



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 11, Number 1

July 15, 2009

Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM.

July 19: Phil Sweet

July 26th: Adult Religious Education:
Religions of the Axial Age

August 2: Richard Olson

August 9: Adult Religious Education:
Religions of the Axial Age

August 16: Elinore Sommerfield, *Roots and Wings*. As NUUF turns 20 years old, we'll examine how our roots are far older and deeper, and how our past can provide inspiration for the future.

August 23: Adult Religious Education:
Religions of the Axial Age

August 30: Reverend Denise Tracy

“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

From the President

For the first time since I became a member of the Northwoods UU Fellowship, the UUA has a new leader. After a spirited campaign, Golden Colorado minister Rev. Peter Morales defeated Rev. Laurel Hallman of Dallas at the General Assembly meetings in Salt Lake City last month. Past President William Sinkford was known for his strong stands on peace and justice issues. While Rev. Morales will certainly not ignore these, his campaign stressed the need to grow the numbers of our denomination.

Although membership in Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships has grown steadily since the 1980s, it is still below where it was in the mid 1960s. According to the 2007 Pew Survey on Religion and Public Life, only about .7% of adults report their religious affiliation as Unitarian Universalist. This is about the same as the number reported for Buddhists, and only slightly higher than those affiliated with the Islamic religious tradition. Clearly, Rev. Morales has a challenging task ahead as he works to expand the denomination in a time of generally weakening religious interest.

Meanwhile, here in the Northwoods, summer is in full swing with many visitors coming and going. If you have out-of-town guests, they will surely be interested in hearing a first-hand report on events in the Middle East. On July 23 the Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a talk by our own Elaine Strite, who is returning from Lebanon for a brief visit. You won't want to miss her presentation, which is titled "Perceptions of the Middle East: Working in Egypt and the Levant." The event begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

And, at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31st, Jerry Buerer will present an overview of Darwin's religious attitudes in a lecture titled, "The Religious Evolution of Chuckie D."

One of our goals for this year is to improve communication between the Board, the committees, and the congregation. To facilitate this, we plan to do a better job of posting events in the Order of Service, the Nuusletter, and on the website, www.nuuf.com. Webmaster Dan Rondello has finished rebuilding our website, so please take a look at it if you have access to the internet. It features a special password protected section for members containing board minutes, past issues of the Nuusletter, and a schedule of coming events. If you don't know the password or need help in accessing the site, please contact Dan or me.

Finally, plans are rapidly moving ahead for the 20th Anniversary celebration scheduled for August 29 and 30th. The Social Activities committee is putting together a gala event that is sure to be one of the summer's major highlights. Rev. Denise Tracy, who was instrumental in helping to launch our fellowship in 1989, will join us for the weekend and deliver the sermon on Sunday. Please mark your calendars.

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 currently exploring a new series entitled, "Religions of the Axial Age". Here is the website describing the program we are using:

<http://www.teach12.com/ttcx/CourseDescLong2.aspx?cid=6312>

We usually view two lectures each week because each is 30 minutes long. When they are 45 minutes, we do only one.

News and Announcements

Food Pantry News

Donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items are needed and welcome. For your convenience, a drop-off box is located in the Fellowship vestibule. Thank you for your continuing support of the Lakeland Food Pantry.

It's Not Over Yet

New Orleans has not fully recovered from Hurricane Katrina. At General Assembly, I learned that the Greater New Orleans Unitarian Universalists-- that's right GNOUU – have joined together with other local organizations and individuals to form the Center for Ethical Living & Social Justice Renewal. This is not just a rebuilding effort, but a social justice movement to bring wholeness to the lives of the New Orleans residents. Your support can make a big difference. For more information, see the poster and other material on the back bulleting board at NUUF, visit <http://gnouu.org>, or contact me, Elinore.

Stewardship of the Forest

This in from Jeff Niese: Is your forest a "Living Legacy?" Find out on Saturday, August

1st.

There is a modest registration fee for the program. Being a good steward is especially important when it comes to the private forestlands of Wisconsin. Why? Because the majority of Wisconsin's forests are managed by private individual landowners, and most of these owners are over 55 years old. Perhaps you or someone you know owns a piece of forest land, and is concerned about how to plan for its future.

