



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

Volume 9, Number 4

November 15,

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**2007 Coming Sundays**

**Services at 10 AM**

**Taking the Pulpit**

**November 25:** Terry Hoyt, *Guest at Your Table*”

**December 9:** Sister Ann Whitman

**December 23:** TBA

*“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.

## **From the President**

As we gather with friends and relatives to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember that this holiday has a different kind of significance for many native people. The fact that most of us are products of the dominant culture and view the world from that perspective should not be overlooked. Nor should we ignore the fact that not everyone shares our perspective or the position that history has accorded us. Let us also remember that many of our blessings have come at the expense of others; from the land on which we live – taken from its first inhabitants by our ancestors – to some of the clothes we wear, the food we eat, even the cars we drive, which may be produced by people who have not enjoyed our advantages of education, democracy, geography, or race. I don't want to preempt the Social Justice Committee's report, but suffice it to say that Dr. Peggy McIntosh, an international expert in the field of white privilege, will be coming to our fellowship for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance. Also participating in the program will be Ernie St. Germaine, a member of the Wisconsin Tribal Appellate Court and consultant to the

Intercultural Leadership Initiative Program, who will be addressing the impact of white privilege on the native community.

With the lead that we have taken here in the Lakeland Area honoring Dr. King and the issues for which he gave his life, our fellowship has earned the respect of many of the faith communities who comprise the Lakeland Area Ministerial Association; so much so that we have just received very generous donations from the Association itself, from St. Mathias Episcopal Church, and from one of the member representatives to the Association to help us with the expenses of January's program. While our theological views may differ – perhaps to a lesser degree than many of us might suspect – our commitment to social issues and our compassion for our fellow human beings do not. May this truly be a time to give thanks, not because it's the time of year to do so, but because we, with the help of our Christian brothers and sisters, have the opportunity to touch the lives of others and bring justice and understanding to our part of this diverse world.

In peace & love, Alan

## **News and Announcements**

### **NUUF Dates of Importance**

**November 22:** NUUF Thanksgiving Dinner

**December 8:** Women's Friendship Circle

**December 15:** Holiday Service and Potluck

**January 21:** MLK Day program with Peggy McIntosh

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

You, your family and friends are invited to NUUF's annual Thanksgiving dinner to be held on Thursday, **November 22**. Set-up will be at 3 pm with dinner at about 4 pm. Please contact Elinore at 385-2407 to discuss what you want to bring and how many are coming. Last minute additions are always welcome.

### **The Women's Friendship Circle**

Our December meeting will be on **Saturday, December 8th**. This is also the date for the Christmas Tour of Homes in Minocqua to benefit the Campanile Center for the Arts. Many of the members of the women's group wish to attend this event also. Therefore the Women's Friendships Circle will meet at 10:00 A. M. The program will be a sharing of short seasonal readings or poems. There will be no lunch, but treats will be served. Everyone attending should bring a new children's book. These books will be given to the Women's Shelter. Anyone else in the Fellowship who would like to donate a book is welcome to do so.

For those who would like to attend the Christmas Tour of Homes please let Mary Ann know by Nov. 27th. There are three seatings for the lunch and we hope to get tickets for

the second seating as a group.

On November 10th Sharon VanRaalte presented the program on The International Association for Clear Thinking (I'ACT). Doctor Cline had been very interested in this group. The women's group has decided to read the book by Dr. Maxie Maultsby "Help Yourself to Happiness". Knowing and understanding the ABC's of emotions and making useful application of this knowledge in our day-to-day lives is what I'ACT is about:

A. You become aware of something.

B. You think positively, negatively, or neutrally about it.

C. You have a corresponding positive, negative, or neutral feeling about it.

Once we understand our emotional ABC's we work at searching out those B's (evaluating thoughts) which are producing emotional pain. We then vigorously challenge these B's using Dr. Maultsby's five guidelines for Rational thinking, and replace them with more helpful (rational) ideas. We then work at basing our actions on these new ideas rather than on our old self-defeating ones.

