



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

---

Volume 11, Number 5

November 15, 2009

---

## Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM.

November 22: Mary Jo Berner of the Peace Center, Many Ways of Peace

November 29: Adult Religious Education: “Church, Copernicus and Galileo” and “Galileo Trial”

December 6: Rev. Suzanne Wasilcyak.  
“St. Nick and the Three Bears”

December 13: Adult Religious Education: “God the Watchmaker” and “Natural Theology and Design”

December 20: Rev. Dr. Bobby Groth  
“The Power of Light”

December 27: “Geology, Cosmology, and Biblical Chronology” and “Darwin and Responses to Evolution”

*“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**

## From the President

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. I like the idea that there are no cards to send, presents or candy to buy, or elaborate displays to arrange. These have their charm, to be sure, but it is nice to have one major holiday where the focus of the celebration is simply having fun with family and friends.

The story of the beginning of Thanksgiving in America is well known to all. The struggle of the Pilgrims, the way the Wampanoag tribe reached out and helped them survive during that first difficult year, and how they all came together in the fall of 1621 to celebrate make for an inspirational narrative of sharing and gratitude. Of course we forget that the Wampanoags and the other agricultural tribes in the area had been holding fall harvest festivals for hundreds of years before the Europeans arrived. History also tells us that things went terribly wrong after that initial Thanksgiving, finally erupting into one of the bloodiest wars ever seen on this continent.

Yet the inspirational message of that first Thanksgiving--the Wampanoag's sharing their bounty with a less fortunate neighbor, and the corresponding gratitude of the Pilgrims--is one that is worth remembering and celebrating today. We all have a great deal to be thankful for. We live in a beautiful area, we are not personally threatened by war, famine, or natural disasters, and we can enjoy the fellowship of family and friends. As we sit down together at our Thanksgiving tables this year, let us take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful blessings that we have been privileged to enjoy. May the abundance we enjoy, and the love we share, be extended throughout the world.

### Adult RE

We're starting a new series entitled, "Science and Religion" taught by Professor Lawrence Principe, John Hopkins University. This is a six session course that looks to be interesting and educational.

## News and Announcements

**[HEALTH CARE REFORM 2009 at CAMPANILE CENTER in Minocqua](#)**

**Sick Around The World**  
**November 19th 5-7 p.m.**

Following the PBS Frontline Documentary 'Sick Around the World' a panel of experts will answer questions.

**Moderator:** Carolyn Michalski--Community Organizer with Organizing for America, Wausau

**Panelists:** Gail Gumness--Political Organizer, Lake Tomahawk  
John Randolph--Former CEO of Mental Health Center, Kansas  
Dr. Tom Gabert--Physician, Marshfield Clinic  
Diana Maki--Director of Religious Education, Board Member Wisconsin Catholic Conference

Can the U.S. learn anything from the rest of the world: How to run a health care system?

Other rich countries have universal health care: Why don't we?

## **Public Forum**

*Sponsored by Pax Christi Northwoods*

## **Holiday Concert at Campanile**

The annual community holiday concert at the Campanile Center will be Sunday, December 6 at 1 PM. Singers from NUUF include Patty Buehler, David Foster, Frank Patin and Tom Sommerfeld. It's always a great concert, so we hope you can attend.



## **What an Invitation!**

Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban will be at Tara and Jerry's for their annual Thanksgiving home concert, Saturday November 21, at 7:00 PM. Phil sings and plays his own arrangements of traditional songs and tunes on six string guitar and cittern, and he interprets a number of carefully chosen songs from the best of modern Folk song writers, as well as backing Susan up on her songs. Susan Urban is a writer of story songs and humorous "slice of life" songs. She accompanies her songs, plus Phil's songs and tunes. Write [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu) for details and RSVP.

## **Kirk Edits Animal Ministry Newsletter**

In addition to Newsletter Editor and National Chapter Coordinator, NWUU member Trish Kirk serves on the Board of Trustees for the national UU organization of Animal Ministry. Here is the link to the latest Newsletter:

<http://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/email/newsletter/1409977733>

*"Until we have the courage to recognize cruelty for what it is -- whether its victim is human or animal -- we cannot expect things to be much better in this world. We cannot have peace among men whose hearts delight in [or accept] killing any living creature. By every act that glorifies or even tolerates such moronic delight in killing, we set back the progress of humanity." ~ Rachel Carson*

## **Possible Parking Area Expansion**

The next time you drive into the Fellowship parking area you will see several trees marked with ribbon. The reason for this is that the board is considering plans for expanding the parking area. As we get larger, and as the events we hold attract more and more people, the board feels that we should explore increasing the number of parking spaces so that an additional 15-20 cars can be accommodated. Any plan we come up with is going to require removal of some trees. The marked trees are those that would have to be removed under the plan we are currently considering.

