



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP

**We are a Welcoming Congregation.**

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

Volume 9, Number 11

June 15,

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**2008 Coming Sundays**

## **Services at 10 AM**

### **Taking the Pulpit**

**June 22:** Laura Erickson *“Change and Metamorphosis”*

**July 6:** Jerry Buerer *“One Nation Under Who?”*

**July 20:** Debby Livingston *“To Die Before We Die”*

*“Worship is the central act of the religious community.... The root of the word worship is the Anglo Saxon for worth, and worship is the way we celebrate what we hold worthy.”*

*---Rev. William Sinkford*

## **Adult Religious Education**

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

**June 29:** *“The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream”*

## **From the President**

At the 2004 annual business meeting of the fellowship, the results of a ministry survey were reviewed. 45 members out of 61 responded to the survey with 21 expressing a wish to have a minister while 16 did not. Most who wanted a minister favored a part-time position. At the November 2005 board meeting, those survey results were cited when the board discussed constituting a committee to follow up with planning for the possibility of acquiring the services of a minister. The building expansion project necessarily put that action on hold. In July 2006, when the building project was completed, the board created an ad hoc “Ministry Planning Committee” and outlined its goals. A more accurate appellation might have been “Ministry Exploratory Committee” since, among its goals, the committee was charged with determining the current attitude of the congregation towards getting a minister, the various options available (full-time, part-time – 1/3, 1/2, chaplaincy, consulting, student) the costs associated with those options, the size of the membership required to support those options and when, to the best of its ability to project, the membership might reach the sizes in question.

The committee completed its tasks and made its report to the board at the June 2008 board meeting. After review and discussion, the board decided to hold an informational meeting after the service of Sunday, August 3 for the committee to present its report to the members, associates and friends of the fellowship. No action will be taken at this meeting, but it is hoped that feedback and reaction to the committee’s report will help to provide some guidance to the board on how and whether to proceed regarding a ministerial position. Any decision to hire a minister will require a vote of the membership at a special meeting called for that purpose.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank the committee (Faye Calvey, Terry Hoyt, Sharon VanRaalte, Sherry Zoars and Candace Zahn Cain) for its diligence and hard work.

I would also like to thank the members of the fellowship for your support over the last 6 years during which I served on the board. It has been a rewarding experience. I am looking forward to a little more personal time and also to having some time to get involved in a committee or two.

In peace and love, Alan

## **News and Announcements**

### **NUUF Dates of Importance**

**June 21:** Building & Grounds Work Day/Memorial for John Hull

**June 22:** Cook-out/Potluck/SJC Committee Meeting

**July 10:** Women's Friendship Circle

**July 20:** Hospice Workshop

**August 3:** Ministry Planning Committee Report to the Congregation

**August 17:** Cook-out/Potluck

### **Upcoming Services**

**June 22:** Laura Erickson, noted for her radio sketches, "Speaking for the Birds", returns again to our pulpit. She writes: "My talk will be about regeneration, rebirth, and metamorphosis. I may spend a little time branching off into butterflies."

**July 20:** Debby Livingston, the Chaplain of Northwood Hospice, writes: "The general theme will be about the spiritual growth that is possible for people during their dying time, with applications for those of us who haven't been given a terminal diagnosis."

### **Building & Grounds Workday**

There will be a meeting of the building and grounds committee on Saturday,

**June 21**, at 9:00 A.M. This will be a combination meeting and work day.

Please come prepared to work. All are welcome.

### **Remembrance**

A service to celebrate the life of John Hull will be held at the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, **June 21** at 4:00 PM. John was Joan Hauer's life partner of twenty-one years. John died at All Seasons of Life Hospice on December 23, 2007 of complications from Parkinson disease. A gathering of family and friends will follow the service.

### **Summer Cookouts**

The Hospitality Committee will hostess several Cook-out Potlucks after the Sunday Services during the summer. There will be a grill, so bring whatever you would like to grill for yourselves and a dish to pass. Coffee and lemonade will be provided. The next cookout-potlucks will be on **June 22nd** and

**August 17th.** Mark your calendars. Mary Ann Fields

### **Book Signing**

After the service on **June 22**, Trish Kirk will be selling and autographing copies of her new book, “Into the Heart of the Woods”.