A timely workshop entitled **“Estate Planning for Forest Landowners—Your Living Legacy”**, is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River. The program will start at 8:30 am and run through lunch. Three expert speakers—including a prominent estate attorney, a forest specialist, and a land protection expert will be available to help answer landowner questions. A panel of experienced landowners will also share what they have learned on their respective land protection journeys. The workshop is being sponsored by “Partners In Forestry”, a forest landowner cooperative.

If you have questions like these about your land, plan to attend on August 1st:

- How can I better protect our family's land assets?
- How can we provide for changes in our family's goals?
- How do proposed changes in estate and tax laws affect us?
- What tools are available to protect our land?
- How do conservation easements work?
- What role do land trusts play in conserving lands?
- Can I talk with some experts on my concerns without breaking the bank?

Don't miss this workshop, and please bring a friend or family member who needs to learn more about land protection and estate planning strategies. If you want more information or a brochure, please **contact Jeff Niese at (715) 277-3366 or email Jeff at: jeff.niese@wisconsin.gov**.

NUUF Dates of Importance

July 23: The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a talk by our own Elaine Strite, who is returning from Lebanon for a brief visit. You won't want to miss her presentation, which is titled “Perceptions of the Middle East: Working in Egypt and the Levant.” The event begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

July 31: 7:00 p.m. Darwin Presentation. This year being the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*, we will observe these events at the Fellowship with a presentation by Jerry Buerer entitled “The Religious Evolution of Chuckie D.” Darwin's mother was a Unitarian and, believe it or not, Chuckie actually trained for the ministry, though evidently not with a great deal of enthusiasm. Refreshments will be served. If you're willing to pitch in on refreshments, contact Barb Buetler at 715-362-2609.

August 1: You are invited to participate in a tour of the meditation garden behind the new Catholic church on Highway J at 10:00 a.m. Sr. Ann Wittman was involved in the

planning and will lead the walk. It is based on the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the monk with birds and animals around him often seen in people's gardens. Any questions, call J. Hauer, 356-6540.

August 13: August Women's Circle at 10:30 a.m. Speaker and potluck luncheon at the Fellowship. Call Sally Back, 277-3495, for more information.

August 29 and 30: NUUF Twentieth Anniversary Celebration.

Remember, When You Shop at Trig's, You Can Help Our UU Fellowship

Trig's Food and Drug helps our Fellowship earn money with its "Trig's Supports Local Churches and Schools" Program. Three times a year receipt totals are tabulated and 1% of the total for our Fellowship is returned to us by check. You must record our Fellowship number, 27B, on your register receipt before depositing it in the "barometer" at the exit door for this to work for us. Our receipts this last year totaled \$346.08. So, remember, 27B.

Membership News

The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist 20th Anniversary is Coming!!!!

To all Members and Friends of NUUF. This year is the 20th Anniversary of our Fellowship and a celebration is planned for Saturday, August 29th and Sunday August 30th. The Social Activities Committee is planning a Saturday Evening Gala and Dinner for all members and friends and guess.

On Sunday, Rev. Denise Tracy will have the pulpit for a special service relating to the anniversary. This will be followed by an open house to which the public is invited. We are planning to bring a meat as well as vegetarian main dish for the Saturday dinner and others are welcome to bring side dishes.

For further information, please call Barb Beutler, Chairperson of the Social Activities Committee, 715-362-2609. We are looking forward to a festive occasion!

Book Group

Several of us are meeting to discuss Richard Elliott Friedman's book, "Who Wrote the Bible?" We had our initial meeting after the last Adult Education session and will be meeting again after the next similar session July 26th, so if interested, there's still time to participate.

Given the book is on back order at area bookstores, you might have best results ordering it over the internet although I might be able to get copies in the Twin Cities area when there these coming days. If interested, contact me at 715-432-0023 or at jaybeedi@yahoo.com.