### **Holiday Service**

Our holiday service, "*In Celebration of the Season*" will be held on **Saturday, December 15**, at 4pm. A potluck supper will follow. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

### **Special MLK Day Event**

On Monday, **January 21**, the Social Justice Committee will sponsor a presentation by Peggy McIntosh, a nationally recognized expert on privilege systems, feelings of fraudulence and cultural diversity, and Ernie St. Germaine, from Lac du Flambeau, an Adjunct Professor of Tribal Law for the University of Nevada Judicial College and Adjunct Professor of Education for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. They will speak on white privilege and the effect it has on relations between Indian and Non-Indian communities in Wisconsin. This will be a community-wide event of great importance, one of the most ambitious events we have ever attempted. Please mark your calendars now and plan to participate. Peggy will also be in the pulpit on Sunday, January 20.

### **Ministry Planning Committee**

At the annual meeting on May 19, 2007 the congregation voted unanimously to engage the services of a UU-trained student minister or the equivalent for six visits during the fiscal year 2007-2008. Since there were no student ministers available, the Ministry Planning Committee worked on getting the equivalent.

The MPC is pleased to report that Suzanne Walsilczuk, a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, was scheduled into our pulpit for six visits at a joint meeting of the Spirituality and Ministry Planning Committees. Those dates are: January 6, February 3, March 2, April 27, May 11 and June 8. Ms. Walsilczuk (pronounced Wuh-SILL'-chuk) holds a Master of Divinity degree and has also been recently Fellowshiped

by a panel of UU ministers. Ms. Wasilczuk lives in Duluth with her husband, Tim Stratton.  
Sharon VanRaalte

### **Food Pantry Update**

On October 30, NUUF staffed the Lakeland Area Food Pantry. A big Thank You to Alan & Sharon VanRaalte, Joe Strauss, Dwight Logan, Mel and Kay Hoff. We had a busy morning with approximately 160 individuals and/or family units served.

At the recent Lake of the Torches Casino fundraiser, the Food Pantry collected nearly 2000 lbs of food and over \$500. Several NUUFers enjoyed The Lettermen Show.

### **Community Dinner Update**

On Tuesday, October 16, the sixth monthly Community Dinner, sponsored by the member congregations of the Lakeland Area Ministerial Association, was held at St. Mathias Episcopal Church. Nearly one hundred people were served. Not only does this community event provide a supplement for those who depend on the Food Pantry, but it also provides an opportunity for fellowship for many who would otherwise be alone. This was the second dinner at which we worked with congregants from the Church of the Pines – Methodist, the Christian Scientists and the Baha'i. Thanks to Doris Eberlein, Mary Ann Fields, Mel & Kay Hoff, David Foster, Barb Bratcher and Sharon VanRaalte for furnishing food and/or helping to set up. Also thanks to Doris Eberlein, Gary Pajonk, Stephanie Perkins and Sharon VanRaalte for helping to set up at July's dinner. Alan VanRaalte

### **Information on the Compassionate Treatment of Animals**

*From Trish Kirk:* On November 7, 2007, Best Friends Animal Society hosted a historic gathering of people of many diverse faiths in Washington, D.C. United by their compassion for animals, the diverse group came together to witness the unveiling and signing of 'A Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion.' This important document, created by a group of clergy representing more than 20 of the world's religious traditions, issues calls to action for people of all faiths to reclaim a commitment to animals. Rev. LoraKim Joyner, DVM of Gainesville, Florida represented Unitarian Universalists as a co-author of this Proclamation.

Please become a part of this movement for animals by adding your name to this important document and, in doing so, renewing your commitment to compassionate living. We need 1 million signatures by January 1, 2009. You may view 'A Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion' and sign the petition at the provided link:

<http://network.bestfriends.org/Petitions/Detail.aspx?gu=religion&pn=6&g=922d350e41804f64aa372d2805b912c1>

After the October 28 'Blessed are the Animals' service, several members of the congregation asked for information about Unitarians for Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Here is the link to UFETA's website: <http://www25.uua.org/ufeta/>

### **Holiday Events at the Campanile Center**

There are 2 upcoming events at the Campanile Center of special interest. On **Saturday, November 24**, at 8 pm, there will be a Holiday Cabaret. Tom Sommerfeld will be one of the quartet of performers. Admission is \$10 at the door. On **Sunday, December 9**, at 1 pm, there will be the annual Conservatory Holiday Concert. Patty Buehler, Dave Foster and Tom Sommerfeld will all be participating. Admission is free.

