

# NUUs Letter

Volume 23, No. 4 - October 2020

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship  
8625 Peggy's Lane, P.O. Box 1881,  
Woodruff, WI 54568



[www.nuuf.com](http://www.nuuf.com)

## *We are a Welcoming Congregation*

### **A virtual chalice lighting:**

#### *In This Time of Uncertainty*

Courtesy of the WorshipWeb Library.

For more information, contact  
[worshipweb@uua.org](mailto:worshipweb@uua.org).

by [Amy Williams Clark](#)

We gather in this time of uncertainty, full of unknowns, as angst closes in upon us.

We light this chalice with a flame that draws us together.

With this flame, we cut through the dankness of isolation and are warmed by the fires of our interconnection.

For this moment, this radical moment, we find a certainty within the knowable bonds of love and community.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Oct. 11, the Rev. Mary Beth O'Halloran**

**This Sunday morning, Oct. 11, Rev. Mary Beth O'Halloran will be presenting a virtual service via our website, [nuuf.com](http://nuuf.com). Her sermon title is "Don't Worry, Be Happy." (Remember that phrase? But how do we do it? Explore the science of happiness -Mary Beth)**



**Oct. 25, Healing Nature Center**

**Sunday Discussions: 11:00 a.m. via Zoom — Watch for invitations in emails Oct. 4 – "What does your home mean to you?"**

**Oct. 11 – personal reflections on service by Mary Beth O'Halloran**

**Oct. 18 – Autumn, change of seasons, beauty, cold**

**Oct. 25 – personal reflections on service by Healing Nature Center**

**If you need help accessing a Zoom meeting contact Dick Fields, 715-385-2975**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections, contact Candy Sorensen at [sorencan@yahoo.com](mailto:sorencan@yahoo.com)

## MILESTONES

Cheryl Hanson	10-03
Jean Polfus	10-10
Bill and Lillis Raboin	10-14
Mel Hoff	10-19
Kate Rahimzadeh	10-19
Tara Reed & Jerry Woolpy	10-25
Charmaine Winters	10-26

Do you see a mistake that can be corrected? If so, please contact Candy Sorensen at (715) 892-2997 or [sorencan@yahoo.com](mailto:sorencan@yahoo.com) Thanks!

## ELECTION 2020

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!** The 2020 presidential election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Please remember to vote.

Vote now by early voting or absentee. All are welcome. Find early voting information at [myvotewi.gov](http://myvotewi.gov) or your helpful town clerks.

- What's on your ballot? Check here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot>
- Not sure if you're registered already? Check here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo>
- Not sure where your polling place is? Check here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace>
- **Remember:** Wisconsin allows election-day voter registration. You may register at your polling place. You must bring a photo identification and proof of residence. You also must have been a resident for 10 days.
- **IMPORTANT:** Wisconsin requires that you show identification to election officials and, yes, the law is currently in effect. You must bring along an approved form of photo identification. To see if your ID qualifies, check here: <https://www.bringitwisconsin.com/do-i-have-right-photo-id>
  - If you do not have an approved ID, you are entitled to a free one. <https://www.bringitwisconsin.com/how-do-i-get-free-state-id-card>



## HIGHLIGHTS

This new initiative will highlight two NUUF members a month. Hopefully we can all learn a bit about one another and stay connected during the pandemic. Members will be

contacted and asked to write a brief autobiography.



### Cheryl Hanson

I grew up happily in Menasha, WI, the daughter of a Lutheran mother and Catholic father. I have one younger brother, with whom I remain close.

My childhood passion was competitive swimming, although now I prefer a leisurely swim in warm water. From kindergarten through college I was educated in Catholic schools, receiving my bachelor's degree from Loyal-

Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. My master's degree is in guidance and counseling.

My career was spent as a school counselor in the School District of Rhinelander, first at the elementary level and then at the high school. I loved working with kids and still keep in touch with many of my former students.

