information, contact Cynthia Gary, at [cynth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynth@sbcglobal.net) or call 815-788-9331.

### **UU B&B Directory Now Available**

Do you enjoy travel to interesting places and staying in B&Bs? Now, you can stay with UU’s while on your travels. The 2005 UU bed and breakfast directory, UU’re Home, is now available by sending a check for \$18 to UU’re Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville NC 28806. You can also visit their web site: [www.UureHome.com](http://www.UureHome.com)

### **Auditions for 2006 GA UU Children’s Choir**

Dedicated and enthusiastic treble singers who will be entering 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2006 are encouraged to audition for the 2006 GA Children’s Choir. For the informational brochure, please call Elinore.

### **Living Will and Other Forms**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is required by State Statutes to make available three advance directive forms, including a living will. The forms are:

- Declaration to Physicians (Wisconsin Living Will)
- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Power of Attorney for Finance and Property

Copies of the forms may be obtained by:

- Sending a stamped, self-addressed business sized envelope to Living Will/Power of Attorney, Division of Public Health, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309 or
- Printing forms from the Internet: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/forms/AdvDirectives/index.htm> or
- Contacting an attorney or some health care providers, such as Howard Young Medical Center.

### **Summary of The Social Justice Committee Meeting Notes**

*Editor’s Note: For the complete meeting notes, contact Mark and Katy Egan-Bruhy. The Social Justice Committee met on July 10. For the coming year, the committee will focus primarily on the following areas:*

- Martin Luther King related event—Katy Bruhy and Terry Hoyt
- Green sanctuary—Mark Bruhy
- Medical ethics associated with technology vs. care (cf. Terry Shivo case)—Betsy Schussler
- Pharmacists and reproductive rights—Sharon and Alan VanRaalte
- Safety and social freedoms (cf. Patriot Act related issues)—Gloria Jean Johnson and Barbara Beutler

If you are interested in working on any of these topics, please contact the lead person or Mark and Katy. The next meeting will be August 21, after the service.

## **Minutes of NUUF Board Meeting, June 3, 2005**

**In attendance:** Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer, Tom Sommerfeld, Alan VanRaalte and Mark Bruhy

**Call to order:** President Terry Hoyt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of the minutes of the May Board Meeting:** The secretary's notes from the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting stand approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tom Sommerfeld distributed a copy of the report of expenditures, receipts and balances through May 31, 2005. Tom noted that we have not yet received all FY 04/05 pledges, though pledges continue to be received. Several items regarding the treasurer's report were discussed, and there was some discussion regarding fund adjustments that had no effect on balances. Tom noted that by the next Board meeting, all pledges should have been received. Consequently, if there are apparent problems with the receipt of all pledges, the Board will bring them to the attention of the Finance Committee.

It was noted that the line item referenced "special gifts" shows a balance of \$25,537.85, and since these funds were received as endowments rather than from the regular budgetary process, they should most appropriately be noted as an endowment in a special financial statement. Similarly, "carry-over" funding should not be presented as part of the Fellowship's budget. The Treasurer suggested that he, along with the Finance Committee, might enhance our financial record to clarify these issues.

Terry suggested that next month's meeting, the first of the new fiscal year, should be devoted to financial matters, particularly in light of planning efforts regarding building expansion. Accordingly, Joan Hauer moved that the Fellowship expend up to, but not in excess of \$1,000 to conduct an audit of the Fellowship's regarding finances. Tom seconded the motion, all approved and the motion carried. Terry said that he would contact local accountants and select someone to provide these services.

There is currently \$25,000, referenced in the "special gifts" line item that is held in our standard checking account. Alan moved that this money be moved to a short-term (e.g., 90 day) CD to achieve a more favorable interest rate/return. The motion was seconded by Joan, all approved and the motion carried.

Finally, President Hoyt and Secretary Bruhy signed papers that will bring all of the Fellowship's financial accounts under the authority of the same signatories, that is, the financial accounts held at River Valley State Bank.

### **Committee Reports**

**Care Committee:** Joan reported that the Care Committee held a meeting, and a representative of Ministry Hospice presented information hospice and care-related issues.

**Buildings and Ground Committee:** Alan reported that a Building and Grounds Committee meeting is being planned, and the meeting's agenda will include establishing a date for a Fellowship-wide workday. Further, it was noted that for some time Dick Fields has diligently cared for the Fellowship's lawn and grounds, and the Board could assist with this responsibility by soliciting someone to do this work. It was suggested that a Fellowship youth might be interested in doing this work, and we may be able to pay them a small sum for this effort. Board members will attempt to find someone interested in doing this work.

