



# MERE LYS newsletter

*Nora Unitarian Universalist Church*

March 2007

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## VIEW FROM THE HILL

If you've been around UUism for a few years, you might've heard the name Forrest Church, longtime minister to one of our New York metro area congregation. I quoted from one of his books at our last Soulful Sundown service.

Church has the idea that we're always working on a series of projects, some temporary, some intermittent and some lifelong. Here are a few examples of the lifelong variety (parenthetical questions are mine):

- The God Project (What is holy?)
- The Identity Project (Who am I?)
- The Love Project (Will I risk?)
- The Parent Project (Am I committed?)
- The Community Project (Who are my people?)
- The Justice Project (Do I care?)

At the news that the British forces plan a staggered exit from southern Iraq, I'm reminded how easy it is to go about our lives while countless others are losing theirs. Take the Love Project. Does that ever stop? Hardly. But can personal projects obscure the life-and-death reality of a war? Surely. How else to explain the sluggish movement to oppose the shoddy execution of the war in Iraq?

To be sure, projects like those above are worthy if not necessary endeavors, but I'm reminded by something yet another UU author and minister (Peter Fleck) asked of himself: Am I willing to be disturbed? When human life is reduced to the daily count of the nameless and faceless dead, am I willing to be disturbed? When refugees are pouring into neighboring countries as civil war rages within their own, am I willing to be disturbed? And when a government is clueless about its own strategy, resulting in the second longest war in U.S. history, am I willing to be disturbed?

The inertia of these privileged lives we lead hasn't been all that disturbed by the war, at least for those of us whose loved ones aren't in harm's way. We, most of us, haven't had to give up our day-to-day projects as did those Americans of, say, 1776 or 1860 or 1940. But the quarrels within the new Congress regarding an exit strategy may change all that.

There is a movement afoot to get our elected officials to apply their considerable talent and influence to find the best solution for a very complex problem. People who have been immersed in their life project have been picking up a pen or a telephone or a computer mouse, lobbying their federal senators and representatives. I'm asking you to join me in letting both houses of Congress know that we want them to get serious about Iraq. Tell them that we understand that there are no easy answers, and the time for blaming those who got us in this mess is long past. Tell them that you've added the War Project to your list of what's important.

Minnesota's delegation in the House: Tim Waltz, Jim Ramstad, Keith Ellison, Collin Peterson, Michele Bachman, John Kline, Betty McCollum and Jim Oberstar.

Minnesota's two senators: Amy Klobuchar and Norm Coleman.

The fastest way to express yourself is via email. Simply put the name you want to contact into any search engine and you'll get her/his website, email address, phone number and street address. If you don't have access to an online computer, the general telephone number for the House is 202-225-2131. Amy Klobuchar can be reached at 202-224-3244. Norm Coleman's office number is 202-224-5641.

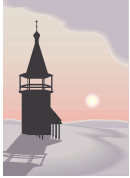
Thanks,  
Don

## SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING



Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All"

## SOULFUL SUNDOWN



Soulful Sundown continues on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month, at Rhein River Arts Center, 208 N. Minnesota (New Ulm) at 6:30 P.M. Facilitated by Don Rollins, the format is music, silence, meditation and sharing.

If you haven't tried it, come check it out! (And tell somebody else, too.)

## LUNCH BUNCH



Watch for announcements.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES

Nora Social Justice committee is looking for a CHURCH MEMBER who would like to be the contact for the church's quarterly commitment to the Food for All Saturday event in St. James (remember that we help disburse food to those in need with 3 or 4 volunteers attending the morning event the second Sat., once a quarter. Please let Brenda 507 354 5256 or one of the other committee members know if you would like to be the congregational contact for church members to volunteer their willingness to work. Reminder: the committee consists of Angie Becker Kudelka and Scott Kudelka, Darrell and Jeannie Hinsman, Chris Bodick, Mark and Brenda Wiger.

## BOARD NOTES

The Nora Church Board of Trustees met Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Mankato Fellowship for its regular meeting. The meeting was held there to accommodate treasurer Sally Hanson whose time is limited during the run-up to the income tax filing deadline. The board expressed its appreciation to the UUFM for the use of its building. Former member Wally Wellmann, who agreed to fill the board vacancy for the remainder of the church year, was welcomed back.

The board discussed the Feb. 25 election of trustees. The newly revised bylaws call for two trustees to be elected at this time. Janet Rosenbloom has served two consecutive terms and is not eligible for another term. Sheldon Rieke and Julie Sellner have served single terms. They are eligible to serve another term and have agreed to have their names put before the congregation. The meeting also will be open to nominations from the floor.

