
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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Coming Sundays

Sunday, September 6, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 2: Genesis.

Sunday, September 13, 10 AM, James Threinen., Comments On Being Hardwired For Religion. (See below)

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 3: Exodus.

Sunday, September 27, 10 AM, Myrle & Dawn Wasko.

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 AM, Bible and Western Culture Video Lecture 4:
Job and the problem of evil.

Sunday, October 11, 10 AM, Denise Tracy.

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

Sunday, October 25, 10 AM, TBA.

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

Religion on the Brain

On September 13, Jim Threinen, retired educator and member of the Wayzata Minnesota UU Church, will review recent evidence that certain sites in the brain are intimately associated with religious emotions. His sermon, Comments On Being Hardwired For Religion, will also consider the possible survival value of such sites. This will be Jim's fourth sermon to our Fellowship.

Note from the President

One of the challenges to a congregation with no minister is continuity and another is congregational discussion. We need a way to talk to each other on Fellowship matters--not in little cabals, but as a concerned whole. To address this need, the Board proposes that we set aside 15 to 30 minutes after coffee on an occasional service Sunday for a "Town

Meeting." This will be a time to bring up whatever is on your mind about the Fellowship and its business, to suggest new ways of doing something, to commend someone, etc. The first such meeting will be on September 27 at 11:30am. The central topic will be a discussion and, probably, a vote on the recommendation(s) of the Social Action Committee (which may by that time have renamed itself). I hope that you will recognize this as a positive move and join us. (I watch the Packers, too, so we certainly will not dawdle.)

Appointments--Don Barnes will be phasing in as the Ministerial Association representative from our Fellowship. He and Joyce, the Braunsteins, the Reeds, Sidney and I were the guests of the Association a week ago at their annual picnic. It was an informal and friendly way to meet the people Paul has been dealing with so effectively all this time. They certainly speak highly of him!

Joe Strauss has agreed to stay on as temporary chair of the Social Action Committee while we decide on our issues and projects for the near future.

The next Board meeting will be September 28 at noon.

Lakeland Ministers Comment On Paul's Contribution

Brian Kunding, Minister of United Methodist Church of the Pines had this to say about Paul: "He been a gadfly for openness who keeps us talking and productive about the practical stuff that benefits people. And, he's a model of unconditional love who accepts the doctrines of others and understands and embraces differences and idiosyncrasies. He has been free enough to play with us and our concepts and ideas too. As the advocate for the Salvation Army and Food Pantry he has raised thousands of dollars as well as our consciousness of ways to help the down and out in our community."

Edgar Wallace, Minister of St Matthias Episcopal Church says: "Paul has been the energy, enthusiasm, and focus behind our group. Not only has he kept us contributing to the Food Pantry, by bringing speakers and issues he has kept us more informed and in touch with our local community."

David Jensen, Minister of Ascension Lutheran Church says: "Paul has brought a positive ecumenical spirit and awareness to our group. His interest in social justice and experience with the Salvation Army has resulted in our sponsorship of many significant community programs."

Getting to know UUs

Raised a no alcohol, no tobacco Methodist in the midst of Jews, Greeks, and Blacks in Monroe Michigan, Doris Eberlein, who became a member of our fellowship recently, found the UU church in Wausau in 1951 and joined it in 1958. Trained at UW Madison in community leadership, education, and group social work, in 1951 she began teaching in the adult program at the Wausau YWCA. Later she ran Holiday Apron Strings to provided a two hour weekly brake for mothers. In six years this developed into a full time child care

facility. Then as a volunteer, Doris started the first Wausau Day Care for working parents, which became a model program that now serves five hundred children a week. In 1967, with the goal of eliminating racism, she became the Midwest representative to the national YWCA board. In 1971 she helped develop a volunteer plan for Wausau hospitals. Constantly helping people as she does is a never ending task, so for recreation Doris likes games with a start and finish.

Doris and her husband Arthur who also just joined our fellowship, built a summer home on Lake Minocqua in 1962 for themselves and their four UU children. They spend more than summers here now and maintain their home in Wausau too. We welcome them to our fellowship.

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 1998
Ruth Erbs

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

Party to Start Church School Year

The 1998-1999 church school program will start the weekend of September 12 and 13. It will begin with a movie and pizza party on September 12 at 7:00 at the fellowship. This will be an evening of fun for all youth pre-school through high school.

Church school classes will start September 13. Once again they will take place during the adult service and last until 11:15. We hope to have over 20 youth in our program this year.

