



# THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

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Volume 10, Number 12

June 15, 2009

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## Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM.

**June 21:** Taking the Pulpit, Rev. Denise Tracy: *“Thanks!”* This is a sermon about Denise’s dad and why she misses him. He died two years ago this coming October.

June 28: Adult Religious Education: Religions of the Axial Age.

July 5: TBA

July 12: Adult Religious Education: Religions of the Axial Age.

July 19: 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**

## From the President

The Annual Meeting on May 20 was very well attended and many important issues were discussed. Of special note was an announcement of the formation of the NUUF Bylaws Review Committee, chaired by Tom Sommerfeld. This group will be responsible for examining the bylaws of the Fellowship and making recommendations for any changes to the board. A special congregational meeting will be called to vote on possible revisions

after the Bylaws Committee completes its work.

Two of the board's most dedicated and productive members will be completing their terms at the end of the fiscal year on July 1. Tom Sommerfeld served as Fellowship Treasurer for the past six years, and Faye Calvey as Secretary for the past four. Both have contributed immeasurably to the well-being of the congregation during their tenures and we owe each of them our thanks and appreciation. As a result of elections held at the Annual Meeting, Dick Fields will take over as Secretary, Ardis White will assume the duties of Treasurer, and Sally Back will join the board as member-at-large.

On July 1 the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will begin its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the UUA. To commemorate this historic event, the Membership Committee and the Social Activities Committee are joining together to plan a major celebration for the last weekend in August. Please mark your calendars now so that you will be around during that time.

Related to that, the Membership Committee has asked me to put out the word that they are looking for additional members. As the group charged with the task of nurturing membership growth, this committee has awesome but extremely rewarding responsibilities. Sharon VanRaalte has provided exceptionally able and productive leadership as Chair of the Membership Committee for the past several years, and we are most grateful for her service to the Fellowship in this role. She has decided to step down as Chair, and the committee is looking for new leadership. Anyone who is interested in serving the congregation on this vital committee should contact Mary Ann Fields or me for information about upcoming meetings.

Finally, on a personal note, I just want to express our deepest appreciation for all of the kind wishes and support provided to Audrey and me during the past weeks following the loss of our home. Audrey put it best when she wrote in a note to the Eau Claire UUs, "we feel like we are moving through this misfortune in a bubble of love, sympathy and incredible generosity." The warmth and thoughtfulness of all of you have lifted our hearts, nourished our spirits, and given us the strength to move forward with hope and enthusiasm as we write this next chapter in our life story. We are so grateful for your continued friendship and support.

Jim Williams

## **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 recently begun a new series entitled, "Religions of the Axial Age". Here is the website describing the program we decided on:

<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.

### **Lakeland Area Community Dinner**

The Lakeland Area Community Dinner on May 19 was a big success. Over 100 people were able to enjoy a delicious meal, thanks to folks from the NUUF, Church of the Pines, Christian Scientists, and Faith-Free Community Church. A special thanks to Jan Anderson, Ed and Jeanine Semon, Terry Hoyt, Kim and Kayla Norris, Joan Hauer, Candy Sorenson, Dick and Mary Ann Fields, Mel and Kay Hoff, Barb Beutler, Audrey Williams, Carol Amour, Ella Toigo, and Zack for all their help in making this a huge success. We will be helping to host this event again in September. Watch for the announcement and let me know if you would like to participate.

Jim Williams

### **NUUF Dates of Importance**

**June 19:** 6:00 p.m. Annual Fish Fry and fundraiser for Kids Against Hunger. The Social Justice Committee would like to remind all members and friends of the Spring Fling on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Thanks to Paul Braunstein and all the great cooks at the Fellowship, we will have the same fantastic menu and delicious fish --- with maybe a few changes and add-ons as great cooks are known to do!

The bargain price is still \$10 and tickets can be purchased by calling or e-mailing Kay Hoff at [khoff@nexus.net](mailto:khoff@nexus.net) (715-588-1409) or Joe Strauss at [bevjoest@verizon.net](mailto:bevjoest@verizon.net) (715-356-9307).. We also have several unique and marvelous raffle items for that evening's raffle

ticket sales --- \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

All proceeds will go to this year's Kids Against Hunger project in Minocqua.

