



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 9, Number 8

March 15,

2008 Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

March 30: Rev. Bobbie Groth

April 13: Richard Olson

April 27: Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk

“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.

We are continuing a 24 lecture series entitled **Peoples and Cultures of the World**. The course is an introduction to anthropology with a dynamic speaker. Please plan to join us for this interesting series. Upcoming lectures are:

March 23: Multiple Spouses and Matrilineality; Gatherers and Hunters

April 6: Headmen and Horticulturists: Cannibalism and Violence
April 20: The Role of Reciprocity; Chiefdoms and Redistribution

From the President

If you turn to page 44 of the Spring 2008 issue of the UU World magazine you will find the UUA's *Annual Report on Giving*. Turn a few more pages (for some incomprehensible reason, these pages are unnumbered) and you will find our fellowship listed in the Wisconsin constituency preceded by the letters "H" and "T". The "H" means that we are an honor congregation because we have given at least our minimum fair share to the support of the denomination. The "T" means that we have done so for at least the past 10 years. We have, in fact, contributed our fair share from the time the UUA chartered NUUF as a congregation. The founders of the fellowship took the commitment to the denomination seriously enough to include that intention in the bylaws.

We also received the *Vision of Justice Banner*, which acknowledges that 50% to 74% of our members also make individual contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) which has been active in social justice and humanitarian issues for many years. One recent project has been the committee's involvement in the Darfur region of Sudan to try to bring an end to the human rights abuses occurring there and help alleviate the suffering. It has also contributed aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and most recently has tried to respond to the political crisis in Kenya. And our fellowship has a long history of addressing social issues here in our own community. I am thankful and proud to be a part of a congregation and denomination that do not confine their religion to Sunday morning worship services or to concerns about eternity, but actively demonstrate their commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relations to help address the problems that people face today.

In peace and love, Alan

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

April 26: Seder Dinner

June 6: Social Justice Committee Fish Fry Fundraiser

Food Pantry Update

Tuesday, **March 25th**, is the NUUF day to staff the Food Pantry. We will need six volunteers from 9:00 AM to about 11:30 AM. If you are available to help, please call Mel Hoff at 588-1409. NOTE: Donations of non-perishable food items as well as personal care items are always welcome and needed. For your convenience a drop-off box is in the Fellowship vestibule. Thank you for your continuing support of the Lakeland Area Food Pantry.
Mel Hoff

Building Use Responsibilities

If you or your committee uses the building, there are certain things that you are responsible for doing. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

Make sure the building is locked when you leave.

Make sure the heat is turned down and that all electrical heaters are turned off.

Make sure that you have taken any garbage or recyclables with you.

Make sure that you have properly set the dishwasher to operate properly to clean those dishes you have used. It would be nice if someone even came back to clean out the dishwasher and put your dishes away. If you don't know how to use the dishwashers, please ask someone before you try.

If you have made any kind of a mess, please vacuum or sweep it up.

Replenish supplies of paper towels and toilet paper.

Some people behave like children who can't clean up after themselves.

Please don't let that be you. We are not your housekeeper.

Thank you. Building and Grounds Committee

Special Events at the Duluth UU Church OPENING OUR DOORS OPENING OUR HEARTS

From the Inside - Out: A Denominational Look At GLBTQ Faith Equality

Friday, **April 4th**, 7:30 pm Ovation in Concert! This 8 voice GLBT group will lift your spirit! \$15 suggested

Saturday, **April 5th** 1 pm - 8 pm Opening Our Doors Conference
UUA Office of GLBTQ Concerns Rev. Keith Kron is our keynote speaker!

Special worship, breakout sessions, gourmet dinner with live music, \$20

suggested.

Friday **May 16th**, 7 pm? Reverend Bill Sinkford, President of UUA, will join in **dedicating our NEW BUILDING!** Come meet and listen to Rev. Sinkford as we look to the future. Saturday **May 17th**, 1 pm - 5 pm UUCD New Building Open House! Come tour our new, green space! Learn about how we 'greened' the construction! Listen to choirs from numerous faith traditions try out our new sanctuary! Questions? Contact Karen Bauman at kklgb4820@msn.com

Special Meditation Event

You are invited to an evening of discussion and practice with American Zen Master, Roshi Junpo Denis Kelly.