Volunteers needed

Educating our children should be the responsibility of the entire fellowship. This year there will be 3 classes taught every other Sunday and the program is in need of help. After the adult services on September 13 and 27 members of the R.E. committee will bring this year's curriculum upstairs for all to look through. They will be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have about teaching. We have a wonderful group of children in our fellowship. This would be a great way to get to know them. Please consider giving 1 or 2 Sundays a year to the youth program.

Children's R.E. Survey

The children's R.E. committee has designed a survey to evaluate the children's education program. We will be asking all members of the fellowship, as well as the youth, to fill out these surveys. The surveys will be delivered sometime during the month of

September. Please take the time to fill them out and return them. It will help us maintain a quality program that strives to meet the needs of all of our youth.

Child Care

Child care will be provided on an as need basis this year. Our middle school and high school youth will be available if a child or children need their services. The youth will take turns being excused from their church school classes to care for infants and toddlers as the need arises. Visitors, friends, or relatives with young children should be directed to the lower level after the offertory during the adult services.

NUUs Travel

Joan Hauer, Travel Editor

Fields' Afield: Mary Ann and Dick went on a cruise that gave them an opportunity to visit Turkey, Greece, and Israel last winter when we all thought they were sunning in Nevada. A bit apprehensive at the outset, Mary Ann reports her fears were unfounded. The majority of people they encountered have English as a second language, so communication was not too difficult.

Impressions of Turkey include colorful clothing worn by the merchants, especially tea sellers who carry large urns on their back and circulate through the crowds. Food was expensive, as was the cost of living generally. The young men serve in the military universally for a few years. They are limited in the time they spend in sensitive situations, four to six months.

The stop in Israel included a long established and productive kibbutz,, as well as cities and historical sites. Israel works at being self-sustaining so produces much of its own foodstuff by the work of the kibbutz and other farms. Some kibbutz also manufacture irrigation equipment for export. They visited the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. They were approached by persons who offered to pray for their loved ones for a fee. And witnessed a woman having a tantrum because she could not enter the men's side of the wall.

Dick swam in the Dead Sea and sailed on the Sea of Galilee in a replica of an ancient boat. They also saw the River Jordan and the site of the sermon on the mount. They toured King Herod's resort and the Mesada, which is a fortress on a high bluff that is accessed by trams. Dick reports that harvesting the Dead Sea is an industry in itself, 30% saline, the salts are used for chemicals, creams, fertilizers.

Bedouin tribes continue to function in the way of the forefathers, except they use tar paper shacks instead of tents. They adapt to the rules of the country they locate in, including serving in the Israeli military, the only non-Jews permitted.

A visit to Greece would have to include the Acropolis. The area is being readied for the Olympics in the near future. The tour included the Island of Crete, which considers itself the cradle of modern civilization. It has ruins dating back to 2000 BC.

Both agree people were generally friendly, though some are still nursing historical hurts. They were dismayed at the McDonald proliferation and other American company

billboards affronting the landscape. For more detail, ask them.

Social Activities

Marie Adams

On July 31 a group of us drove to Bayfield to the Big Top Chautauqua to hear Beau Solei--a well known, entertaining Cajun group. These included organizers Terri & Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer, Molly West, Greg & Dawn Holt, Julie & Rick Swanbeck, George & Marie Adams, Don & Joyce Barnes and their granddaughter, Alleson Hancuch and her friend Laura. We ate dinner at the Big Top and had a great time!

August 30 was the third and final cook-out of the summer season. The cook-outs, held after coffee-hour, have been very well attended and provide a causal place to socialize with fellow members and visitors. Thanks to everyone for this cooperation and participation. The Social Activities Committee has purchased a gas grill with their \$100 budget. Last year we bought the microwave--always something to make our eating get togethers easier!

Buildings & Grounds

Marie Adams

A few more projects have been completed. Dawn Holt put sealer on the deck and steps by the side door. Dick Fields moved those unsightly brush piles into a hole where they will be burned next winter. Harley and Ruth Erbs took care of shopping for our new vacuum cleaner. (Everyone will get a turn with the new vacuum--so please, no fighting to sign up for cleaning.

Social Action Committee Meeting

9:30 AM Sunday, September 13

Joe Strauss

We have got to get organized. Note the new and different meeting time. It has proven to be difficult and perhaps inappropriate to hold meetings during our coffee ritual. A meeting on a week day evening is pretty much out of the question. So let's gather early in the morning while all of us will be at our very best.

We will consider proposing a committee name change to the "Community Responsibility Committee" to better reflect our purpose and to avoid confusing ourselves with other groups.

