
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

P.O. Box 253, Minocqua, WI 54548, <http://nuuf.com>

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April 19,

2004 Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, May 2, 10 AM, Rev. Sydney Morris, UU Identity: Our Community of Hope and Remembrance. A luncheon workshop follows on Universalism.

Sunday, May 16, 10 AM, Rev Glenda Walker "You Be Glad At That Star" A reflection on the penultimate stage (or perhaps every stage) of life. It's taken from my journal entries as I approached my 70th birthday.

Sunday, May 30, 10 AM, Terri Hoyt

Sunday, June 13, 10 AM, Rev Sydney Morris. UU Identity: Religious Education Sunday. A luncheon discussion follows on Issues in Education.

Sunday, June 27, 10 AM, Laura Ericson (of For the Birds fame).

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.

Announcements

Pledge Drive: Members should have received a pledge card and brochure about our proposed budget for 2004/2005.

In the past, couples were given only one card, but this year each member is asked to return a card. This will make it easier for members to indicate who is pledging what gifts of time and energy. Note that only one card per couple has a space for the financial pledge. Please review the brochure and return your pledge card by April 30. "It is through your financial gift and your gifts of time and energy that we continue to be a beacon of light and shine brightly as we live and spread our liberal religious message." If anyone hasn't received a brochure and pledge card, contact Patty Buehler, 356-7834, pattybuehler@yahoo.com ■

The **Nominating Committee**, appointed at the last annual meeting, Tim Kratz, Joe Strauss, and Jerry Woolpy, nominate for member at large of the board--a two year term, Alan VanRaalte; for member of the Memorial Garden Committee--a three year term, Barbara Buetler; for President, a two year term, Terry Hoyt. The nominations are open until they are closed at the annual meeting, 11 AM, Saturday, May 22, at which time the election will be held. ▪

Children's Religious Education has scheduled the following programs: Ojibwe Spiritualism--youth should meet at the fellowship at 9:40 AM, Sunday, May 16 or meet at the LUHS School Forest; Planting flower boxes--youth should bring a pack of annual flowers to the fellowship, 4 PM, Friday; Easter Egg Dying and Kitty Litter Cake, children will sponsor a family pot luck, Sunday, May 30, after services; Religious Education Sunday, youth will share their experience exploring neighboring faiths, Sunday, June 13, followed by a luncheon discussion.

Children's Religious Education will meet Sunday, May 2 after the service to plan next year's curriculum. All with ideas or interest are welcome. Call Andrea Billings (358-2712) if you are unable to make the meeting but have ideas to contribute. ▪

The **second annual service and silent auction** will be held the evening of June 4, 2004. See article in this issue. ▪

Treasurer's report: We hope to have the latest report to 3/31 posted on our webpage ASAP. ▪

"Same Sex Marriage--Why Not?" a forum sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and open to the public will be held at the Fellowship Saturday, May 15, starting at 10 AM, breaking at 12 noon. A lunch following with the speakers, closed to the public, will be followed by a discussion on implementing our welcoming. There will be a home reception for members and speakers on Friday May 14. ▪

Volunteers Needed: We will be preparing bags at the **Food Pantry** on Saturday, May 22, at 9:30 am, just before the annual meeting. This should take no more than an hour. On Tuesday, May 25, from 9:30 to noon, we will be distributing bags. We need 4 or 5 volunteers for each day. Please email Elinore Sommerfeld at esommerf@aol.com or call 385-2407 if you can help out. ▪

Hold the Date: On Saturday morning, July 3, we will have a special presentation by a **guest speaker on the Jefferson Bible**. A picnic will follow. Please mark your calendars now. More details will be coming later. Contact Elinore Sommerfeld, if you have questions. ▪

Next weekend, April 23-25 in Lisle, Illinois, the **Midwest Central District Assembly 2004** will be held. See brochure on the District Website at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** ▪

Deadline Extended for wUUrld's Alaska. Five Alaska UU fellowships have extended to April 15 the early reservation deadline for their June, July & August eco-spirituality programs—seventh year! Reservations close May 1. The groups stay in UU homes, enjoy services and parties with Alaskan UU's and travel by train, plane and ship. They travel throughout the state to see whales, sea otters, seals, bears, caribou, and arctic

birds in the wild, Mt. McKinley and spectacular fjords with glaciers calving icebergs, native arts & villages from the Arctic Ocean to the southeast. Come before or after the UUA-GA to cut travel expenses. Website www.wuurld.org, phone toll-free 1-888, 998-8753 or e-mail info@wuurld.org for brochure. Rev. Dick and Mary Weston-Jones, guides.