### **Support the Northwoods Wildlife Center**

There is now an easy way to support the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua. When you are shopping online, go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and click on “Who do you Good Shop for?” icon, choose the on-line store you wish to shop at by clicking their icon and get shopping. A percentage of your shopping proceeds will be given to the Northwoods Wildlife Center. There are many online shops to choose from like Barnes and Noble, Patagonia, eBay and many more.

### **UUSC Holiday Cards**

You can share special holiday greetings with your loved ones, while helping to make a difference in our world, by purchasing UUSC holiday cards. Visit <http://www.uusc.org/holidaycards> today.

Three beautiful new UUSC holiday cards are now available, including an original design by Holiday Card Contest winner Megan Miley of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Goleta, Calif. Cards can be ordered on consignment or purchased directly.

Proceeds from the sale of holiday cards help UUSC advance justice and work for basic human rights in the name of UU principles. Order your holiday cards today!

### **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.

### **UU’s in the News**

**Robert Fulghum on the power of dance**

The Rev. Robert Fulghum, author of such bestsellers as *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, shares his thoughts on [dancing as a spiritual practice](#). (NPR - 10.28.07)

### **UUA launches major ad campaign**

The UUA's newly launched ad campaign, with its provocative "Is God keeping you from going to church?" tagline, gets a story in the *San Jose Mercury News*. The article also includes a pretty good description of UUism and the difficulties of marketing a faith with such a broad spectrum of beliefs. (San Jose Mercury News - CA 10.8.07) See also: UUA launches national ad campaign in 'Time' (uuworld.org - 9.28.07)

Robert Greene, in the *LA Times*, compares a new pick-your-presidential-candidate quiz with the Beliefnet.com Belief-O-Matic religion quiz that told him he should be a Unitarian. (Los Angeles Times - CA 10.8.07)

From the Archives of the UUWorld:

"Was Thomas Jefferson really a Unitarian?" What do we mean when we claim a historic figure as 'one of us,' anyway? By Peg Duthie (November/December 2004)

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/2892.shtml?n>

### **"California UU congregations regroup as fires ebb"**

Few lost homes but smoke damage is extensive. By Donald E. Skinner, 11.2.07

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/56584.shtml?n>

Donations to the PSWD Fire Relief Fund are being accepted online. If you wish to contribute by mail, please send funds to:

Pacific Southwest District

Fire Relief Fund

2052 Norma Street

Oxnard, CA 93036

### **Forrest Church discusses new book**

The Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, author and minister of All Souls Church in New York City, is interviewed on PBS's Tavis Smiley show about his new book, *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State*. Church, whose father was senator from Idaho, is also interviewed in the Idaho Statesman. (pbs.org - 10.25.07, Idaho Statesman - 11.3.07)

## **Green Tips**

Are you looking for reasonably priced holiday gifts that are "green"? Here is a sampling of a few web sites for you to check out: [www.gigglefishgifts.com](http://www.gigglefishgifts.com), [www.greengiftguide.com](http://www.greengiftguide.com) or [www.taraluna.com](http://www.taraluna.com).

## **Milestones**

Ruth Sproull & Dick Pantalone	11-18
Amy Holt	11-24
Celeste Gonder	11-25
Perry Junkermann	11-29
Patty Buehler	11-30
Paul Braunstein	12-03
Pat Harrington	12-06
Dawn Holt	12-06
Chris Whitaker	12-07
Julie Wambach	12-12
Guthrie Linder	12-15

## 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 **Claire Polfus**.

*Claire just finished her junior year at Middlebury College in Vermont. After spending last summer working in Philadelphia to raise the issue of climate change in the area election campaigns, she returned to Vermont to continue to push candidates to address climate change. After a slightly hopeful election, she moved on to work as part of MiddShift, a campaign to make Middlebury College carbon neutral. Claire and nine other Middlebury students spent the month of January developing a cohesive plan for carbon neutrality at Middlebury and then presented their findings to the Board of Trustees in February. In May, the Board accepted the plan and has set the carbon neutrality date for 2016, the most ambitious in the nation. Besides working in climate change activism, Claire also is on the board of the Middlebury Mountain Club, and is active in the Middlebury College Organic Garden and Skiga, the Nordic ski club she co-founded. Her luck turned sweet after a slow start to the ski season when New England got a huge dumping of snow on Valentines Day. She tried hard to perfect her powder tele turn at Mad River Glen and in the backcountry of Vermont and New York, enjoying Nordic trails that had not been open since her freshman year. This summer, after a month at home in Wisconsin, she is headed to Larsen Bay on Kodiak Island, Alaska to work as a salmon fisherwoman at a small family operation. Then, it is back to Vermont to complete her degree in Environmental Studies at Middlebury.*

