



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP

**We are a Welcoming Congregation.**

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

Volume 9, Number 9

April 15,

**2008 Coming Sundays**

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## **Services at 10 AM**

### **Taking the Pulpit**

**April 27:** Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk, *A Hundred Million Miracles*

**May 11:** Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk *Grace Kelly, Gracie Allen & Our Mothers. Full of Grace?*

**May 25:** Children's RE/Spring Plant Exchange

*"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 are continuing a 24 lecture series entitled **Peoples and Cultures of the World**. The course is an introduction to anthropology with a dynamic

speaker. Please plan to join us for this interesting series. Upcoming lectures are:

**May 4:** Cultural Contact and Colonialism: Cultures of Capitalism

**May 18:** Is Economics Rational?; Late Capitalism—From Ford to Disney

## **From the President**

This past Sunday we had the privilege of having Richard Olson, past president of the Wausau UU Church, as our pulpit guest. His sermon topic was, “Evil,” certainly not an easy subject to address. At one point Richard asked the congregants to close their eyes and try to picture evil. The images that pushed themselves into my mind came from Auschwitz, Srebrenica, Darfur, My Lai, Wounded Knee, Rwanda: the species *Homo sapiens* seemingly inexhaustible capacity for perpetrating acts of inhumanity against other human beings.

Two of the atrocities that I recalled were committed by Americans. Not that America is any worse than any other nation, but neither are we, as a people, any better. We are all human. We have the same strength of character as any other people as well as the same character flaws. We have the same capacity for righteousness and for evil. Perhaps our first principle should not only acknowledge the inherent dignity and worth of every person, but also the inherent flaws and iniquities (original sin?) but that, by reason, love and putting our common humanity above tribalism (some might say patriotism), we can overcome.

For anyone who didn't hear my comments during Talk Back on Sunday, this, I believe, is a quote from Abraham Lincoln: “There's so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill-behooves the most of us to talk about the rest of us.”

In Peace & Love, Alan

## **News and Announcements**

### **Upcoming Services**

**Sunday, April 27** – *A Hundred Million Miracles*. Water into wine. The blind see and the lame walk. A baby is born. Spring comes again. A miracle

is that which elicits admiring awe. Come celebrate the miracles around us. Suzanne Wasilczuk presents.

**Sunday, May 11** – *Grace Kelly, Gracie Allen, & Our Mothers. Full of Grace?* It's Mother's Day; and today's word is *grace*. Can we use it in a sentence? Say it without cringing? How might we celebrate today – with all our varying Mother/Mothering experiences – with a modicum of grace? Suzanne Wasilczuk presents.

### **NUUF Dates of Importance**

**April 26:** Highway Clean-up Day

**April 26:** Seder Dinner

**May 8:** Women's Friendship Circle

**May 17:** Annual Meeting

**May 25:** Spring Plant Exchange

**June 6:** Social Justice Committee Fish Fry Fundraiser

### **Boulder Junction Library Program**

Tom Sommerfeld will be speaking and singing at the Boulder Junction Library Neighbor to Neighbor program on **Thursday, April 24, at 7 pm**. He will be accompanied by Joyce Barnes. The free program will be at the Community Center on Hwy M in Boulder Junction.

### **Seder Service**

The Fellowship invites friends and neighbors to our community Seder in celebration of Passover. This annual holiday commemorates the Exodus, the liberation of Hebrew slaves that are supposed to have built the pyramids. The Pharaoh, who oversaw their bondage in Egypt, refused to the end to let them go. The story, retold and reinterpreted each year in the light of contemporary experience, has become the epic of liberation for the Judeo-Christian-Muslim world. In accordance with the tradition at the beginning of our ceremony, we open our doors saying "Let all who are hungry come and eat." Please join us for a traditional meal complete with special symbolic accoutrements, at 6 PM, **Saturday, April 26**. RSVP, Jerry Woolpy, [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu) or 356-

6276.

### **May Day Memories and Melodies**

There will be a Benefit Dinner and Dance for the Alzheimer Assn. on **Saturday, April 26** at the Holiday Inn Express in Rhinelander. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$35 per person. Call 362-7779 for more information.

### **Celebrating Earth Day**

Tim Kratz will present "The Stations of Trout Lake" on **Saturday, April 26**, from 9-11 am at the Marywood Center on Hwy 51 in Boulder Junction. How does a lake scientist look at a lake to assist a lake's health? Board a pontoon at Marywood's shore for this ecological guided tour that will explore both shoreline and the lake itself. Call 385-3750 for more info or to register.

