
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

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November 24,

Coming Sundays

Sunday, November 29, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 8: John: The Unbroken Net of Scripture.

Sunday, December 6, 10 AM, Joan Hauer, Bio Ethics and the ER.

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 9: The Pauline Tradition.

Sunday, December 20, 5 PM, Holiday Evening, service, potluck, & sing-a-long.

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 10: Revelation and the Eschaton.

Sunday, January 3, 10 AM, open date, please volunteer.

Sunday, January 10, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 11: Augustine and the Christian Self.

Sunday, January 17, 10 AM, Denise Tracy.

Sunday, January 24, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 12: Meister Eckhart: From Whom God Hid Nothing.

Sunday, January 31, 10 AM, Pat Harrington.

Note from the President

At its last meeting, the Board accepted the policy recommended by the Memorial Garden Committee, who have worked carefully and thoughtfully to provide guidelines for our use. Although the congregation as a whole has not had a chance to approve the document, many members have critiqued it and found it satisfactory. The Board felt that we should have a policy in place before the general meeting in May, life being as uncertain as it

is. I distributed copies at the last service and will put copies on the back table at the next one.

Carol Miller, who lives too far North to attend services regularly, has once again donated part of her underwriting trade with WXPR to the Fellowship. A message about our services and goals will run on the air twice a week for three months. This is the same arrangement she made two years ago, and her generosity is deeply appreciated! In a note to me about the gift Carol said, "Although I stay in the woods on Sundays, I enjoy knowing you all are weaving hardy fabric in the broader neighborhood. I believe I might be a fellowship of one up here. Thanks for the kinship." Pat Harrington

Getting to know UU's

Roscoe C. "Joe" Strauss was born in a small town called Reardan, 40 miles from Spokane, in Washington State. His parents were the children of German immigrants and they were both school teachers. Joe got a B.A. in Education and Chemistry with high honors from Eastern Washington College, followed by an M.A. in Education that prepared him for a three-and-one-half year career teaching high school science and math.

Following the abortive local rush to mine chrome for steel, for two years Joe became a chemist for mine exploration. In his spare time he ran assays for local gold prospectors.

One night in a Spokane bar Joe met the Research Director for Kaiser Aluminum, who was looking for a chemist to develop a waterproof adhesive to bond aluminum. Though he did not accomplish the task (and no one has yet) he stuck to it for five years mingling with the union factory workers and getting political. First active in the PTA, then elected to the School Board, and eventually, at 31, he became the youngest Spokane County Democratic Party Chairman. Getting word of this unnerving activity, the Kaiser CEO promoted him to sales and transferred him away from his political base to Los Angeles. The plan was to fire him in two years, but his supervisor thought his work in sales was too good so he was moved to Chicago, then Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and finally back to LA, where he met Beverly. Their marriage took place after a two-year courtship during which he was transferred to Sherman, Texas and a little bit after Joe's travel requests to LA were questioned. Before meeting Bev, Joe had raised three children as a single parent. With Bev's, together they raised two more.

They moved to Baltimore, and eventually Joe took early retirement from Kaiser and they moved to Seattle where he and Bev became Aluminum Distributors that bought from Reynolds Aluminum and sold to Boeing Aircraft. Joe retired again and became a college trustee and a major campaigner for Washington Governor Mike Lowry. Upon Lowry's election Joe was offered a seven year term on the State Gambling Commission that he turned down. Then Bev retired too so that they could get to the business of really living. They moved to the Northwoods to join us and Bev's aunt and uncle at Kildare Lake in Phelps Township.

In the mid 1950s, neighbors tried to coax Joe's three kids to attend a fundamentalist

bible camp. Until that time Joe had no religious affiliation but he was beginning to wonder what he might be missing. Look Magazine did a series on American religions that made Unitarians look good to Joe. So in part to defend against the neighbors he became a Unitarian and has been active ever since. Later when they married, Bev came over from the Lutherans. Being UU's is now a major part their lives answering the following five needs: 1-It reinforces their inclination to political action. 2-It supports their responsibility for justice. 3-It provides them with an ethical compass. 4-It enhances their understanding of what it means to be human. And, 5-provides the context for the development of a good personal psychology.

Joe and Bev have been NUU members for the past five years. Joe is on our board of directors and willingly takes assignments that seem to be temporarily leaderless, for examples, Temporary Chair of Social Justice, Temporary Chair of Finance, and so forth . Of course, we blame him for whatever may seem awry in those committees. And being "our Joe", he takes it graciously.

