



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 9, Number 10

May 15,

2008 Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

May 25: John Bates/Spring Plant Exchange

June 8: Suzanne Wasilczuk *“Religion the Question; Spirituality the Answer?
Or Vice Versa?”*

June 25: Laura Erickson

“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 concluding our series “Peoples and Cultures of the World.” Please join us for this most interesting series of lectures.

May 18: “Cultures of Capitalism”, “Is Economics Rational?”

June 1: “Late Capitalism—From Ford to Disney”, “The Maya, Ancient and Modern”

June 15: “Maya Resurgence in Guatemala and Mexico”, “The Janus Face of Globalization.”

From the President

The heartrending news coming out of Myanmar, China, and Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee is a vivid reminder that we live on a dangerous and indifferent planet that is indiscriminate in the victims it chooses and the countries it ravages, and makes abundantly clear that grief knows no nationality; tragedy knows no border; love is universal. Hearts break regardless of the color of the skin under which they beat. As our hearts go out to those who grieve on this Memorial Day – around the world and here in our own fellowship family – could the values embodied in our first two principles be expressed any more poignantly?

In peace and love, Alan

News and Announcements

Upcoming Services

Sunday, June 8 – “*Religion the Question; Spirituality the Answer? Or Vice Versa?*” Suzanne Wasilczuk asks: Is it okay to be – or not to be – religious? To be – or not to be – spiritual? What the heck do both terms mean to us?

NUUF Dates of Importance

May 17: Annual Meeting

May 25: Spring Plant Exchange, Cook-out/Potluck

June 6: Social Justice Committee Fish Fry Fundraiser

June 12: Women’s Friendship Circle

June 22: Cook-out/Potluck

July 20: Hospice Workshop

August 17: Cook-out/Potluck

Community Table

The next Lakeland Area Ministerial Association "Community Table" in which it will be our turn to participate will be Tuesday, **May 20**. Anyone wishing to contribute a dish or help in either setup or cleanup please contact me at 453-8083 or vanraalte@klinktech.net.

Upcoming Program Note

May 25 will be the Sunday for our Spring Plant Exchange. Everyone should bring two small pot plants suitable for planting outdoors. One of these will be planted in the flower box by the Youth RE: the other plant will be exchanged for another brought by someone else. If you like you may choose to dedicate your plant to someone else, living or not, in recognition of his or her unique personality or spirit.

Summer Cookouts

The Hospitality Committee will hostess several Cook-out Potlucks after the Sunday Services during the summer. The first one will be **May 25th** after the service given by John Bates. There will be a grill, so bring whatever you would like to grill for yourselves and a dish to pass. Coffee and lemonade will be provided. There will be additional cookout-potlucks on **June 22nd** and **August 17th**. Mark your calendars.

Mary Ann Fields

Don't Forget: Spring for Justice Dinner

The Social Justice Committee is holding their fundraiser, "Spring for Justice", on **Friday, June 6**, 2008 at the Fellowship at 6 p.m. The event is nearly sold out. Contact Elinore or Audrey for ticket availability.

Women's Friendship Circle

The June meeting of the Women's Friendship Circle will be held at the Fellowship on Thursday, **June 12**, at 10:30 a.m. The program will be 'A Celebration of the Life and Music of Carolyn McDade', presented by Trish Kirk. A potluck will follow at 11:30 a.m. We look forward to welcoming

the 'snow birds' back to our Circle!

An Evening with an American Zen Master

You are invited to an evening of discussion and practice with American Zen Master, Roshi Junpo Denis Kelly. Junpo is the dharma heir to Eido Shimano Roshi of the Dai Bosatsu Monastery in New York and the founding Abbot of the Hollow Bones Rinzai Zen Order. He is also a skilled Yogi.

Junpo will share and teach his integrated model of personal growth that blends traditional Zen enlightenment practice and an understanding of contemporary psychology. 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 **Monday June 9th**, at the Fellowship from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. For more information, call Ken at 356-7461.

Care Committee Plans

Hospice Workshop

A short walk through the trees to the west of our building takes you to Seasons of Life, the residential arm of the Northwoods Hospice. While most have a general idea that hospice provides palliative care to terminally ill people, there are still many questions about just how these programs work to meet the needs of the dying and their families.

