
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/>

Pat Harrington, President, 277-3476, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, jerryw@earlham.edu

Volume 2, Number 4

June 3, 1999

Coming Sundays

Sunday, June 6, 10 AM, TBA.

Sunday, June 13, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 21: "Kierkegaard's Leap of Faith."

Sunday, June 20, 10 AM, Julie Wambach.

Sunday, June 27, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 22: "Dostoyevsky's The Idiot and the Book of Revelation."

Sunday, July 4, 10 AM, Rev. Doug Wadkins.

Sunday, July 11, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 23: "Nietzsche and the Death of God."

Sunday, July 18, 10 AM, Rev. Max Gaebler.

Sunday, July 25, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 24: "Joyce: From Religion to Art."

Sunday, August 1, 10 AM, Susan Urban

Sunday, August 8, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 1: "Philosophy and Religion as Traditions."

Sunday, August 15, 10 AM, Rev Bob Mellett.

Sunday, August 22, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Lecture 2: "Plato's Inquiries: The Gods and the Good."

Sunday, August 29, 10 AM, Dr. Helen Bishop, UU District Executive.

Note from the President

(Adapted from Rev Ann E. Tyndull, Unitarian Church of Evanston.)

Here are eight ways to be a good citizen of our church:

First, assume good intentions and that each of us speaks and acts with the good of community at heart.

Second, keep an open mind. If our religious community is that and not a country

club, there will be moments when each of us feels pushed beyond our limits. It might be that the reality of another person's life challenges us to confront an unseen prejudice, or that one group's spiritual orientation puts our professed tolerance to the test. Expect to be changed here.

Third, engage. Each of you has a responsibility to be an active participant in the governance of this church. Each of you must speak so the rest of us might hear the truth as you perceive it. Each of us must listen so that the harmonies and dissonances of the truth will be heard.

Fourth, plan to stay for the long haul. We are accustomed to being problem solvers, and if we are unable to find a solution, the temptation is to lose interest. True democratic process takes time because it moves from the bottom up. Roll up your sleeves, loosen your tie, kick off your high heels. Plan on hanging in with the process.

Fifth, trust in the process.

Sixth, develop a thick skin. If we are to engage fully, we will be passionate, sometimes anxious, and once in a great while even intemperate. We will last longer if we toughen up.

Seventh, when there is a move for change, expect automatic reactivity or resistance. Reactivity does not yield to reasoned argument, nor does it dissipate by being forced into a corner. It is probably not even personal. What helps is to genuinely listen and hear another's concerns. Hold to your convictions without needing the approbation of every last person.

Eighth, be grateful that in a democracy we work by majority rule. As I have grown older, I have come to appreciate democratic process precisely because it makes room for dissent without requiring unanimity. Any member can vote his or her conscience, and will not be forced to abandon that position so the congregation can move forward with its ambiguities and contradictions.

The democratic process is our best hope for ensuring that each of us can be true to him or herself and true to each other in a way that transcends our individual limitations. It is our best chance to embody a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts: our surest bet that we will serve the larger good with justice and compassion.

May your voice be strong. May your ears hear keenly. May you be long on trust, and short on cynicism, that together we shape a community of equity, justice, and hope. Pat Harrington

Fellowship Youth Sparkle

In what was perhaps the most exciting and sensitive presentation ever seen or heard at our Fellowship Hall, under the direction of Dawn Holt with help from Andrea Billings, Annamarie Beckel, and Toni Lieppert Polfus, RE and Coming of Age students thrilled the congregation with their program on May 23. Cora Holt, Minetta Koblings, Amy Kratz, and

Claire Polfus led us through our 7 UU principles in song and pantomime. Avery Koblings, Kayla Norris, and Laura and Ryan Zoul presented principle 7. Coming of Age students Megan Kratz, Jean Polfus, and Kenzie Reupert gave their faith statements.

