



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 10, Number 4

October

17, 2008 **Coming Sundays**

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

October 26: Rev. Paul Beckel

November 9: Rev. Bobbi Groth

November 23: Susan Urban

“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.

We continue a sixteen lecture series entitled *Power Over People: Classical and Modern Political Theory*. The course is taught by Dennis Dalton, PhD of

Barnard College. “These lectures examine some of the fundamental questions that have shaped Western political thought since its inception in Athens in the fifth century BC, together with some of the most influential answers that political theorists have proposed.... The first involves the essential characteristics of human nature and the good society.... The second set of fundamental questions involves the relationship between the individual and the society.... The final set of questions involves theories of change.

Upcoming lectures are:

November 2: Rousseau’s Theory of Human Nature and Society; Three Perspectives on Political Theory

November 16: Marx’s Critique of Capitalism and the Solution of Communism

Please join us for this highly stimulating series of lectures.

From the President

The big news this month in the Williams family is that our granddaughter Caroline’s parents are getting married. For most people, in most places, marriages are pretty routine. After all, more than two million marriages take place each year in the United States. And this ceremony is going to be a very simple affair—no walk down the aisle, retinue of attendants, or any of the other accoutrements that accompany most marriages. So why is this wedding such a big deal? Because Caroline’s parents are Clark Williams and Jim Moore, and their marriage would never happen in 47 of our 50 states, including Wisconsin.

Fortunately, Caroline and her daddies live in California, where marriages between same-sex couples have been legal since last summer. In May the state Supreme Court ruled that a law restricting marriage to heterosexual couples was in conflict with the state constitution. Since that time, over 11,000 same-sex couples have been married in California. But this civil right could be taken away on November 4. Opponents of marriage equality have been successful in placing a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to one man and one woman on the ballot this November. Clark and Jim are

taking no chances, and hurriedly moved their ceremony up so it would occur before the election.

I am proud to be a member of a religious community that has been at the forefront of the movement for marriage equality. For over 40 years, Unitarian Universalist ministers have been performing commitment ceremonies for gays and lesbians. The UU General Assembly passed a resolution in support of same-sex marriage in 1996, and UUs have been leaders in this struggle throughout the United States.

Five-year-old Caroline is certainly too young to fully understand the historic controversy surrounding her parents' wedding this month. She won't realize that there are those who see this simple ceremony as an offensive evil act that weakens and cheapens the institution of marriage, threatening the very foundation of our society. All she knows for sure is that her daddies love her and each other very, very much. May she grow up to see a day where love, respect and commitment between any two people are honored, celebrated, and fully equal under the law, throughout the entire United States. And may she come to know that as a society, we truly do "stand on the side of love."

Jim Williams

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

November 10: Social Justice Committee

November 13: Women's Friendship Circle

Holiday Events

Please mark your calendars now for the upcoming holiday events:

Thanksgiving Dinner: Our annual dinner will be on Thursday, **November 27.**

Holiday Service: Our annual holiday service and potluck dinner will be on Saturday, **December 13** at 4 pm.

More details will be in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Services

November 9: Rev Bobbi Groth writes: “The November sermon will be on Thanksgiving--the holiday, the spiritual discipline, and the mindset.”

Food Pantry News

Tuesday, **October 21st**, is the NUUF day to staff the Food Pantry kitchen. We will need 6 to 8 volunteers from 8:30 to about 11:30 AM. If you are available to help, please call Mel Hoff at 588-1409. Donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome and needed. For your convenience a drop-off box is in the Fellowship vestibule. Thank you for your continuing support of the Lakeland Area Food Pantry. Mel Hoff

Election Night Party

From Joyce and Don Barnes: Let's pack up all our cares and woes, say "bye-bye" to not only blackbirds but to the bickering and mud slinging that has characterized this presidential race. Recognizing the many challenges facing our newly elected leaders, we will feel comforted by your presence in our home on election night. We think it will be a time to celebrate change for the good. It will be exciting to think and talk about new energy in Washington and renewed possibilities of peace, health and prosperity for all the world's inhabitants. Plans for the evening have changed, from what was announced at NUUF Sunday, Oct. 12. We would like guests to arrive between 6:30 and 7 p.m. You may bring either a beverage or a snack to share. Finger food is the idea--chips & dip, crackers and spread or cheese, vegetables and dip, etc. Joyce and Don will have meatballs on toothpicks, and chicken wings, juice, soft drinks, coffee, and tea. We do not want anyone to donate

money! Car-pooling might be a good idea, but there is quite a lot of parking room, on the road. Please call us and let us know that you are coming!

Directions: South to Timber Ridge Drive. At the stop sign at top of hill, take a left. This is the street we live on, Ridgewood Drive. Go about 1 1/2 miles, winding around many curves, and watch for a sign at a Y which says "Cornerstone Builders". This is a corner where Ridgewood Drive makes a 90-degree left-hand turn. If you miss it and go straight, you wind up almost immediately in a cul-de-sac, so turn around and then make a right-hand 90-

degree turn. Continue the curving road until you come to our house, about 1/3 mile more. It will be lit up, but look for some large light colored boulders.