**June 20:** There will be a meeting of the building and grounds committee on Saturday, June 20, at 9 a.m. This will be a combination meeting and work day. Please come prepared to work. All are welcome.

Meeting Agenda: Select committee chair, review budget, discuss any projects that need to be undertaken, adjourn to do work.

Jobs that Need to be Done June 20<sup>th</sup>: Clean windows, organize upstairs and downstairs office, clean out storage shed, paint front door with another coat of paint, general building inspection for needs, rake, clean around entry ways, remove unwanted items from room under sanctuary, organize upstairs storage room, change furnace filters as needed, cut grass, move sign at end of driveway to higher level.

Terry Hoyt

**June 21:** Meeting of the Publicity Committee following the social hour. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss and make plans for our new web-site. The Midwest UU is helping us with talent, technical support, and financing the project. This is an exciting opportunity. Please come with ideas on how the site might look and your wish list for things to include. All members of the congregation are welcome. Contact Candy Sorensen, 892-2997, for more information.

**July 9:** July Women's Circle at 10:30 a.m. Local grade school teacher, Mary Wechter, will tell us about the training and involvement required in the process of Steven Ministry. It pertains to one person listening to one other person in need or in crisis.

**July 23:** Elaine Strite will be speaking about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

### **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**

## **Photo Membership Directories**

The Photo Membership Directories are ready to give out. Mary Ann Fields will have them at the service on June 21. All members and associate members will receive one (one to a family). If you want extras they are \$10 a piece. Any questions please call Mary Ann Fields at 715-385-2975.

### **The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is Coming!!!!**

Be part of our Membership Book and send me your short 1 page biography if you haven't yet done so... Please include some your spiritual journey. This should be in the form of a narrative and sent as an attachment. Please return it as soon as possible to Candy Sorensen at [sorencan@yahoo.com](mailto:sorencan@yahoo.com). An example of a biography follows:

Teress Jill Toigo  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

I have fond memories of the Methodist church fellowship that I grew up with in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It was the foundation for my spiritual growth. I came to understand my spiritual needs as more relevant than religious affiliations, and that fellowship was what makes a church a part of the community.

Tolerance, interest and respect for differing religious and spiritual beliefs have played a large part in attracting me to the UU fellowship.

The chalice lighting statements, (as well as the Northwoods UU Covenant and Mission statements) and the active commitment to these goals, I find admirable and encouraging. I especially enjoy the variety of speakers that bring such a wealth of different topics to our attention.

Having been blessed with a large extended and loving Italian family, I recognize a satisfaction and security in life that I fear is not so evident in the lives of many children today. As an educator, this is a growing and apparent concern.

Recently, I have come to love gardening and am currently enjoying expanding my rock/flower garden across my front yard.

Thanks, Teress, for sharing with us. Your example is a big help.

### **Presque Isle Library Art Display**

There is a county-wide art exhibit on display at the Presque Isle Library during June. Two of Elinore Sommerfeld's pieces are included. There will be an artist reception on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Library. For more information, call Elinore at

385-2407.

## **Yoga Anyone?**

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

Jerry Woolpy & Tara Reed

## **Community Garden Still in the Works**

Contact Patricia Bickner, if you would like a garden plot. She can be reached at [bickner@verizon.net](mailto:bickner@verizon.net). Plans are being finalized for site and operating details.

## **Possible Book Discussion Group**

A couple years ago several of us met to discuss retired Bishop John Shelby Spong's book, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*. Attendance ranged from eight, which I anticipated, up to eighteen, which surprised me. Recently I read, and then re-read *Who Wrote the Bible* by Richard Friedman of the U. of California, San Diego.

The title is a tad misleading since the book focuses on who really write the Pentateuch, or the five books of Moses. The text contains both history and mystery and some insight into Biblical scholarship through the centuries.