The Care Committee is sponsoring a special workshop on hospice to be held immediately following the coffee hour on **Sunday, July 20**. A representative from Northwoods Hospice will give a presentation called "Navigating the River of Hope: Understanding Hospice," that will address many of the questions

people have about these programs. In addition, the regular Sunday service that day will feature Debra Livingston, the new Chaplain of Northwoods Hospice.

She will speak to the congregation about how hospice provides spiritual support to dying patients and family members. Please mark your calendars and join

us to learn how hospice operates in the Northwoods. A light lunch will be provided by the Care Committee immediately preceding the workshop.

Membership Committee News

Ella Toigo signed the Membership Book on Mother's Day.

Hymnals

Do you have NUUF hymnal(s) at home you are not using? Please return them to the fellowship. I will be purchasing some additional hymnals with end-of-the fiscal year funds. If you would like to purchase a hymnal for the fellowship (in which we would put a book plate) or for personal use, please contact me by **June 10**. The cost is \$28 per book. *Tom Sommerfeld*

Recommended read: The Great Risk Shift, the new economic insecurity and the decline of the American dream, by Jacob S. Hacker.

If you love America for what you want it to be. If you feel somehow less certain of your place in the country and of your personal welfare and that of your family, you are not alone. In 200 paperback pages this Yale professor of political science explains a lot of our shared disappointments and the growing uncertainties that not just you but almost all of us feel. He goes beyond the surfaces of economic statistics to explain how ten or twenty or thirty percent of us may be distressed without a job, with unpaid bills, with uninsured health costs, with foreclosure, with bankruptcy. But those numbers only begin to describe our situations because while ten or twenty or thirty percent of us may be affected by one or more of these crises forty or fifty or sixty percent of us will experience one or more of them sooner or later.

Because of the erosion of the continuity of employment, reliable pensions, dependable health care, and secured retirement the politics of every person for themselves has visited communal injustice on almost all of us.

Read this well documented account and see how we might be able to restore the security essential to our welfare and necessary to the quality of life and inventiveness that characterized so many of our country persons after the New Deal. *Jerry Woolpy*

UUA News

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

We hope to see you in Fort Lauderdale for an exciting and enriching General Assembly, centered on the theme of the “Common Threads” that weave together the fabric of our Unitarian Universalist faith and community. Join us June 25-29, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the Greater Fort Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center.

Amazing, inspiring, unique and uplifting Opening Worship centered around The Sources, a cantata setting of the UU Sources with music by Rev. Jason Shelton and text by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons.

Special Featured Programs on Friday and Saturday will address the issues of civil liberties and immigration policies, followed by Appreciative Inquiry sessions offering a chance to explore and wrestle with these issues in depth together.

Hear from award-winning authors and distinguished voices from outside our tradition: Eboo Patel on Interfaith Youth in the Age of Fundamentalism; John Dear on Peacemaking and the Questions of Jesus; and Karen Brodtkin on Wrestling with Whiteness; The Politics of Jewish Identity in a Multiracial America.

We’re blending advocacy and celebration and reaching out to the local community during a multi-generational public witness celebrating and defending the rights of Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Transgender and immigrant families; Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in a Fort Lauderdale city park.

To learn more: Explore <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>, call (617) 948-4209, or write gaoffice@uua.org.

Summer Woman Spirit at Ronora, August 1-3, Watervliet Michigan,
www.womenandreligion.org.

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

www.womensconnection.org

UUSC Social Justice Stimulus Plan: \$252 for Peace

Imagine a world where taxpayers can choose to fund peacemaking instead of war, where strengthening our nation means investing in peace. UUSC wants to stimulate peace – and we need your help.

If you're a U.S. taxpayer, a \$600 economic stimulus payment from the U.S. government is now on its way to you. Did you know that according to the National Priorities Project

<http://www.nationalpriorities.org/taxchart2008/600>, a nonprofit research group, \$252 of your payment would have gone to fund the Bush administration's military program?

Now you have the chance to give that \$252 a rational objective – peace.

UUSC is inviting fellow peacemakers to make a one-time stimulus investment of \$252 in human rights and social justice around the world.

By redirecting these war dollars to UUSC, you support:

Active-duty U.S. military personnel speaking out against the Iraq war and the U.S. occupation;

Iraq war veterans calling for congressional investigations and hearings into military abuses;

Women and girls in Darfur who risk their safety each time they leave their camp for firewood and water;

Ugandans who, after 20 years of war, are finally returning to their villages.

