



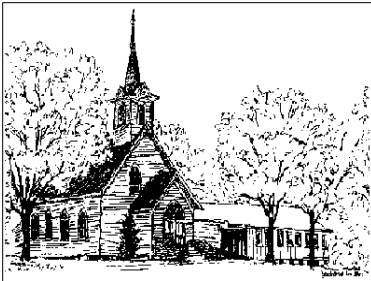
# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2006

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## VIEW FROM THE HILL



*Growth. The Board and I are working together to develop and carry out new ways to better promote our liberal religious message, trusting that the message itself (as lived by this warm-hearted congregation) will be attractive to those seeking an alternative to orthodoxy. No gimmicks, just new thinking about how to better live out our mission of freedom, community and justice.*

*With the help of Sheldon Rieke and our Board, I've initiated three new ideas to enhance our ministry. First, on October 19 we'll be starting a bimonthly service at John and Anne Makepeace's Rhein River Arts Center, in New Ulm. (After the first date we'll meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 7:00 P.M.) The vision is that of an interactive, experiential, arts-centered program. It will involve music, meditation, poetry and sharing. My hope is that the service will evolve to suit those who attend. The goal is to bring a bit of Nora to New Ulm.*

*Second, those of you who attended the service on September 17 were introduced to Cris Brizuela, our ministerial intern. After being contacted by United Theological Seminary (New Brighton, MN) I worked with our board to explore hosting Cris for a part-time, 9-month internship. She'll be gaining experience in the areas of preaching, pastoral care, administration and religious education. Be sure to introduce yourself to Cris. She's an impressive person and on her way to becoming an excellent UU minister.*

*Third, with the support of the Program Committee, I'll be sharing the pulpit with area folk who can enhance our mission by speaking to us about their work on behalf of others. Marlys Zetah will speak to us about her experience as a volunteer assisting in the Hurricane Katrina cleanup. Jill Kramer will relate to us her work with the marginalized of the Brown County. And Tracie Welton will be with us to share about environmentalism.*

*So, we're gearing up to grow by increasing our presence in New Ulm, enhancing our level of ministry as we help educate a budding minister and educating ourselves about the needs of others. I'm grateful for your support as we find new ways to keep Nora Church alive and well.*

*Blessings,  
Don*

## DON AT UUMA CHAPTER MEETING

Don will be attending the Prairie Star Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association meeting at Shalom Farm, October 9-11. In the event of an emergency he can be reached via his cell phone: 507-276-8464.

## MAILBOXES

Darrell Hinsman gifted the church with a whole new set of mailboxes. (They're behind the folding door across from the upstairs restroom.) Church officers and committee chairs are encouraged to check them regularly. Thanks, Darrell!

## THURSDAY'S PLACE

Our bimonthly, Thursday services in New Ulm will begin on October 19, at 7:00 P.M., at Rhein River Arts Center, 208 N. Minnesota. After that initial meeting, we'll meet each first and third Thursday of each month. Be sure to bring a friend or two and check it out!

## LUNCH BUNCH



will get together on Wednesday, October 18 at 11:30 AM. We'll meet at the Holiday Inn, New Ulm.

## BOARD'S REPORT

The Board had a training session on September 1st to learn more about board leadership and membership. An emergency board meeting was also called to deal with the possibility of Nora having a seminary intern. We were able to deal with the concern in a timely matter because of by-law changes that you voted in last June. If we had been under the old rules, we would not have been able to meet until after the deci-

sion needed to be made, and would have missed out on a wonderful opportunity. Thank you for supporting that change in the by-laws.

The regular board meeting on September 13th was fairly routine. The only item of note was the hard work put in by Julie Peck as she works to arrange a special preview of the new movie "Conversations with God" at Nora. Based on the best selling book of the same name, this movie would draw many to Nora. More details will be forthcoming as soon as they are known.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his sermon on August 27th, Don talked about the future of Nora. There was a lot in that future I liked. Nora has adapted and changed in the past. The way things are done now is different than 100, 50 or even 25 years ago. The constant over the years has been giving people a warm, safe place to express their faith.

