



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 10, Number 7

January

15, 2009 Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

February 1: Rev. Bobbie Groth: *"Pilgrimage: A Service of Meditations and Music"*

February 15: Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk: *"The Beauty We Love"*

March 1: TBA

"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.

January 25: The Idea of Anarchism and the Example of Emma Goldman

February 8: Hitler's Use of Power

February 22: Gandhi's Use of Power

Please join us for this highly stimulating series of lectures.

From the President

Of all the shameful revelations that have come to light in the past several years about our government's actions, none is more personally abhorrent to me than those regarding torture. This nation has, since the time of George Washington, firmly resisted the temptation to abuse prisoners in order to obtain information. Until recently we have been seen around the world as defenders of human rights. As signatories to the Geneva Conventions, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and the U.N. Convention Against Torture, we have rightly condemned those leaders and countries that tortured and abused prisoners for political ends. So it was particularly disappointing when our leaders abandoned these long-held principles of human rights and began a campaign of systematic torture, abuse, and maltreatment of those who were swept up and detained in the so-called "war on terror." When the shocking images of prisoner maltreatment in Abu Graib prison came to light, they were dismissed as the work of a few low-level, untrained, and poorly supervised "rotten apples." Now we have learned that the authority to engage in those despicable acts originated in the White House and extended in a direct line through the Justice Department, the Pentagon, and senior commanders in the field.

One of the elements that I value most highly about our faith is the firm stand that it has always taken against torture. Our first principle affirms this with its

call to honor and respect the worth and dignity of every person. We can be proud that our denomination and its leadership have spoken out strongly against these abuses and called for action against those who have engaged or authorized others to commit acts of torture. Linda Gustitus, the current President of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), is a member of the River Road UU Congregation in Washington, DC. The NUUF voted to become a member of NRCAT two years ago.

In the week leading up to the inauguration of President-elect Obama, NRCAT has been meeting with officials of the transition team in an effort to gain support for the issuance of an executive order banning the use of torture, closing of secret prisons, and elimination of the practice of “extraordinary rendition.” It has called on each of its member congregations to take a moment and pray for an immediate end to torture. During the past eight years our country has lost the moral authority to speak out on this issue, and along with that the respect and admiration of people around the world. An executive order banning torture would be a strong signal to the world that we are once again ready to embrace those human rights values and principles that have served us so well. Let us hope that our new President becomes a leader in this effort. Jim

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

January 19: MLK Day Program with Ada Deer

January 25: Workshop with Rev. Ian Evison

January 31: Concert by the Garlic Mustard Pickers (Bobbie Groth’s band)

February 12: Women's Friendship Circle

Upcoming Services

February 1: "Pilgrimage: A Service of Meditations and Music" Rev. Dr. Bobbie Groth will preach on the role of pilgrimage in spiritual awakening, accompanied by The Garlic Mustard Pickers playing traditional Irish Slow Airs.

February 15: "The Beauty We Love" It is a dark time of year, and sometimes a journey into the depths is just what we need. But we also need light and beauty to show us the way home. The Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk.

Ada Deer to Speak for MLK Day

On **January 19**, at 7 pm, Ada Deer will speak at NUUF for our Martin Luther King Day observance. Her topic will be "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Indians, But Were Afraid to Ask." For more information, contact Audrey Williams.

Leadership Workshop at KUUF

Ian Evison, CMwD District Executive, will conduct a Leadership Workshop at KUUF in Houghton on **Saturday, January 24**. We have been invited to attend. Please let Jim Williams know if you are interested.

Special Workshop on January 25

On Sunday, **January 25**, Ian Evison of the UUA's Central Midwest District will be speaking to us at 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship. The purpose of his visit is to make us aware of the relationship between individual congregations and the CmD, and to inform us about the types of services and programs that we are eligible for as members of the District.

In his role as Congregational Services Director of the CMwD, Ian Evison works with congregations individually and in groups to assist in planning, resource evaluation, organizational development, and program implementation. We are very fortunate to be able to meet with him and learn more about our UUA connections. A light lunch will be served. Please mark your calendars and be there on January 25 to give Ian a big Northwoods welcome.