### **Annie**

The Campanile Center for the Arts will present *Annie* **June 27-29**. Featured in the cast are Patty Buehler, Kim Norris and Tom Sommerfeld. Come and enjoy a fun summer show.

### **Chalice Lighters**

It’s time to support Chalice Lighters—UU’s in the CMwD who support other UU’s plans to grow. You have until **June 30** to make a contribution of \$20 to help the James Reeb UU Congregation of Madison expand their programs. Contact Elinore for more information or visit [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org) to contribute.

### **Women’s Friendship Circle**

The July meeting of the Women’s Friendship Circle will be held at the Fellowship on Thursday, **July 10**, at 10:30 am. The program will be “My 24 Years in Jail”, presented by Sally Back. We are anticipating several guests interested in Sally’s story. During her years of service Sally advanced from Matron to Captain, working six years for the Milwaukee County Jail and 18 years for the Milwaukee County House of Corrections in Franklin, Wisconsin. There will be humor, as well as sadness and personal knowledge of Jeffrey Dahmer among other criminals, when Sally presents an in depth examination of our correctional system. Come with your questions for an open discussions following Sally’s overview of the Criminal Justice System. There will be the usual potluck at 11:30.

### **Care Committee Plans**

#### **Hospice Workshop**

The Care Committee is sponsoring a special workshop on hospice to be held immediately following the coffee hour on **Sunday, July 20**. A representative from Northwoods Hospice will give a presentation called "Navigating the River of Hope: Understanding Hospice," that will address many of the

questions

people have about these programs. In addition, the regular Sunday service that day will feature Debra Livingston, the new Chaplain of Northwoods Hospice.

She will speak to the congregation about the spiritual growth that is possible as one nears the end of life, and how hospice care helps facilitate this. The title of her sermon is: "To Die Before We Die." Please mark your calendars and join us to learn more about how hospice operates in the Northwoods. A light lunch will be provided by the Care Committee immediately preceding the workshop.

### **Invest in NUUF's Future**

Not with your money, but with your time and ideas. At the recent service led by the children, Pat Bickner raised the idea of holding a UU day camp next summer to help build our children's RE program. Another suggestion is a monthly "date night" for parents, where we provide childcare and activities. Are you willing to talk with us about how we might do this? Do you have time and talents you could donate? We will solicit interest and begin to talk about this after the service on **July 6**. Please join us or contact one of our organizers: Jan Anderson, Barb Beutler, Pat Bickner and Elinore Sommerfeld

### **Suzanne's Ordination**

Ordination is the ceremonial occasion at which a person is named a minister and given the adjectival modifier "The Reverend." In the Unitarian Universalist faith, ordination is the act by which a congregation formally recognizes a person as a minister.

Often the ordination occurs at a special congregation, a congregation that has watched a person in her formation process toward the ministry, even if there is no intent for that person to serve that particular church. Recently the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, a congregation that has followed my progress through seminary and beyond, voted to ordain me. I am pleased, proud and humbled to receive this recognition.

My formal preparation for and entrance into the Unitarian Universalist ministry has entailed both academic and practical training. Last June, I received an Mdiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Unitarian Universalist seminary in Chicago. In the summer of 2004 I trained for ten weeks as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids and at Unity Hospital in Fridley, Minnesota. And in the 2005-'06 church year I did a supervised internship at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor in Maine. During the past year I have preached here in Woodruff, in Virginia, Minnesota at the Mesabi UU Church, and at the Duluth congregation.

My ordination date is set for Sunday, **September 28**, 2008 at 4:30 pm at the Duluth church, 835 College St. My homiletics (preaching) professor the Rev. Mr. David Bumbaugh will preach my ordination sermon. A more formal invitation will come later in the summer. I do hope some of you can attend.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure being with you these past six months. Suzanne Wasilczuk, 218-525-5811, [suzwas@hotmail.com](mailto:suzwas@hotmail.com).

### **Welcome Back Summer Residents**

We're glad to have you back and hope you will become involved in the life of the community while you are here. Please consider signing up to be a greeter or bring snacks this summer. Sign-up sheets are in the kitchen. We only need simple snacks to go with coffee after services.

Are you a musician or a singer? Please contact Tom Sommerfeld about joining the choir or providing music for an offertory.