Investing in peace will create a domino effect that will transform lives. What is it worth to you? Redirect the rebate. Give \$252 for peace

<http://www.uusc.org/info/vstaxrebate/donation.html>. Please make your investment at any level now. For more information on UUSC programs, please visit our website: <http://www.uusc.org>.

UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund

UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association have joined to launch a humanitarian relief fund to help cyclone survivors in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on Saturday, May 3, 2008, with wind speeds of up to 120 miles per hour, devastating coastal and inland regions. State officials have estimated the death toll at over 22,000, but this number is expected to rise. Tens of thousands are missing, and millions more have been left homeless.

With your generous support, we will provide humanitarian relief through groups in the affected region in an effort to help survivors, particularly those at risk of being overlooked by mainstream relief.

While UUSC continues to encourage donations of \$252 for peace, we know you would expect UUSC to lead a response to this emerging humanitarian crisis – and provide a way for members and supporter to help.

Please donate to the UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief fund.
http://www.uusc.org/info/support_cyclonenargis.html. Or mail donations to:

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund
P.O. Box 845259
Boston, MA 02284-5259

UU's in the News

The UUA, which owns 1,300 shares of Verizon common stock, is [pushing the company to add a gender identity clause](#) to its nondiscrimination policy.

Kate Burns (a UU) and Sheila Schroeder were [convicted of trespassing for staging a sit-in](#) at the Denver county clerk's office when they were refused a marriage license.

Green Tips

Time to reduce how much junk mail you receive? Write the following address and ask for your name to be removed from advertising mailing lists: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, PO Box 282, Carmel NY 10152-0643 or register online at www.dmchoice.org and click on "Remove My Name from those Lists." This is also a way to reduce unsolicited credit card offers.

News from Afar

From Wenda Sheard: I'm so happy to hear that the Northwoods UU Fellowship continues to thrive. Richard and I are busy with the UU Society in Stamford, Connecticut (UUSIS) where Richard serves on the Green Committee and I serve on both the Membership and Religious Education Committees.

UUSIS offers us both challenge and companionship. The church itself was built in 1870, by a Universalist congregation that began in the 1830s. Two of our stained glass windows, of Peter and of Paul, date to the 16th or 17th centuries.

The challenge we face is to increase the UUSIS membership. We're small but growing. Although we have about 120 members, it's quite sad that forty years ago the church had 200 children in Sunday School. Our parsonage currently serves as transition housing for otherwise homeless folks, and Head Start uses our Religious Education building during the week. We rent to a Brazilian congregation on Saturday nights and an "Encounter Church" on Sunday nights.

We're trying hard to grow, because we feel a deep need to preserve the long history of the congregation. Real estate developers have had their eye on our land; it would probably bring \$10-20 million dollars for someone wishing to build a high rise. Builders are constructing another high-rise condominium building nearby with units priced from \$1-3 million dollars each. Yes, you read that correctly.

We're grateful for the UUA national advertisement campaign; we suspect the campaign has helped give us a recent surge in visitors. If you haven't see the ads in national media, you might enjoy seeing them here:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/marketing/congregational/45924.shtml>

I guess my message is that UUism is worth sharing, and that people are worth welcoming into our midst. I sincerely thank all of you, especially Paul and Irma, for welcoming us into your midst back in 2001 when we arrived in the Northwoods. I miss you all.

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Ella Toigo and her husband who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 1.

Milestones

Kate Egan Bruhy & Mark Bruhy	05-18
Kay Hoff	05-18
Solomon Wasko	05-19
Bev Strauss	05-20
Joyce and Don Barnes	05-21
Alan & Sharon VanRaalte	05-28
Ellie Deri-Sproull	05-30
Bob Dallapiazza	05-30
Ethan Cummings & Jessica Rosenberg	06-07
Ruth Sproull	06-12
Richard Thieret & Wenda Sheard	06-16

Closing Thoughts

A Modern Quaker Peace Statement

"While someone lives, there is always the hope of reaching that of God within them: such hope motivates our search to find nonviolent resolution of conflict. "Peacemakers are also empowered by that of God in them. Our individual

human skills, courage, endurance, and wisdom are vastly augmented by the power of the loving Spirit that connects all people.

"Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust.

"We will struggle to remove the causes of impasse and confrontation by every means of nonviolent resistance available.

"There is no guarantee that our resistance will be any more successful or any less risky than military tactics. At least our means will be suited to our end....

- From [Statement on Peace](#) , New Zealand (Quaker) Yearly Meeting, January 1987

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