Philosophy & Religion in the Western World

New Adult RE Series

Beginning August 8 and continuing every other Sunday we will view and discuss 12 half-hour video tape lectures by Phillip Cary that are an historical examination of the interaction between philosophical and religious traditions in the West. We begin with how Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Plotinus dealt with God, the soul, and the nature of the cosmos. We will trace the origins of the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, the Fall and “going to heaven” as the soul’s return to its native place. Then we turn to Judaism and Christianity, their practices, texts, and places where humans meet God. And finally we consider the interaction between Greek and Judeo-Christian traditions. This is part 1 of a series that continues in part 2 with consideration of modernity and how philosophers became critics of religion. Members and friends are cordially invited to join the happy band of folks who meet at the fellowship every other Sunday to look, listen, snack, and discuss.

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

Thanks to RE Volunteers

Thanks to all who volunteered this year to teach our children. Without the time and energy of the following people, we would not have a successful children's religious education program. Annamarie Beckel, Andrea Billings, Pat Buehler, Bob Dallapiazza, Ruth Erbs, Dawn McCusker, Toni Lieppert Polfus, Diane Reupert, and Candace Zahn Cain.

RE Summer Sign Up

The children's 1998-1999 religious education program on May 23rd. As we move into the summer months the fellowship is in need of people to sign up to teach, provide childcare, or supervise play for our youth during the adult services. Those of us who have put a lot of time and energy into this program during the school year are looking forward to some time off. There is a sign up sheet downstairs on the bulletin board. Please sign up for a Sunday. For the summer there is no set curriculum. You can use your own ideas, provide supervised play, or use one of our extra curriculums such as Timeless Themes (bible stories), You the Creator (art ideas), or Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope (moral and ethical stories). These books are located on the RE shelves in the downstairs closet.

Thank You to Our Youth

Thanks to our youth for providing the flowers in the youth flower planters. They were planted on Saturday, May 22nd. In addition to planting flowers our young people contributed to the fellowship in other ways. Kenzie Reupert, Jean Polfus, Megan Kratz,

Claire Polfus, Amy Kratz, Cora Holt, and Minetta Koblings cleaned the building for the May 23rd service. The older children along with Kim Norris, Kayla Norris, Avery Koblings, Laura Zoul, and Ryan Zoul also served as greeters and coffee hour hosts that Sunday. Our fellowship is truly blessed with some wonderful, unique, creative young people. They are a pleasure to work with.

Congratulations to the COA Class

Congratulations to our 3 youth who completed a year of spiritual journey through the 1998-1999 Coming of Age Class. This class is a culmination of all the years of a child's religious education. Best wishes to Megan Kratz, Jean Polfus, and Kenzie Reupert as they continue their life-long spiritual journey into young adulthood.

Meet Our UU Youth

I'm Jean Polfus, a freshman at LUHS. My first year of high school is almost over. In the fall, I was in cross country running and placed 3rd in conference. After running, skiing took over. All winter I completed in USSA races and in March I went to Alaska for the Xcountry Skiing Junior Olympics. It was a wonderful week and I had a blast. This spring I'm on the Lakeland girl's soccer team. Our season is almost half over, we're doing ok considering this is our first year as a varsity program. Aside from sports, I play saxophone in the high school band. This spring our whole band is traveling to Florida to play a concert in Disney Land. This year I've worked on coming of age for church and completed my journey in the May 23rd service.

My name is Claire Polfus. I love to XC ski and play soccer. This past winter I had a very good ski season. I came in 3rd and 6th at the Wisconsin Junior high school championships. Right now I am on an all-girls travelling soccer team. I'm really excited about that. I also like to be outdoors, camp, swim, I am in track, and I play violin, flute, and piano.

Jessie Reupert: Many people that I have talked to have shown an interest in what I will be doing beyond high school, so I chose to write a statement in this newsletter. After I graduate, I will spend my summer working at Clear Lake Campground for the DNR, and at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory for the Forest Service. I am planning on continuing my education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have not, as of yet, decided what my major will be because I am interested in so many different subjects that it seems pointless to choose what I want to do with the rest of my life now. Some possible majors are Biology, Medicine, English, and Economics. I recently received two scholarships, one from the Karen Nolan Memorial Fund presented by the Literacy Council, and also one from the Rhinelander Area Scholarship Foundation. I hope to travel abroad my sophomore or junior year of college.