Diffidently, he suggests that the Fellowship might consider "thinking a little bit beyond its borders, being more active in the betterment of our immediate communities, diminishing the tendency to salve the personal needs and comforts of members, and welcoming outsiders more enthusiastically."

Thank you, Joe and Bev. We appreciate your many contributions that bring us closer to our ideal.

Meet Our UU Youth

I'm Amy Kratz, and I attend the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I'm in 7th grade at AV-W. I like to play soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, trumpet, and piano. My favorite subject in school is writing.

I really like this fellowship because it doesn't tell you what to believe, it allows you to express your feelings and beliefs.

My name is Amy Holt and I am a 17-year-old junior at Lakeland High School. In the fall I play on the tennis team and I am currently playing basketball. I enjoy sports, music, reading, writing, and spending time with my friends. I play oboe and piano and enjoy listening to most kinds of music. My favorite classes in school are band and psychology.

When I was in 7th grade my family bought the house we are living in and started building an addition onto it. I am now excitedly waiting to move into my new room and unpack things I haven't seen since 6th grade. Hopefully I'll be able to move in around Christmas time!

I enjoy thinking about my personal values and religious system. There are very few UU's in the high school so this has, at times, led to some interesting "discussions" with some of my friends. After completing Coming of Age two years ago, I have continued to think

about my belief system. Knowing that it will always continue to change, I wonder where I'll be in the future.

Laura Zoul: I am 10 years old and I am in 4th grade. I like to play basketball. I love to sing. I have 2 brothers and 1 sister. Our family has a dog, 2 cats and a bird.

I like school, especially gym and recess. We have been writing stories, which I like to do.

I hate spinach but like pizza. And my Mom and Dad are cool.

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

The middle school youth are studying from a curriculum called Messages in Music. They are currently bringing in music of their choice which speaks to our 7 UU principles. Each lesson begins with listening to various songs and discussing the principle of that lesson. The lesson then continues with activities to encourage the children to think about what that principle means and how it relates to their values and attitudes.

There are volunteer teachers already signed up through December for this class and the K-5 class. Check your calendars for after the holidays. Volunteers will be needed for January and February in both classes.

Children's R.E. Survey

Dawn Holt

Thanks to all who filled out the children's R.E. surveys. The children's R.E. committee will be evaluating answers and reporting back to the fellowship. About 63% of the surveys were completed and turned in. Anyone who would still like to complete theirs should mail it to me. (Extra copies can be requested if you've misplaced yours.)

Memorial Garden

Dick Fields

Every NUU member should have a copy of the Operating Procedure for our Memorial Garden. Copies will be distributed at Sunday services. If you have not received yours please contact Pat Harrington. The document delineates how we will manage and use the Garden as a final resting place for our congregation.

Social Justice Committee Meeting

Joe Strauss

We have chosen the following projects and leaders. Food Bank Distribution Assistance and Holiday Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army activity will be led by Paul Braunstein. Work on the Habitat for Humanity home construction will be coordinated by Lee Zausner. A work party is scheduled for Saturday, December 5. He needs 10 or 12 volunteers, 18 years old or older, willing to help with chores at the building site that day. No particular skills or talent is required, just a willingness to work. If you haven't signed up, see Lee for a place in the group. Hurry! Spots are going fast.

The Volunteer placement agency idea is being studied further. It seems there are some already in action. We're checking with them to see if they need help.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Our NUU bell ringers are already out for Thanksgiving.

Food Pantry

On Tuesday, October 20, Paul Braunstein, Bev & Joe Strauss, Don Barnes, Jerry Woolpy, and Dick Fields helped bag food for over 70 needy and appreciative folks.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth Erbs

Susan Urban & Ingrid Stark Home Concert

Twenty-six of us gathered November 7th at Woolpy's for a gala evening of wonderful company, song, terrific food, and drink. With the singer-song-writers were Erbs, Braunsteins, Waskos, Hoyts, Wulffs, Barnes, Ulrichs, Pat Buehler, Joan Hauer, Molly West, Liesa Nesta and friend Jim, Nancy Keck and fiancée Parry, Jerry Woolpy, and Melanie & Eric Panush.