10148 Ridgewood Drive, phone #358-2793.

Social Justice Committee Meeting

The Social Justice Committee will meet on Monday, **November 10**, at 6:30 at the fellowship. All are welcome.

Women's Friendship Circle

The November Women's Friendship Circle will meet at 10:30 am on Thursday, **November 13th** in the Founder's Room of the Fellowship. The program, AN INTRODUCTION TO REIKI, will be with Master Reiki teacher, Cheryl Markham. Come, and become more familiar with eliminating negative energy! Reiki is an ancient hands-on healing system. Reiki (pronounced Ray Key) means universal life force energy. A Reiki practitioner channels this life force energy to help heal the body/ spirit/mind. Reiki is used to help heal people, animals, plants and the planet. Formerly a court reporter and paralegal for the district attorney's office in Kenosha County, Cheryl moved to Mercer two years ago. She received her first Reiki attunement in June 2004, her second in November of that same year and her master attunement in May 2005.

Members, friends and guests are always welcomed to share in this time of service, love and learning. A potluck lunch concludes the gathering.

Church Chair Delivery Challenge

The new chairs for the Fellowship have been ordered. To save money (\$500), part of our agreement with the company is to provide people of strength to help unload the stacks of chairs down from the trailer into the Fellowship building. The projected delivery date of chairs is sometime during the week of December 1-5. Please sign-up with Doris Eberlein, 356-6268, if you will be available during the week of December 1 to help with this chore. . We'd like at least six men---more would be better. When the truck leaves Georgia we will be notified of intended delivery time (within the hour); Doris will call all who have agreed to help... unlock the doors... we will unload within an hour, probably... and, won't it be comfortable?!?! Please call Doris if you can help with this "special" event!

Highway Clean up

On Saturday, September 20 the youth group cleaned our section of Hwy 47. They included Avery Koblings, Aaron and Matt Rusak. They were assisted by Andrea Billings, Kay and Mel Hoff, Terry Hoyt and Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld. The good news is that there was less trash than usual. Let's hope it's a trend.

Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk

Many sincere thanks to everyone that participated and/or contributed to the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in Minocqua on October 4. Our "NUUF TROTTERS" did great again this year with placing FIRST for the team with the most walkers and THIRD place for the team raising the most dollars! Bev Strauss

Suzanne Waasilczuk's Ordination

On Sunday, September 28, Sharon and Alan Van Raalte, Jim and Audrey Williams and Tom and Elinore Sommerfeld attended Suzanne Wasilczuk's ordination at the UU church in Duluth, MN. The service was both impressive and meaningful. A copy of the order of service is posted on the back bulletin board.

Consultancy Services

Rev. Bobbie Groth's next trip to our fellowship will be the weekend of November 8-9. If any committees or individuals would like to meet with Rev. Groth during her visit, please make arrangements by contacting her directly. Her phone number is 414-764-0612, and e-mail is gooseknoll@copper.net (This is her preferred method of contact).

She writes: "I really enjoyed my first weekend at Minocqua last August. Since then I've been having a great fall--my classes are going well and I have a great bunch of bright, obstreperous students. My women offender's group is always a challenge and a blessing in disguise. Our band has had some great gigs--playing the fundraiser for the Milwaukee River Keepers, playing the Bayview Farmers Market in Milwaukee, and we'll soon be doing a fundraiser for the Sierra Club--we have a lot of fun. I've got my canning done for the

fall, and this year I experimented with green tomato pickles and carrot and garlic pickles, as well as some dandy plum conserve from a friend's father's plum tree--don't ask me why people don't want the fruit from their own trees!"

Yard Service

My friend and I have a great opportunity to go to a Model United Nations Conference in New York next spring and we are trying to raise money to fund this trip. We are offering our services to do yard work. We are interested in raking lawns, or any other yard work you need done. You can pay us what you see fit when we complete the work. Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from you soon - you can call me at 715-356-3763 or email ninjanatureboy@gmail.com.

Thanks again! Aaron Rusak

UUA News

UUWomen's Fall Retreat, *Peace of Cake: Food for Women's Souls*, November 7-9, Williams Bay WI. www.womensconnection.org

International Convocation of UU Women, February 26 to March 1, 2009, Houston TX www.icuuw.com

UU's in the News

"Sinkford speaks to Iranian president" UUA president joins peace activists in meeting with Iranian delegation.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/120216.shtml?n> His meeting evoked much angry reaction at UU blogs. Visit www.uuworld.org/blogs to read more.

Paul Newman, famous UU?

