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# NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

P.O. Box 253, Minocqua, WI 54548, <http://nuuf.com>

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## 2004 **Coming Sundays**

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### **Taking the Pulpit**

**Sunday**, October 17, 10 AM, Dr. Robert McKeich, "Everywhen - The Aboriginal Dreaming" (See Announcements for Dr. McKeich presentation on Saturday, October 16.)

**Sunday**, October 31, 10 AM, Rev. Glenda Walker, "Is War A Force That Gives Us Meaning?"--a reflection on Chris Hedges' book War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning.

The talk will include memoirs of individuals who served in the military in several wars.

**Sunday**, November 14, 10 AM, open date

**Sunday**, November 28, 10 AM, Terry Hoyt, "Guest at Your Table"

**Sunday**, December 12, 10 AM, Elinore Sommerfeld

**Sunday**, December 26, 10 AM,

**Sunday**, January 9, 10 AM,

**Sunday**, January 23, 10 AM, Jerry Woolpy and Tara Reed, "Bringing in the new year in the Jewish Tradition."

### **Adult Religious Education**

On alternate Sundays we meet at 10 AM to discuss topics relating religious and ethical issues to current events and considering things that contribute to the spirit and meaning of our group.

### **Notes from the President**

Things have been very busy around the Fellowship. We have had lots of extra programs. We enjoyed having the travelling Succah. Now we look forward to a special program on the 16th at 2:00 P.M. put on by Robert McKeich. Dr. McKeich will also be doing our service on the 17th.

Our next Board meeting will be on October 22nd at 10:00 AM. If you have anything that needs to be taken up, please let me know. There have been several committee meetings where progress has been made on various activities. If there is anyone in our membership who might be interested in helping out with the NUUsletter please let me know. Jerry Woolpy has been at it for around 6 years now.

Enjoy the fall and think of our friends who have had to live through the hurricanes and weather in Florida and down south. Right now there are many opportunities for charitable acts towards those people in the Caribbean who have suffered through these weather disasters. Do whatever you can to help.

Terry Hoyt

PS: Because of the long delay since our last board meeting I have sent the unapproved minutes to Jerry for inclusion in this NUUsletter. I thought it was better to get them out than to wait another two months. I know everyone had a chance to make comments on them and I sent the minutes with Tom's comments *in italics* to Jerry.

## Announcements

**Explore the great Australian Outback** and its indigenous people on Saturday, October 16, 2004 at 2 PM, at the Fellowship, when Dr. Robert McKeich will speak on Aborigines of the Australian Desert. In Australia, Dr. McKeich pioneered the first government school for Aboriginal children on a reservation at Cundeelee and the first transitional housing for young Aboriginal men moving to the city for education and employment. He has formally and ceremonially been initiated into the Wangkai tribe. A Professor of Anthropology, Dr. McKeich has taught at several universities in Australia and the U.S.A. He has been the subject of a TV documentary in Australia and is a writer and poet. Dr. McKeich will also be speaking from the pulpit Sunday, October 17.

**UUWF Fall Retreat:** Women's Spirit Retreat – Maiden, Mother, Crone,- a woman's spiritual journey will meet in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, November 12-14. Join the UU women in our district for this fall retreat exploring the cycles of a woman's journey. The theme presentation is Exploring and Knowing Desire in a woman's life cycle. The presenter, Wendy Selene is a Jungian Analyst from Chicago. Workshops include Tarot, Croning ceremonies, creating rituals for life's stages, UU Prayer Beads and Cymbal, a beautiful group of UU women making and sharing music. To request registration packets email [ssinnamon@ucevanston.org](mailto:ssinnamon@ucevanston.org). Women of all ages welcome! Join us.

**Electronic News Clipping Service:** If you would like to be emailed articles selected daily with a progressive bias from the LA Times, NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Village Voice, and others including those available through Portside.org, TomPaine.com, and those forwarded from liberal friends in Seattle, Baltimore, Chicago, Coeur d'Alene, and Washington DC please indicate to

[Jerryw@Earlham.edu](mailto:Jerryw@Earlham.edu). You will receive ten or more a day. The bias is for progressive tax, conservation, renewable energy, neutral redistricting, campaign spending caps, regulated business, moderated globalization, the United Nations, nuclear disarmament, etc. The current heroes are Bill Clinton, Paul Wellstone, John Edwards, Jimmy Carter, Ted Kennedy. The current goats are George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, Connie Rice, Anonin Scalia, Paul Wolfowitz, Gail Norton.

