
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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Coming Sundays

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 5:
Isaiah: Swords into Plowshares.

Sunday, October 25, 10 AM, Jerry Woolpy, The Parenting Heresy.

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 6:
Matthew: The New Law.

Sunday, November 8, 10 AM, Susan Urban and Ingrid Stark, "A Day in the Life", on the spirituality of the Beatles' music. Susan says, "The eight short years that the Beatles were together (1963-1970) witnessed some of the most profound and rapid social and political change in history. We will listen to a number of the Beatles' songs, reflect on the period itself, and look at how the music reflects Unitarian Universalist values." (See also House Concert page 5)

Sunday, November 15, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 7: Luke and Acts: From Jerusalem to Rome.

Sunday, November 22, 10 AM, Thanksgiving Program, Terry Hoyt.

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.

Note from the President

My thanks to all of you who made the first Town Meeting so effective! We had a good discussion and decided at that gathering to advise the Social Justice Committee of our interests--meaning something each of us would participate in--and there were several. Along with activities we've already supported, like bell ringing, the food pantry, and highway clean-up, we've indicated interest in a day of helping with Habitat for Humanity and also in serving as an extended arm of the Social Service agency for whatever they need

to supplement their own services. This could take many forms and will need to be explored before the Committee institutes it as an option. The advantage is that it could incorporate many of the individual suggestions, such as tutoring adult illiterates, providing emergency transportation or providing support for a family in crisis.

We also resolved the problem of what it is we light at the beginning of our services--a candle or a chalice. Both choices have appeared in the Order of Service. Chalice was the choice.

Thanks to some timely information from Paul and Financial Committee follow-through, we were able to reduce our mortgage interest rate from 8% to 7% by switching to the new River Valley State Bank. We are also making extra payments to reduce the mortgage as quickly as possible. Pat Harrington

Getting to know UU's

Born in Eagle River and raised there by his mother, George Adams spent only one year, out of the area in California living near his father. It was when he was eight years old. George is the youngest of seven siblings, alas not the seventh son of the seventh son, since four of the sibs are girls. The children were raised as Seventh Day Adventists, whose "soul duty" it was to "spread the word" and bring folks to the Church. Steeped in religious tradition, George attended SDA school grades four through eight, but attended the church for the last time at age nineteen. He and Marie, the person he describes as "She's my partner" married in 1970. Fortunate for us, their friend David Boustead introduced them to our Fellowship four years ago, and they joined just after we moved from the Community Center to our new building. At the time, they were un-churched.

For the joy of design and construction, George made an elegant birdfeeder and a few bird houses that folks suggested were marketable, which led he and "his partner" to a new and rewarding vocation that is flourishing today. They design and make wonderful birdfeeders, birdhouses, lamps, and other wood crafted pieces that they sell at shows in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois from March through November. They are building constantly to barely keep up with the demand and they work on new designs in the winter months. Rather than take on employees, despite the high demand, Adams prefer to maintain the scale of their current operation and retain the quality of their products and their lives. George's past work experience includes being co-owner and pressman in their own small printing business, heavy equipment operator, truck driver and other related jobs.

Since December 1995, when George and Marie met Chardé through the Kid and Adult Partnership Program, their weekends have been filled with the light of the life of a first, then second, then third, and now fourth grade little girl whom they help care for and love very much.

George's skills are not limited to crafts. For the Fellowship he has helped finish the

basement, installed the kitchen cabinets, range hood, dehumidifier, front step, top soil, and had a hand in most everything our Building and Grounds Committee has done since it's inception. Now he is commissioned to make a "crying room" out of the kitchen where mothers can take unhappy babies during services. What has been called for by one member is a close-able window for the kitchen. Then some dead trees around the building need cutting and George wants to create a centerpiece for the Memorial Garden, including a place for nameplates and Pat Harrington's poem. Like a good UU, George is not overly fond of legal structure and so does not seem to need formal resolutions to get things done. Just ask him and, if it's reasonable, it goes on the to-do list and if you follow George's example you can help get it done.

George likes the Fellowship for the diversity of faiths and people who come together here. Unlike his SDA upbringing, where you read the Bible and were told how to interpret it, UU's can read it or not and interpret it as they see fit. "I like that." As our Building and Grounds Keeper and trusted friend, George says that he has gotten more attention here than anywhere he has been in his whole life. That's nice, but it sometimes makes him a little uncomfortable. What a wonderful difference he and Marie have made to the spirit and effectiveness of our Fellowship and community.