### **Tentative Highway Clean-up Date**

**Saturday, April 26** at 10:00 AM. Meet at the corner of Highway 47 and County Highway F. Our highway stretch connects the Lac du Flambeau Reservation with the rest of the Lakeland Area and sees lots of travelers who are going to Lac du Flambeau. PS the snow will be gone!

### **Community Chorus Spring Concert**

The Community Chorus will present its spring concert on **Sunday, May 6, at 1 pm** at the Campanile Center. Patty Buehler, Dave Foster and Tom Sommerfeld are all participating in the free performance.

### **Women's Friendship Circle**

The WFC met on April 10th at 10:45. We discussed about the meeting time and decided to meet on the second Thursday of each month during the spring-summer months. Our meeting will start at 10:30 for program and business. Lunch will be at 11:30a.m and should be over by 12:30. Last fall it was decided that our group would like to honor Dr. Frances Cline with a garden in the circle in front of the Fellowship Building. At our April 10th meeting we looked over pictures of gardens and gave our ideas on what

we liked. We would like to call it The Frances Cline Circle. We will approach the Board and the Building and Grounds committee for permission to do this.

Our next meeting will be **May 8th** at 10:30 A.M. The program will be about Mothers. Everyone should come with a short memoir to tell of her Mother or Grandmother. Please bring ideas for the Frances Cline Circle garden, preferably pictures of what you like or your own design. Bring a dish to pass. Mary Ann Fields and Sharon VanRaalte will be the hostesses. Contact Mary Ann Fields at [dmafields@yahoo.com](mailto:dmafields@yahoo.com)

### **Annual Meeting**

The NUUF Annual Meeting will be **Saturday, May 17**, beginning at 10 am. Lunch will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend or provide a proxy.

### **Upcoming Program Note**

**May 25** will be the Sunday for our Spring Plant Exchange. Everyone should bring two small pot plants suitable for planting outdoors. One of these will be planted in the flower box by the Youth RE: the other plant will be exchanged for another brought by someone else. If you like you may choose to dedicate your plant to someone else, living or not, in recognition of his or her unique personality or spirit.

### **Spring for Justice Dinner**

The Social Justice Committee is holding their fundraiser, "Spring for Justice", on **Friday, June 6, 2008** at the Fellowship at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person for all you can eat fish, beans, coleslaw, rolls, choice of desserts and tea and coffee. There will be fried crappy plus other non-fried pan fish dishes. Various wine choices will be available for a monetary donation. See any member of the SJC for tickets.

### **Food Pantry Update**

On Tuesday April 8th the fellowship provided volunteers to help at the Lakeland Area Food Pantry. We had a very busy morning with approximately

256 family units served. A special thanks to Sharon and Alan VanRaalte, Dwight Logan, Judi Klotsche, Kay and Mel Hoff. Thanks also to the Fellowship for your continuing support of the Lakeland Area Food Pantry.  
Mel Hoff

### **Membership News**

On March 30, Carol Potter signed the Membership Book; Ardis White signed the Membership Book on April 13. We now have 74 members.

Trish Kirk will be taking Members and Associate Members photo portraits for the Membership Committee after Sunday Services or RE. She is helping the Committee develop a photo directory for our 20th Anniversary.

### **Welcome! Welcome!**

I remember my first visit to the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The congregation earned high marks for their warm, friendly greetings given to me. I was anxious to return for Religious Education and services the following weeks. A few memories make the time still warm when I look back. The building was intimate and comfortable. Everything was in view. I appreciated the lovely woods, the smell of coffee perking in the kitchen, and the busy bird feeder outside. Paul Braunstein was right there at the door with his UU sweatshirt, a handshake, and interested in my story. We all have a memory of what brought us to that first visit. Tom Sommerfeld's great music was special. Mary Ann Fields and Doris Eberlein immediately involved me in social gatherings at the UU Fellowship and dinner at Doris' home. This helped make Woodruff-Minocqua my new home and I thank the Fellowship for their support.

How does our congregation welcome new members? Welcoming guests is the job of everyone. The assigned greeter is often too busy to follow through and may introduce the visitor to another fellow member, someone like you. Don't leave it to others.

Make eye contact, cross the room, and greet visitors.

Invite them to sit with you, join you for coffee hour afterwards, and show pride in our building.

Take the time to explain our Religious Education Program on alternate

Sundays.

Be a good listener and understand what brought them to our UU Fellowship.

Include children in the discussion and offer a tour of the building.