Garlic Mustard Pickers

The Garlic Mustard Pickers, Bobbie Groth's band, will be performing at NUUF on **Saturday, January 31**. Doors open at 7 pm; the show starts at 7:30. The cost is \$15 for adults; kids are free. There will be refreshments and free child care available. The Garlic Mustard Pickers are an Irish fiddle band, so we can expect some good dancing music! Bring your friends and neighbors for a good time. For more information, contact Barb Beutler at 362-2609.

Women's Friendship Circle

The Women's Friendship Circle will hold its monthly program and potluck luncheon, Thursday, **February 12** at 10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship. Sally Back will teach us how to write pantooms, which are eighteen lines of verse with a formula for repeating some lines two or three times. The style of writing originated in Malaysia. Anyone can express herself in this format. It is a great stress reliever allowing freedom of self-examination and reflection. All NUUF women and guests are welcome!

Food Pantry News

A great big THANK YOU to the following people for working at the food pantry on Tuesday December 30th: Audrey & Jim Williams, John Vista, Bev & Joe Strauss, Judy Klotsche, Kevin Johnson, Kay Hoff, Candace Zahn-Cain, Mark Bruhy, and Paul Braunstein.

As of January 20th, The Food Pantry will be at our new location: The Hwy 51 Plaza at 1707 U.S. Hwy 51 Arbor Vitae.

The local Kids Against Hunger Committee is having a fund raiser in January and February with all proceeds going to the local Food Pantry. Each packet contains rice, fortified soybean; dehydrated vegetables, vitamins and minerals, and provides six one-cup servings. Kids Against Hunger food packets will be available for a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per bag (six servings). Watch for our table in the Founders Room on January 18th and February 1st. Mel Hoff

Compassion in Action

From Trish Kirk, UFETA: Caring consumers who boycott animal-tested products play a vital role in pushing companies and government agencies to adopt more relevant and humane non-animal test methods. Spurred by public outrage, the European Union has voted to outlaw cosmetics testing on animals as well as the sale of animal-tested cosmetics by 2013. To help consumers identify products that are cruelty-free, PETA's Caring Consumer Project (<http://search.caringconsumer.com/>) clarifies non-animal testing terminology and procedures, compiles information on the testing policies of companies, and publishes a list of companies that have signed our statement of assurance to confirm that they do not conduct or commission animal tests

of their products, ingredients, or formulations. Shoppers can support this project by purchasing **products that comply with** PETA's cruelty-free company standard, boycotting those that don't, and asking local stores to carry cruelty-free items.

Everyone seeking to stop animal tests should also urge government regulatory agencies to accept non-animal test methods immediately. Visit <http://www.stopanimaltests.com/> to view current action alerts and learn more about how you can help put an end to product testing on animals.

News from the Care Committee

We updated the NUUF Emergency Care Form in order to provide all members and friends the opportunity to start the New Year being prepared for serious illness or death. (No one can really be ready for either.) Organizing the important information needed by family and/or friends could make these difficult times to go more smoothly. Starting in January, the Care Committee will pass out envelopes containing the updated NUUF Emergency Care Form to each member in attendance. Members will have the following choices:

- Fill out the form and return it to any Care Committee member, in the envelope provided. The form will be kept in a lock box in the Fellowship office, with access by Care Committee members only.
- Return the form without filling out, with no thank you written on the outside of the envelope.
- Fill out the form and keep in the location of your choice and return the empty envelope with no thanks written on the outside.

Please note that if you don't return the envelope you may receive reminder phone calls.

Membership News

John Viste and Elaine Strite signed the membership book on Sunday Dec. 8 and
Cathy Peterson and Laurie Figueroa signed on December 21.

Consultancy Services

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 will next be available on January 31.

Yoga Workshop This Summer

A Yoga Workshop in Minocqua, **August 7-10?** If you are interested in attending an Anusara Yoga workshop at our home this summer please let us know by email to jerryw@earlham.edu so we can send you the details of how to register. Jerry Woolpy and Tara Reed

Green Tips

Start the New Year with “Green” cleaning products:

GREEN ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Mix 1 Cup of white vinegar and 1 Cup of water in a spray bottle.

Use to clean your entire kitchen & bathroom including floors.

To rid really tough stains, heat-up mixture in microwave and spray warm solution on stain. Let stand for 15 minutes, then scrub and rinse.