I have twin children by a previous marriage—a daughter, Keely, and a son, Teague, both of whom are married. In 1987, I married Robert Hanson, the love of my life. We blended our families to include five children. Together we have three grandchildren, Taylor and Levi, who are now adults, and Caroline, who is six. We've lived in Minocqua since 2003, where we thoroughly enjoy retirement together.

After a long counseling career, I began to indulge my interest in writing. In 2015, I published my first novel, *To Reap the Finest Wheat*, under the pen name Ceone Fenn. I'm currently at work on my second novel.

I love to travel, write, read, bike, walk, and participate in organizations such as AAUW. Currently, at NUUF I serve on the Membership and Social Justice Committees. I miss the in-person contact at the fellowship, but am grateful for the ability to get together virtually.

### Bob Hanson

Born in a Florence Crittenton home in Peoria, Illinois in 1939, and adopted three months later by Harry and Izetta Hanson, I moved to my new home in Sandwich, Illinois. Mom was a stay-at-home seamstress and Dad was a farm and factory worker who became a house painter. We stayed there through my elementary school years during which they adopted my brother when I was six, the year WWII ended. I remain forever grateful to

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my parents for their love, their selflessness, the values of honesty, loyalty, generosity, responsibility, and a positive work ethic, that they taught me.

Graduating from high school in Crystal Lake, Illinois in 1956, I entered college at the University of Illinois in Champaign, married, and eventually graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1964 and received my Master's in 1969. After teaching math and some English we moved to Philadelphia where I spent two years completing a doctoral program (never did the dissertation). Had three lovely children as I worked in various public school positions, Kathryn (Kate), Matthew and Joshua. While I lost Josh in 2015, I remain very close to Kate (as you know), and to Matt.

I accepted the superintendency in Rhinelander in 1977 and held it until 1998 during which time I became divorced, then met and married my very special friend, partner and love of my life, Cheryl, whom you also know. She brought six year old twins into our blending family who have been wonderful additions. Since leaving the Rhinelander job I have accepted several interim positions in area school districts and twice as the Executive Director of the WI School Music Association. I now enjoy all my family members both old and new, and friends whose importance to me grows with each oncoming year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- The **Sunday Morning Discussion Group**, co-chaired by Mary Beth O'Halloran and Mary Ann Fields, meets every Sunday morning, by Zoom, at 11:00 A.M. The Sunday we have a virtual service, the topic will be a discussion on the sermon and the alternate Sunday will be a topic to be determined. All are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting.  
Candy will send an invitation to the Fellowship to attend the Zoom meeting.
- Frederick Place in Rhinelander has a sizeable number of dates open for meals. If you can help out with one of these dates you can either call Frederick Place at 715-369-9777 or email Tammy Modic at [tammymodic.frederickplace@gmail.com](mailto:tammymodic.frederickplace@gmail.com)
- Hello all UUs in the North,  
Hope you are all faring well during this difficult period of staying at home for everyone's safety. Some of the Care Committee and Board would like to continue our calling, emailing, and writing cards to all NUUF members to keep in touch with each other and offer friendship and support.  
However, we need some new "blood" or volunteers to pitch in for this effort. So, if you like chatting on the phone, or getting to know other members better, and would be willing to take a list of half a dozen people to contact weekly, please email either Toni Polus or Pam Thul-Immler.  
Thank you so much!  
Toni is at: [skipols@newnorth.net](mailto:skipols@newnorth.net)

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Pam is at: ptimmler@gmail.com

- **The Spirituality Committee** — Since July, our goal has been to produce Sunday services in both audio and video format. These will not be live streamed Zoom services; they will be placed on YouTube and will continue to be on our website as before and available any time after they are posted.  
We hope you are enjoying the services we have been providing and if you have any comments or suggestions please let Dick Fields, or any other committee members, know.

- A few updates from **UU the Vote WI** and invitation to share with your congregation to join some of our work over the next 60 days leading up to election day.

Writing with a few requests and opportunities to get involved:

- Phonebanking: I'm looking for people to join our upcoming National phonebanks targeting voters in Wisconsin - the phonebanks will be for UUs across the U.S. on Wednesdays 6-8pm: Oct. 7 and 21, and Nov 3. Folks can register at <https://www.uuthevote.org/phone-banking/>.
- UU the Vote work: If folks in the congregation want to get more involved in some of our work – reaching out to UUs across the state, phonebanking etc. Please fill out this card to sign up for more info: <https://bit.ly/wicommit>.