It is important to note that we are a long way from cutting any trees. After refining the plan, we have to get bids from landscaping companies. Once we have cost estimates, we will come to the congregation in a special meeting to consider the parking expansion project. The project will not proceed without approval of the membership. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

## **NUUF Dates of Importance**

**December 10:** Ardie White and her daughter Lesley Nelson discuss their experiences from the year 200 while on a 500 mile pilgrimage across Spain. A potluck will follow. The event begins at 10:30 a.m.

**December 19:** An evening of holiday enjoyment at NUUF. We will begin with a potluck supper at 5 P.M., followed by a variety of music including caroling, perhaps some stories, perhaps some surprises. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the evening with music, a reading, a skit, etc. please contact us. Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld.



## **Plan Ahead!**

Martin Luther King Day Event

Monday Evening—January 18, 2010.

This year the Social Justice Committee's featured speaker is the Reverend David C. Couper. Reverend Couper was a leader in the movement toward community policing. He wants to see seven seeds planted in the field of policing—leadership, knowledge, creativity, problem solving, diversity, control of force, and community policing. He is the former police chief of Madison, Wisconsin (1972-1993), and is now an Episcopal priest.

## **Remember, When You Shop at Trig's, You Can Help Our UU Fellowship**

Trig's Food and Drug helps our Fellowship earn money with its "Trig's Supports Local Churches and Schools" Program. Three times a year receipt totals are tabulated and 1% of the total for our Fellowship is returned to us by check. You must record our Fellowship number, 27B, on your register receipt before depositing it in the "barometer" at the exit door for this to work for us. Our receipts this last year totaled \$346.08.

So, remember, 27B.

## **Membership News**

### **Spotlight on New Members**

Welcome Cheryl Hanson

Last February I joyfully joined the UU Fellowship after numerous visits and much soul searching. I took my time making the decision because I knew commitment to the fellowship meant active participation and not membership in name only. I was drawn to the fellowship for many reasons: the lack of dogma, the small size of the congregation, the welcoming spirit, and the activist attitude.

I grew up in Menasha, Wisconsin, and, although my mother was a staunch Lutheran, I was raised Catholic because my father was Catholic. In those days, non-Catholics entering into a "mixed marriage" had to sign a promise to bring up their children in the Catholic faith. My mother lived up to her promise, a promise I think she regretted.

I attended St. John's Elementary School, St. Mary's High School, and Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. It was during those undergraduate years, when I began to take courses like Medieval Church History, and Reformation History, that I found acceptance of Catholic dogma and the subservient role of women in the church increasingly difficult to accept, until I moved permanently away from the church of my youth. I missed the sense of community membership in a congregation provides, but I did not want to join another dogma-based faith. It took many years for me to admit I no longer considered myself a member of the Catholic Church, because, for me, being Catholic meant more than Sunday church attendance—it meant my childhood friendships, my culture, and the foundation of all my formative years.

After earning a master's degree, I began what turned into a very rewarding 31-year career as a school counselor in the School District of Rhinelander—14 years at the elementary level and 17 years at the high school level. No doubt my upbringing, with its emphasis on service, had a great deal to do with my choice of career.

I retired 2½ years ago. I think of each day as a gift, a gift that allows me to pursue my interest in travel and writing.

I have been married for 22 extraordinary years to Bob Hanson, the love of my life. Although we have lived in the northwoods all these years, we moved to Minocqua 6 years ago. Between us we have five wonderful adult children—Kate, Matt, Josh, Teague, and Keely—who, along with spouses, grandchildren, and interesting lives enrich us greatly.

I look forward to life in the UU Fellowship and the rewards that association with such exceptional people brings.

### **Poinsettias**

In anticipation of the holidays, the Aesthetics Committee will be coordinating the ordering of the poinsettias and decorating the Fellowship building. Traditionally the poinsettias are donated by members and friends of the Fellowship in memory of those special people or dates in our lives.

