



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

November 2008

VIEW FROM THE HILL

It is my pleasure to announce that Ryann Rathman is going to help coordinate and organize Nora Church's religious education activities. This is a big step toward attracting new families to Nora, as well as helping to provide the development of our liberal faith for the children. Having a functioning program will also be helpful for the search process for a settled minister. Stay tuned for further details about R.E. for children at Nora, especially if you are a parent.

Meanwhile, based on conversations I have had with Ryann and the Program Committee, we will also plan to have one Sunday service a month that has a multigenerational focus. This focus will allow youth, particularly the middle school and high school youth to attend the Sunday service and learn about Christian and Jewish religious traditions, as well as the teachings of other world religions. This is very important for our young people who are exposed to various "flavors" of Christianity while they are in school and will encounter people of other non-Christian religions when they go "out into the world" at a later time.

My guess is that there may be a few adults who come to Nora Church that might like to know about some of these other religions too! Minnesota is a unique place. In addition to the variety of Christian churches, there are various Jewish communities and immigrant communities who brought their religious traditions with them to this country. The Somali community in the Twin Cities is the largest of its kind in North America. They are adherents of Sunni Islam.

Also in Minnesota are communities of Tibetans, the second largest in the U.S., and, of course, they are Buddhists. The related communities of Vietnamese and Muong people may have a variety of religious traditions and practices. All of which makes for an interesting and pluralistic state. My hope is that the children and perhaps even the adults of the Nora Church community are not uninformed about the religious traditions and practices of our neighbors. If we learn more about the religious traditions of others, we can go beyond mere toleration to an active engagement on the issues and questions that concern us all. My wish is that we aspire to be "apostles of peace," which our world so desperately needs.

Dana

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

The board thanks Joy Rathman and Julie Sellner for all the work they did organizing, shopping and working for Smorgasbord. It couldn't be done without all the help from so many other people, the workers, the bakers, the lefse makers, the guys who put up the tent and the people who donate and purchase tickets. You all know who you are....a big pat on the back to you all!!

LUNCH BUNCH

We'll be dining at Turner Hall in New Ulm on November 11th at 11:30 AM. Come join us - everyone is welcome.

FALL BAKE SALE

The fall bake sale will take place at the Rhein River Room in New Ulm on Saturday, November 8th from 9:30-12:30. Please have your baked goods there at 9:00. Volunteers needed.

UUA's ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

"The board approved Nora Church's participation in the UUA's Association Sunday this year, as in the past. Nora Church will recognize Association Sunday on Nov. 2 with a special, second collection on that day. For further information, please see; <http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml> "

SMORGASBORD REQUEST

From a Nora member: "At the smorg this last weekend there were some really good, good goodies. If possible, I would like recipes for "Cream Bread", this was sold outside in little bags of six. There was also this really good cookie that was a sugar cookie type dough rolled in nuts, possibly pecans or walnuts, and then had a small dollop of orange frosting on them."

If the person with these recipes would like to share them, they can be included in the next newsletter. It has been suggested that some "smorg recipes" be run in upcoming newsletters, so if you have some you'd like to share, email them and I'll try to include one each month, space permitting.

THANK YOU: Gordy Bentsdahl thanks everyone for their cards, gifts, get well wishes and to all who signed the get-well poster that was passed around in church and brought to his hospital room in St. Mary's.

SMALL WORLD: Bonnie Lantz from New Ulm brought two high school exchange students to our Smorgasbord. One of the girls from Sweden, the other from Finland. While looking over the articles in the museum, the girls had met a couple from Norway (both teachers) who were there with John and Arlene Brekke of Madelia.

AREA FOOD SHELF

The New Ulm Food Shelf currently has a need for the following products: pancake syrup, pancake mix, cake mix, canned fruit, paper towels, boxed pudding and pork 'n beans.

These items may be left in the food shelf boxes at HyVee and CashWise, at local churches with food shelf barrels or delivered to the food shelf building at 1305 S. Valley St. any Monday or Wednesday between noon and 3 p.m.

Also, food items may be given to trick 'n treat youngsters on Halloween as they help stock the food shelf.

The food shelf has reported a sharp increase in clients this year-- a large part due to the slumping economy.

(Any questions? Email Don Brand at dbrand@newulmtel.net or call 354-5688).

ST. PETER REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTER

We need to be thinking of those around us without family or friends to remember them during the holidays. We all need someone to care about us. In giving a gift, regardless of size, it shows that someone really does care, that they are not alone. 100% of the gifts and monies donated go directly to the patients. Gifts you provide may be brought or sent to the Old Center Building on our campus. We ask that these gifts be delivered by Dec. 10. Volunteers will then have time to select and wrap a gift for each patient.

Gift Suggestions:

Toiletries: personal grooming supplies for men and women.