**NUUsletter editor sought**, apply to Terry Hoyt or Jerry Woolpy.

## Joys & Concerns

**Don Barnes** was inducted into the US Department of Agriculture Research Service Science Hall of Fame. (See “Distinguished Scientist” in this issue.)

**UUs in the news:** The Post-secondary Scholarship Committee of the Lakeland High School scholarship fund has announced scholarship recipients for the coming year: **Amy Holt** will receive \$2600. **Minetta Koblings**, who has been playing doubles for most of her Lakeland High School interscholastic tennis career, came from behind to win a singles match against Medford. Minetta was also chosen to be one of the Minocqua American Legion Auxiliary representatives to Badger Girls State this past June. The Auxiliary President said, “They did an outstanding job of relating their experiences as they learned the ins and outs of government, while bringing out the flavor and fun of their week on the UW Oshkosh campus. At a time when teens are receiving much negative publicity, this was a refreshing report.”

Thanks to the **highway clean up** crew (Andrea, Avery, Minetta, Terry, Kayla, Candace, Candy and Rosie, Mark, Ruth and Harley, Joe and Bev, Susan, and Jim) for weathering the chilly fall temperatures and cleaning up HWY 47! Katie Bruhy

## Distinguished Scientist

Don Barnes was inducted into the US Department of Agriculture Research Service Science Hall of Fame on September 15. This highly selective award is limited to scientists who have contributed solutions to significant agricultural problems through their research. Their scientific accomplishments and stature must continue to affect the agricultural research community and be worthy of emulation by younger scientists.

As Leader and Research Geneticist on the Plant Science Research Unit at St Paul, Don received the award for his remarkable contributions to alfalfa breeding and genetics, mentoring of plant breeding students, and service to the Agriculture Research Service and the scientific community. The ARS notes Don’s pioneering work in alfalfa improvement by developing a means to breed for increased pest resistance and improved nitrogen nutrition thus providing for increased yields and improved quality. They say, “he almost single-

handedly mentored a generation of alfalfa geneticists. His greatest achievement was reducing by more than a third the seed required to maintain the crop.”

In the early 1970s Don recognized the importance of the legume plant in nitrogen nutrition, whereas before research had concentrated on nitrogen fixing root bacteria. Through selective breeding Don made farmers less dependent on chemical fertilizer. Don also predicted and prepared for wilt disease and nematode predation by developing resistant germplasm that could be incorporated into cultivars as these problems developed.

Don Barnes had already received awards from the Crop Science Society of America, the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference, the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders, and the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council. And he received several Certificates of Merit from the USDA and a Distinguish Service Award from the ARS.

## ***Unapproved Minutes of NUUF Board Meeting, August 20, 2004***

**In attendance:** Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer, Alan VanRaalte, Tom Somerfeld, Sharon VanRaalte, and Mark Bruhy

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Terry at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of July Board Meeting Notes:** Terry *moved* that the July Board meeting notes be approved, Joan seconded and the motion carried.

**Building Use Requests:** The “Drumming Circle” has requested that their group be allowed to use the Fellowship building on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., September 8 and 22; October 6 and 20. The Board approved the group’s requests.

**Music Committee:** Joyce Barnes has requested *an* expenditure of \$150, from the Music Committee’s budget, for a musical group to perform at the September 19<sup>th</sup> service. The request is within the Committee’s budget, and the board approved this request.

**Fellowship Insurance:** A representative of the Fellowship’s insurance company, Church Mutual Insurance Company, came to the Fellowship to meet with Paul Braunstein and Alan VanRaalte to review the existing policy. The agent recommended that the current coverage be increased to \$259,000, an additional annual cost of \$60. Joan moved that the recommended additional coverage be approved, Tom seconded and the motion carried. Secondly, the insurance agent suggested that “employee practices liability” insurance would protect the Fellowship from any liability associated with employees, or others, who perform Fellowship-related services. Tom moved that the Fellowship expand the current policy to include this coverage, Alan seconded and the motion carried. The Secretary has prepared a letter to Church mutual requesting this expansion of coverage. Finally, the Fellowship’s

Workmen's Compensation Insurance Policy was discussed, and the Board agreed that the policy will be continued and the current bill paid.