I also plan on attending the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship there, and

hope to reunite with some of the people I met on my Coming of Age trip to Boston. Right now I am enjoying the end of my senior year (although “senioritis” has set in!) and I'm looking forward to summer and college in the fall.

Social Activities

Marie Adams

Sunday, June 20 will be the date for our first cook-out for 1999. After coffee hour, everyone is invited to join us outside the lower level. Bring something to cook on the grill (optional) and a dish to share: salads, desserts, beverages, etc. It's a pleasant, social time and visitors are always welcome!

WXPR Concert: It seems like a long time ago since a large group of us attended the April 17 WXPR Concert, *Conga se Menne*. It was very entertaining and we really had a good time. We met at the Claridge Inn for dinner. Our group included Don & Joyce Barnes, Myrle Wasko & Dawn McCusker, George & Marie Adams, Jerry Woolpy & Patty Buehler, Terry & Terri Hoyt, Jan Hauer, Paul & Irma Braunstein, Chip Wolff, Carl Nelson & Joan Terry.

Social Activities Committee Needs Members

Last year, after there was no response to my request for members, I decided to try a different approach: I asked the general membership occasionally to choose an activity that they were interested in, and plan an activity. There was a very little response to that request and since last year, Terry Hoyt has joined the committee. We still have a need for one or two members, so how about joining up? Marie Adams, chairperson, 479-9886.

Biking for a School in Nepal

Diane Reupert

In the Fall Jhan (pronounced Yahn) Graether spoke at the fellowship during a coffee hour about his desire to bike across the country (from San Francisco to Cape Cod) to raise funds for the Shree Shankaha Devi secondary school in Dhading, Nepal. Some of our members contributed to his cause and Diane Reupert explained Jhan's intentions to the children's religious education groups as **an example of what someone's individual social actions can achieve.**

Jahn has successfully completed his goal of crossing the U.S. by bike and has raised \$4025. Jahn has turned over all the funds to our fellowship so that we will be stewards of the account and make sure the money is sent once/year in \$400 increments to the Nepalese School. Our fellowship has established a separate Nepal School Account at our bank and our first installment was just sent out to the school. This money will greatly help the school in Dhading where Jahn taught English while trekking in Nepal. Jhan

explained that the Nepalese Government does not finance the local schools and in addition the students are taxed \$2 (4-5 days work) three times per year to take an advancement test. The students of poor families cannot advance to the higher grades because they cannot afford the test. The school's math teacher does not own a calculator. The average teacher earns the equivalent of \$80/year. It is easy to see how beneficial these funds will be to the children of Dhading (a town 22 miles by foot from the nearest road, electricity, or telephone). Jahn will finish his final year in college this fall at Montana State University, majoring in psychology and communications. Diane hopes that Jhan will return to the area soon to visit his mother, Peggy Grinvalsky, and that he will visit the fellowship to tell of his trip.

NUUs Travel

Joan Hauer, Travel Editor

Parla Italiane?

Patty Buehler

Our train pulled into the Stazione di Santa Lucia in Venezia after a 3 hour trip from Firenze. The time was 15:30. The day was a lovely 25 degrees. We struggled with our bagalios through the narrow calles to find our albergo di seconda categoria, Al Sole Palace. The portiere took the bagalios to our stanza che dia sul canale. Jerry gave the portiere 5,000 lire. "Grazie," said the portiere. "Prego," Jerry replied.

We consulted our turistica guide and set out to find Al Covo, a fine pesce ristorante. We bought biglietti for the vaporetto ride through the Grande Canale. Al Covo was on a stretto calle with many trattorias and pizzerias. We sat in the Vietato Fumare section, and ordered rosso vino and water.