Yoga Reddux

Last call for Yoga Workshop at Tara and Jerry's, August 7-10. E-mail jerryw@earlham.edu for details

Theatre Troupe Reddux

Please remember to contact me if you have interest in being part of a theatre troupe that would poke holes in stereotyping and debunk racism, ageism, etc. Street theatre, performance art, story theater and improv would be the primary approach. If you might have interest in such a thing, contact Carol Ann Amour at 356-5797 or writer65@verizon.net. We need actors, writers, and technical support. No experience necessary.

Alzheimer's Walk

It's not too soon to MARK YOUR CALENDAR and save an hour or two on OCTOBER 3rd to join the "NUUF Trotters Team" at the Annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk. Registration 9:00 a.m. – Walk 10:00 a.m. at the Marshfield Clinic, Minocqua. Center. Please plan to join the fun! We've been a winning team and hope to be again this year! Thanks! Bev Strauss 356-9307.

From the Editor

Just a reminder that the deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the fifteenth of each month. Please send newsletter items to my e-mail address. Please send them as an attachment to your e-mail as that makes them much easier for me to cut and paste. I can be reached with questions, suggestions, or reactions at writer65@verizon.net or by phone at 715-356-5797.

I apologize for any errors or omissions in this newsletter. Please let me know if I inadvertently omitted your submission or if you spot any errors. I will make corrections next time. And, I want to express my thanks to Elinore Sommerfeld for proofreading the newsletter. It's much appreciated.

Carol Ann Amour

UUA News

Beacon Highlights from the 2009 General Assembly

For those of you that did not attend GA this year, visit www.Beacon.org for links to online reports of events, videos, and more for the following Beacon highlights:

CENTER Day Keynote Speaker (Sonia Sanchez)

Confronting the Top-Heavy Distribution of U.S. Wealth (Chuck Collins)

I Told You So (Kate Clinton)

BGLT Faith, Freedom, and Equality (Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy)

Closing America's Food Gap: Sustainable Food for All (Mark Winne)
Beacon Press Report (Director Helene Atwan).

Bestsellers at GA

Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty, Mark Winne (Paperback \$16.00): Reading this book should make everyone want to advocate for food systems that will feed the hungry, support local farmers, and promote community democracy all at the same time. (Reviewed by Marion Nestle, author of *Food Politics and What to Eat*.)

My Journey through the Valley of the Shadow, Forrest Church (Paperback \$15.00): Church has given us... a treatise on life's meaning revealed in the face of his own impending death. The book is consummate with the man: witty, eloquent, gracious, with not a touch of the maudlin. Once again, Forrest teaches us how most passionately to live. (Reviewed by Reverend William F. Schultz, a former President of the UUA.)

Evidence, Mary Oliver: I should be clear that Mary Oliver is, to my mind, one of the most gifted American poets working in English today. In her hands, the language acquires a lucidity approaching translucence, the accuracy of her vision and the precision of her voice are unique in their refreshing simplicity. Perhaps most singular is the tendency of her poems to be at once powerful and appealing, an affection for the natural world and a

sympathy toward the reader abide. (Reviewed by Katherine Hollander, *Pleiades*.)

Shake Loose My Skin, Sonia Sanchez: This world is a better place because of Sonia Sanchez: more livable, more laughable, more manageable. I wish millions of people knew that some of the joy in their lives comes from the fact that Sonia Sanchez is writing poetry. (Reviewed by Maya Angelou).

GA Discount: Beacon Press is extending a discount to everyone on the Unitarian Universalist email list. Use discount code GA2009 at checkout and receive 10% off all orders through July 31, 2009.

Surviving is important. Thriving is elegant. *Maya Angelou*

Milestones

Joe Dallapiazza,	07-16
Audrey Williams	07-18
Charles & Janice Reed	07-19
Tom Sommerfeld	07-22
Randy Wendt	07-22
David Deinard	07-24
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
Mary Rusak	08-18
Jack & Joan Hafner	08-18

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes. *Marcel Proust*

Place
Stamp
Here

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

Jim Williams, President
715-762-3434, blockhouselake@yahoo.com

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writer65@verizon.net,

**For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections,
contact Alan VanRaalte at vanraalte@klinktech.net.**



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