When you're shopping at Trig's, please deposit your receipt with the code "27B" written on it in the kiosk near the exit. NUUF receives a small contribution from Trig's for each dollar spent.

We always need contributions to the food pantry. There's a bin in the lobby of the fellowship for non-perishable food and personal care items. Please contact Mel Hoff if you would like more information about this.

Thanks! And welcome back!

### **Possible Book Discussion Group**

If there are enough people interested, I am willing to lead a discussion of the book “The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy” by John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. The book is in hard copy; it retails for \$26 although if we have an order of at least eight, I can get it for \$21. While dates are not set, and will depend on both my summer schedule and the schedules of participants, I’m thinking of four to six sessions, most likely meeting after Sunday services and/or after our adult education sessions since this might be most convenient and gas conscious for those traveling considerable distances. If interested, e-mail me at [jaybeedi@yahoo.com](mailto:jaybeedi@yahoo.com) or phone me at 715-432-0023. Jerry Buerer

### **Social Justice Committee Update**

The Social Justice Committee wants to thank everyone who helped make the Spring for Justice Fish Fry a success. Special thanks to our two fishermen, Paul Braunstein and Jim Williams and to Tim Richardson and everyone else who prepared food for the event, helped set up and clean up. Your work is appreciated. We raised money and had a good time too.

The next Social Justice Committee meeting will be **June 22nd**, after the service in the meeting room at the Fellowship.

### **Community Table**

Lakeland Area Ministerial Association's Community Table was held at St. Mathias Episcopal Church on Tuesday, May 20. Thank you to Elinore Sommerfeld, Sharon VanRaalte and Audrey Williams for furnishing a dish to pass and to Joyce Barnes and Candy Sorenson for furnishing a dish to pass as well as helping to set up, serve and clean up.

### **Ministry Planning Committee**

The Ministry Planning Committee would like to thank Elinore and Tom Sommerfeld, Joyce and Don Barnes, Terri and Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer and Mary Ann and Dick Fields for hosting dinners on weekends that Suzanne Wasilczuk was in the pulpit.

### **Zen Presentation**

Nearly 70 people attended the Zen presentation June 9th at the Fellowship. Every bench and chair was in use, it seemed. We experienced a wonderful sitting meditation and were advised to, "Be Here Now...with loving kindness in our hearts." Many attendees expressed interest in our UU philosophy. Since we had such a wonderful response from our own fellowship (I counted 16 of us), there were many knowledgeable folks to answer questions. The program sparked some longer-term interest as well. At our weekly Green Tara Sangha "sit", which occurs in our lower level every Thurs. evening at 5:15, we had over twice the usual number of participants this week. Emaho! (marvelous). *From Betsy Schusler*

### **Unitarians for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**

*From Trish Kirk, Northwoods UU representative of Unitarians for Ethical Treatment of Animals* It is UFETA's hope to bring Animal Compassion up as an Action of Immediate Witness at GA in June 2008. You can see this proposed action at:

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/104486.shtml>.\*

If you are going to GA, please stop by UFETA's booth and sign the petition so we can have this Action of Immediate Witness put forth and get discussed at GA. It will be a wonderful opportunity.

\* Topic Title: Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion

Description: Religious leaders and traditions forged this document to grow compassion for all beings and express their lives of faith by concrete actions that improve nonhuman animals' well being and reduce their suffering. This AIW asks the UU General Assembly to sign on to this document as a body and encourage member congregations to study this issue and take corresponding action to reduce the substantial and acute suffering of nonhuman animals.

Contact: Rev. LoraKim Joyner, D.V.M., [amoloros@juno.com](mailto:amoloros@juno.com).

### **UUA News**

**General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, June 25-29, 2008**

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

**Midwestern Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly: June 30 - July 6, 2008.** This is a link to their website: [www.muusa.org](http://www.muusa.org).

Join us for our inaugural year as we create new roots at scenic Trout Lodge located in 5,200 acres of pine and oak forest on a 360-acre lake 75 miles south of Saint Louis. Come enjoy swimming, bicycling, boating, fishing, tennis, miniature golf, volleyball, horseback riding, and many other activities all while surrounded by a community of nurturing UUs. Individuals and families can come together in this place, and enjoy the programming offered. **AMUUSE Camp, July 13-19 or August 10-16** [www.amuuse.org](http://www.amuuse.org)

**Summer Woman Spirit at Ronora, August 1-3**, Watervliet Michigan, [www.womenandreligion.org](http://www.womenandreligion.org).