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

On September 12 there was a pizza and movie night for our youth at the Fellowship. Thirteen of our young people and four adults attended. Two movies were shown. Downstairs was the movie The Point (a cartoon adventure of a round person in a pointed society). Upstairs the movie offered was Dead Poet's Society starring Robin Williams. The children piled onto blankets, ate pizza, drank soda, and watched movies. Everyone had a good time.

The youth have expressed a desire to have more of these fun get-togethers. So as schedules permit, (our children have very busy lives) more social activities will be planned for our young people.

Children's R.E. Survey

The Children's R.E. committee has now sent out surveys to all fellowship members. To help us evaluate our program please fill them out as soon as possible. Place the completed forms in the large manila envelope located on the information table at the back of the Fellowship Hall or mail them to Dawn Holt, P.O. Box 418, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545. Thanks.

Meet Our UU Youth

Avery Koblings is seven years old and in second grade at AV-W. His favorite subject (after recess and lunch) is math, which comes in handy when he plays the card game "31".

Hi: My name is Erick Boustead. I am 13 years old and in seventh grade at MHLT. I have a brother Zack who is 16. My mother is Candace, my dad is David, I have two cats, and one rat.

In second grade my parents got divorced and now I spend half of the week on highway 47 and half on highway 70.

I enjoy skateboarding, snowboarding, collecting Starwars figures, and I am in punk band with three of my friends. I am the drummer. My favorite groups are NOFX, Good Riddens, and AFT.

Social Activities

Marie Adams

The Pinewood Dinner Theatre was an entertaining evening for a large group of our members on October 10. After dinner the group watched "Murder at the Howard Johnson's". Members attending were Joe & Bev Strauss, Fred & Martha Urban, George & Marie Adams, Harley & Ruth Erbs, Dick & Mary Ann Fields, Pat Harrington, Joan Hauer, Don & Joyce Barnes, Ron & Dianne Reupert, Lee & Betty Zausner and friends Jim & Debbie Hancock. Event organizer, Lee, says that he was impress with the turnout and will plan it again next year.

Fellowship Bicycle Ride was held October 11. A small group parked at the Trout Lake boat landing and rode the new Boulder Junction blacktop trail to The Coffee Logger for lunch. The group included Joan Hauer, Jerry Woolpy, George & Marie Adams, Joyce Barnes, and Bill & Kyle Decker.

Raven Trail Hike, October 25: Anyone interested is welcome to join in a late fall hike after services. We'll eat an informal brown bag lunch after coffee hour and hike as much of the trail as you like--weather permitting.

30th Star, the Big Top Chautauqua musical celebration of Wisconsin's sesquicentennial, is coming to Rhinelander High School at 8 PM, Wednesday, November 18. Call Marie Adams (479-9886) ASAP for \$16 tickets.

Circle Dinners: I will be organizing circle dinner again this winter--once a month

from January through April. Circle dinners are great way to get to know fellow members. They are held in our home for 6-8 people with main dish provided by the host and other dishes prepared by the guests. Sign up will be during December, so that I can get the schedules finished by January. Call me any questions. It's important sign up before the schedule is completed.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Our Fellowship will again share a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with members, guests, friends, family, etc. All are welcome. I will be able to do preliminary planning, but will not be here for the dinner. I need volunteers (at least 2) to set up, oversee, lead the reading, etc. Let me know if you are able to help. (Call Marie at 479-9886)

Hospitality Committee

Marie Adams

Occasionally we need housing for our visiting ministers and sometimes their families. We don't have too much trouble with members quickly offering hospitality, but we want to be sure that interested members have the opportunity to enjoy the company of our guests. This would include sleeping accommodations, meals and possibly transportation from the airport. If you are interested, talk to a hospitality committee member--Bev Strauss, Harley Erbs, or Marie Adams.

Membership Committee

Mary Ann Fields

We have had many visitors the past few Sundays. Guests need to feel welcomed. You can help by 1- Wearing your nametag. 2- Volunteering to greet people before our Fellowship service on Sundays. There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen bulletin board. Greeters give out nametags, offer UU literature, have visitors sign our guest book, introduce our visitors during the early part of the service and pass the offertory plate. 3- Talk with our visitors during coffee hour and introduce them to other members. 4- Please try to fill the seats in the front. When newcomers or late people come--too often we are putting up chairs during the service as all seats in the back are taken. It tends to make people feel uncomfortable if we have to find them a seat. Let's do all we can to make our visitors want to come again.

Social Justice Committee Meeting

Joe Strauss

On Sunday, October 25, 9:30 AM, we will select projects to work on from those discussed at the congregation meeting Sunday, September 27. Will you be the

leader/organizer for one of more?