GREEN WINDOW WASHING SPRAY

In a Spray bottle, Mix 1 Tbsp of white vinegar, 1 Tbsp of bottled lemon juice, 1 cup of rubbing alcohol and 1 cup of water in a spray bottle.

Wipe dry with crumpled newspaper, wiping the inside across & outside windows up and down.

Also good for mirrors and chrome.

GREEN DRAIN CLEANER

Weekly flush drain with a kettle of boiling water.

Monthly pour ¼ cup of baking soda down drain and follow it with ½ cup of vinegar. Let sit, then flush drain with a gallon of water.

UUA News

Winter WomanSpirit 2009: Weaving Our Sacred Tapestry; February 20-22, 2009, Peoria Il. www.peoriauuchurch.org

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

Central Midwest District Assembly: April 24-26, Waukesha WI--Watch for details soon!

From the UUSC: The humanitarian crisis in Gaza becomes more desperate with each passing day.

[Donate now to UUSC's Gaza Humanitarian Crisis Fund.](#)

UUSC is especially concerned for the safety and well-being of the civilians in Gaza who are now caught in the middle of a destructive military operation and have no place to seek safety. A ceasefire must be established immediately to enable vital humanitarian aid to reach civilians and protect them from further harm.

[Take action now to urge our President, your elected senators and representatives in Congress, and the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to use all their resources and influence to work with the international community for an immediate end to the hostilities.](#)

To read the complete UUSC policy statement on the Gaza humanitarian crisis, [visit here](#).

UU's in the News

Obama's UU connections, justice, and more: UUA presidents, others, featured in Tikkun

Tikkun magazine's January/February issue's special section "Memos to Obama" features pieces by three prominent Unitarian Universalists. So far only one is available to read online.

UUA President **William G. Sinkford** writes about same-sex marriage on page 81: "America is facing big problems, but I urge you not to view our country as a hierarchy of competing needs, with minority rights taking a backseat to issues like the economy. Instead, I pray that you will see our society as a diverse, interconnected web, where the health of our nation depends upon the well-being of each of its citizens." (see print issue for full article)

Former UUA president and former head of Amnesty International USA **William Schulz** writes about health care in a web exclusive: "Americans typically think of rights in terms of the traditional civil and political variety: freedom of speech, press, religion; racial equality; due process—those rights guaranteed in the United States Constitution. But much of the rest of the world has a more robust understanding of rights, encompassing such economic and social rights as the right to education, to work, and, indeed, to health care." [Read more.](#)

And **Sharon D. Welch**, provost of Meadville Lombard Theological School, writes about the path to sustainable peace on page 88: "To find an effective third way between waging war and nonviolent resistance is not easy. there is no doubt that it requires the best of us—audacity, openness to new ideas and new coalitions, astute planning, and creative institution-building. The opportunities, however, are real, the partners diverse, and the challenges inescapable. May we have the courage to embrace this movement." (see print issue for full article) (Tikkun - Jan/Feb 2009)

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor: Immediate Opening. No experience needed; will train. Familiarity with Word useful. Remuneration: Comparable to other NUUF positions. Rewards: Priceless. Contact Elinore at 385-2407 for more details.

Joys and Concerns

Our condolences go out to Patty Buehler, her children and Frank Patin on the recent death of their beloved dog, Oscar.

Kay and Mel Hoff wish to thank members and friends for their lovely cards and thoughtful, caring words over the loss of Kay's 'ideal' sister, Patty. Knowing others care was very helpful and much appreciated.

Milestones

Connie Lefebvre

01-27

Dwight Logan	01-28
Jennifer Sites	02-01
Barbara Beutler	02-03
Myrle Wasko	02-03
Cora Holt	02-04
Pam Thul-Immler	02-04
Mark Bruhy	02-05
Andrea Billings	02-06
Jerry Buerer	02-07
Catherine Parker	02-13
Wenda Sheard	02-13
Jim Rusak	02-14
Kate Egan Bruhy	02-14
Terri and Terry Hoyt	02-14
Ron Reupert	02-16
Claire Polfus	02-17

Closing Thoughts

Thoughts for the New Year

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read this straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

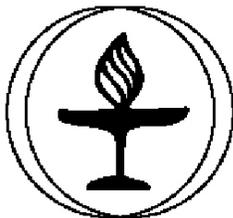
1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

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