Nora will change in the future. It has to, to survive and grow. But it will remain a warm, safe and welcoming place to express and share one's faith. If it didn't do that, than it really wouldn't be Nora.

## ELK'S NATURE CENTER FRIENDRAISER Featuring "Monroe Crossing"

Do you like Bluegrass music or know someone who does? Would you like to show your support for the wonderful Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods Park in Mankato (Mankato's best kept secret) & all the positive programming & information they supply for our community in the areas of environmental appreciation & conservation? Come to the Friendraiser, Friday, October 6 from 7 -9 p.m. Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton Street, Mankato. Advance tickets: \$15 (call 507-387-8585) Seating is limited.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice committee is off to an exciting church year! We fulfilled Nora's commitment to provide people resources at the St. James Food for All event which took place on September 9th. You probably remember that as a church community we agreed to help with this the 2nd Sat. for four different months. So church members next opportunity to support this activity with their people resources will be in Dec. on the 9th as well. The group from St. James continue to do a remarkable job of purchasing/pursuing donations of foods which are then organized and over 100 families come on the Saturday and receive a grocery bag of food for which they can make a free will donation as they are able. This time we gave out sandwich meats, rice, jello, cereal, bread products, etc. Thanks to Carol and Allen Chambard who joined SJ committee members that day.

Our other SJ "event" so far this church year happened on September 10th. On that Sunday we welcomed Becky Marquez to the pulpit from the Cottonwood River Integration Collaborative. She talked about her work which involves a model of assessing not only where people are in terms of understanding other cultures but also where they think they are, or want to be. The effort seeks to increase intercultural integration and prepare individuals for positive interactions with other cultures in a global environment. She pointed out to us that there are many areas that fall within this "understanding" process. It could be issues around age discrimination, sexual orientation, economics, abledness, etc.

She will be returning to Nora the first Sundays in both November and December to continue with workshops following the pot-lucks on those respective days. On the first Sunday she will have the survey available for individual church members to complete. They take about 45 minutes to complete and so we will make child care arrangements for that time. Becky told us that the survey is appropriate for ages from high

school on up so we are hoping this can be a multi-generational event as well! The December Sunday Becky will return with the results of the survey in a congregational sort of format or sorting and will share those results. She will help us begin to look as a church community at how we might like to use that information as we move forward. The cost of individual surveys are \$10 a piece. We hope we have a comprehensive grouping of survey participants, so please plan to join us. If anyone has questions please feel free to contact one of the SJ committee members. Copies of her sermon are available in the church foyer. Our next planning meeting for SJ is set for September 27th at 7 p.m. at the Wigers at 408 South Highland if you'd like to join us.



## 125th ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU

Thank-you to everyone who worked so hard to make the 125th anniversary celebration a success. A big thank-you to John and Julie Schmitt for their donation of the invitations and to Julie for getting them printed. Thank-you to Cindy Mosenden for getting all the invitations mailed. And to all of you that painted both inside and outside and to those of you that cleaned the church, the grounds and the museum, thank-you.

A very special thank-you to all my fellow committee members: Ardelle Becken, Lorraine Becken, Carol Chambard, Shirley Olson, Sheldon Rieke, Julie Sellner, and Bev Wellmann. Also a big thank-you to Don Rollins for all the hard work you put into planning the service.

Don't forget that we have one more event honoring Nora's anniversary scheduled for Saturday, November 11 at the Hanska Community Center. Come ready to dance!!

-Joy Rathman

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Thank you, thank you , thank you !!!!** Your responses to help with Sunday School have been overwhelming. Your support and caring is so appreciated. I hope you have a fun time with the children. They are a great group of kids.

**Thank you even more.** Thank you for all of your contributions to the Smorg. games and raffles. We're hoping for a great turnout. We've all ready planned to do some service activities for our partner church in Transylvania and/or the children in Iraq, as well as, a few projects for the church. I hope that by having the kids operate their own games/fundraising activities that it will increase their ownership of the service projects. Plus it's just plain good experience for them. We have a couple of natural entrepreneurs in our congregation.

