
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/>

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Volume 2, Number 3

April 1, 1999

Coming Sundays

Sunday, April 4, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 16: "*Utopia: Between Heaven and Earth.*"

Sunday, April 11, 10 AM, Candace Zahn Cain and Terry Hoyt.

Sunday, April 18, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 17: "*Luther and the Reformation.*"

Sunday, April 25, 10 AM, Jane Winkler.

Sunday, May 2, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 18: "*Shakespeare: Measure for Measure.*"

Sunday, May 9, 10 AM, TBA.

Sunday, May 16, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 19: "*Milton, Paradise Lost.*"

Sunday, May 23, 10 AM, Children's Service.

Sunday, May 30, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 20: "*Hume, Swift, and the Collapse of Deism.*"

Note from the President

My thanks to all of you who tore yourselves away from the eager conversation engendered by Tim's very interesting service to put your concentration on the Operating Procedures for the Memorial Garden. Differences of opinion were so good-humoredly expressed that I have high hopes that at the Annual Meeting we will quickly be able to hammer out (Isn't that what they do--"hammer out"?) a policy we can all live with.

Martha Urban asked me to be sure that you have their new address: 2 Buick St., Watertown MA 02472; Phone: (617) 924-6059. Fred will be having surgery on April 14.

Happy Easter, Passover, Renewal, Spring, and new chance!

Pat Harrington

Getting to know UU's

Born and raised in Excelsior, Minnesota, on Lake Minnetoka, near Minneapolis, Don Barnes was the son of the head gardener and superintendent of the R.M. Bennett summer estate. Don grew up surrounded by trees, flowers, and beauty on this 60-acre estate, which had a mile of lakeshore. It was a great place to learn about nature (including fishing) and to dream of the future. At age 12, Don learned from his father how to cross gladiolas. This started him on a career of plant breeding and genetics. It also started discussions with his dad about the possibilities of college and even graduate school as a path for becoming a scientist.

Don's family attended the Congregational Church, which later became the United Church of Christ. In high school Don was active in his church's youth program and was elected treasurer of the state program. He also became youth leader at several churches. While growing up Don delivered newspapers to some of the most well known Minnesota business leaders. The experiences of growing up in the gardener's cottage on the Bennett estate influenced both Don and his sister to view higher education as a way to achieve a certain level of independence.

Don attended the University of Minnesota where he received a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and Soil Science, and a Master's degree in Plant Breeding and Plant Pathology. After a short time in the Army fulfilling his ROTC obligation, Don went to Penn State University where he received his Doctorate in Genetics and Plant Pathology. Throughout his years in school, he worked on research projects associated with alfalfa improvement. Following graduation Don joined the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he continued to work until retirement. After a one-year post-Doc in Pennsylvania, he spent two years in Puerto Rico breeding sorghum and millet and *Tephrosia* (a tropical plant species from Africa known to have the natural insecticide "rotenone" in its leaves). During the next five years Don led a project in Beltsville, Maryland, to breed weevil-resistant alfalfas. Then he moved back the University of Minnesota where he led a USDA program to breed disease-resistant alfalfas and to develop special use alfalfas. Essentially all currently used alfalfa varieties carry pest resistances that Don helped to develop. In response to the Energy Crisis in the 1970's, he initiated the first plant breeding program in the world for increasing biological nitrogen fixation. This program became the model for worldwide plant breeding research on nitrogen fixation. Some of the low nitrogen fixing lines from that research are now being tested as a method to remove nitrogen from fertilizer spills and nitrates from contaminated groundwater. Don also initiated research to develop alfalfas designed for use in power generation from biomass. These alfalfas are presently being tested for use in the North States Power plant being developed in western

Minnesota.

During Don's 26 years at the University of Minnesota he advised 30 graduate students and a number of undergrads. These students now occupy many of the alfalfa leadership positions in universities and industry in the U.S. and foreign countries. Several students have been instrumental in developing public agricultural policy at state, national and international levels. In recognition of his research, educational, and leadership accomplishments Don has received a number of honors including The Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Minnesota and The Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Don was married at age 19 and had three children at five-year intervals starting at age 20. The children now live in Toronto, Canada, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, and Lakeville, Minnesota. After 28 years his first marriage dissolved. After two years of living alone, Don wrote in his diary that he was comfortable being single and probably would not consider remarrying. However, the next day he had a date with Joyce, and that night, writing in his journal, he wrote that he had met a person that he would like to spend the rest of his life with. They married in 1983 and now, together, they have 14 grandkids. Joyce and Don have traveled together to Morocco, Austria, France, England, Wales, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and last week returned from the Grand Cayman Islands.