Knowing your way around gives an extra level of comfort and sense of belonging.

Wear your nametag so old and new participants feel comfortable socializing.

Coffee hour is our time to get to know each other better and perhaps make new friends. Try to keep Fellowship business to a minimum. Don't forget to take the time to welcome our returning snowbirds. Making new members and visitors feel welcome takes everyone's attention. Candace Sorensen

### **Your Fair Trade coffee purchases make a difference!**

The "Equal Exchange Small Farmer Funds" are donations EE makes to their Interfaith Program Partners, such as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), based on the volume of sales generated by UU churches. The donations are used to promote human rights and economic justice in coffee-growing regions. Using these funds, the UUSC has awarded a grant of \$29,245 to Porvenir Financiero, a financial training and literacy project in Latin America. The project's mission is to strengthen financial management and business planning skills of rural producer organizations and to enhance the long-term success of community-based enterprises.

So, in addition to supporting the grower co-ops through our purchases, we are also supporting larger community initiatives through the UUSC. Now, that's guilt-free coffee drinking! Thank you to all our NUUF coffee, tea, and chocolate buyers. Sherry Zoars

### **UUA News**

**District Assembly in St. Louis Friday April 25 through Sunday April 27.**

The highlights of this year's assembly will be conversations, speeches and worship services about taking lessons of the past and using them to shape our religious future. Visit <https://www.regonline.com/131778> to register on-line.

“We chose our keynote speakers, Diana Butler Bass and Michael Tino to lead

us in thinking about the future of congregational life and in particular of worship.

It is going to be particularly interesting hearing from Diana Butler Bass now as the US Presidential campaign has veered into the areas of race and religion. She is very insightful on these subjects serving as an op ed writer in the New York Times and other places. Her comments about the current dust-up over Obama's pastor, Jeremiah Wright, have been much quoted.

<http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics/2008/03/obamas-pastor-by-diana-butler.html>.” (from the CMwD website)

**UUWomen’s Connection, June 6-8**, Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL.

[www.womensconnection.org](http://www.womensconnection.org)

**AMUUSE Camp, June 15-20, July 13-19 or August 10-16**

[www.amuuse.org](http://www.amuuse.org)

**General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, June 25-29, 2008**

**UUWomen’s Fall Retreat, November 7-9**, Williams Bay WI.

[www.womensconnection.org](http://www.womensconnection.org)

### **Grappling with Darfur**

Bruce Knotts, the new Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office is a retired US Foreign Service Officer who served as acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Khartoum, Sudan, from 1997-2000. Based on that on-the-ground experience and on concern long expressed by UU-UNO, in mid-February Knotts wrote to the US Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, and his Deputy to urge the U.S. Government to use its diplomatic clout and military resources to ensure that the UN peacekeeping force to Sudan's Darfur region is adequately equipped and that it operates with a mandate to protect Darfur's vulnerable civilian population.

In response to Knotts' overture, the US Mission to the United Nations invited him and representatives of five other non-governmental organizations (Care International, Oxfam, Amnesty International, MSF: Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), and the International Rescue Committee) to discuss the explosive situation in Darfur and Chad. These organizations all



are much larger and better financed than is UU-UNO, but the de facto partnership with the UU office may well be poised to create meaningful change.

Knotts is encouraged by the character of the meeting. "I expected a rather formal briefing," he says, "but it turned out to be a genuine exchange of ideas and information." The US Mission was represented by T. Kirk McBride, Deputy Political Counselor; Jesse S. Levinson, Political Advisor; and Fiona Shanks, Advisor on Humanitarian Affairs.

Care, Oxfam, MSF, and IRC have humanitarian workers on the ground in Chad, as well as in Sudan. The US mission was interested in the news they could provide to fill in the large gaps in the US government's information on the region. For example, while recent attacks in Western Darfur appear to be worsening malnutrition and rapes are on the rise, other indicators of health seem to be stabilizing due to humanitarian assistance on the scene. How do the NGOs see the situation?

The humanitarian NGOs are concerned that there be a separation between the UN peacekeeping missions in Chad and Sudan to ensure that the humanitarian workers have the space they need to work and that no confusion be created in the minds of the people between the respective roles of the UN peacekeepers and the humanitarian agencies.

Amnesty International is most concerned with prisoners in Chad. Knotts did not disagree, but raised the more global issues of what the US is doing to ensure that the mandates of both peacekeeping missions are adequate and that they are properly equipped. USUN said that putting more pressure on Sudan probably would have no effect and implied that China has the most influence in the country that pressure needs to be applied to China. As for the UN mandate, the Chinese insist that the UN force be extended in six-month increments. This is disrupting and irritating, but probably can't be changed.

