



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 6, Number 10

March 21,

2005 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

April 3: 10 AM, Rev Michael Schuler

April 17: Rev. Glenda Walker, "Aphorisms to Live By"—Bring your favorite to share.

May 1: Paul and Suzzane Gilk

May 15: Coming of Age/Person Journey, Youth RE

May 20: Jerry Buerer

June 12: Laura Erickson

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

Peace Rally

This past Sunday, about 70 people from the Northwoods Peace Coalition, including many NUUF members, participated in a peace demonstration in Minocqua, marking the 2nd anniversary of the beginning of the War in Iraq. There was excellent coverage of the rally on Channel 12 that night.

3rd Annual Auction

The Auction Committee requests that you mark your calendars for Friday, June 10, 2005 for the 3rd annual auction. There will be a supper served before the auction, starting at 5:30. We will request a small donation to cover the cost of supper. The auction starts at 6:30. There will be no silent auction this year. Start thinking about what you could offer—services, talents, canoe trips, various kinds of dinners, family outing, etc.

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.

WUUrld's 2005 WhaleCoast Alaska

Five Alaska UU Fellowships invite other UU's from "outside" for our UU eco-spiritual/intercultural programs in July 2005. See the *REAL* Alaska! Stay in UU homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka. See whales, sea lions, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles and many other birds and animals in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south. Visit Denali's Mt. McKinley and Kenai's fjords and glaciers. See totem poles, native arts, dancing, and story telling. Rev. Dick and Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website www.wuurld.org, email dick@wuurld.org or phone toll free 1-888-998-8753 for a brochure. Reservations due April 1. (*Editor's Note: We took a similar trip with them in 2001 and highly recommend it. I have a copy of the complete travel brochure. Please contact us if you have questions.*)

Princeton Egg Project

If you are interested in more information on Wenda Sheard's sermon last summer, the Princeton Egg Project, she suggests you visit <http://noosphere.princeton.edu/> or <http://www.rednova.com/news/>

General Assembly 2005 Theme: Ministering to Families in Today's World.

GA 2005 will be held June 23-27 in Fort Worth, Texas. The Family Matters Task Force will present a number of workshops with a focus on speaking and living our family values, family faith stories, interfaith families, adoption, reproductive technology, aging parents, violence, intergenerational worship and church life. Special guests will include Elaine Pagels and Pete Seeger. Visit www.uua.org for more information or see the current UUWorld.

CMwD District Assembly will be April 15-17, 2005 in Arlington Heights, IL. If you are interested in displaying artwork or having a vending area, contact Clare Lynd-Porter at clarelyndporter@hotmail.com.

Lake Geneva Summer Assembly Unitarian Universalist: July 3-9, 2005

The theme for this year's summer assembly is **Creativity: Central to our Hearts and Souls as Human Beings**. For more information, go to www.lgsauu.org. (*Editor's note: I have a copy of the brochure.*)

WomanSpirit

The Olympia Brown UU Woman's Federation of Racine Wisconsin is sponsoring the 8th Annual WomanSpirit Faire and Bizarre on May 1, 2005 from noon to 5 pm. (*Contact me if you want additional information. Editor*)

From the UUSC (www.uusc.org)

The **UUSC Coffee Project** was launched at General Assembly in June of 2001; just as world coffee market prices were beginning to collapse. Years later, the coffee crisis continues as prices remain at their lowest point in decades, devastating farming communities across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In 2003, Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country increasingly were making a difference in the lives of small coffee, tea and cocoa farmers. About 500 congregations – nearly 50 percent of all UU congregations – are now participating, offering hope to small farmers at a critical time!

The UUSC Coffee Project partners UUSC with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade organization founded in 1986. Buying coffee, tea and cocoa directly from farmer cooperatives, Equal Exchange follows the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products, ensuring that low-income farmers earn a fair price for their products.

Direct payment to farmers also eliminates the middlemen, giving farmers a much larger share of the profits. In 2001 alone, Equal Exchange paid farmers almost \$1 million above what they would have earned under conventional trade practices. This allows farmers to better meet their families' basic needs, such as food, education, and health care.

In partnership with these small farmer cooperatives from India and Tanzania to Guatemala and Mexico, Equal Exchange also provides essential pre-harvest credits, gives technical assistance to cooperatives, encourages environmentally sustainable practices and healthy and safe working conditions.

Minutes of NUUF Board Meeting, February 4, 2005

Present: A. VanRaalte, Tom Sommerfeld, Joan Hauer. Terry Hoyt presided.

Call to order.

Approval of Minutes: approved as corrected and circulated.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed. Budgets from committees expected by February 28.

Offer of a monetary gift; Implementation of the Endowment Committee process: An offer of a gift of money was received to be restricted to the Building/ remodeling consideration. With past approval of the Endowment Committee and process, the need to establish a committee is imperative. Participation will be solicited through the newsletter. Some members have expressed interest in the past. A special meeting needs to be arranged for this purpose. A response to the donor is also in order along with a copy of the existing endowment policy to assure mutual understanding. The board moved to accept the restricted gift pending the above action.

Committee reports: No written reports received. The Pastoral Care Committee will meet on February 16 to start work on a mission statement and work plan.

Retreat: Donald Wiseman, who has a thirty year history both actively and consulting in planning and leadership will act as facilitator for the February 19 Retreat to be held at the Fellowship starting at 10 am. A plan that incorporates Social Justice, Religious Education, Ministerial and Physical aspects is anticipated. Members are asked to RSVP by February 14, so lunch can be arranged. Dinner will be planned for the board with the facilitator the evening prior to help acquaint him with our profile. Review of the building/remodeling proposal will be included in the Retreat day with Dick Fields and the committee.