Our committee, under whatever name, must select some worthy activities to propose to the Fellowship for their support. Interest areas so far suggested are Population Control, Habitat for Humanity, support for the Tri-County Council Shelter for Domestic Violence and reading assistance or other tutoring help for area youth. Come to the meeting to contribute your ideas.

Membership Committee Meeting

After service on September 27th

A new member-friend list will be available in September. Please contact Mary Ann Fields 385-2975 for a copy.

UU Youths & Young Adults

The overnight, August 20, started with a bounce on the Aqua Jump at Piney Ridge and ended with nine sleeping on the floor at the Fellowship. In between times there was pizza, cookies, twister, spoons, pictionary, and a video. Thanks to Andrea, Pat B, and Jerry.

Gherrage Sale

On Friday, August 21, the fellowship sanctuary was filled with an array of gizmos to ride, wear, wash, or warm. On Saturday we sold some and dumped others. When it was over and we had paid the dump charges, we had accumulated \$304.95 then we found a nickel on the ground outside making an even \$305 for at least 25 UUMAN volunteer hours. Thanks to Pat and Jerry, Paul, Dick and Mary Ann, Pat, Joyce and Don, Annamarie, and Gail. Despite the take, survivors agreed that next time we should consider bypassing the fellowship and going right to the dump.

NUUF and UUSC

Dick Fields

The UU Service Committee 1998 report to the membership gave some interesting facts regarding financial giving to that organization. Our fellowship was listed as one of 5 congregations in Wisconsin in which at least 20% of its members belong to UUSC. Our fellowship is the only UU congregation in the state of Wisconsin that makes a line item gift from their annual budget of at least \$1.00 for each congregation member. We are giving 1% of our annual budget to the UUSC, which amounts to around \$4.00 per congregation member.

Men Growing Spirituality For the 21st Century

A program of six evenings for men will be offered Tuesday evenings, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24, 12/8 at Marywood Spirituality Center, 3560 hwy 51 North, 9 miles north of Woodruff. Including discussions and meditation with readings from Henri Nouwen's The Return of the Prodigal Son. The program will be led by Paul Engwall, Chaplain of Howard Young. Engwall, a Lutheran, describes the program as "cumenical" to which all men are welcome. Sydney Morris recommends it. Register by 9/25. Cost \$20

plus the cost of Nouwen's book. Call 385-3750.

Erbs Annual Fish Boil

Ruth & Harley Erbs

We are planning this event on Saturday, September 19th starting at 3 PM. Everyone is welcome but do let us know if you are coming as we would like to have a count of people. We will be glad to give directions to our home (5010 Isle View Drive, Rhinelander-Phone 362-2643) for those who have never attended a fish boil. Although we need rain, we shall "pray" for a sunny day!

QUOTES FROM 11 YEAR OLDS' SCIENCE EXAMS

"When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire."

"H₂O is hot water, and CO₂ is cold water."

"The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o and u."

"Equator: A menagerie lion running around the Earth through Africa."

NUU Views

Question: Religions typically state codes of behavior that everyone is expected to follow, like the ten commandments, but Unitarian Universalists give more responsibility for how to behave to the truth seeking and judgment of individuals. Can you clarify these differences and the extent to which they may result in different outcomes for individuals and for society?

ANSWER: Religions do state codes of behavior, but they are inconsistent and far from being clear. As an example it is understood that one of the Ten Commandments is, "Thou shalt not kill". That seems fairly clear to most people. How then do we deal with quotes from the bible such as, "You shall not permit a female sorcerer to live." Exodus 22:18, "Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death." Exodus 21:17; "One who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death." Leviticus 24:16. Obviously there is still plenty of room for killing.

We have seen the code of behavior that you are to honor your father and mother. How does this reconcile with this quote, "I have come to set a man against his father, and daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household." Matthew 10:35-36; Luke 12:52-53.

And then there is the old Christian fallback that they are above the law. ". . . a person is justified not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ." Galatians 2:16. "Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law." Galatians

3:25.

The point of this is that one cannot rely wholly upon the laws or codes of conduct expressed in these teachings without adding your own interpretations (or the interpretations of priests, rabbis or the like). It is easier for Unitarian Universalists to do the right thing because they are free to draw on the teachings of all religions and codes of ethical behavior. They have the freedom to decide that it is not necessary to stone an adulterer to death. They have the freedom to respect the worth and dignity of every person without the necessity of judging them on the basis of sexual preference or religious belief. This freedom to draw upon the good of all teachings is much more productive towards promoting peace and harmony than an approach that commands you to accept “our rules” and “our God” or be an outcast who is suitable only for condemnation or destruction. 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.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