The board will begin preparation of the budget for Fiscal Year 2007-8 at its March meeting. Treasurer Sally Hanson still needs budget requests from several committees.

In another money matter, the Pledge Drive committee is being formed. Doug Anderson has agreed to head the committee. Vicki Sieve, Norma Breu and Diane Becken have agreed to serve on the committee.

Rev. Rollins said the board should consider what fund-raising events could be held to replace the revenue from the Syttende Mai dinners.

Rev. Rollins asked the board for funds to advertise Soulful Sundown meetings. The board felt there was money available in the advertising, membership and adult RE budgets which could be used for this purpose.

Rev. Rollins said he is considering holding a full worship service in New Ulm on Saturday evenings starting around 5:30 p.m. He said many UU congregations are doing this. No decisions were made but the board felt it might be worth a try to attract families from New Ulm or allow those Nora Church families with children in school activities which keep them away on Sundays to attend a less formal Saturday service.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone for voting in the changes in the bylaws.

An important reminder that the Prairie Star Meeting is April 13, 14, and 15 in Minneapolis. This is a great chance whether you are on the board, a committee chair, or just want to help, to learn more about whatever area you want to help

in. For more information contact either myself or Don, we'll be glad to help you. It's not too early to think about General Assembly either. This year it is in Portland. If you are at all interested please contact myself or Don.

### THANKS FROM THE BOARD

The board members recognized several members for their special contributions to Nora Church in February. Wayne Johnson was commended for his good work on snow removal. Bonita and Algot Blomquist were cited for the TLC they give to the church, collecting discarded bulletins after church and checking to see that all is well in the buildings. Again the Social Justice Committee, with a special nod to Darrell Hinsman, was mentioned for its outstanding work in bringing the singing group OVation to Nora to share its message of inclusion.

### FOOD FOR ALL

March is "our" month to help distribute food items at Food for All in St. James. It will be Saturday morning March 10 from 8:30 until 11. If you haven't volunteered before, give it a try. We need up to 6 people. Let Darrell Hinsman (507-359-7494) know if you're able so we can keep track of numbers and car pooling. Thanks.



Our congregation will be participating in Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign. Minnesota Food Share is an interfaith collaboration formed in 1982 to help restock food shelves across the state, and is celebrates 25 years of feeding the hungry this March. In the face of a struggling economy the March Campaign is as important as ever. Let us put a special emphasis on sharing all that we have with the less fortunate. The New Ulm Emergency food shelf needs our help to restock the shelves. Donations will be matched by Minnesota Food Share in March. Bins are under the table in the entry. Thanks.

### MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thanks to all who contributed to the discretionary fund. Many people have needs and are helped by this special fund. It is an on-going need so if you feel moved to contribute, please do so.

### OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

OutFront Minnesota is pleased to announce that nationally renowned activist Donna Red Wing will be a featured speaker at Out Since '87: Celebrating 20 Years of OutFront Minnesota. Red Wing has spent most of her life advocating for fairness and equality for GLBT people. Recognized across the country as an expert in field organizing and capacity building on the grassroots level, Red Wing currently serves as the Senior Advisor for Program & Development at [The Interfaith Alliance](http://www.theinterfaithalliance.org), a national advocacy organization founded in 1994 to challenge the radical religious right's manipulation of religion to influence public policy.

Out Since '87 is a celebration of OutFront Minnesota's 20th anniversary. You are invited to celebrate the great strides this community has made.

March 10th, 2007, Trocadero's Nightclub and Restaurant. Reserve your tickets today at [http://www.outfront.org/events/out\\_main.html](http://www.outfront.org/events/out_main.html).

Special thanks to our growing list of sponsors, including Target, Best Buy, the Human Rights Campaign, Macy's, H&B Gallery, Park Nicollet Health Services, and Bryant-Lake Bowl

### FAITH IN ACTION

Donations and volunteers are needed for "Faith in Action of Brown County". This organization helps older adults who are struggling with health issues. Contact (507)-354-5370 or email [stacy@faithinactionbc.com](mailto:stacy@faithinactionbc.com).

### CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Washington, D.C.—April 13-15. A B&B experience hosted by Cedar Lane UU church, Bethesda, MD. Reservation form and information is available on the bulletin board or visit [www.cedarlane.org/cbfestival](http://www.cedarlane.org/cbfestival).

## The Political Tide Has Turned

Since the beginning of the 2007 legislative session, OutFront Minnesota Legislative Lobbyist C. Scott Cooper and Public Policy Director Monica Meyer have been working at the Capitol meeting with legislators to talk with them about GLBT issues. Many legislators have told OutFront Minnesota that while they were talking with voters in the summer and fall about issues of concern, they found little if any support for the amendment to ban marriage and all other legal protections for same-sex couples. Finally, we can begin to move forward.