### **Restoring the Interdependent Web of All Existence**

We are thrilled to announce that you can now make a *Now is the Time*

Campaign gift to support the **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)**!

Your generous support will enable the UUMFE to launch an extraordinary, first-of-its-kind, national Environmental Justice Conference in 2009. This conference will be highly participatory and aim to engage the whole person – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually – in an effort to equip Unitarian Universalists to advocate strenuously for environmental justice in our congregations and communities. **Read more. Donate Now**

#### ***Now is the Time Campaign Update***

As of March 25, 2008, the Campaign has reached 75% of its \$50 million goal, including \$15.8 million in cash and pledges and \$21.5 million in legacy commitments. **Donate Now**

#### **Giving and Generosity Update:**

##### **What Would You Like to See Funded on Association Sunday?**

Association Sunday 2008 will support *Growth in Spirit* initiatives to advance our spiritual deepening and excellence in our shared ministry.

Please fill out our very **brief Association Sunday Funding Options Survey** by **May 1, 2008** to share YOUR ideas and help us determine the best use of your generous contributions on Association Sunday 2008! **It will take less than 3 minutes to complete – so please, make your voice heard. CLICK HERE** to fill out the survey!

And don't forget to **sign up for Association Sunday 2008** (October 12<sup>th</sup> or a Sunday close to it), because we are better together. Thank you for your generosity!

**No Cooking, Cleaning, Traffic, Yard Work, Phones or Boredom! WOW!**

Each summer at the Bayside UU Family Camp (founded 1988), 75 to 90 people come together to enjoy a week of a nurturing “family” atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions. Join us at Wesley Woods

Conference Center in Williams Bay, July 13 through July 19.

We offer morning workshops for adults and day camp for the kids, afternoon family time activities, including swimming, hiking, art, and napping, and evening intergenerational activities.

We love fresh faces, as well as the “old timers” so please visit our Web site at

[www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside](http://www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside) for more information or to sign up, or contact: Emma Williams, 608-838-6604, [cnmne@verizon.net](mailto:cnmne@verizon.net) or Jill DeLisle, 608-238-5536, [4delisles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4delisles@sbcglobal.net)

## **THE AGORA EXPERIENCE: ADVENTURE VOLUNTEERISM IN TRANSYLVANIA**

Join us this summer for two unforgettable weeks in rural Transylvania. Discover the beautiful birthplace of Unitarianism and become part of a global community for positive change. Through service projects in the villages, you will gain experience and insight in the dynamic field of sustainable rural development. With home stay families and Agora's experienced staff, your group will explore the region's history, culture and landscape, make new friends and discover new ways of thinking, living and having fun. Visit [www.experience.green-aporaro](http://www.experience.green-aporaro) today to learn about the program

## **UU's in the News**

Check out the April 14 issue of TIME magazine! Inside, you will find the first of two ads that will run as part of Phase II of Unitarian Universalism's National Marketing Campaign. The second will run in the May 12 issue on newsstands May 2. **Read more.** Stewardship and Development Unitarian Universalist Association [\*\*Campaign@uua.org\*\*](mailto:Campaign@uua.org)

**Radio program explores new humanism and more** A recent episode of "Speaking of Faith", a religion program broadcast by American Public Media, looks at the tradition of humanism in the segment "Exploring a New Humanism" Listen to the program, watch video and read related material at the show's website, [speakingoffaith.publicradio.org](http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org)

"UUA, other investors pressure Fidelity over Sudan" **Shareholder resolutions would bar investments that 'contribute to genocide' in Darfur, elsewhere.**

[\*\*http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/103931.shtml?n\*\*](http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/103931.shtml?n)

## **Take Action! Stop Big Media**

*(From the UUPrairie Newsletter)*

This is the moment of truth for the U.S. media. In December 2007, the FCC gutted the rules that protect local communities from media monopolies. The rule change is a big handout for Big Media and will let giant corporations get even bigger, gobbling up local news outlets in your town. This is bad for journalism, bad for media diversity, and bad for our democracy.

However, on March 6, members of the Senate stepped up to overturn the FCC's dangerous rule changes. A "resolution of disapproval" introduced by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) would nullify the FCC decision and protect local news around the country. That's the good news.