**Other Business:**

**2005 General Assembly:** Joan Hauer has been selected as the NUUF delegate to the 2005 General Assembly, to be held in Dallas beginning June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Terry signed the "delegate authorization" that will allow Joan to cast votes on behalf of our Congregation.

**Issues for Next Board Meeting:** In light of the proposed building expansion efforts, it was suggested that the Board meet on a regular basis with the membership of the Building Expansion Committee. The Board agreed, and Terry suggested that both the Building Expansion Committee and the Finance Committee be invited to participate in the next Board meeting. He said that he will contact both committees to convey this request.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. July 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be held at the Fellowship.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Bruhy, Secretary

***UNAPPROVED* NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP 2005 ANNUAL MEETING NOTES MAY 21, 2005**

**Call to order:** The 2005 annual meeting was called to order by President Terry Hoyt at 10:00 a.m.

**Determination of the presence of a quorum:** It was determined that 21 members of the Fellowship are required for a quorum, and a count of those present reported 28 members in attendance (a sign-in sheet of meeting attendees has been filed with the secretary's notes).

**Approval of minutes of the 2004 meeting:** The 2004 annual meeting notes were distributed and reviewed by the Board of Directors and those in attendance. No

corrections or changes were suggested, and the notes were accepted as presented (a copy of these meeting notes have been filed with the secretary's notes).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tom Sommerfeld distributed a copy of the year-end report of receipts, expenditures and balances, and this summary has been filed with the secretary's notes. Tom then discussed each budget line item and provided additional information regarding each account. Mary Ann Fields moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented, Terry Hoyt seconded the motion, all in attendance approved and the motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Children's Religious Education (RE):** Andrea Billings presented a summary of activities term and issues relative to the Children's RE program. A written report was distributed to all in attendance, and a copy has been included with the secretary's notes. Noteworthy in Andrea's discussion was the issue of the need for a paid Children's RE Director. She outlined the responsibilities that such a person would fulfill and how the Fellowship might go about recruiting such a person. Andrea noted that the committee has presented a budget that includes the salary for a Children's RE Director for the Board's review. President Hoyt mentioned that the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee had included this recommendation for a Children's RE in the proposed operating budget, which will be presented to the membership for a vote later in the meeting.

**Building Expansion Committee:** Dick Fields presented a summary of the committee's activities, and a copy of the committee's written report has been included with the Secretary's notes. Dick also noted that since the Fellowship has endorsed moving forward with planning for building expansion, which took place at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting, the committee is requesting that those interested in assisting with the process can sign up for a variety of activities (sign-up sheets for those activities were available at the meeting).

**Membership Committee:** Sharon Van Raalte presented a summary of the committee's activities, and a copy of her report will be included with the secretary's notes.

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Alan Van Raalte presented a summary of the committee's activities, and a copy of his report will be included with the secretary's notes.

**Social Justice Committee:** President Hoyt noted that the committee does not have a chair, and as such, no committee report has been submitted. President Hoyt did mention that the Committee did accomplish activities and events that included operation of the food pantry, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, and a march for peace. Katie Egan-Bruhy and Mark Bruhy offered to co-chair the committee in the next fiscal year, and will contact current committee members, and others who may be interested, to organize a meeting in July.

**Publicity Committee:** In lieu of a formal report, President Hoyt noted that he and others feel that there is a need to enhance our website as a means of publicizing the Fellowship, and the position of Fellowship webmaster is currently vacant. Further, it was suggested that the website be part of the responsibilities of the Publicity Committee.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee reported a number of vacancies that are summarized below, and individuals that are being nominated to fill those vacancies.

Several positions on the Board of Directors will be open at the end of this fiscal year, and include: Tom Sommerfeld, Treasurer; Joan Hauer, Board Member at Large; and Mark Bruhy, Secretary. The Board reported that Joan and Tom have expressed interest in continued Board membership, and Mark is not able to commit to another term. With this in mind, the Committee recommended the following individuals be nominated for the Board of Directors:

- Tom Sommerfeld, Treasurer
- Joan Hauer, Board Member at Large
- Faye Calvey, Secretary

Further, it was noted that the Memorial Park Committee has one opening, with Don Barnes' expiring at the end of the current fiscal year. The Committee recommended that the following person be considered for the vacancy:

- Harley Erbs

Finally, it was noted that the Nominating Committee currently includes Bev Strauss, Elinore Sommerfeld and Harley Erbs. The attendees nominated from the floor the following individuals for Committee membership beginning in the next fiscal year:

- Mary Ann Fields
- Terri Hoyt
- Jerry Buerer

**Vote on the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors:** Andrea Billings moved that the slate of candidates for the Board of directors be approved, Dick Fields seconded the motion, all in attendance voiced approval, and the motion carried.

