



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 10, Number 1

July 15,

2008 Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

July 20: Debby Livingston *"To Die Before We Die"*

August 3: Audrey Williams *"Forgiveness... What Good Does It Do Anyhow?"*

August 17: Rev. Bobbi Groth

August 31: Elinore Sommerfeld *"Epiphany!"*

"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 have just begun 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:

July 27: Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War; Fact Sheet on Plato’s Era

August 10: Law and Rule in Sophocles’ *Antigone*

August 24: Socrates and the Socratic Quest

Please join us for this highly stimulating series of lectures.

From the President

This is my first message to you as NUUF president, and I want to start off by thanking our past president, Alan Van Raalte for his service to us the past two years. I especially appreciate the help he has given in orienting me to the duties of the office and in assisting with the transition. Alan's unstinting gifts of time and effort have guided the fellowship to new levels of growth and prosperity, and we should all thank him for it.

Like us, I suspect many of you have been actively entertaining out of town visitors this summer. It is great fun to be surrounded by friends, relatives, and especially grandchildren, and participating in all the craziness they bring into our lives. Since we are so busy, I just want to mention a couple of things that are coming up during the next month or so.

In a few days Fellowship members will be receiving a list of the NUUF committees and their current membership. Please look these over and make sure you are listed correctly. All committees should try and get together during the next few weeks to choose a chair, verify the list of members, and make plans for the year. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact the current chair or give me a call. Minutes of committee meetings

should also be sent to me so I can pass them on to the Board for information or action.

The other item is the special meeting of the congregation that is coming up on Sunday, **August 3**. For the past several years the Ministry Planning Committee has been researching the feasibility of obtaining a minister. In addition to conducting a survey of members, they have compiled a large amount of information about various options and costs. Their final report has been completed and distributed. I hope everyone will give it careful attention and come to the August 3 meeting prepared to contribute to the dialogue. Following that discussion, the members will vote on whether to authorize the Board to work out an agreement with Rev. Bobbie Groth to provide some consulting services on the six weekends when she will be taking our pulpit during the coming year. The meeting will start around noon, and lunch will be provided.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and make some great memories.
Jim Williams

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

July 20: Hospice Workshop

July 21: Social Justice Committee meeting

August 3: Ministry Planning Committee Report to the Congregation

August 14: Women's Friendship Circle

August 17: Cook-out/Potluck

August 23: Salon Evening Fundraiser

Upcoming Services

July 20: Debby Livingston, the Chaplain of Northwood Hospice, writes: "The general theme will be about the spiritual growth that is possible for people during their dying time, with applications for those of us who haven't been given a terminal diagnosis."

August 3: The Social Justice Committee will be responsible for the service. Audrey Williams will explore forgiveness and why it's important.

August 31: Elinore Sommerfeld explores what happens when our spiritual journey takes us to unexpected places. A personal reflection.

Care Committee Plans Hospice Workshop

The Care Committee is sponsoring a special workshop on hospice to be held immediately following the coffee hour on Sunday, **July 20**. A representative from Northwoods Hospice will give a presentation called "Navigating the River of Hope: Understanding Hospice," that will address many of the questions

people have about these programs. In addition, the regular Sunday service that day will feature Debra Livingston, the new Chaplain of Northwoods Hospice.

She will speak to the congregation about the spiritual growth that is possible as one nears the end of life, and how hospice care helps facilitate this. The title of her sermon is: "To Die Before We Die." Please mark your calendars and join us to learn more about how hospice operates in the Northwoods. A light lunch will be provided by the Care Committee immediately preceding the workshop.

Manito Art League Art Show

This weekend (**July 17-20**) is the 42nd annual Manito Art League Art Show at the Community Building in Manitowish Waters on Hwy 51. Elinore Sommerfeld will be exhibiting two pieces in the show.

Social Justice Committee Meeting

The Social Justice Committee will meet on **Monday, July 21**, at 6:30 at the fellowship. All are welcome.

Food Pantry Update

Tuesday, July 29th, is the NUUF day to staff the Food Pantry. We will need six volunteers from 8:30 to about 11:30 AM to staff the kitchen. 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

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 3**, following the service. Please refer to the material previously sent to you about the work of the Ministry Planning Committee. A light lunch will be provided by the board and the Social Justice Committee.

Women's Friendship Circle

The August gathering of the Women's Friendship Circle will be on Thursday, **August 14th** at 10:30 am. The program, entitled "Take Charge and Publish Your Writing Your Way!" will feature Julie Wambach. Julie Wambach's book, *Somebodies and Nobodies: Combat Abuse of Rank at Work and at Home* is hot of the press. She spent two years trying to deal with book agents and publishers before chuckin' 'em all and publishing the book herself. So can you! Come and hear what Julie learned by doing it her way.

Julie is a retired college professor who has published two previous books, as well as numerous articles for magazines and professional journals. This book grew out of her mediation work in her Phoenix UU congregation, in the Maricopa County (AZ) Justice Court and in her community.

Guests and friends are always welcomed. There will be the usual potluck following a brief business meeting.

Summer Cookouts

The Hospitality Committee is hosting this summer's last Cook-out/Potlucks after the Sunday Services on **August 17**. There will be a grill, so bring whatever you would like to grill for yourselves and a dish to pass. Coffee and lemonade will be provided. Mary Ann Fields

Salon Evening

Mark Your Calendars

On Saturday, **August 23**, Ed Semon is hosting an arts salon evening at NUUF. The highlight will be the presentation of Ed's new short play, *Uninvited Guests*. This is a fundraiser for the Social Justice Committee. Watch for more details soon.