### Here are October topics for Sunday School:

1st: **SMORGASBORD** - be ready to help out.

8th: Young'Uns - Noah and activity. Teacher - Janet Rosenbloom;  
Juniors - **Timeless Themes #14 - The Ten Commandments.** Teacher - Carol Chambard  
Tweeners - **In Our Hands #2 - Defining Justice.** Teacher - Brenda Wiger

15th: Young'Uns - Jonah and activity. Teacher - Norma Breu  
Juniors - **Timeless Themes #15 - The Walls Came Tumbling Down.** Teacher - TBD  
Tweeners - **In Our Hands # 3 - Framework for Peace and Justice.** Teacher - Julie Peck

18th: RE Wednesday - Potluck, bonfire and singing - read more about it. Starts at 5:30.

22nd : No Sunday School - MEA.

29th: All classes **Holidays and Holy Days - discuss UNICEF and related activities.**  
Young'Uns - Teacher - Janney Rieke  
Juniors - Teacher - Doug Anderson  
Tweeners - Teacher - Jeanie Hinsman

Classes will be during the service after the children's story or the sharing of joys and concerns depending on the individual services.

**You are invited** - Please join the youth for their RE Wednesday on October 18th. We will have a potluck, and hopefully a bonfire to sing around and share stories. If the weather does not cooperate, then we will sing and tell stories indoors. All members of the congregation are welcome to join us. The festivities will begin at 5:30 at the church.

Here is a neat website to try. It's <[www.LetsSayThanks.com](http://www.LetsSayThanks.com)>. There are postcards created by youth from across America. You can select a postcard and message, or create your message. The postcard will then be sent via the website to troops over in Iraq. Give it a try.

## HOMES FOR ALL! 2006 CONVENTION



Make sure to mark December 7, 2006 from 12-8pm on your calendar so you can join us at the **Homes for All! 2006** Convention where a spectrum of affordable housing stakeholders will organize action around housing solutions to end homelessness, ensure housing affordability and create healthy communities that will close the gap in achieving homes for all Minnesotans! **Homes for All! 2006** will include action-oriented break-out groups, a presentation by the governor-elect, exhibitor tables, reception, and a nationally-recognized keynote speaker to be announced. For more information, contact Barbara Kennedy at [bkenedy@mhponline.org](mailto:bkenedy@mhponline.org) or go to [www.mhponline.org](http://www.mhponline.org).

- A poster is on the church bulletin board with complete details.

*The UU Affordable Housing Partnership (a working group of the MN UU Social Justice Alliance), encourages all UUs interested in affordable housing issues to attend the Homes for All! 2006 convention. FFI: Barbara Weatherhead [bweatherhead@mn.rr.com](mailto:bweatherhead@mn.rr.com)*

- on the church bulletin board.

## TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT AT NO COST

Do you wish it was easier to hear callers clearly, to hear the phone ring, to dial or hold the phone, or to have your voice understood on the telephone? You may be eligible to receive the telephone equipment you need free of charge from the State of Minnesota's Telephone Equipment Distribution Program. You are already paying for this service through a telephone surcharge on your phone bill. For more information call: **1-800-657-3663** (TTY callers 1-888-206-6555) web site: [www.tedprogram.org](http://www.tedprogram.org).

## CAMP OZ



Saturday, October 7  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Camp  
Patterson at Lake Wash-  
ington, Madison Lake,  
MN.

Camp Oz is a day-long grief camp for grieving children and teens, ages 3 to 18, who have experienced the death of someone in their life. The camp gently guides the children through the complex emotions of grief by showing them they are not alone. To register, Contact Diana Carrigan at 507-385-2989 or 800-327-3721, ext 2989 immediately. Deadline was Sept 22, but you may still be able to get in.

## OPEN ADOPTION REFERRALS

Looking for help from fellow UU members: Jim & Pamela Balabuszko-Reay, members of First Universalist church in Minneapolis are looking for help in adopting their 2nd child. They are fully approved by "Adoption Minnesota" which handled their first adoption. The agency works through referrals. If you hear of a situation where someone wants to place their baby for adoption and stay connected after the birth, please refer them to Adoption Minnesota.