To donate a poinsettia plant, please register on the sign-up sheet at the service table in the rear of the sanctuary, or call Eileen Schultz, 356-7531, beginning November 8th. Plants may be taken home after the service on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

To pay for your plant, please make your check payable to “Northwoods UU Fellowship”, designated for “Poinsettia”. Mail the check to Treasurer, Ardis White, P.O. Box 1881, Woodruff, WI 54568-1881, or deposit in the box with the sign-up sheet. It is important to pay “up front” so we know how many plants to order.

This year we plan to decorate the first week of December. Thanks for much for sharing in the beauty of the season.

Doris Eberlein

### **First Sunday Jam**

A group of musicians who play a range of acoustic music (folk, old time, blues, contemporary, etc.) will begin meeting at the NUUF building the first Sunday of every month from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The group formerly met at the Life Spring Dome Coffee

House on Hwy 51 South.

The jam is dedicated to playing a broad range of acoustic music (folk, old time, blues, contemporary, etc.) and to provide a venue for people who enjoy making music and socializing with others who play acoustic instruments. Persons of all ages and ability levels are welcome. While this is an acoustic jam, exceptions will be made for instruments like electric basses or keyboards, as long as the amps are turned down to an acoustic level.

This is an open group and anyone is welcome to attend and participate.

People who want to just stop by and listen are also welcome. However, typical of most jams, the musicians play in a circle and not toward an audience. There will be a donation can on hand for voluntary contributions for heat and electricity which will be turned over to the NUUF. For information call Bill Schweisheimer 358 3934.

### Milestones

Ruth Sproull and Dick Pantalone	11-18
Rick Immler	11-19
Amy Holt	11-24
Celeste Conder	11-25
Perry Junkerman	11-29
Patty Buehler	11-30
Paul Braunstein	12-03
Ella Toigo	12-04
Pat Harrington	12-06
Dawn Holt	12-06
Julie Wambach	12-12
Julie White	12-14
Cathy Peterson	12-14
Guthrie Lindner	12-15
Diane Reupert	12-19
Laurie Figueroa	12-20

### From the Editor

Just a reminder that the deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the fifteenth of each month. Please send newsletter items to my e-mail address. Please send them as an attachment to your e-mail as that makes them much easier for me to cut and paste. I can be reached with questions, suggestions, or reactions at [writer65@verizon.net](mailto:writer65@verizon.net) or by phone at 715-356-5797.

I apologize for any errors or omissions in this newsletter. Please let me know if I inadvertently omitted your submission or if you spot any errors. I will make corrections

next time.

Carol Ann Amour

## **UUA News Chalice Lighters**

From the CMwD: We are pleased to announce our Fall 2009 Chalice Lighter Call will support the Universalist Unitarian Church in Peoria, Illinois. Thanks to your generosity, Chalice Lighter grants fund congregational growth projects, such as new congregation starts, adding professional staff, building new or enhanced space, or accomplishing outreach and public relations programs. This call will close on November 30, 2009.

We hope you can send your check, made out to CMWD Chalice Lighters, for \$20 or more (\$10 minimum) to the address below. You can also donate online by visiting the web site for the Central Midwest District Chalice Lighters: [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org), select Services on

the Resources sidebar, then Chalice Lighters, then Donate - Online. As always, we thank you for your generosity.

If you have questions, please contact Elinore Sommerfield.

Central Midwest District UUA  
1555 Sherman Avenue, Ste 345  
Evanston, IL 60201

*And I am not a native, but always one who comes and goes---forever an outsider---*

*Which means I don't pretend to understand all that goes on day by day.*

*Still, after twenty-three years, "the soil of Crete is under my nails," as they say.*

*And I am old enough to know that in this life you see what you look for, and you get what you are open to receive. And you belong to those whose company you cherish, for they will cherish you.*

Robert Fulghum  
*What on Earth Have I Done*



Place  
Stamp  
Here

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
P.O. Box 1881  
Woodruff, WI 54568-1881  
<http://nuuf.com>

Jim Williams, President  
715-762-3434  
[blockhouselake@yahoo.com](mailto:blockhouselake@yahoo.com)

The NUUSLetter is published monthly.

**Next Deadline: November 15, 2009.** Send submissions to Carol Ann Amour, editor, at  
[writer65@verizon.net](mailto:writer65@verizon.net),

**For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections,  
contact Alan VanRaalte at [vanraalte@klinktech.net](mailto:vanraalte@klinktech.net).**



**NUUSLETTER**  
**Northwoods UU Fellowship**  
P.O. Box 1881  
Woodruff WI 54568-1881

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