"Gas or no gas?" the cameriere asked.

"I'm in favor of gas!" Jerry suggested.

The especiales included pollo and funghi, taglietali with tartufi, and pesce alla romana with fresh pomodoros. It was difficult to decide! With some translation we ordered chicken and mushrooms and pasta with truffles. Delizioso! But, when the check arrived, we were surprised to read 165,000 lire.

The next day we decided to save some lire and just get paninis, birras, and some gelato at a trattoria and eat on the ponte over looking the canale. But what we saved on food, we spent on museos, galerias, duomos, and gifts.

We had a wonderful time in Venezia, Firenze, and Tuscan villages like San Gimignano. It was a good thing that many Italianos parla inglese, or we would have been totally lost!

Mark Your Calendars

UUA General Assembly, Salt Lake City,
June 24-28, Theme: Fulfilling
promise to help one another.

Thanks to Chip Wulff, Terry & Terri Hoyt, Lee Zausner, and Jerry Woolpy for help with cleaning highway 47 Saturday, April 17, on behalf of the fellowship.

Thanks to Steven Cyra, Paul Braunstein, Don and Joyce Barnes, Andrea Billings, Patty Buehler, and Jerry Woolpy for their contributions to Kosovo Relief.

Comedy Of Errors

Lee Zausner

No, this is not another discussion of the memorial garden. Join with other UU's on Friday August 27 to see Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. Call the box office directly to order your tickets, 1-888-244-8368. Bring your children. We will meet at the Fellowship Friday after school. There will be a 45 minute presentation, geared mostly for the children, on the play. We can then drive together to Big Top Chautauqua. This is one of Shakespeare's funniest. Call Lee Zausner, 356-3047, for more information.

NUU Views

Question: What is God to a Unitarian Universalist? Our atheist friend and Irma Braunstein has submitted the following statement from Gandhi to which she subscribes: *God is that indefinable something which we all feel but which we do not know. To me God is truth and love, God is ethics and morality, God is fearlessness, God is the source of light and life, and yet God is above and beyond all these. God is conscience. God is even the atheism of the atheist.* Is this something that we might agree upon?

Answer from Terry Hoyt: Defining God is the very essence of religious differences and discussion. It is not likely that we going to agree on the words of Gandhi even within our own fellowship. Several times during services we have had the story of the blind men observing the elephant and trying to describe the elephant. Many will always suffer from this blindness.

Surely the words used by Gandhi are words of universal truth that could be understood by those of any religion or even those with no religion. Gandhi was a great unifier, a visionary like we may never see again in our lifetimes. Can people commit to accepting these words is another question. I can. Others in the fellowship would have to speak for themselves as to their acceptance of these words. I would certainly like to see the kind of responses and comments we might get from others in the fellowship.

Gandhi's teachings through word and example have always been a beacon of light in

this world. A consensus among us on them would be very positive.

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.

NUUF 1999 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (not yet approved)

The 11th Annual Meeting was held Friday, May 21, 1999 at the Fellowship Building . Following a potluck dinner the meeting was called to order by President Pat Harrington at 7:00 P.M.

Members present were Paul and Irma Braunstein, Dick and Mary Ann Fields, Terry and Terri Hoyt, Ron and Diane Reupert, Ruth and Harley Erbs, Jerry Woolpy, Dawn McCusker and Myrle Wasko, Tim Kratz and Annamarie Beckel, Jack and Joan Hafner, Dan Rondello, Marie Adams, Don Barnes, Greg and Dawn Holt, Doris and Art Eberlein, and Pat Buehler. Also present was Liesa Nesta.