**Membership Committee:** Sharon VanRaalte of the Membership Committee informed the Board that several current members would like to change their membership status from "active" to "associate" members. They include Anna Marie Beckel, Wenda Sheard and Richard Thieret. Joan moved that the request be approved, Tom seconded and the motion carried. Next, there was discussion regarding "pledges of record," with some pledges having not been received. Those who have not yet submitted their pledges will be contacted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom distributed the most recent finance report, dated July 31, 2004. The Board reviewed the report and it was accepted as presented (The Treasurer's Report has been filed with the August meeting notes).

**Angela Merkert Visit:** Angela Merkert, Central Midwest District, participated in the August 14th NUUF Board meeting, held at 10:30 a.m. that day, as well as the Transition Workshop held that afternoon. Angela informed the Board that she assumes responsibility for recording meeting notes, as well as notes from her August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Reverend Sydney Morris. She will later prepare a summary that will be submitted to the Board for their review and consideration.

**By-law Changes:** There was discussion regarding the current by-laws and the Board's authority to name those individuals who can conduct marriages. Further, there was discussion, and Board recommendation, regarding the need to change the by-laws to include authority to preside over "spiritual unions." Tom moved that the recommendations be presented as by-law changes for Congregational vote. Alan seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Terry will schedule an all Fellowship meeting to call for a vote on these proposed by-law changes.

**Pastoral Care Committee (PCC):** Paul Braunstein has approached the Board about his willingness to serve on the PCC, and the Board agreed that Paul can serve on this committee. The PCC needs additional membership, and the Board will discuss this further at the September Board meeting. Further, the Board will communicate the need for additional PCC membership with the Nominating Committee.

**Disposition of Funds from Auctions and Other Fund Raisers:** The Board discussed the need to develop a policy regarding raising funds for the Fellowship, and how such funds should be utilized. It was recommended that anyone who proposes to raise funds for the Fellowship must submit a proposal to the Board beforehand. The proposal should include the nature of the fund raising activity, expenses that may be incurred through this activity, and the proposed use of funds that result from the fund raiser. Alan moved that this recommendation be accepted, Tom seconded and the motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.,

to be held at the Fellowship.  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Bruhy, Secretary

## **Food Pantry News**

We worked at the Food Pantry on Saturday, September 18, and Tuesday, September 21. Special thanks go to our young people (Jonathan Beutler, and his friend, Abby Rubsam, Kayla and Kim Norris and their friend, Brittany Sandoval) who gave up sleeping in on Saturday morning to prepare bags. Thanks also to the adult support team, Paul Braunstein, Terry Hoyt, Cindy Strobel and Tom Sommerfeld Bev and Joe Strauss, Ed and Jeanine Semon . We prepared and distributed nearly 120 bags to families and individuals. Thanks to everyone who contributed diapers, toothbrushes and other toiletries on Sunday, September 19. On Wednesday, September 22, the Food Pantry had its 2nd annual Donor Recognition Ceremony at the Howard Young Medical Center. Honored this year were Lake of the Torches Casino, Schroeder's Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Ace Hardware and the Baker's House. The event was reported in the Lakeland Times and also on Channel 12 TV.  
Elinore Sommerfeld

## **Audio Tapes of this year's General Assembly**

Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld have received some of the GA tapes that they ordered. We haven't listened to the audio tapes yet and can't vouch for their sound quality. The audio tapes are for the following sessions: Plenary I; Mystery and Harmony - Healing Power of Natural Places; Integrating Meditation, Soul, and Art; Saturday Morning Worship, "The Jew in the Chalice"; "Are You There God? It's Me, Tom Levinson"; and A Conversation with the President. The video tapes (which we have seen) are: Opening Celebration; Ware Lecture (Holly Near); and Sunday Morning Worship Service. All are available for loan. Contact Tom or Elinore. We hope to have at least one Friday Night Flicks session to share the video tapes with others who may be interested.