In the coming weeks, several bills will be introduced to begin laying the groundwork for long-term change. Each proposal - including dealing with access to health care, employment policies, banking issues, recreational licenses, and more -- is intended to comprise a much larger and longer conversation about how same-sex couples and their families should be treated under the law. OutFront Minnesota will let you know when these bills are introduced and ask you to work with us to ensure that they are successful.

To defeat the anti-marriage amendment three years in a row, it took thousands of people contacting their friends and family, writing letters to the editor, and meeting with their legislators at OutFront Minnesota's justFair Lobby Day at the Minnesota State Capitol April, 19 2007.

To move this positive legislation forward, it will also take thousands of people. Get ready to help move Minnesota toward GLBT equality!

## To Keep In Touch

♥♥♥

**Jane Thompson**  
(terminal cancer)

**Rosie Hanson**  
(seeking cancer treatments)

**Nina Mikkelson**  
(at LMH with broken bones)

**Ardelle Becken**  
(hospitalized)

**Shirley Olson**  
(recovering from foot surgery)

♥♥♥

Winthrop good Samaritan Center is asking that you remember residents of your church with greetings on special holidays and birthdays. Clarice Sandmann is a resident and her birthday is July 1st. Cards can be sent to Winthrop Good Samaritan Center 506 High St., Winthrop, MN 55396

♥

Know of someone who needs special mention? please let us know.

♥

Please keep our military personnel in your prayers. They need our support.

♥♥♥

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

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## QUESTIONS SERVICE: MARCH 25

**Don:**

**Please add this question/comment to the 3/25 service:**

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**Name (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_



## RELIGIONS EDUCATION

We will have had our first **Children's Chapel** by the time you receive the newsletter (however it really hasn't occurred at the time of writing, so we'll have more to report next month).

The first batch of letters/pictures to our friends at our partner church(es) in Romania will be mailed soon, if not already. We are trying to make sure they are going to the correct partner church. Pictures were taken of each of the kids - kindergarten through 7th grade. The kids have written information about themselves and/or drawn pictures that will accompany their personal pictures. They also learned a little about Romania and saw pictures of children from the partner church(es) Christmas programs. It will be fun to see where this all leads.

We are also trying to get a list of supplies to send to the children in Iraq. We have a website, but it has been rather difficult to maneuver through to get the information we need. We'll keep trying though.

## MARCH RE SCHEDULE

**4th: Young'uns - Celebrating Me and My World #14 - I Can Give.** Teacher - To be determined.

**Juniors - A Lamp In Every Corner - The Turtle and the Voice of God - Theodore Parker.** Teacher - Pat Kunerth.

**Tweeners - In Our Hands #11- Making Peace and Building Justice - Two Stories.** Teacher - Julie Peck.

**11th: Young'Uns - Celebrating Me and My World #15 - I Can Share.** Teacher - To be determined.

**Juniors - A Lamp in Every Corner - A Bright Star - Thomas Starr King.** Teacher - Joy Rathman.

**Tweeners - In Our Hands # 12 - Local Unitarian Universalist Conflict Resolvers.** Teachers - Julie Sellner and Jordan Rathman.

**18th: Children's Chapel: Celebrating St. Patrick's Day.** Teachers - Anne and John Makepeace.

**25th: Young'uns - Celebrating Me and My World #29 - My World Has Light.** Teacher- To be determined.

**Juniors - A Lamp In Every Corner - An Infinity of**

**Questions - Maria Mitchell.** Teacher- Laurie Kunerth

**Tweeners - In Our Hands #14 - Earth Awareness.** Teacher - Jeanie Hinsman

***Thank you to all who have volunteered to teach Sunday School.***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 8th.: Our Easter Morning Breakfast.** Expenses for the breakfast have been figured into the RE budget this year, so we will not be looking for product donations. Please use those donations for monetary support for our youth service projects. We are looking for manpower donations, so a sign-up sheet for the volunteers will be passed around church and Sunday School. Please feel free to sign up to help. We consider this an intergenerational project and welcome everyone to participate and join us.

**May 12th: Twins Game.** We are looking at reserving seats for a Twin's game for an all church activity. More information will follow as plans are finalized.



## 2007 MIDWEST LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Experience a whole new level of Unitarian Universalism! This is to continue the tradition of fostering effective adult lay leadership in the UU community for people ages 18 and older.

Are you currently or soon to be in an active leadership role, board or committee member or chair? Would you benefit from knowing more about how groups work, grow and develop? About consensus building or conflict management? About organizational skills, dimensions of healthy congregational growth, addressing social justice issues and working with volunteers? MidWest Leadership School is for you!