Clothing: Men and Women size large - XXXX large.

Household: bedding and bath accessories and general household items.

Personal fun items: candy, games, electronics and stationary.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

A Spiritual Growth Group will meet at South Point Federal Credit Union on Wednesdays, November 5th and 19th at 6:30 p.m. We will be viewing videos about Deepak Chopra's book, "The Third Jesus," and then discussing them. Please feel free to come and watch and participate.

NAMETAG ROUNDUP

If you are a recent member and do not have a magnetic nametag hanging on the board in the fellowship entry or...if you had one and lost it, please let Jeanie Hinsman know. We will look into placing an order for new tags.



Please remember to use your nametag. It helps newer members learn names and makes a good impression when greeting. Thanks!

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Plan to attend a short meeting (20 - 30 minutes) after church on Nov. 16 to meet with Rev. Dana and learn about "Multi-generational" services at Nora. We will also discuss other plans for RE this year. We will meet in the sanctuary after the service.

NEWS FROM BENCED

The following are some excerpts from recent letters from our friends in Benced, Transylvania.

Nice to hear about Nora's Sunday service with the aim of renew the relationship between Benced and your church. I hope it was a good service. Tell me more about that, please. How was, how accepted the people this aim?

I've just returned from Turkey. There was a big conference with title Locala Development In Black Sea Region. It was very interesting. I was invited to take a presentation. I included in my presentation Benced, too, as a tipycal rural developement region. The title of my presentation about Benced was: Benced, the heart of rural community. It sounds great. Don't you? I made a lot of flyers about Benced, too. So I realized, that the participants from the Black Sea region, from Bul-

gariam, Turkey, Romania to know our great rural community, Benced. Only about 10 to 30% of the people have ever been to Transylvania

There were people from Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania (about 56 participants) People from Turkey, Bulgaria (about 34) and some people from Romania (about 7) haven't ever been in my area of the Country, especially Szeklerland, Benced and its area.

The people were almost with similar issues. But there were representatives of the Govern or of Local Councils of big and small towns and big and small villages, like Benced.

I am so glad for the possibility to arrive to your community. Yes I'd like to present a power point presentation about Benced, to bring with me flyers about Benced in English.

And yes of course I will have a lot of pictures from the life of Benced!!!

You have a beautiful church. I saw all pictures on the website.

It is beautiful. I am hardly waiting to arrive there... Much kisses...

Krisztina

UU STATEWIDE JUSTICE WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 15, 9 am-4 pm "Now what: Using this Moment to Build a Movement"

In early November we will elect a new President of the United States! No matter who wins, change will come. Get ready. Add your UU voice and values to this pivotal moment in history & help create the world we want to see. MUUSJA invites you to a day of insight, learning, meaningful conversation and our development as leaders.

Help MUUSJA and your congregation build on new themes of justice: Are progressive people of faith ready to lead and govern, not just protest and critique? How do we organize for the rising wave of change? Who will we work with and where might we be in 5, 10, even 20 years?

Workshop leader is Beth Zemsky, MAEd, a specialist in multicultural organizational development. Beth brings energy, insight, 25 years of experience and excellent facilitation to this critical work. She is U of M adjunct faculty in social movement theory, has been a Bush Leadership Fellow, and was founding Director of the U of M GLBT Programs Office. She recently co-authored the summer featured article for Social Policy (<http://www.socialpolicy.org/index.php?id=1122>).

Saturday, November 15, 2008: Coffee and rolls at 8:30 am, workshop starts promptly at 9 am. We will end by 4 pm. Workshop location: Unity Church Unitarian, 732 Holly, St Paul, MN 55104.

Pre-register for \$20/\$10 students & low income. \$25 at the door. MUUSJA is offering reimbursement of 14 cents per mile for one vehicle from each Greater Minnesota UU congregation. Home hospitality may also be available for Friday night. Contact us for details.

Registration includes lunch and materials. Flyer and registration form can be downloaded from <http://www.muusja.org/pdfs/2008-11-15-registration.pdf> or contact Marcy Leussler for details: 612-824-3240; e-mail: mleussler@hotmail.com.

You may mail your check, payable to MUUSJA to:
Marcy Leussler, Registrar
4456 5th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55409

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE EARTH

Acclaimed acoustic guitarist Jim Scott will perform an evening of his songs of peace and the environment. This event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16th at 4:00 pm. With insight and more than a little humor, Scott makes his case for harmony in the world with a jazz / world folk music styling and some great guitar technique in accompaniment.

Sponsored by The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Hope Interfaith Center of Mankato.
Address: 937 Charles Ave. Mankato, MN 56001

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students and free for children.