As long as a thousand years ago, Jewish scholars began to cast doubt on the notion that Moses actually penned the first five books of the Bible, particularly since one book contains an account of Moses's death, but it took literally centuries before scholars weren't severely punished for proposing such a then radical idea. Among other things, Friedman traces the history of such dissent.

If anyone is interested in joining a summer book discussion group using Friedman's book, contact me at 715-432-0023 or e-mail me at [jaybeedi@yahoo.com](mailto:jaybeedi@yahoo.com).

The paperback book cost is \$15.95. I can do a book order via my bookselling landlord if that facilitates things. If we have enough interested readers, scheduling of discussion sessions will be determined by participant's preferences. I'm flexible since I live close by the Fellowship.

Jerry Buerer

### **Interested in a Theatre Troupe?**

Several of us have been putting our heads together to create 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, [writer65@verizon.net](mailto:writer65@verizon.net) or 715-356-5797. No experience necessary.

### **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](mailto:writer65@verizon.net) or by phone at 715-356-5797.

I apologize for any errors or omissions in this newsletter. I've had to rush a bit more than I'd like as I am heading down to Chicago to be with a friend who is critically ill and I feel compelled to get on the road. Next time, more news, fewer errors.

Carol Ann Amour

### **UUA News**

**UU Women's Connection** Fall Retreat **November 6-8** Lake Geneva. Flyer is posted at NUUF. Questions? Email <mailto:connections@uuwomensconnection.org>

**General Assembly: June 24-28** in Salt Lake City. Registration is now open at <http://www.uua.org/>

**Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly: July 12-July 18** at Trout Lodge 75 miles SW of St. Louis. <mailto:pamela.d.hermann@gmail.com> for more info. The brochure is at NUUF.

Our 2009 Spring **Chalice Lighter Call** will support the **United Unitarian and Universalist Society of Mukwonago, in Mukwonago, Wisconsin**. The Mukwonago Society has requested funds to go toward building a new, "green" church to meet their current needs. Having outgrown their present home, the Society purchased five acres of land where they plan to build their new home.

This call will close on **June 30**, 2009. Our minimum donation for Chalice Lighters is currently \$10 per call. Please make out checks to **Central Midwest District, UUA** and put **Chalice Lighters** in the memo line. You can also donate online by visiting the web site for the Central Midwest District Chalice Lighters: [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org), select **Resources** in

the sidebar, then **Chalice Lighters**, then **Donate - Online**. If you have questions, see Elinore.

## Milestones

Watch for these as an addendum later this week.

### From Keweenaw UUFellowship

Single-payer national health insurance is system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes health financing, but delivery of care remains largely private yet inadequate, despite spending more than twice as much per capita as the rest of the industrialized nations,

The United States performs poorly comparison on major health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates. Moreover, the other advanced nations provide comprehensive coverage to their entire populations, while the U.S. leaves 45.7 million completely uninsured and millions more inadequately covered.

The reason we spend more and get less is because we have a patchwork system of more than 1,200 for-profit health insurance companies. Private insurers necessarily waste health dollars on things that have nothing to do with care: overhead, underwriting, billing, sales and marketing departments as well as huge profits and exorbitant executive pay. Doctors and hospitals must maintain costly administrative staffs to deal with insurance company bureaucracies. Combined, this administration consumes more than \$350 billion per year, one-third (31 percent) of Americans' health dollars. Eliminating these needless costs would free up enough money so everyone could have full health care.

*From: The Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter*  
**Houghton, MI 49931**

Note: This article comes to us via Jerry Woolpy. He has further commentary and can be contacted at [jerry@earlham.edu](mailto:jerry@earlham.edu) if you would like more information on this subject.

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**Next Deadline: July 15, 2009.** Send submissions to Carol Ann Amour, editor, at [writer65@verizon.net](mailto:writer65@verizon.net),

**For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections, contact Alan VanRaalte at [vanraalte@klinktech.net](mailto:vanraalte@klinktech.net).**

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