Highway Cleanup

As is our UUusual custom in fall and spring, NUUs Chip Wulff, Lee and Betty Zausner, Jack Hafner, Ruth Erbs, Jerry Woolpy, and Terry Hoyt showed up on a rainy day, October 6th, to pick up bottles, cans, and other junk thrown out along two miles of highway 47 just north of the junction with F. Thanks to Terry's leadership and the persistence of the aforementioned we got the job done on the NUU stretch of highway. Good work folks.

NUUs Among UUs Strongest Supporters

Barb Brown, President of the Central Midwest District Board writes Pat Harrington: "Thank you all for your congregation's Full Suggested Share giving to the Annual Program Fund...and full Dues to the CMD during 1997-98. NUUF continues to be among the strongest supporters of our Association, and our UU faith. Your generosity has helped to provide the many programs and services that assist and energize all of our congregations in their attempts to deepen and spread our liberal hopes and dreams... "

Congregational Growth Grants

Mary Ann Fields

What do Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship in Ripon WI, First Unitarian Church in Hobart IN, Universalist Unitarian Church in Stockton IL, and First Unitarian Society in Madison WI have in common? Probably many things, but one special thing stands out. They have each received a grant for the district's Chalice Lighter program to help in congregational growth.

The district's Chalice Lighter program has donated over \$16,000 to churches within the district in the last two years. These grants are funded by gifts of \$10 (or more) three times a year by UU's throughout the district who have registered as Chalice Lighters.

Listen to the words of the Board of Trustees in Hobart. "We are in great appreciation of the loving financial support of each CMwD Chalice Lighter. A Chalice Lighter exemplifies the work of covenantal relationship with our wider UU community. We are honored to be the recipients of such faith in action."

If you have not already registered to be a Chalice Lighter consider doing so soon. It's a great feeling to know that \$10 given three times a year can make such a difference to sister congregations in our district! Please contact Pat Harrington if interested.

Susan Urban House Concert

Along with UU songwriter Ingrid Stark from Madison, Susan Urban will do a concert Saturday night, November 7th, at the home of Jerry Woolpy. If you'd like to join us for a

potluck and fun, contact Jerry.

NUU Views

Question: Unitarian Universalists and many religious and non-religious persons are utterly opposed and often totally intolerant of religious fundamentalism, which is understandable given their disposition as individual truth seekers. Yet religious fundamentalism is growing in popularity throughout the world. Obviously fundamentalists are addressing the needs of many people and are doing some important things effectively. Would you please help us to be more respectful of these fundamentalists by enumerating some of the things that they are doing very well?

Answer: Answering this question is difficult. Our Fellowship has just completed an adult religious education series that discussed religious fundamentalism at length. Although I do not encourage anyone to be totally intolerant of people who consider themselves religious fundamentalists, I do support intolerance of religious fundamentalism. This support comes not from my being an individual truth seeker. My opposition to religious fundamentalism stems from its goal to combine religion and politics with a likely result of totalitarian governance where any opposition to policy can be categorized as an attack on a “god”.

I disagree with the premise that religious fundamentalism is growing in popularity throughout the world. Religious fundamentalists are growing in power in some parts of the world (including our own country). Should I help someone be more respectful of these fundamentalists? No, I will not. For me to encourage such tolerance would only contribute to an environment that might allow a Hitler to arise, or ethnic cleansing to take place, or subjugation of a race to slavery or economic inferiority.

Religion may be the opiate of the people. Fundamentalism in the 90's is the crack cocaine of the people. It gives a false high, easy answers and instant superiority with no one to answer to for actions or inactions but “god”. Purveyors of fundamentalism are doing well in spreading a smugness that all that is wrong in the world can be attributed to a failure to pray to “god” in the way that the purveyors say people should. They are doing well in currying favor with politicians who are eager to don the hats of morality police if it means political power.

There is only one way to deal with this situation--stop the political mudslide that is fueled by these evangelizers of political religion. Every chance you get--just say no. Most importantly this includes saying no at the ballot box. There is no reason to tolerate political tyranny and no requirement that we do so.

As always this response reflects my personal views and in no way should it be construed as a political statement being made by the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship. 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.

Thanks to Pat Harrington, Dawn Holt, Mary Ann Fields, Candace Zahn Cain, Andrea Billings, Terry Hoyt, Marie Adams, George Adams, Avery Koblings, Erick Boustead, Joe Strauss, and others for helping with this issue.

Deadline for copy for the next NUUSLETTER is Sunday, November 22.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