NUUs Travel

Joan Hauer, Travel Editor

Lake Superior's Southwest Shore

Traveling the nearby Lake Superior shore from Bayfield up to Thunder Bay provides a variety of activities. Duluth offers more civilized activities in contrast to the wilderness and picturesque small villages more commonly encountered on the route.

Waterfalls are delightful, probably more spectacular in normal rain years, but still impressive. Kakabeca Falls near Thunder Bay, Ontario, is compared to Niagra. It is thunderous, misty, has viewing platforms and a close-by campground. As a Canadian woman visitor said "all this for only a tuney" (a two dollar coin for admission). Another exciting falls is back a mile at Judge C.R. Magney State Park near Grand Marais, Minnesota. The Brule River comes twisting its way east to empty into Lake Superior. One

portion of it falls into a kettle in the ground, the rest makes its way over the stones to the Lake. It's called Devil's Kettle, a wonderful hike back into the woods.

These are only a few of the many falls and cascades waiting to be enjoyed. Along the way there are mansions from the lumber baron days that provide a glimpse into an uncommon lifestyle. The Glensheen Mansion in Duluth is maintained by the University of Minnesota. It is an example of ingenious design and architecture, great attention to detail. It was designed by Mrs. Congdon, wife of the tycoon, Chester Congdon. A spectacular home for entertaining, impressing, and real family living, it houses treasures from the world that were incorporated to make it as gracious as possible. It only served as the family's summer home however.

Another mansion just across highway 2 in Superior, the Fairfield Mansion, is an interesting example of community involvement. After the Fairfield family grew and moved away, the mansion became an orphanage. The upper two stories housed the children and they were allowed on the main floor only at mealtimes in the formerly grand dining room. With changing attitudes in society, children went to foster homes and the building was opened to the public, but in a rather shabby state. An interested group secured grant funding and have restored it total at least its former splendor, and have it open for viewing year-round. I visited on a day the scaffolding was still in place, the fine draperies yet to be hung. I want to go back and see the finished scene. These homes are worth a visit any time of the year.

NUU Views

Question: Redemption is important in both the Hebrew and Christian bibles but it may have different meaning for Jews and Christians. Would you discuss various meanings of redemption and consider the extent to which it may be important to Unitarian Universalists today?

Answer: Redemption is the act of redeeming, or state of being redeemed; repurchased ransomed, released; rescued; delivered; restored; recovered; reclaimed. The meaning in the Hebrew bible, the Torah, is found first in Exodus. *Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments;* Ex 6:6. Historically, it is this act of redemption that is of great importance to Jews. Contemporary Jews seek redemption for transgressions annually at Yom Kippur.

Christians are more directly concerned with redemption in terms of the rescue and deliverance from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law. To many Christians their redemption was achieved with the crucifixion of Jesus. *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.* Gal 3:13.

In Hinduism redemption is the deliverance from the misery of finite existence,

especially from transmigration, whether through insight into the nature of God, or as a reward either of works of obedience or of loving devotion to a divine being or divine beings.

In religions generally redemption is salvation; deliverance from what is regarded as evil, especially viewed as due to divine agency or to a certain right relation to a divine reality.

To Unitarian Universalists redemption has its greatest importance in doing works or acts that are in compliance with the highest code of conduct we have come upon in our search for the truth. UUs need to continuously seek the atonement offered to Jews at the time of Yom Kippur. UUs need to obey the one law, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself". We need to seek release from any bondage that is self-imposed or that we have allowed to be imposed by others. We need to view redemption as a participatory act on our part--to actively do in our lives what we can to repurchase, ransom, release, rescue, deliver, restore, recover, or reclaim the lives of our sisters and brothers on this earth. Terry Hoyt

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.

Social Activities

Marie Adams

Celebrate the Christmas Season at our annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 20. The service will begin at 5 PM, followed by a potluck dinner at 5:30. An informal Christmas Sing-a-Long will follow dinner. Anyone is welcome to add a new Christmas ornament to our tree!

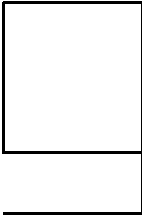
Circle Dinners

Marie Adams

January 4 is the deadline to sign up for Circle Dinners! We will each attend three, but only host one dinner, where you supply the main dish, and a small group of guests (6-8) provide other dishes. Call Marie 479-9886 to sign up. Circle Dinners were very popular last year.

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, January 3, 1999.

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



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