**UUWomen's Fall Retreat, November 7-9**, Williams Bay WI. [www.womensconnection.org](http://www.womensconnection.org)

### **Survey Results Announced!**

After reviewing your responses to the **Association Sunday 2008** Funding Options Survey, President Sinkford is thrilled to announce what *Growth in Spirit* initiatives for excellence in ministry and lay theological education your gifts will support. #

**[CLICK HERE to read the results!](#)**

### ***Now is the Time* Campaign Update**

As of May 20, 2008, the Campaign has reached 77% of its \$50 million goal, including \$16.0 million in cash and pledges and \$22.6 million in legacy commitments. **[Donate Now](#)**

"Low attendance expected for UUA's General Assembly" Security concerns, economic woes, heat deter attendance at Fort Lauderdale event.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/111619.shtml?n>.

### **UU's in the News**

"Unitarian Universalists cheer California gay marriage ruling". UU legislative ministry's amicus brief cited in Supreme Court's decision authorizing same-sex marriages.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/110115.shtml?n>

**Torture awareness, grants and funding, and more UU churches raise banners, awareness of torture** The UU Congregation of Atlanta is one of two Georgia churches to be the first in the state to subscribe to a [June anti-torture campaign](#), sponsored by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

The Palo Alto, Calif., UU Church is among seven churches [participating in "Banners Across America,"](#) the nationwide torture-awareness initiative. The banner of the Congregational Unitarian Church of Woodstock, Ill., will [proclaim torture "a moral issue."](#)

### **Green Tips**

“The average person on earth has a virtual water footprint of about 328,410 gallons each year; that includes everything used to make the food, clothing and other water-driven products we consume. In China, the average footprint is only 185,412 gallons, while in the United States, it is 656,012—the largest on the planet.” *Discover Magazine* To find out more about virtual water footprint and to take a quiz to determine yours, visit <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/home> It’s eye-opening to see how much water goes into the production of meat!

## **News from Afar**

Greetings from Venezuela to all of my friends and family in the Northwoods. I miss you all so very much. The past few months have been quite a roller coaster ride, as well as this whole year abroad. I have grown as a person and my outlook on life has changed. I toured the Island Margarita with the other exchange students for 10 days and it was amazing. It was so beautiful. I also become closer friends with the other exchange students. It's hard to believe that we are only here for one month or so. And I cannot wait. It's been a very bumpy ride and I am more than ready to come home with my newly acclaimed knowledge and language skills. I believe it will take me far in life, as well as change my life.

For this last month that I am here for in Venezuela I will be very busy. I have 2 presentations to give to the rotary clubs from both of my cities. I will be visiting my friends from all around Venezuela for my last time. The time has come for goodbye to all my new friends and family.

To me it has been just a roller coaster ride with the loops, speed fast corners, and the ups and downs. Now the ride is almost over. But that doesn't mean that the roller coaster is slowing down just yet. See you all in one month.

## **Joys and Concerns**

Our condolences go out to Verona Mucci and her son, Billy, on the recent death of her father.

## **Milestones**

Stephanie Perkins	06-18
Celeste and Mike Gonder	06-21
Faye and Lee Calvey	06-24
Betsy Schussler	06-28
Alan VanRaalte	06-28
Barbara Bratcher	06-30

## **Closing Thoughts**

**Summer's Solstice, by Jade Wah'oo**

Ahh! First  
Ray of Dawn

Awakens the heart  
In appreciation of life  
This morn of Summer's  
portent born.  
Yes! Love,  
My basket,  
Yearning to be filled  
With all bliss in the ecstatic  
Joy garnered from Earth's  
Green delight!

Oh! You  
Golden orb,  
Bless all life brought forth  
In the flowers' promise made known

By fruit and bird song  
From now on.

Ha! Smile  
Upon us,  
Lighten each our heart  
That every child is fed and loved;  
Embraced in green arms  
And bloom bright.

Ahh! First  
Ray of Dawn:  
Summer's Solstice born.  
Earth's passionate embrace fulfilled,  
Her covenant song  
Our troth.

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