Let me know any questions you may have about this ongoing work or if there are specific ways I can support what you're moving. Thanks so much for your leadership and moving things – even amid all the shifts and challenges

- **The family of Charles Reed**, age 98 years old, gathered at the Memorial Garden on Saturday, September 19th for a private Memorial Service. His wife Jan and two children and several grandchildren were in attendance. Arrangements had been made ahead of time for a son in Maine and a Daughter in Washington State to listen in on the ceremony and offer their memories of Charles, via the (smart phone). Jennifer LaPorte, Hospice Chaplain led the ceremony.
- **The Social Justice Committee** will have a Zoom meeting on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. Anyone can attend. We are working on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities and anyone is welcome to join us. If interested please let Cheryl Hanson or Nancy Johnson know.
- The **Membership Committee** is spending part of its budget to underwrite a Sunday morning program on WXPB. Barb Kane and Cheryl Hanson are writing the messages on behalf of NUUF, which will be changed periodically to reflect the season. The first message to be aired is as follows: Program support comes from the Northwood Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Woodruff, a welcoming congregation, reminding you that election day is Nov. 3. More information at

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nuuf.com.

- A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all who helped with the Hwy 47 clean up on 9/26. There was a great group of workers and the rain held off for us. Once again, good job done by all! Connie Lefebvre
- An update on the **Lakeland Food Pantry**, if anyone was wondering why I haven't sent out requests for UU volunteers in a long time. Ever since March and the pandemic worsening, they are using the same group of volunteers each week instead of having new people rotate in. It will likely remain that way for the foreseeable future. Connie Lefebvre

- **Building Your Own Theology**

Beginning on the 6th of October, there will be a new Building Your Own Theology series starting up. Because we have examined all of the books specific to that course that are recommended by the Unitarian Universalist Association, we will instead be using one which we can adapt to our needs (as we did the previous year, with *The Book of Joy*).

The upcoming course will be based on *Writing the Sacred Journey: the Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir*, by Elizabeth J Andrew. As usual, course participants are expected to read a portion of the book in advance of the session. When the group gathers together, we will follow the usual format:

- candle lighting
- opening reading
- time for personal reflection (via creative, artistic endeavor—such as drawing / prose / poetry, etc.)
- group discussion related to the above
- final reading
- closing

However — due to the pandemic — this time we will not be meeting at the Fellowship building, but instead we will have virtual meetings, via Zoom. We plan to meet from 10am – noon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from early October through mid-March (12 sessions), with the final goal of sharing our experience(s) with others at a (to-be-video-taped) Sunday Service scheduled for the 14th of March. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage to each session. We plan to break for a few minutes midway through the session each time. If you require any art supplies, please contact one of the moderators and we can probably furnish them.

All are welcome to join this Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) course, which is being sponsored by the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Care Committee. If you are interested in participating, please contact any of the three moderators:

- Mary Beth O'Halloran ([mbohallowan@yahoo.com](mailto:mbohallowan@yahoo.com))

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- Toni Polfus ([skipols@newnorth.net](mailto:skipols@newnorth.net))
  - Jana Mirs ([janamirs@yahoo.com](mailto:janamirs@yahoo.com))

to add your name to the list; and order the book specified above (\$11.99 at Amazon.com) to begin your reading. The initial session will focus on the first (70p) section.