Joys & Concerns

Mark and Katey report an outstanding turnout of 19! for the **highway cleanup** last Saturday. Thanks to all who participated and even to those who couldn't come this time but will be there the next. ■

Karin Kreiger and Patricia Perez, who spoke to our Welcoming Workshop, will be married by a UU minister in Green Bay, June 12. Jerry and Tara will help cater their wedding dinner. ■

Homecoming

A poem by Alan VanRaalte inspired by the video The Journey of Man

Africa, land of our ancestors just two thousand generations removed, memories
of your broad savannahs are imprinted in our minds. Your allure to
humankind, our primal yearn to return to the womb. Cradle of our species,
yours is the dust from which we were born, mother from
whom our forbearers strayed. Serengeti, primordial home,
deep in your soil our fathers' bones cry out to us from
their tombs.

Mother of our remote past, whose life rhythms are recorded in the
drumbeat of our hearts, we have defiled you, exploited you, returned to you to
enslave our brothers and colonize you, our honor impugned. Africa, continent of sorrow,
land of apartheid and genocide, can the prodigal child return home? Though our
skin is no longer black will you welcome us back into the family?
Can you forgive us your wounds?

Service Auction

Plan to attend and contribute services and goods to our 2nd annual service and silent auction to be held the evening of June 4, 2004. Join in the fun of socializing with your friends and a chance to win an auction item. Colonel Jerry Buerer will be our auctioneer.

In early May auction donation forms will be available to members and friends. Suggestions for donation items will be listed on the form. We will also need good usable items or "white elephant items" for the silent auction and used books for the book sale table.

We will gather at 6:00 PM for socializing and to bid on silent auction items. The service auction will start at 6:45 PM and the bidding on silent auction items will close at that time. Refreshments and snacks will be available during the evening.

A preliminary catalog of auction items will be available at the fellowship, starting

mid May, so send in your contributions early to Mary Ann. Auction donation forms will be available May 2nd at the Fellowship and will be sent by email. If you wish forms to be snail mailed to you let Mary Ann know.

Please remember that you need to pay for your auction items the night of the auction. If you can't attend the auction you may appoint someone to bid for you.

Auction rules will be available in early May and will also be available at the time of the auction. Contact Mary Ann Fields after May 1st, 385-2975 or fields@pikx.com if you have questions, suggestions or would like to help. ▪

NUU Views

Question: As we have discussed recently a minister can have many roles in a congregation. What, if any, do you think are the three most important ones for this small fellowship and why do you think so?

Answer from Elinore Sommerfeld: In the broadest sense, we can tap into the professional expertise and experience that a trained minister can offer. This would supplement and expand our own skills, experiences and abilities. To steal from a commercial slogan, "The right minister doesn't make the congregational ministry, he/she makes it better." One role I'll call "spiritual development". This would include Sunday services, adult and youth RE and personal counseling in spiritual areas. Another role would be pastoral care, including crisis intervention, access and referral to local resources, support for members in difficult times, among other activities. A third role I'll call "congregational development". By that I mean, a minister can help us make good decisions about building expansion, how/if to grow the size of our congregation and how the fellowship functions. This is one area where ministers are usually well-trained, and we, on the whole, are relatively inexperienced. All three of these broad activities are internally focused. So, I'm adding a fourth role, which I'll call "connecting to the wider community". A minister is in a unique position to liaison to the community as a whole, act as a spokesperson to the media, be involved in projects and issues larger than just our congregation.

Answer from Jerry Woolpy: I don't know the answer to this question and apparently others are hesitant about it too. But I do hope if and when we face it directly, we consider inspiration, consolation, and representation as the things we need to generate within our congregation with or without the help of a minister. Sometimes a minister can detract from our motivation to do these for ourselves. Sometimes they can facilitate our work. ▪

The **question for the next NUUsletter** is "One of our Covenants: *To live in harmony with the natural world*, and one of our Missions: *Promoting protection of the environment for the long-term benefit of everyone* is challenged by E.O. Wilson, in his recent book, *The Future of Life*. Wilson, a world renowned biologist who coined the term biodiversity, asserts that the bottleneck of human overpopulation and wasteful consumption could drive half the Earth's species to extinction this century. He contends that an estimated \$28 billion is needed to protect the world's top 25 ecosystems. As good

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NUUs how should we stand on this issue and what should we do about it?" (Incidentally, Wilson, one of the Concerned Scientists who questions the Bush Administration's treatment of science, goes on to compare this \$28 billion to the \$87 appropriated to reconstruct Iraq.) Send answers by Sunday, May 30 to jerryw@earlham.edu. ▪

Getting the NUUsletter

In addition to the usual Microsoft Word format, the NUUsletter is now available in Adobe PDF format that is readable by any computer, Mac or PC. If you do not have an Adobe Reader you can download one free at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

With this software the NUUsletter will be formatted as it is in Microsoft Word, but the Word program will not be required. Let me know if you want it sent to you in PDF format, jerryw@earlham.edu.

Previous NUUsletters and the congregation directory are available at nuuf.com. Click on "Members Only." The user name is NUUF. But you need to remember the secret password. If you have forgotten it, contact me.

Next NUUsletter Deadline, Sunday, May 30, 2004

NUUsletter
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