Information on the bulletin board or at  
<http://home.mn.rr.com>







## DON'S SCHEDULE

Don will continue with the same (more or less) schedule for the 2006-07 church year. Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments (New Ulm Ministerium, drug/alcohol unit presentations, board meetings for Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth, etc.) don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.

## MINNESOTA VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

celebrates their 40th Anniversary October 8.  
Service: 10:30 AM; Tree Planting: 11:45,  
Pot Luck Luncheon: 12:15; Children's Carnival: 1:00.

10715 Zenith Ave, Bloomington, MN  
[www.mnvalleyuu.org](http://www.mnvalleyuu.org)

## HEART TO HEART

A Couples' Enrichment Weekend Retreat. November 3 - 5 at the Koinonia Reatreat Center, 80 miles northwest of the Twin Cities. Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. The weekend emphasizes personal reflection and couple dialogue. Participants are not asked to share with the group, but rather, to dialogue privately with their partners. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome - same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried.

More information is available on the church bulleting board or go to their website at <http://heart.mn.cx> or call 651-227-0486.

## To Keep In Touch

♥ **Tarrie Swenstad** is in the rehab stage of her successful hip replacement. Cards and calls are welcome.

♥ **Clarice Sandmann** suffered a fall last month and having a great deal of pain. Cards, calls and visits are welcome, but please call first.

♥ **Jerry and Susan Allen** celebrated their 40th anniversary in August.

♥ **Julie and Ron Peck** celebrated their 18th anniversary in September.

♥ **Gil and Sally Hanson** welcomed their seventh grandchild recently.

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the following Caring Committee members:

Georgine Tepley (chair)  
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)  
Shirley Olson  
439-6879  
Carol Chambard  
354-2242

**THANK YOU! - Caring Committee**



**NORWEGIAN SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

**NOTES ON THE SMORG**

Smorgasbord is Sunday October 1st. If you're feeling badly because for some reason you were left off the work or donation list, please let either Julie Sellner (375-8737) or Joy Rathman (877-2457) know and we'll be glad to find a job for you or take your money. On Saturday, September 30 at 9:00 we'll begin making meatballs, if the thought of making meatballs disgusts you, there are lots of other things that need to be done. We are usually there until early afternoon, so for those of you that like to sleep in, you can come later.

Don't forget in your spare time to be baking and crafting for the country store as all the money made there is profit. My daughter, the fund raiser/special event coordinator, told me that if your event doesn't make more money than the year before, you can't consider it a success. So if the profits are down this year, we'll have to hand the Smorg chairmanship over to someone else and it could be you!!

Coffee, Country Store, &  
Children's Activities at 10:00 a.m.  
Church Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dinner Served - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Adults: \$10.00 ~ Children 7 - 12: \$4.00  
6 and under ... free

**MENU:** Meatballs, Ham, turkey, Tongue, Herring, Sot Suppe, Rice, Rommegrot, Lefse, Flatbrod, Rosettes, Krumkake, Sandbakkels, Fattigmand, Berliner Kranser, Romme brod plus many other smorgasbord foods ... mashed potatoes, gravy, various salads, milk, coffee, lemonade. Take-outs available

**THE COUNTRY STORE** will feature craft items, garden produce, baked goods, and various children's activities.

**THE JORGENSEN LOG CABIN MUSEUM** will be open to the public that day with someone present to answer questions and discuss museum items.

**SMORG REMINDERS**

Bring your items for the Country Store to the fellowship Hall on Saturday. Please have them in proper containers and mark the price on them that you think would be appropriate. Baked good, flea market items, garden produce, etc., all are welcome. If you are not able to come Saturday, please come early Sunday morning with your items. Thank you. - The Committee

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.**

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE BY THURSDAY (noon if possible)**

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net please be sure to include "NORA" in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska. MN 56041

Thanks for your help in getting articles to me. Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

## LOCAL HAPPENING

The Hanska Business Association presents **The Nes National Folkdancers and Musicians** from Telemark, Norway on Friday, Oct. 6, 7:30 PM at the Hanska School Gym.