## Closing Thoughts For Veteran's Day

The *Doonesbury* comic strip has sent some of its characters to every war we've been in since Vietnam. The strip's web site now sponsors a blog for members of the military to share their experiences and thoughts. What follows is an edited posting by Alex Horton,

who recently spent over a year in Iraq and has been home about a month. It is reprinted here with his permission.

“...Far away from a military base, the question arises with ferocious intensity: *What does it feel like to be back?* My usual short answer is, "It's nice to have a warm bed again." But that's not quite how it is. It almost feels like it gets harder, not easier.

Last week I was invited to a family dinner... I retained my "quiet with a few clever puns" persona, and as such didn't contribute much to the conversation. It felt like I had nothing of relevance to say about the topics that came up. My grasp of news and politics was more than a year old; only the biggest stories made their way across the ocean.

By taking part in the biggest thing happening in our culture, I sacrificed being in the culture itself. I refused to be that guy who starts off every sentence with "This one time in Iraq..." but my options are slim. I could recall stories of my trip to Europe in April, but then it would be, "Dude, this one time in Amsterdam." There are only so many times you can regale people with stories about aggressive transvestite prostitutes.

With my Texan accent sticking out like a Dutch hooker's crotch, it was only a matter of time before a friend's cousin asked where I was from. I told her I had lived in north Texas most of my life, and went back to poking around the sausage in my spaghetti. A family member then gave an updated biography, saying I had just gotten back from Iraq and that I chronicled my deployment in a blog.

After she asked what I wrote about, I launched into a tirade about applying personal experiences of the war to the larger aspect that isn't in the mainstream media. I must've looked silly, talking with urgency and saying more words in one minute than in the whole evening prior. I realized the conundrum I was in. The subject I didn't want to come up was the only one I could apply myself to. An elephant in the room that only I could see.

After a month I'm still not quite comfortable with being in small, crowded and loud places like bars. My senses are more refined now. I'm a more attentive driver, and I can see and hear things a lot differently. A club with a thousand different conversations used to be collective noise. Now I hear an endless number of distinct voices and every note coming from the DJ.

I'm agitated by people coming too close or brushing up against me like never before. I don't jump, twitch or moan when I hear an expected loud noise. You know the feeling you get when you narrowly avoid a car crash? That's what I get. I'm perfectly fine at first glance, but the blood drains from my face and my scalp tingles. I may or may not break into a sweat.

I didn't recall many dreams while I was in Iraq, but now they flood my subconscious. In one I'm riding in a bus and hanging out the window.

Another bus in the opposite lane passes by, and Jesse Williams is waving to me from inside. I wave back. Another has me on a routine patrol when I find half a body on the side of the road. It's Chevy. His face is twisted but recognizable. His lower half is gone, despite his body having been intact when he died...

For everyone else, the nature of this war prevents the public from a full grasp of understanding. In the wars of past generations, soldiers volunteered or were drafted by the

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millions. In the case of World War II, families endured rations and donated to the war effort. Almost every single American contributed to victory. In the case of Iraq and Afghanistan, the war is squeezed into a half hour of prime time television. In WWII, in Korea, in Vietnam, we were a country at war. Now we're a military at war, with less than 1% of the population in uniform. Unless you have a friend or family member in the military, it's a separate reality. In airports and in living rooms, you can see for yourself the effect in the eyes of a soldier who's been at war for fifteen months at a time, hidden behind a smile that conceals a secret: you'll never quite understand what we did there. Like Atlas, we carry the immense burden of the country on our shoulders, waiting for the day, seemingly long into the future, when the American people say, "That will do."

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