At the religious journalism blog "GetReligion," Douglas LeBlanc tried following up on a suggestion from a UU reader that actor and philanthropist Paul Newman, who died September 26, was a Unitarian Universalist. LeBlanc observed, however: "There's little in the Web-accessible record to establish that Newman's interest in Unitarian Universalism was the subject of

any reporting" (September 30). Too true! Did Newman ever identify himself as a UU? Not that I've been able to verify. Did he affiliate with or support the Unitarian Church in Westport, Conn., where he lived? Was his rumored UU affiliation nothing more than a UU rumor? Or was Newman one of those celebrities and public figures who has maintained quiet connections with UU congregations but who had no interest in making their religious views or affiliations part of their public persona?

Green Tips

Tech Against Toxins: We bury them underground, drown them in lagoons or shove them out to sea—no matter how remote a site; it may be full of the toxic by-products of modern life. To reverse the damage, scientists turn to both innovative technologies and peculiar organisms. Here are a couple of examples:

Purging Pesticides: White rot fungi, common in the forests of North America, use special enzymes to convert the carbon in trees to energy. These same enzymes can oxidize environmental pollutants, such as pesticides and PCS's, rendering them benign.

Flushing Iron: Metal toxins commonly found at mining sites could be treated with the stinky remains of human wastewater. The human waste, rife with iron, would be especially useful if dumped at sites loaded with cadmium, lead and arsenic. The iron would readily react with the other metals and keep them from dissolving into nearby groundwater.

(Excerpted from Discover Magazine)

Joys and Concerns

From Bob and Marilyn Feser: It has been a very difficult decision for us, but we have sold our home in Arbor Vitae and will be living in Florida pretty much on a year round basis. We want to express our appreciation to all of you who have made the last five years so meaningful and enjoyable. It is with great sadness we leave our two homes, the one in Arbor Vitae and the other here on Peggy's Lane at the UU Fellowship.

Milestones

Mel Hoff	10-19
Greg Holt	10-23
Irma Braunstein	10-24
Tara Reed & Jerry Woolpy	10-25
Charmaine Winters	10-26
Ethan Sites	10-26
Myrle Wasko & Dawn McCusker	10-31
Megan Kratz	11-03
Faye Calvey	11-04
Dan Padberg	11-09
Jim Williams	11-09
Ron and Diane Reupert	11-11
Bob Polfus	11-12
Dennis Kobes	11-15
Zach Boustead	11-15

Closing Thoughts

Halloween Origins

Modern celebrations of Halloween originated with the Druidism and Celtic Reconstructionists celebration of Samhain, or the feast for the dead. Divination and fortune telling is believed to have better communication with the spirit world because the fall season holds the thinnest partition between the two worlds of the living and the dead. The Druids built huge sacred bonfires to offer sacrifices to the many Celtic deities that number over five hundred named gods. Before each yearly sacred bonfire, the Celts would extinguish their hearth fires and relight them with embers from the bonfire. From the ancient Celtic era of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Scotland, the celebration practices have spread throughout the cultures of the world. Here are some examples:

Ancient Britain: A megalithic people that predated the Celts, Romans, and Saxons by thousands of years and utilized Stonehenge and other stone structures in their traditions.

Ancient Ireland: Celebrated along side a cluster of megalithic cairns (a conical heap of stones) that are scattered through the hills of Loughcrew, located northwest of Dublin. The Loughcrew Cairn T is a passage tomb that was designed to allow the rising sun to illuminate a back stone, which was decorated with astronomical symbols.

Chumash: Is a Native American tribe from Southern California that celebrates the “sons of Kakunupmawa” or “children of the sun.” They considered that the thoughts of the tribe would become focused on unity to face the winter months.

France: In the late 18th Century, at the time of the French Revolution, a new calendar was adopted. They divided the calendar into twelve months of thirty days, leaving five or six days left over. Celebrations fill these days to idolize virtue, genius, work, opinion, prizes, and revolution.

Mayan: Around 1050, the Mayans constructed The Pyramid of Kukukan at Chichen Itza in Yucatan, Mexico and the Mayan Calendar. The pyramid has the same number of steps to its architecture as there are days in a year and displays different triangle patterns of light during the passing seasons. The seven triangles become visible on the pyramid staircase after the fall harvest that was observed with ceremonious rituals.

Neopaganism: Wicca is the most popular of this group of religious beliefs that has attempted to recreate ancient Pagan religions. These groups have based their beliefs of the ancient Celts, symbols, and practices; and they have mixed them with numerous more recent Masonic ceremonial rituals for their sabbats (Witches’ Sabbath). The Witch’s Thanksgiving is the main harvest feast day of the Wicca, celebrating the Bountiful Mother aspects of the fall harvest.

Japan: Celebrates six days for Higan-e. It is based on the observation of giving, the precepts, perseverance, effort, meditation, and wisdom. These are believed to be needed before a person can arrive at a spiritual level of nirvana. Higan means the other shore and includes rituals for repentance and enlightenment in the next life. It is also a time of ceremonious rites in remembering the dead.

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