APPROVAL OF 1998 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to accept minutes made by Dan Rondello, second by Doris Eberlein. The minutes of the 1998 annual meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer, Ruth Erbs, made her report. There was an estimated \$4,000 surplus. Motion by Irma Braunstein, second by Terri Hoyt to apply surplus towards debt retirement. Motion by Ron Reupert, second by Pat Buehler to table motion until the end of the meeting. Carried.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Terry Hoyt, second by Diane Reupert. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee reports were presented as part of a packet of materials to the membership. Dawn Holt supplemented her report by reporting information about adult responses to her questionnaire concerning adult participation in the Children's RE program. She pointed out that although most members of the fellowship express that the entire fellowship should participate in the Children's RE program that most all of the volunteering is done by parents of children in the program. Motion to accept committee report by Terry Hoyt, second by Ron Reupert. Carried.

MEMORIAL GARDEN OPERATING PROCEDURES:

There were notes taken at the "Town Meeting" by Dawn McCusker and Bev Strauss pertaining to the Board's adopted operating procedures for the Memorial Garden. President Pat Harrington presented the procedures with notations where the "Town Meeting" participants had suggested changes. A lengthy discussion of the procedures ensued Motion by Terry Hoyt, second by Dan Rondello to recommend to the Board that the language in "Rule 1" be changed to remove inclusion of "the President". Carried.

Motion by Terry Hoyt, second by Joan Hafner to recommend to the Board that the

language in “Rule 4” be changed to remove inclusion of “the President”. Carried.

Motion by Marie Adams, second by Diane Reupert to recommend to the Board that the language in the second paragraph be modified to remove inclusion of “the President”. Carried.

Motion by Doris Eberlein, second by Dick Fields to recommend to the Board that the changes to paragraph four be approved with the exception that “Memorial Park” be reinserted. Carried.

Motion by Terry Hoyt, second by Marie Adams to recommend to the Board that rule ten be removed. Carried.

Motion by Marie Adams, second by Myrle Wasko to recommend to the Board that the changes to rule 13 be adopted. Carried.

Motion by Doris Eberlein, second by Dawn McCusker to recommend to the Board that the changes to rule 14 be adopted. Carried.

Motion by Terry Hoyt, second by Doris Eberlein to recommend to the Board that the Memorial Garden Committee prepare guidelines for members wishing to make donations to the Memorial Garden Fund and that the Committee also prepare guidelines relating to actual use cost of the Garden by non-members. Motion failed 9-13.

Motion by Pat Buehler, second by Art Eberlein to recommend to the Board that rule 3 be changed to reflect that the Committee make recommendations as opposed to establish fees. Carried.

Motion by Ron Reupert, second by Irma Braunstein that the Memorial Garden/Memorial Park be funded through the Fellowship Budget. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Finance Committee’s proposed budget was presented. Motion by Irma Braunstein, second by Pat Buehler to accept the proposed budget. Motion by Tim Kratz, second by Ruth Erbs that the budget be amended to transfer \$300 from the debt reduction line item to a line item for the Memorial Garden/ Memorial Park. Carried. Vote on budget as amended. Carried.

Treasurer, Ruth Erbs, recommends an internal audit. Diane Reupert volunteers to conduct an internal audit and report to the board.

ANNUAL RETREAT: Motion by Terry Hoyt, second by Diane Reupert to have the Board schedule a retreat this coming year. Carried.

ELECTIONS TO BOARD:

Nominating Committee nominates Don Barnes, Secretary, Ruth Erbs, Treasurer, and Dawn McCusker, member at large. Carried.

Nominating committee for next year is Paul Braunstein, Myrle Wasko, and Terri Hoyt. Carried.

Memorial Garden Committee: Terry Hoyt (1 year term), Dick Fields (2 year term), and Doris Eberlein (3 year term). Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 9:10. Carried.
BY: Terry Hoyt, Secretary Pro Tem

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, July 18, 1999.

Sorry: This NUUSLETTER is very late because I mistakenly set the deadline for a time I was going to be in Italy and because when I returned my computer crashed with all of the fellowship address files and the draft of this NUUSLETTER. It took ten days to “reconstruct” lost files and finally publish. Jerry Woolpy

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter
P.O. Box 253
Minocqua WI 54548-0253

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