Annual Meeting: Potential May dates and times of day were discussed. The meeting was tentatively set for May 21. Usual order of business was reviewed: officers, committee reports, and financial report. A separate meeting will be arranged to deal with the building issues.

Building use requests: WICCAN group has requested use for February 25; approved.

Ministerial Group: Met at the Fellowship. The dues payment, \$25, was approved. The group is poorly attended and in danger of disbanding.

Next meeting set for March 18, 9 am.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Hauer

News from Afar

From Amy Holt: Hello all! I wanted to say hi to everyone and let you know what I'm doing. I love being in Korea...the people here are so nice and helpful which is really wonderful considering the language barrier. There is a lot less English than I was expecting and Korean is difficult to learn. Tonight I will have my first Korean lesson with one of the women who works at the YMCA.

My job at the Y is split up by months and the first section just ended. I spent the mornings at a preschool helping out and playing with the kids. I stayed there through lunch and then went to work at a second hand shop. I really enjoyed both places and am hoping to go back to them in April. The other volunteer and I are now planning an English Drama Camp that will be held at the end of this week. I think it's coming together nicely, but it's so hard to tell how these language-based activities will go. In March I start teaching English to a class of mothers and children. I found a book of children's stories so I'm kind of excited about it. I'll also be working at the welfare center but I have no idea exactly what that will involve.

I'm living with a host family and apparently I can stay there for as much of the three months as I want to. They are really wonderful and so are some of their family friends so I may just stay there until I come home. They enjoy

taking me places and trying to explain things to me. One of the most interesting places I went was the Unification Observatory where I could actually see North Korea across the river. I haven't made it to the DMZ yet, but I'm planning to go when it gets warmer. I've also been to a palace, which was beautiful. Even though it was in Seoul, there were mountains in the background and the view was amazing. I'm really looking forward to doing some hiking (once again, waiting for slightly warmer weather).

Anyway, things are mostly fabulous here although I do miss being able to easily communicate with people. The food is great as long as I eat gimchi (pickled cabbage) in very small doses. I guess that's about it. I would love to hear from you all. Oh, and here's a mailing address for me at the Y...I guess it takes about 7-10 days for things to get here:

Amy Holt

c/o Koyang YMCA

3-39 Todang-dong Deoqyag-gu

Goyang-si gyeonggi-do South Korea

Take care and be in touch. I miss you all.

Amy

Meet Our (New) Members

From Ruth Sproull, Dick Pantalone, Ellie Deri-Sproull: We are new members and we wish to introduce ourselves: Ruth Sproull, Dick Pantalone and our daughter, Ellie Deri-Sproull. Ruth was raised an Episcopal/Presbyterian and Dick a Catholic. When we moved to Rhinelander, it appeared that many people centered their lives around church. We were thrilled to see the NUU sign on the highway because we have known and liked so many UU's. We decided to come to the fellowship so that Ellie would have an open-minded place to develop spiritually.

Our joy is that we are thrilled to be living and participating in life here in the Northwoods and our concern is Dick's father, as he has been very ill. What we like best about the Fellowship is that many people are intellectually active and are working in different ways for social justice. Social problems that concern us are the division within our country and the world, and the trend toward the individual and loss of community.

The most important things in our lives are to be needed and useful. The church activities we enjoy most are listening to good speakers and meeting new people with like-minded ideas and principles. We believe we can contribute to the fellowship by bringing a point of view from a different part of the country.

From Eileen Goggins Schultz: I was raised on a dairy farm in Waupaca, the youngest of 10 children. It was a wonderful life for a child; I enjoyed the solitude that nature has to offer. We attended the Lutheran Church. As a child I loved learning about God and Jesus,

it gave me a warm, loving feeling. Later when I married, my husband wanted to raise our children in his Catholic faith. That was fine with me because I felt that learning of a higher power in ones life, be it without or within, was what is important, not the particular doctrine of a particular church. After my husband died, I wanted to participate in a church but I was no longer Lutheran, nor was I Catholic -- in walked Glenda Walker of the 1st U.U. of Wausau. I have always loved the study of different religions but found that I could not accept the doctrine of any one particular church and the U.U. proved to be a perfect fit. I have two daughters, both married and three grandchildren, interestingly one daughter is now Lutheran and the other has tried to find a church that fits her but she's just too much like me and was married at the U.U. in Wausau. A recent joy in my life is my marriage to Tom a little over a year ago and that is what brought me to the north woods. We have built a lovely home on 80 acres and as when I was a child, I still love the solitude that nature offers. I enjoy writing and painting and this is a lovely spot for it. I know that I will enjoy this area as I have enjoyed meeting the wonderful members of this U.U. This fellowship seems to have a strong, far-reaching membership and I look forward to watching it grow.

Closing Thoughts

BRAIN WASHED

Is this brain clean

from the scrubbing

of long ago

antisepticised and free

from any

protozoan of doubt

A sterilized vessel

into which

can be set

others' tenets

that will not change

and cannot grow

Or is there yet

some fertile fold

where lies

a germinating thought

that leads to question why

or how

Alan VanRaalte

Prejudice is like a hair across your cheek. You can't see it, you can't find it with your fingers, but you keep brushing it because it feels irritating.

Marian Anderson

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The NUUSLETTER is published every 6 weeks. **Next Deadline: Sunday, May 1, 2005.**

Send submissions and suggestions to Elinore Sommerfeld, Editor, at esommerf@aol.com or call 385-2407.

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Here

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