**Vote on the nomination for the Memorial Park Committee:** Alan VanRaalte moved that Harely Erbs be approved for committee membership, Audrey Williams seconded the motion, all in attendance voiced approval, and the motion carried.

**Vote on nominations for the Nominating Committee:** Elinore Sommerfeld moved that the proposed candidates be approved; Patty Buehler seconded the motion, all in attendance agreed and the motion carried.

**Proposed Budget for the 2005-06 Fiscal Year:** President Hoyt lead a discussion of the proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, a summary of which was distributed to all in attendance. Questions regarding the proposed budget were addressed to the satisfaction of all in attendance. Faye Calvey moved that the proposed budget be accepted as presented, Mary Ann Fields seconded the motion, all in attendance voiced approval, and the motion carried.

**Other Business:** It was noted that an auction is scheduled for June 17, 2005, and will be held at the Fellowship. Though not presented as an action item, Mary Ann Fields asked the congregation for suggestions regarding its future, that is, should the auction be continued as an annual event. Joe Strauss suggested that auction should continue, but as an event to be held every other year. Irma Braunstein and others agreed with this suggestion.

**Adjournment:** President Hoyt adjourned the annual meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Bruhy, Secretary

## **“Green” Tips Trigs Recycling**

Trigs has a recycling facility behind the Minocqua store. That facility accepts more items than at least some transfer stations, including: cardboard, press board (cereal-type boxes), office paper (aka junk mail) and “popcorn” packaging material, in addition to newspaper, glass, magazines, plastics. It’s open 7 days a week. Check it out the next time you’re shopping at Trigs.

*If you have a “Green” Tip, send it to Elinore for inclusion in the newsletter.*

## **Meet Our Members**

*From Associate Member, Wenda Sheard:* Hello everyone! I apologize for boring folks who know me well. I look forward to meeting new NUUF members this summer. In mid-August I’ll disappear to China for another school year, but hope to return again next summer.

Here are the basics. My husband, Richard Thieret, and I were both born into Unitarian families and have been active in UU congregations in Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. I served as R.E. director, program committee chair, and congregation president during my 20 years in the Athens Unitarian Fellowship (OH), but I admit I didn’t contribute nearly that much to our huge Texas

Congregation (1998-2001) or to NUUF.

We came to the Northwoods to teach at Conserve School, but left last year to teach at Hangzhou International School in Hangzhou, China. Richard’s the real teacher in the family; he’s certified to teach all sciences and has spent most of his career teaching high school students. I’ve spent nearly 20 years as an attorney

before doing a ‘mid-life crisis’ Ph.D. in political science with an emphasis on education policy. I’m currently using my undergraduate English major to teach

Language Arts to high school and middle school students from many different countries.

Most of my students’ parents are major employees of multinational corporations. I’ve really, really enjoyed teaching my students; teaching Romeo

and Juliet to kids who don’t speak English has allowed me to be creative. (Think: puppets, fight scenes, video clips, synopses in Korean and Portuguese and French and Japanese.)

What I like best about NUUF is the feeling of friendship and family. The NUUF has been a great place for us to escape from our all-encompassing lives and stresses at Conserve School from

2001-2004. We’ve liked all of you so much that we’re looking into purchasing a small inexpensive (ha!) place for summers and later for retirement in the area. (Ideas welcome---715-617-0575)

Recent joys in our life include the happy lives of our children. By September all three will be in college, even the one who is at this moment at the movie theater watching *Willy*

*Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and who is anxiously awaiting tomorrow's arrival of her copy of the new Harry Potter book. I'm thrilled that all of our kids are enjoying life and are happy about their futures.

I recommend that all of you volunteer to do one of these "NUUF member profiles." Please volunteer! Elinore gave me great "starter" questions for what I'm writing now. One question asked what social problem most concerns me. That question has me thinking lots and lots.

As I'll explain on August 7th, I used to "know" what social problem most concerns me. After a year in China, my "social problem" world has been turned upside down. I no longer know what most concerns me. I used to be able to answer "education policy," but that answer seems trite after life in China.

Stay tuned; I'll share more on August 7th about China and about whether and how we should adjust UU principles and purposes for changed circumstances.

## Closing Thoughts

### “How Heavy is this Glass of Water?”

Anonymous

Place Stamp Here
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A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20 g to 500 g. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it!"

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