In the late 1980s, from their home in the Twin Cities, they began to search for a retirement location. They looked throughout Northern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. After spending a weekend in Door County, they took a different route home. Driving north on highway 47 from Rhinelander to Woodruff and experiencing the tamaracks, hardwoods, and pines, they decided that "This is it". During one of their many explorative trips to the area, they met cartographer and life-long Minocqua booster, Art Dorwin. After listening to a description of their dream setting, he suggested that they consider Squirrel Lake. Three months later a lot became available and without hesitation, they bought it in 1991. Over the next three years they planned and constructed the first phase of their home on Squirrel Lake. Using flextime from their 40-hour week jobs in the Twin Cities, they managed to spend four-day weekends, twice a month, tiling floors, laying brick and stone, and landscaping. In 1995 they retired and moved here, and started an addition to their original structure. We have come to know their home as one of the warmest, and most wonderful in the Northwoods.

Amidst their early construction work, sometime during the summer of 1992, they visited one of our Fellowship services at the Community Building, felt welcomed and warmly befriended, which led to their joining the Fellowship in 1996. Like many of us, they had come to the Northwoods for its towering pines and refreshing lakes only to discover the Northwoods Fellowship of people diverse and yet bound by common aspirations and mutual support. They felt doubly blessed. Their advice to us: "People are our resources. We must keep reaching out for new people to maintain and enhance our intentional community." For the Barnes' many contributions to our spirit and effectiveness with the Lakeland Minister's

Association, musical accompaniment of hymns, work on the Memorial Garden, and in our Fellowship, how fortunate we are that they found us.

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

Sunday, May 23 the children of the fellowship will be the presenters for the adult service. This service will give you some idea of what our children study and more about who our children are. There will be music, art, dram, and creative presentations by our youth.

This year's program will also feature our 2nd Coming of Age class. These young people will be completing their church school education this spring. At the service Megan Kratz, Jan Polfus, and MacKenzie Reupert will be sharing some thoughts on their experiences and their beliefs. Please plan on attending.

Meet Our UU Youth

Hi! My name is Chardé Theobald. I am 10 years old and I am in 4th grade at Lac du Flambeau grade school. I like playing play-school after school and doing my homework. I like playing with my friends at school. I play the clarinet and take lessons and I like to play music. When I am at home I like listening to my tapes of the Back Street Boys. I really like playing football outside.

My name is Ryan Zoul. I am 11 years old. I was born on August 7, 1987. I play baseball, basketball, football, snowboarding, and tubing.

I make models. Right now I am making a Lamborgini Diablo. I am good with a yo-yo. I can do round the world, sleeper, gravity pull, forward pass, rocketman, and machinegun!

I enjoy watching wresting. Rey Masterio Junio is the best.

My name is Melanie Cyra. I'm 13, born January 10, 1986. I enjoy many sports including snowboarding, basketball, and softball. I play the saxophone and steel drums, and sing in the school choir. I like going to movies with my friends on weekends.

Pledge Sunday, April 11

Patty Buehler

Why are we here? Because we share a vision, a vision of caring for each other and

the world around us. Our Fellowship offers personal support and inspirational programs for members and friends alike. We have a friendly place for ourselves and our families to worship and learn together. Commitment to sharing and caring is central to our vision.

To maintain and enhance this shared vision we need your financial support as part of your continuing commitment to this Fellowship. On Sunday, April 11th, after services, you will be asked to pledge for the year that begins July 1st. Your generosity makes our vision a reality.

NUUs Feast for Jean

To help send Jean Polfus, our own Midwest USSA skier, to the Junior Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska, March 7-14, Kratzs, Wulffs, Joyce Barnes, Pat Buehler, Pat Harrington, Braunsteins, Bob and Tony Dallapienza, Erbs, Hoyts, Zausners, and Jerry Woolpy were among many friends and neighbors who dined together with the Polfus family on March 1st, at the "pasta fundraiser", at Lakeland Union High School. Go Jean!

Building & Grounds

George Adams

Don't forget to notice our new lectern. Most of the money was donated by Fred and Martha Urban, in a round-about way. Some of the possessions that they had to leave behind were sold and the proceeds donated to our Fellowship. Thanks Fred and Martha!