The bad news is that there are only 60 legislative days to get this bill passed. Help is needed to build the momentum and overturn the FCC's rule changes. Sign an e-petition at [www.stopbigmedia.com](http://www.stopbigmedia.com).

## **Green Tips**

Would you like to help research issues related to global warming? From your own home without doing anything? Yes, it's that easy. Visit [www.climateprediction.net](http://www.climateprediction.net) to find out how you can download a program onto your computer that will study climate models. The program runs while you use your computer normally. Now, you can put some of that unused computing power to good use.

## **News from Afar**

*From Annamarie Beckel:* At the risk of engaging in shameless self-promotion, I just wanted to let those who are interested know that my new novel, **SILENCE OF STONE**, is now available at Brown Street Books in Rhinelander, 715-362-5111 [brnstbks@newnorth.net](mailto:brnstbks@newnorth.net).

I'm hoping to make trip back to the Northwoods either in July or August, so I hope to make it to a meeting then. I'd also love to be able to attend the School of the Arts again this year.

There are times when I really miss the Northwoods. I think within the next five years or so -- when both Pat and I can retire -- we'd like to split our time between here and the Northwoods. Two cold climates -- there's something crazy about that -- but I do miss my friends there as well as the landscape.

### **April Youth Achievement Item**

*This past summer the Care Committee gathered information and made a display highlighting activities of many of the young people who have passed through our fellowship during the last several years. Over the next few months we plan to include these stories in the NUUSLETTER. This month we are featuring Melanie and Steven Cyra and Erick and Zack Boustead..*

### **Melanie**

Melanie is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in Nutritional Science. She would like to pursue a career in the health field. This past summer Melanie lived in Madison taking classes and working part time for the University as a nutrition assistant. Melanie has been active in the University water ski team. Recently she won first place in a three-event tournament in Iowa and she's looking forward to attending a water ski camp in Louisiana in May.

### **Steven**

Steven is a freshman at MATC in Madison. He's in the connections program with the University and plans to transfer to the University next year. Steven is undecided in his major. The connections program gives Steven access to all the University student privileges including going to athletic events and using athletic facilities. Steven was thrilled to play basketball at the University Athletic Center with UW's Alonzo Tucker and Michael Flowers. Last summer Steven was home, skiing with the Minocquabats and working

### **Erick**

Erick is a senior at the University of Minnesota majoring in Entrepreneurial and Environmental Business. He received the Morris K. Udall scholarship this year. He worked at Music Matters last summer where he also interned. They focused on greening the music and other businesses.

## **Zack**

Zack is attending the University of Phoenix majoring in business. He is in the process of helping his friend who is buying the company "Wireless Toys" which he will help manage. He and Erick are in the band GENA and are recording a Concept CD. They both live in the Minneapolis area and enjoy the numerous activities surrounding music and greening the environment available in the area.

## **Joys and Concerns**

Our condolences go to Don and Joyce Barnes on the death of Don's aunt this past weekend.

## **Milestones**

Tony Dallapiazza	04-19
Aaron Rusak	04-20
Matthew Rusak	04-20
Stephanie Perkins & Gary Pajonk	04-22
Paul & Betty Frisbie	04-23
Barbara Logan	04-23
Annamarie Beckel	04-28
Amy Kratz	05-05
Joan Hafner	05-08
Ethan Cummings	05-08
Arthur Eberlein	05-09
Toni Lieppert Polfus	05-09
Emerson Morris	05-16
Paul Frisbie	05-17

## **Closing Thoughts**

### **Passover Seders Are like the Night Sky**

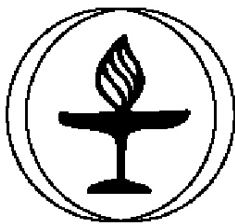
By Nicholas Gordon

Passover Seders are like the night sky:  
A moment of moments long past and just gone;  
Starlight years old next to planets nearby

Shining as though joined in one joyous song.  
Over our heads is a book of the ages  
Vividly chanting the stories of old,  
Even as under our fingers are pages  
Resplendent with light come from cauldrons now cold.  
So may we gaze at the past in the present,  
Each prayer a jewel in a darkness undone,  
Destined to light on our eyes in a moment  
Embracing all slaves out from Egypt as one.  
Rejoice, then, in this living graveyard of light,  
Singing the words, that they last one more night.

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

Alan VanRaalte, President  
453-8083, [vanraalte@klinktech.net](mailto:vanraalte@klinktech.net)  
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**[vanraalte@klinktech.net](mailto:vanraalte@klinktech.net).**



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

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