This is a group of 16 dancers and 3 musicians, organized in 1951 to preserve the old dances of the villages of Norway. Mr. Tor Holm, the director, is the reigning Norwegian National Champion Accordionist.

- A free will offering will be taken during the show.

Complete info is available

## DINNER THEATER PLAY IN ONE ACT

“Reflections, A Sunday Afternoon with Lois”. A true story about Lois Wilson, wife of Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. She was instrumental in founding Alanon. The play tells of her life with Bill and his alcoholism and recovery. It is also a love story of two people, first and foremost to each other, to the God of their understanding and then for the world.

There is no charge for this dinner theater but reservations are necessary.

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 29

St. James Presbyterian church - Dinner served at 6 followed by the performance

### MONDAY OCTOBER 30

Madelia Presbyterian Church - Luncheon served at noon followed by performance

Reservations:

St. James: 375-3432 ~ Madelia: 642-2973

## BROWN COUNTY ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Energy assistance is available starting October 1st. If you need assistance, information on the different programs are available on the bulletin board or on the table below it. Or call 359-6504.

## MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS

No need to dine alone or cook a meal. Join us at the Madelia First Presbyterian church, Sunday October 8, 5 - 6:30 p.m. This month's menu: Hot chicken sandwiches, salad, rolls, beverage & dessert. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are accepted. Reservations not necessary but appreciated. 642-2973 - leave a message.

**Come Join us for a Community Meal  
and bring a friend!!**



## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

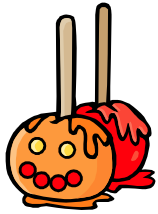
We invite you to imagine the possibilities of graduate theological study at United by joining us for “A Day at United.” United Theological Seminary is an ecumenical seminary of the United Church of Christ. UTS is committed to the study of theology, spirituality and culture and is recognized for its focus on social justice, theology and the arts and for preparing articulate lay and ordained leaders who make a difference in an interfaith and multicultural world.

Dates: Saturday, October 7, 9 am to 3:30 pm and Tuesday, November 28, 3 pm to 9 pm. On the campus of United Seminary. Admission is free.

For registration, see info on the bulletin board or

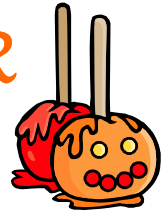
The Office of Admissions  
Sandra Casmey, Director  
651-255-6107 or 800-937-1316  
Admissions @ [unitedseminary.edu](mailto:unitedseminary.edu)  
[www.unitedseminary.edu](http://www.unitedseminary.edu)





# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																		
1 9:00 Informal Discussion NO CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service SMORGASBORD	2	3	4	5	6	7																		
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22 9:00 Informal Discussion 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	23	24	25	26	27	28  <b>TURN CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT</b>																		
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Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
12333 155th Avenue  
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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**Important**

**Inside this newsletter is a post card to be returned stating whether you would like to receive your newsletter via email or continue having it mailed.**

**Your response is appreciated.**

**Thank you.**



Nora church @ sleepyeyetel.net  
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

## **Nora Church Sunday Services OCTOBER 2006**

**Social Hour 10:00 AM**

**Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**October 1** "Top Ten Reasons that Liberal Religion Matters" – As we continue our look at the basics of our religious tradition, how much would the nation lose if, as some radical religious conservatives hope, liberal religion was no more? And, as we welcome our Smorgasbord guests, what would America look like without our message?

**October 8** "The Face of Fundamentalism" Guest minister, Reverend Nels Oas

**October 15** "The Indomitable Human Spirit" – Marlys Zeta will share the service with Don, focusing on her experiences during the initial cleanup in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

**October 22** "The Making of a Minister" – We're blessed to have the opportunity to be the internship site for Cris Brizuela, a UU student at United Theological Seminary. Let's talk about what it takes to become and be a UU minister.

**October 29** "Calling the Roll" – Halloween and All Saints Day remind us of the contributions others have made to our lives. We'll honor those whose words, deeds and lives have inspired us to be better persons. (Don't forget it's "Fall Back" Sunday. Set your clocks back.)