## **Children's RE**

Children's RE is back in full swing. Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> when Audrey and Charmaine will be working with the children teaching them creative drama techniques to help develop

their creative skills, means of self expression, and respect for others. Each class following that will focus on the Holidays and Holy Days curriculum and integrate the creative drama as a means of reinforcing the themes that were conveyed during the day's lesson. October 31<sup>st</sup>, students will explore the origins of All Hallows Eve. If you are interested in working with the students, please see Katie Bruhy or Susan Knight.

## Youth RE Program 2004-2005 Grades 7 - 9 (past dates omitted)

Date	Lesson/Activity
<b>Oct. 17</b>	Lesson – Messages in Music  <b>Bring tapes of songs you particularly like.</b>  <b>Youth Mentor Meetings –</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	Lesson – The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Youth Mentor Meetings –</b>
<b>Nov. 28</b>	Lesson Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations
<b>Dec. 12</b>	Lesson – Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement of Spiritual Growth
Dec. 26	<b>No RE.</b> Winter holiday vacation.

<b>Jan. 9</b>	Lesson – A Free and Responsible search for Truth and Meaning  <b>Youth Mentor Meetings – after service.</b>
<b>Jan.</b>	?Theater experience. Audrey Williams? – Date tentative.
<b>Feb.</b>	?Theater experience. Audrey Williams? – Date tentative.
<b>Feb. 20</b>	Lesson – The Right of Conscience and the Use of Democratic Process
<b>Mar.</b>	<b>Youth Mentor Meetings –</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b>	Lesson – A World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All
<b>Apr. 3</b>	Lesson – Respect for the Interdependent Web of Existence
<b>Apr. 17</b>	<b>During Service - Plan Coming of Age and Personal Journey Service</b>  <b>Youth Mentor Meetings – after service.</b>
<b>May</b>	Plan Coming of Age and Personal Journey Service

May	Coming of Age Ceremony and
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## NUU Views

**Question:** Having considered the history of our fellowship from various points of view, what do you consider special about this congregation?

**Answer** Elinore Sommerfeld: One of our UU principles, Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation, is a particular strength of NUUF. Our movement prides itself on tolerating and encouraging religious diversity, but, in our experience, Tom and I have found some UU's to be hurtfully intolerant. It is a pleasure and a relief to be a member of a congregation where no one will tell me my beliefs are "wrong" or "stupid", or tell me I don't belong because of my beliefs. This congregation is special to me because it is spiritually mature enough and self-confident enough not to feel threatened by religious diversity. It is wonderful to see members of the congregation freely and openly expressing a wide variety of religious beliefs. I love the animated theological discussions that seem to always spring up whenever two or more NUUFers gather. I hear genuine interest and respect when members ask one another about their religious beliefs. Change can be good; but let this be one part of our congregational life that never does.

**Answer** from Jerry Woolpy: One of the more interesting attributes of this fellowship, in addition to its welcoming nature, is that it invites participation, including membership, to virtually anyone willing to sign the book. According to our covenant we are devoted to "individual freedom of belief." This toleration is the watchword of liberal religion, including my own Reform Judaism and Unitarian Universalism, along with many others, but in marked contrast to the literalness of fundamentalists and the creedal basis of evangelicals. But aren't we missing something? Self selection may well eliminate racists, homophobes, and right wing policos, but what if it doesn't? What if we end up in congregation with folks whose belief and practice violates our sensibilities? Since I don't think there is a place for sin and redemption among UUs, what, if anything do we do with these apparent outliers? Or is this simply a test of our true mettle as liberals?

What I love about this fellowship is its ambiguity about the spirit and its apparent willingness to separate mind from spirit. We seem to hunger for spirituality as much as we despise ritual and espouse intellect. What a wonderful tension.

## **Getting the NUUsletter**

In addition to the usual Microsoft Word format, the NUUsletter is available in Adobe PDF format that is readable by any computer, Mac or PC. If you do not have an Adobe Reader you can download one free at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

With this software the NUUsletter will be formatted as it is in Microsoft Word and the Word program will not be required. Let me know if you want it sent to you in PDF format, [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu).

Previous NUUsletters and the congregation directory are available at nuuf.com. Click on "Members Only." The user name is NUUF. But you need to remember the secret password. If you have forgotten it, contact me--Jerry Woolpy.

**Next NUUsletter Deadline, Sunday, November 14, 2004**

**NUUsletter**  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED