

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
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<http://www.nora-uu.church.org/nora/>

Sunday Services August 2004

Social Hour: 10:00 AM Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Adult Discussion Group: 9:00 AM Sunday School: 10:30 AM

August 1 – NO SERVICE

August 8 – Joint Tri-State Service at Pioneer Village at Worthington, MN
“Small Churches, Big Hearts”

Reverend Don Rollins

POTLUCK LUNCH – Bring utensils & dish to pass. Beverages provided.

August 15 – “Beginnings”

Reverend Don Rollins

Servers: Nancy Dickson, Ron & Julie Peck

Musician: To be announced

August 22 – “The Almost Church”

Reverend Don Rollins

Servers: Warren & Kris Paulson

Musician: To be announced

August 29 – “A Mantra, A Reminder”

Reverend Don Rollins

Servers: Jerry & Susan Allen

Musician: To be announced

From The Minister

Report From The Search Committee!

Our candidate week, (May 2-9) resulted in a unanimous ballot to accept Reverend Don Rollins as our next minister. Don conducted services on both Sundays, visited with the church board, visited at Luther Memorial Home in Madelia, spent Tuesday in Mankato, had time with the youth on Wednesday evening, visited church members in New Ulm, Lamberton, and Comfrey, and visited with Reverend Mark Yackel-Juleen at Shalom Hills Farm. On Saturday, a work crew spent some time cleaning, priming, and scrapping at the parsonage. Don and Jerry Allen had the worst of it, taking carpet of the steps and attempting to remove the adhesive and crud. Thanks to all of you who hosted or helped with hosting an event during this week. A special THANK YOU to Beverly Jean and Wally Wellmann for providing home hospitality during Don's stay.

The enthusiastic responses that were shared by many congregation members were most encouraging. I believe most all of us look forward to building relationships and reaching in new directions through our new ministry and leadership. We now enter into a time of affirming our commitment not just to ministry but to our personal and congregational missions to strengthen the presence of Nora Church in south central Minnesota.

Before the ballot was conducted on May 9th, Don addressed the congregation with his thoughts regarding change and ministerial leadership. Not all change is comfortable and there bound to be times when one of us gets our feathers ruffled. One way to foster better understanding is to communicate our vision effectively and to understand the expectations we too often assume of each other. It would be helpful to read Don's paper on the Lerm Model to appreciate his thoughts on church leadership and organization.

Don will be in Hanska in June to deliver some of his belongings. During July he will be traveling and preparing himself for the transition to the Nora Church year. He will officially start ministry with us in August.

Welcome, Don! We hope you grow to love Nora Church and its surroundings and that you find this to be nurturing spiritual home.

Board News

Faith is not something most non-UU's associate with us, but I think this year we have displayed a lot of it. We have taken back the control and the destiny of Nora. We have worked to define the purpose and mission of Nora. Programs like RE have been revitalized.

The Search Committee has found a new minister for us. And the parsonage has been beautifully remodeled. All of these things happened because we had faith in ourselves and each other to get the jobs done.

The next year will require just as much faith. We will need to expand our programs, try new things, and grow Nora membership. These things will all require work, but they will also be fun because of the people involved.

I agreed to be president of the Board for three reasons, even though I am new to the Board. First, I have been on many boards before over the years including experience as a president. Secondly, as part of the Search Committee I got to spend a lot of time with Don and feel like I can work well with him. But the most important reason was that I knew there would be a lot of support to help me. I know there are people to help when it is needed. This is a good place filled with good people and I have faith in them. Sheldon Rieke

**JULY 2004 ON
NORA CHURCH GROUNDS**

The month of July is usually a pretty quiet time at Nora Church but this year proved to be the exception. Cars were coming and going all times of the day and early evening, holding members of the church who have spent many hours this spring and especially during July getting the parsonage ready for the arrival of our new minister, Don Rollins. The work is nearing completion and it is truly a job well done. As the late Paul Kjolstad would often say as we completed work on the cemetery or church grounds, "Light is the task when many share the toil." Although this task has certainly not been light, the toil was shared by many.

This past month has also seen two tour groups; one from Crookston, MN, and one from Devils Lake, North Dakota.

They came out to the church on the hill to visit our museum and hear the history of our church as presented by Kris Paulson. These tour groups usually stay overnight in New Ulm and after touring the sights in the New Ulm area, they include a trip to Hanska to view our rosmaled water tower, visit the stabbur, where they are greeted by a welcome reception and treats; out to our museum and church grounds, and then out to Lake Hanska County Park where they visit the historical log cabin - the Omsrud, Thorsdon, Torgrimson cabin and the lake. They top off their tour of the area with a Scandinavian meal at the Troll Hus Café in Hanska. The side trip to Hanska is coordinated through the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce.

Saturday, July 24th, found another bus group here visiting the cemetery as a part of their historical tour during the 150th anniversary of their ancestor's immigration, the Ole and Guri Sorbel family, with a reunion of the Sorbel family in Hanska on the 24th and 25th. A Historical Marker on the original home site was unveiled honoring "Asle Sorbel's Ride", the young man who provided information that led to the capture of the James-Younger gang in 1876 in LaSalle, MN.

Saturday, July 24th, also marked the arrival of our new minister, Don Rollins. Welcome to the "Hill", Rev. Rollins!

Nora Church is alive and well and we are proud to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Algot & Bonita

BOARD NOTES

At the Annual Meeting on June 6, the congregation elected two new board members; Julie Sellner and Sheldon Rieke, who replaced Carol Chambard and Anne Rieke. Also elected for a final three-year term was Janet Rosenbloom. At its July 18th meeting, the board elected new officers for 2004 - 2005: President - Sheldon Rieke, Vice President - Darrell Hinsman, Treasurer - Sally Hanson, and Secretary - Janet Rosenbloom. The other board members are Wayne Johnson, Warren Paulson, Julie Sellner, Tarrie Swenstad, and Wallace Wellmann.

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

Treasurer Sally Hanson reports that 48 pledges had been received as of June 30, 2004, totaling \$47,107. In FY 2003-2004, 47 pledge cards were returned, totaling \$36,806. The substantial increase in pledge amounts is a welcome indication of member support for Nora Church. Thanks to all who pledge and to those who support the church financially but don't pledge. And remember, it's not too late to return your pledge card.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, August 10th at 11:30 AM, at the Main Street Cuisine in Madelia. The Lunch Bunch was formed to give the minister and church members and friends an opportunity to meet informally. It is not limited to women, and we hope more men will attend to lend support to our new minister.

TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Congratulations to B. Jean and Wallace Wellmann who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 18th. This was also Bev's birthday. Best Wishes for many good years together.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello August . . . Where did June and July go? Here's the RE scoop. Sheldon and Anne have gathered the RE curriculums from the basement and are looking through what is readily available at the Church. We've also been checking the UUA web site and have several other curriculums in mind. Ideally, what we would like to do is plan for the next three years, using a different curriculum each year for each age group. That way RE will be interesting each year and every year for both kids and teachers.

We have tentatively divided the kids into four different age groups; nursery, infant - PreK, Juniors, K - 2nd grade; Tweeners, 3rd - 6th grade; and Coming of Age, 7th grade and older. These groupings are subject to change depending on the number of children and interest level. Ideally, we would like to have a section and teacher available for each group every week.

Several people (Kristy Paulson, Chrissy Schmitt, Kristi Bodick and Julie Peck) have expressed an interest in helping with the RE team for the coming year. Anne and John Makepeace have expressed an interest in maybe teaching once a month too. We will be contacting the RE team in August to meet and finalize curriculums and schedules. The RE team will be the base of the program. We will always be looking for people to teach classes and share interest with the kids, and to help with projects and services throughout the year. So . . . if you are interested in helping with RE, please feel free to call Anne and Sheldon at 507-354-7832.

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, August 22nd will be our RE Fun Day. We have checked into Valley Fair. We will need to have a group of at least 25 people for a discount rate of \$21 a person. We are concerned about the cost and are wondering what peoples thoughts are about how much families should pay and RE should pay. One thought we had was to wait to go until May 2005 and get a better rate before Memorial Day. That way the kids would have opportunities to

raise money during the year for this trip or something similar. Please share

your thoughts, opinions, and ideas with us. Be looking for a letter, e-mail, and/or phone call about an activity for August 22nd.

The Juniors and Tweeners kids will be running games again for Smorgasbord this fall. We are looking for donations for prizes for the games, so please set aside any extra small toys or goodies you have that we can use. Grab bags were requested by several visitors last year and we did not have any so we will be ready this year and have them. Therefore, we are in need of paper lunch bags for the grab bags. You can start bringing your donations to church in September. Thank you.

OUR SYMPATHY

BONNIE HAHN: We extend our sympathy to Phil Hahn, whose sister Bonnie died recently. Phil's address is: 2643 Beaver Avenue, #302, Des Moines, IA 50310.

JERAY FREDERIC HANSON: JeRay Frederic Hanson, age 79, died June 29, 2004 in Green Valley, Arizona. Burial of his cremains was at Mt. Pisqua Cemetery, rural Hanska, on July 22, 2004 with arrangements made through Green Valley Mortuary, Green Valley Arizona. JeRay lived in Hanska as a youth and spent most of his adult life in Columbia, Missouri. He had just recently moved to Arizona. JeRay never married and was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and DeVolla Hanson. JeRay is survived b several cousins in the Hanska area.

DENNIS BRUDELIE: There will be a Celebration of Life service for Dennis Bruderie at 2:00 PM Saturday, August 21st at Nora Church. Dennis passed away at his home in Orefield, PA, on April 19th, 2004. Dennis was the son-in-law of Ardelle Becken and a former member of Nora church. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; son Jay and his wife Anne; daughter Jana and her husband Jerry Brown and their son Jared, all of Allentown, PA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRIDAL SHOWER: There will be an open house bridal shower honoring Katy Riddle, bride to be of Troy Tepley, on August 14th, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Nora Fellowship Hall. Parents of the couple are Michael and Becky Riddle of Minnetonka and Gene and Georgine Tepley of New Ulm. Troy and Katy will be married on September 3, 2004 at 4:30 PM at the Mills City Museum in Minneapolis.

BROWN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE: Brown County Relay for Life will be held at the Brown County Fairgrounds on August 20, 2004. If you would like to make a donation or purchase luminaries, please contact Julie Sellner. Julie's team, "Quad City Walkers" has participated in the relay for the last 5 years.

SHALOM HILL FARM FALL FESTIVAL: Shalom Hill Farm is inviting Nora members to their Fall Festival to be held on September 11, 2004 from 3:00 to 8:00 PM. There will be a hog roast from 5:00 until 6:00, farmer's market, the "Heavenly Harvest Gospel Band" from 6:00 to 8:00, and fun and games for everyone. You may bring your fresh or home canned garden produce, handmade crafts and baked goods to sell with the proceeds funding the ministry of Shalom Hill Farm. For more information, call 507-831-2232. Shalom Hill Farm is 12 miles northwest of Windom, MN and 5 miles south of Jeffers, MN on County Road 3, near the intersection of County Roads 3 and 21.

BILL SINKFORD: We will have information in the September newsletter of a date and time of when Bill Sinkford, president of UUA, will be in the Twin Cities. An evening dinner reception is being planned.

DIRECTIONS: To Pioneer Village in Worthington for August 8 service. Take Highway 60 in to Worthington. Don't turn off I90 - stay on Hwy. 60 to Oxford Street. Go to 3rd stop light and turn right. There will be signs to Pioneer Village. It is 115 miles from Hanska to Worthington.

A VISIT FROM AN AUTHOR

Kathleen Stokker, who is a professor of Norwegian at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, visited Hanska on Sunday, June 13th. She is presently working on a book about Norwegian folklore.

She attended the morning services at Nora Church. She stated in a letter received by Lorraine Becken that the warm welcome she received at Nora Church got her off to a good start for the day. She was very impressed with the service.

To thank everyone for the warm welcome - and to celebrate the church that is Nora - she sent a copy of one of her previous books as a gift to the church.

The book is called "Keeping Christmas." It deals with yuletide traditions in Norway and the New Land. It contains 355 pages and in the chapter, "The Culinary Emblems of Ethnicity" you will find recipes for goodies served at Smorgsbord.

A LITTLE WISDOM

Karma, Dharma, pudding and pie,
Gimme a break before I die;
Grant me wisdom will & wit,
Purity, probity, pluck & grit.
Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind
Gimme great abs & a steel-trap
mind,
And forgive, Ye Gods, some humble
advice - -
These little blessings would
suffice
To beget an earthly paradise;
Make the bad people good - -
And the good people nice;
And before our world goes over the
brink,
Teach the believers how to think.

Philip Appleman

GEORGE CARLIN

Isn't it amazing that George Carlin - gross and mouthy comedian of the 70's and 80's - could write something so very eloquent and so very appropriate post 9-1-1. A wonderful message by George Carlin:

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger house and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgement, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend to recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch tv too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are the days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway mortality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is

much in the showroom window and

nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

- 1) Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight, and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.
- 2) Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
- 3) Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
- 4) Enjoy the simple things.
- 5) Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
- 6) The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. BE ALIVE while you are alive.
- 7) Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, and hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
- 8) Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
- 9) Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, to the next country, but NOT to where the guilt is.
- 10) Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.