This is a rare opportunity to look at how Zen Buddhism considers the human experience; in all of its expressions: emotional, relational, physical and environmental. The event will be Thursday **April 10th**, at the Fellowship from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. For more information about him, visit www.hollowbones.org) or call Ken at 356-7461

Seder Service

There will be a Seder Service on **Saturday, April 26**. More details will be coming soon from Jerry Woolpy.

May Day Memories and Melodies

There will be a Benefit Dinner and Dance for the Alzheimer Assn.on **Saturday, April 26** at the Holiday Inn Express in Rhinelander. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$35 per person. Call 362-7779 for more information.

Save the Date!

The Social Justice Committee is hosting a fish fry fundraiser on **Friday, June 6**, to help defray the costs of the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. We hope many of our summer residents will be back north to join us welcome summer.

Yoga Workshop

Given the summer schedules of our esteemed teacher, Judith Roth, and ourselves, we have tentatively set a potential four day Yoga workshop at our home for **Friday June 27 through Monday June 30** provided we can get enough pre-registrations to pay for Judith's expenses. The cost of the program, which includes one yoga session per day, will be \$50 per

person without room but with yoga and brunches or lunches. (Contact me if you wish to stay at our home.)

Judith is a wonderful yogi. She has thirty years experience teaching movement and starting in 1994 had her own studio in Seattle before moving operations to Yelapa Mexico where we met her this spring. The yoga emphasizes alignment and is informed by considerable Anusara experience. For more information about Judith, visit www.yogainyelapa.com

Please let us know that you would like to be included and are prepared to place a non-refundable deposit if and when we think we have the critical mass to get non-refundable air tickets for Judith. We would like to have deposits in hand by March 31 so that Judith can firm up her summer plans. All the proceeds will go to Judith; we are donating the food, our home, and hearth.

Jerry Woolpy and Tara Reed

RSVP jerryw@earlham.edu or 356 6276

Do you have an interest in ministry to the sick?

Are you able to express compassion and listen non-judgmentally? The Pastoral Care Department at Howard Young Medical Center will be once again offering a 5-week training program for our Pastoral Visitor program, starting April 14. Pastoral Visitors assist our chaplains by visiting newly admitted patients, completing a brief needs assessment, and making them aware of

the emotional and spiritual support services available to them. This training will qualify you for this important and rewarding volunteer ministry but you will not be asked to commit to serving in this role until after you complete the training. If you are interested in attending this training, or simply have questions, contact Chaplain Bob Barnes at 356-8735.

AMUUSE Camp Info

Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles Enrichment (AMUUSE) will again hold 3 weeks of summer camp: **June 15-20** in Saugatuck, MI, **July 13-19** in Williams Bay, WI, and **August 10-16** in Saugatuck, MI. Visit www.amuuse.org for more information. Brochures are also available at the Fellowship.

UU B&B DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals

and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home can fulfill your dream. We provide a network of hosts in the U.S. and abroad who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home Web site at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published annually. For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the Web site listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

UUA News

District Assembly in St. Louis Friday April 25 through Sunday April 27.

The highlights of this year's assembly will be conversations, speeches and worship services about taking lessons of the past and using them to shape our religious future.

UUWomen's Connection, June 6-8, Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL.

www.womensconnection.org

AMUUSE Camp, June 15-20, July 13-19 or August 10-16

www.amuuse.org

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

UUWomen's Fall Retreat, November 7-9, Williams Bay WI.

www.womensconnection.org

UU's in the News

"Two UU ministers arrested protesting war" In Washington, Sinkford urges political leaders to seek forgiveness for Iraq war.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102217.shtml?n>

Finding the faith, leaving the faith

Unitarian Universalism gets some positive attention in this article about [a new survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life](#), which found that nearly half of American adults have left the faith tradition of their

upbringing.

Unitarian Universalism gets somewhat less favorable attention in this student's [personal reflection on her spiritual journey](#) away from the UU faith and toward Judaism.

Green Tips

No more “Paper or Plastic”! Trigs is now selling reusable grocery bags. They are sturdy with a comfortable handle and hold a lot of groceries. Every time you use one of these bags you receive a 5c discount on your grocery bill. You can find out more about them at www.earthwisebags.com.

News from Afar

This past summer the Care Committee gathered information and made a display highlighting activities of many of the young people who have passed through our fellowship during the last several years. Over the next few months we plan to include these stories in the NUUSLETTER. This month we are featuring Amy and Cora Holt..