Dates are July 21 - 28, 2007, At Beloit College Campus in Beloit, Wisconsin. Space is limited and registrations are processed based on the date received. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board or you can go to their web site [www.uumwls.org](http://www.uumwls.org) for information and to register.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	<b>SERVERS</b>	<b>GREETERS/USHERS</b>
<u>MARCH</u>			
4	Mimi Kamleiter	POTLUCK Darrell & Jeanne Hinsmann Jerry & Sue Allen	Elroy & Ardis Wellmann
11	Jordan Rathman	Ross Chamard Warren & Kristine Paulson	Wally & Bev Wellmann
18	Sally Hanson	Dave & Jeanne Wenk	Mark & Brenda Wiger
25	Muffy Rathman	Diane Becken Chris & Kristi Bodick	John & Julie Schmitt
<u>APRIL</u>			
1	Mimi Kamleiter	POTLUCK Christina Schmitt Clayton & Shirley Olson	Kristi Paulson - Lynn Schmitt
8	Jordan Rathman	EASTER	Chris Olson - Vickie Sieve
15	Muffy Rathman	Ardis & Elroy Wellmann	Dave & Jeanne Wenk
22	Sally Hanson	Tarrie Swenstad & Edith Beckius	Jerry & Susan Allen
29	Clean Up day	Michelle Bethke & Julie Sellner	Chris Bodick - Charles Anderson
<u>MAY</u>			
6	Mimi Kamleiter	POTLUCK Mark & Brenda Wiger Chris Olson & Charles Anderson	Algot & Bonita Blomquist
13	Jordan Rathman	Doug Anderson John & Julie Schmitt	Christina Schmitt - Susan Evers
20	syttende mai	Syttende Mai	Syttende Mai
27	Sally Hanson	Gene & Georgine Tepley	Gil & Sally Hanson
<u>JUNE</u>			
3	Muffy Rathman	POTLUCK Ron & Julie Peck Pat & Laurie Kunert	Doug Anderson - Diane Becken
10	Mimi Kamleiter	Wayne & Janet Johnson	Krist Bodick - Edith Beckius
17	Jordan Rathman	Alon & Carol Chambard	Roger & Norma Breu

### **ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR**




In the 19th century, Unitarians and Universalists led the abolitionist movement. Today, UUs must once again confront and work to abolish 21st century global slavery. Join youth and adults from Canada, the U.S. and other countries at UN Headquarters and surrounding neighborhood for three days of consciousness-raising, reflection, friendship, and spiritual enrichment as we explore ways to BREAK THE WEB at home and worldwide. Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar April 12-14, 2007, New York City. See flyer on the resource table at church.

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH 2007

Parsonage: 507-439-6240  
Don's cell: 507-276-8464



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm - Soulful Sun- down - Rhein Rivers Arts	2	3
4 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service Pot Luck	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>turn clocks ahead before bed</b> 
11 <b>Daylight Saving time begins</b>  9:00 Choir 9:00 Discussion 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	12	13	14 6:30 pm - Board meets @ Mkto UU Fellowship	15 6:30 pm - Soulful Sun- down - Rhein Rivers Arts Center 7:30 pm - So- cial Justice Comm.	16	17   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Work on newsletter articles!</div>
18 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	19	20 Newsletter Articles due 	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

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

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
4 Mimi	Darrell & Jeanne Hinsmann Jerry & Sue Allen	Elroy & Ardis Wellmann
11 Jordan	Ross Chamard Warren & Kristine Paulson	Wally & Bev Wellmann
18 Sally	Dave & Jeanne Wenk	Mark & Brenda Wiger
25 Muffy	Diane Becken Chris & Kristi Bodick	John & Julie Schmitt

### DON'S SCHEDULE

Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments, don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
12333 155th Avenue  
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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

March 2007



## Nora Church Sunday Services MARCH 2007

**Social Hour 10:00 AM**

**Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**March 4** "Iraq: God and War" – From prehistoric times to the Hebrew scriptures to the war in Iraq God has played a starring role in many an armed conflict. The Klezmatics' popular song "I'm afraid of what you'll do in the name of your God" is our text for this service.

**March 11** "Quality End-of-Life Care" - Father Saroca from ISJ in Mankato will our visiting speaker. He will address us on their Hospice Program. It is also possible that he will be available for the 9 am adult discussion.

**March 18** "Jung, Myers and Briggs: Which way to God?" – It's odd that a religion so proud of theological diversity should know so little about the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator and how it applies to spirituality.

**March 25** "Question Service" – It's that time of the year when Don invites us to help shape a service based on our questions. Please use the form in this newsletter and give it to Don, or call him at 439-6240 or email him at [drollins@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:drollins@sleepyeyetel.net).