We now have a sliding glass window between the kitchen and sanctuary to provide a semi-quiet area for adults with fussy children. This solution allows access to restrooms and kitchen facilities and permits the adult to view the service and slide the window open whenever possible.

NUUs Travel

Joan Haurer, Travel Editor

Marie Adams

The last week in February, George and I took advantage of an opportunity to be volunteers with the Wild Burro Rescue in Death Valley, California.

The mission of the non-profit group was to rescue 100 burros that the Park Service wanted to eliminate and otherwise had the right to kill. This was the fifth year of their agreement to rescue the excess burros, but past years only required the group to rescue 20-25 animals.

The Park Service hired a helicopter and a group of wranglers to capture burros and then turned them over to Wild Burro Rescue. Our first two days were spent building two very large pens out of metal panels and various other physical tasks. On the third day, we left at 4:00 AM to drive across the park and another 50-60 miles on a rough, rock-covered gravel mountain road into Saline Valley to assist with the capture.

Each day, trailers would deliver the captured burros and the rest of our time was

dedicated to caring for the animals. All of the burros will go to sanctuaries in family groups as they were living in the Park.

Our accommodations were in an old adobe motel in Death Valley Jct. -- home to eight people. We had no television, radio, or phone and the only things available for purchase in the town were an ice cream bar or microwave pizza in the motel office. Newspapers, gas, or food was 7 miles away at a small casino, but a real town was about 30 miles.

Attached to the motel is the Amargosa Opera House, with sell-out performances every Saturday and Monday by Marta Becket, national known ballet, pantomime and stings performer. Marta, now in her 70's owns the entire ghost town, donates some of the homes and vacant property to the Wild Burro Rescue group each year.

At least two of the homes and a good share of the motel building are not used because they are haunted. The only strange thing we experienced was music that played once in a while when we walked through that section of the motel.

Although the work was physically demanding, and we ate very few regular meals, we have probably made lasting friendships with some of the eleven volunteers and both agree that it was the best trip we've ever experienced.

Pre-GA Conference On Stewardship & Giving

Canvass leaders, board members, treasurers, finance committee members, religious educators, and other UU's may wish to attend a Pre-GA Conference "From The Myth of Scarcity To the Reality of Abundance," Thursday, June 24, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City. Call 888-792-5885 ext. 401 for details.

Mark Your Calendars

NUU Pledge Sunday--April 11th .

UUA Central Midwest District Annual

Meeting, Peoria, IL, April 16-18.

NUU Annual Meeting--May 21st .

UUA General Assembly, Salt Lake City,

June 24-28, Theme: Fulfilling

promise to help one another.

NUU Views

Question: Paul Braunstein calls our attention to the following "Stand up for your Faith" prayer by Rev. John Corrado of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. Is it an accurate view of Unitarian Universalists? What would you change? What would you add? What would you delete?

*Some call our faith a "salad bar" religion.
We call it a prophetic one.
Let us pray that we may be more nearly worthy of such a lofty claim.*

Let ours be:

...not a religion that strives to transform lives:

*...not a religion where freedom means "do your own thing."
But a religion where freedom
Is the sweet fruit of sacrifice,
braced by responsibility;*

*...not a religion that anoints victimhood,
but a religion that celebrates victorious living;*

*...not a religion which espouses a political ideology, but a religion which enables and
empowers individuals to decide how they might best serve the just, the true, the right;*

*...not a religion by survey or poll,
but an historical religion whose heritage is always values and whose message is ever
renewed;*

*...not a religion of hyphenated loyalties,
but a religion whose abiding core
makes of its different voices one mighty chorus.*

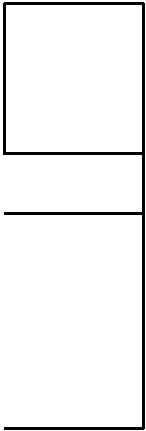
*This we pray that we may prove worthy of serving a religion worthy of being served.
This we pray under the eyes of the eternal. Amen.*

Answer: This is a prayer that many in the fellowship should answer as a way to give their views. I have the comment that our faith is not a "salad bar" religion. Our faith does have a tendency towards becoming a religion of the "lowest common denominator." Those of our faith who find their strength in spirituality and belief in a greater being, force or spirit should not be restrained by those who are humanists or atheists. And those who are humanists or atheists must strive for a means to deliver their message through a "mighty chorus." We all need to be a voice of reason, we all need to be a "beacon of light," if our faith is to have value beyond ourselves. Terry Hoyt

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.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, May 9, 1999.

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