Massage Offered

Gary Pajonk, Wisconsin Registered Massage Therapist is offering Chair Massage as a fundraiser for our fellowship. He will offer chair massage at the

NUU Fellowship during potluck day in return for a love offering for the fellowship. In June Gary raised \$55.00 for our Fellowship. Those individuals interested in receiving a neck and back massage would simply kneel/sit on Gary's massage chair. There is no need to remove any clothing for this procedure and each treatment will last about 10 minutes. Please take advantage of this offer from Gary for relaxation of tight neck and back muscles and support our Fellowship.

Internal and External Communication

Alan Van Raalte maintains the database with members', associate members' and friends' addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers. He distributes most internal fellowship communication. Terry Hoyt and Jim Williams maintain email lists and are his back up. Elinore Sommerfeld is the newsletter editor, but does not distribute it. If you need external publicity for an event, please contact Candy Sorensen, chair of the publicity committee, for assistance.

A Note from Suzanne

Dear Northwooders, Thank you again for inviting me into your congregation these past six months. And thank you for your openheartedness—lovely dinners, kind words, encouragement, and your open-mindedness—wrestling with theological words and concepts. Good luck finding clarity in discerning your future ministerial needs! Blessings, Suzanne

A Note from Joan Hauer

Thank you for helping make John's memorial service a truly memorable event. The building and grounds were groomed for the occasion; the assistance with the reception was most appreciated. Your kindness and consideration are valued. Joan Hauer and John's LA and New Orleans family.

UUA News

A summary of news about GA: "General Assembly endorses youth 'empowerment'"

UUA's 2008 convention asks for annual reports from congregations and denominational groups about youth and young adult empowerment.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/115878.shtml?n>

Beacon Press at GA: Beacon Press is extending their GA discount through July 31, 2008. Receive 10% off all purchases through their web site. Visit www.beacon.org for more information.

Summer Woman Spirit at Ronora, August 1-3, Watervliet Michigan, www.womenandreligion.org.

UUWomen's Fall Retreat, November 7-9, Williams Bay WI. www.womensconnection.org

UU's in the News

UU church leaves neighborhood a friendlier place Treasurer of [New Islamic center](#) in Duluth, Minn., thanks UUs (whose building they purchased) for creating receptive environment

UUA asks for more from Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart board rejects [UUA Rev. Jonalu Johnstone's proposed amendment](#) to include transgender people in their anti-discrimination policy

UU voice in JFK's speeches echoes in today's presidential politics

Opinion piece mentions Ted Sorensen's new memoir, which describes how the author's [UU principles were reflected in JFK's speeches](#) and continue to inform dialogues on religion and politics

"UUA districts in Midwest raise funds for flood relief"

Churches stay dry, but some Unitarian Universalists lose homes. <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/114199.shtml?n>

Is Obama a 'Universalist' or a 'Christian'? Conservative syndicated columnist Cal Thomas thinks evangelicals and most Roman Catholics may question Barack Obama's avowal of the Christian faith before they vote because [Obama's beliefs seem to include "universalism."](#) Thomas argues that despite the Democratic candidate's impressive command of biblical language, he fits the definition of "false prophet" rather than true believer.

Opposition to "I Believe" South Carolina plates

The Columbia, S.C., chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, led by UU minister Rev. Dr. Neal Jones, has joined with others from within the religious community to seek legal action against the state of South Carolina for [a new license plate featuring Christian symbols](#) and a statement of faith. Although approved for production by the state legislature earlier this year, the plaintiffs allege that the new design is a violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Green Tips

Send old electronics to the “Boneyard”. It’s part of the modern dilemma: What do you do with that old cell phone or outdated computer? Instead of throwing them into the trash, send them to www.MyBoneYard.com. They are a licensed electronics recycler and guarantee to strip and permanently delete all personal information from your recycled product. It couldn’t be easier. Just register each product on their site and print a prepaid shipping label—they pay the shipping—for each item, then pack it up and send it off. When they receive your device, they inspect it and will even pay you for the device. The reward amount is added to a Visa debit card and sent to you. (*from www.heifer.org*)

Milestones

Audrey Williams	07-18
Charles & Janice Reed	07-19
Tom Sommerfeld	07-22
Randy Wendt	07-22
Harley Erbs	07-29
Bob & Toni Lieppert Polfus	07-30
Nancy and Perry Junkermann	08-01
Elinore Sommerfeld	08-02
Janice Reed	08-04
Susan Knight	08-04
Joan Hauer	08-07
Candace Zahn Cain	08-07

Jeanne & Rev. Bob Reed 08-11
Cindy and Jim Rusak 08-12
Jerry Woolpy 08-14
Rev. Robert Reed 08-15
David Foster 08-17

Closing Thoughts
From *Encountering Sorrow*
Chu Yuan, 340-278 BCE
Tr. Robert Payne
From *Earth Poems*

They go stampeding in search of money and grain.
Surfeited, they are not afraid to come for more.
Alas, they forgive themselves and blame only others.
They fret their hearts away, swayed by envy and greed.

They ride roughshod in pursuit of their ends.
My heart does not hunger after such things.
Gradually old age will fall about me.
Perhaps I shall never establish my good fame.

At dawn I drink the dropping dews of magnolias,
At dusk, I eat fallen chrysanthemum petals.
If I respect only the good and the virtuous,
Why should I grieve over their interminably hungry jaws?

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