Amy Holt: Things have been pretty busy over the last couple of years for me. I graduated from UW-Madison in 2004 with degrees in English and Political Science. After that I spent three months outside of Seoul, South Korea doing volunteer work for the YMCA International. I stayed with a wonderful host family and lived through the double culture shock of being in Korea and living with the family of a Baptist minister. My job at the YMCA involved teaching English classes to children and adults, working in a kindergarten, and doing projects with their social services office. As I only worked during the week, I had my weekends to travel and explore different areas of Korea, including the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea and Jeju Island in the south.

When I returned from South Korea, I moved to Madison where I worked for a year while applying to graduate schools. In August of 2006 I started a 16-month graduate program at Syracuse University. I graduated in December 2007 with a MA in International Relations and a certificate in Conflict Resolution. As part of my studies, I spent last summer in Strasbourg, France taking courses on conflict resolution and human rights. After six weeks of courses, I spent some time in Germany before starting the next semester. I spent the fall semester in Kampala, Uganda attending Makerere University and participating in an internship with a local

organization that does conflict resolution and development work involving local youth in the Kampala area.

After graduation, who knows? I am thinking about looking for a job in Washington, DC for a while, but I'd ultimately like to end up back in the Midwest.

Cora Holt: Cora graduated from Lakeland Union High in the spring of 2004. She is enjoying continuing her education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Not yet ready to give up organized sports, she tried out for the Badger girls soccer team as a walk-on and earned a position. She played for a couple of years but found that the travel and practices interfered with her classes in the biochemistry program. She has done some volunteer work at a local hospital and with a community program for kids interested in science. Having completed her junior year, she is set to graduate in either December 2007 or May 2008. As part of her laboratory experience she will be traveling with a group of students and an instructor to Uganda during the winter.

Cora is not sure what she will do when she completes her bachelor's degree. Grad school is likely. She is considering bioethics, some of the legal aspects of genetics and biochemistry, and other options.

Milestones

Kayla Norris	03-19
Connie Downey	03-22
Jason Orloff	03-23
Sally O'Brien	03-24
Dan Rondello	03-24
Terry Hoyt	03-27
Pat Bickner	03-29
Tara Reed	04-03
Joyce Barnes	04-08
Doris and Arthur Eberlein	04-11
Steven Cyra	04-13
Joe Strauss	04-14
Jessica Reupert	04-14
Doris Eberlein	04-16

Closing Thoughts

Celebration of the Spring Equinox

From the Unitarian Universalists of Puerto Rico

The equinox is sacred to dawn, youth, the morning star and the east. A time of celebrating the Greening of the Earth. The Saxon goddess, Eostre (also Ostara from whose name we get the direction East and the holiday Easter) is a dawn goddess, like Aurora and Eos. Just as the dawn is the time of new light, so the vernal equinox is the time of new life, of the flowering plants and fruitful vines. Equinoxes are ancient celebrations of the Anglo Saxons and Druids.

Many celebrations, ancient and modern have taken place at this time of year. The common theme of all of them is that during the three nights of darkness between the last moon and the new moon is a time of death or exile, usually a descent of the goddess or god into the underworld for this period of three days. This is such a popular theme among religions that mythologists refer to it as "the harrowing of Hell". Victory of a god of light (or life, rebirth, resurrection) over the powers of darkness (death).

On the first full moon after the equinox the Jewish People celebrate Passover, which commemorates a time when the people of Israel were freed from slavery in Egypt. Christians celebrate Easter on the first Sunday, after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox. In ancient Sumeria (present day Iraq) people celebrated the return of Dumuzi from the underworld. In ancient Greece it was the return of Persephone. For the Romans this was the beginning of the New Year. Rebirth and deliverance are common themes in all of these holidays. This is a joyful time of year, a time of new beginnings. It is time for the solar festival we call Vernal Equinox when the light and dark are in balance. This is the point in the year when fire and water combine to fertilize the soil and re-animate all life on Earth - the Earth is awakening from a long period of sleep.

Place Stamp Here

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
P.O .Box 1881
Woodruff, WI 54568-1881
<http://nuuf.com>

Alan VanRaalte, President
453-8083, vanraalte@klinktech.net

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