- We have a stock of **Fair Trade coffee and chocolate** for the NUUF community. If you are interested, please contact me about what we have available and how to make a safe transfer of these goodies. The Fair Trade farmers will benefit, as well as your taste buds! David Barnhill [david.barnhill.925@gmail.com](mailto:david.barnhill.925@gmail.com).
- **Women's Group:** Fourth Tuesday, 10:00 am via zoom – watch for email invitation. Oct. 27. Topic is creativity – art, music, garden, ideas, problem solving, etc. All women of the Fellowship are welcome to participate.
- **The Northwoods Community Garden** is now officially happening in Rhinelander! Mike Haasl and a team have created a board and secured permission from Nicolet College to use a spot in their field for a garden. The current community garden in Rhinelander grows food for the food pantry. This one will be for community members to rent plots and grow their own food. Teaching, art, permaculture, Earth Day and community events will be tied into the garden and we hope it will become a hub for sustainability in the region. We are trying to build the garden this fall and are applying for grants and donations. If anyone would like to donate funds, labor or organizational time to the project, please contact Mike Haasl.
- **Caritas-Minocqua** is a charitable organization established by local churches and civic groups in the Lakeland area. We assist people with paying small bills in emergency situations. We are closed for all face-to-face sessions with clients; however, we are now conducting interviews by telephone on Thursday mornings from 9-noon.  
You must first leave a message on our voicemail at 715-356-9989. Your message should contain the following information. Please speak clearly and slowly. We need  
your first and last name, your phone number, whether you are a new client or a returning client, and a very brief statement of your urgent need or how we can

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help you. Please be patient and we will call you to arrange an interview. Stay safe.

If you can be an empathic listener and want to make a difference in our community and the lives of our residents, this may be the volunteer opportunity for you! If interested, please contact our director, Beth Jacobson at [bjgraphic2@gmail.com](mailto:bjgraphic2@gmail.com).

- Jennifer LaPorte, St. Kate Hospice Chaplain, has presented services at our Fellowship in the past. She informed us that she is “available for pastoral care/meeting with any folks who may be in need of a chaplain during this time.” To set up a meeting with her call 715-240-0120.
- **The Membership Committee** that oversees communications is making the following request of committee chairs. We would ask that you be responsible for sending communications directly to your committee members rather than sending them through Candy. We would also like to ask you to submit any committee news to our NUUSLetter editor, Carly Ratliff [carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com](mailto:carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com). When submitting things to the NUUSLetter please use a font that is easier to read. And we would also like you to send notice of your meetings so they can be placed on the NUUF.COM calendar. These should go to Jason Hoff [ic\\_boy@yahoo.com](mailto:ic_boy@yahoo.com). If you have any questions, please call me at 715-614-0088. Thanks for your help in improving communication.

## Our NUUF Community

If you know someone who is interested in joining the *Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*, Terry Hoyt at [thoyt@newnorth.net](mailto:thoyt@newnorth.net) or call 715-3563908,

Check out our website <http://nuuf.com>. Also take time to "LIKE" us on Facebook. Click here on [Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#) for direct access if you already have a Facebook account. We're posting pics, reminders about events and more.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Newsletter

Hello everyone, I will be compiling the newsletter for the foreseeable future! Please send announcements and updates to me, Carly Ratliff, at [carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com](mailto:carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com) or to Candy Sorensen at [sorencan@yahoo.com](mailto:sorencan@yahoo.com)

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by Oct. 28 for the November newsletter. It is very helpful if your copy is written exactly the way you want it to read so that it can be copied and pasted. Thank you!

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

**From Mary Ann Fields:**

I'm sitting in my office looking out at the roof over our porch and watching the colorful leaves pile up and then the wind blows them away. This is my favorite time of the year. Crunching leaves when you walk and watching them float around and then fall to the ground. I hope that all of you have your moments of enjoying the beauty of the Northwoods in the fall.

Hopefully one of these mornings we will wake up to the news that the worst is over and we can go back to a semblance of our former life before the pandemic. Mary Ann

## **A virtual chalice extinguishing:**

### **We Are One**

*Courtesy of the WorshipWeb Library.*

*For more information, contact [worshipweb@uua.org](mailto:worshipweb@uua.org).*

by Amy Zucker Morganstern

Never has it been more true than now:  
We extinguish this flame,  
But the sparks within us remain alight.  
From each of us, in our supposed solitude,  
The signals buzz and hum, sparkling through space one to the other,  
Connecting us invisibly  
But palpably.  
We are one.  
And from every window,  
Our light shines.