Known to many as the voice on the Winter Consort's "Common Ground," Scott's musical output runs from lyrical songs, and instrumentals, to choral compositions. He has performed in the company of luminaries of the jazz and folk worlds. Pete Seeger said of Jim's guitar virtuosity "(Jim is) some kind of a magician." Paul Winter said of his long time collaborator, "His music sings of the life spirit." His most recent project has been compiling "The Earth and Spirit Songbook," an anthology of songs of earth and peace and he has added many of these songs to his concert repertoire. From this widely varied background, Scott considers himself a contemporary folk artist in the sense that folk music represents people with a positive and hopeful

spirit. "Folk follows a long tradition of social commentary," Scott said. "It's the voice of the people. That's what I like to think I'm representing." His musical, "The Tree and Me," has been staged at colleges in New York and Michigan. He also performs for kids and has written songs with elementary school classes. His "Big and Little Stuff - Songs for Kids" marks his 5th recording of original songs released on CD. He's taught at numerous colleges, including Oberlin College in Ohio, and conducted workshops throughout the country. "My messages are of ecology and social conscience, but also of optimism," Scott said. "I believe in the power of song and self-expression for change." For information about the concert, call 1-507-381-2570 or email michelle_sturm@yahoo.com. Please go to his website for further information at jimscottmusic.com

COME REHEARSE WITH JIM SCOTT AND PERFORM IN HIS CONCERT!!!

All singers are welcome!

First Rehearsal Wed. Nov. 12th, 6 - 7 pm at the UU Fellowship on Blue Earth St. in Mankato.

Second rehearsal will be with Jim Scott— Sun. Nov. 16th, 3 pm. The concert will follow at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and \$12.00 at the door for adults, including choir members.

Students are \$8.00 and children 12 & under free. If interested in participating in the concert please contact Michelle Sturm at 1-507-381-2570 or email at michelle_sturm@yahoo.com

Guitarist, performer, educator and prolific writer of songs, Jim Scott first achieved notoriety as a member of the Paul Winter Consort and as co-composer of their celebrated "Missa Gaia / Earth Mass." He continues to compose a wide variety of music - songs, soundtracks, and particularly choral works. His activism for ecology and peace is obvious in his music as well. His song cycle/oratorio "Vessels of the Sun" follows the sun for one year through the solstices, equinoxes and half ways in between with varied music celebrating the seasons, wind, water, earth and seeds in the spring. Please visit Jim's website at jimscottmusic.com



To Keep In Touch



Congratulations to Katie and Jason Monnens
on the birth of their son,

Isaac Richard, born on October 10th.

Grandparents are Edith Beckius,
Richard Monnens, Sharon and Leland Olson.



Congratulations to Katy and Troy Tepley on
the birth of their son,

Miles Patrick, born on October 11th.

Grandparents are Gene and Georgine Tepley
and Michael and Becky Riddle.



Best wishes to Gordon Bentsdahl who had
surgery in Rochester on October 8th and is
at home recovering nicely.



Congratulations to Ryann Rathman who was
Sleepy Eye High School homecoming queen.



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

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

THANK YOU! - Caring Committee



THANKSGIVING DAY FACTS

1. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States.
 2. By the fall of 1621 only half of the pilgrims, who had sailed on the Mayflower, survived. The survivors, thankful to be alive, decided to give a thanksgiving feast.
 3. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the second Monday in October in Canada.
 4. The [Plymouth](#) Pilgrims were the first to celebrate the Thanksgiving.
 5. The pilgrims arrived in [North America](#) in December 1620.
 6. The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to reach North America.
 7. The pilgrims sailed on the ship, which was known by the name of 'Mayflower'.
 8. They celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in the fall of 1621.
 9. They celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Massachusetts.
 10. The drink that the Puritans brought with them in the Mayflower was the beer.
 11. The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.
 12. The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in the year 1621 and invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians also to the feast.
 13. The first Thanksgiving feast was held in the presence of around ninety Wampanoag Indians and the Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, was also invited there.
 14. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.
 15. President George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in the year 1789 and again in 1795.
 16. The state of New York officially made Thanksgiving Day an annual custom in 1817.
 17. Sarah Josepha Hale, an editor with a magazine, started a Thanksgiving campaign in 1827 and it was result of her efforts that in 1863 Thanksgiving was observed as a day for national thanksgiving and prayer.
 18. [Abraham Lincoln](#) issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on third October 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving. Whereas earlier the presidents used to make an annual proclamation to specify the day when Thanksgiving was to be held.
 19. President Franklin D. Roosevelt restored Thursday before last of November as Thanksgiving Day in the year 1939. He did so to make the [Christmas shopping](#) season longer and thus stimulate the economy of the state.
- Congress passed an official proclamation in 1941 and declared that now onwards Thanksgiving will be observed as a legal holiday on the fourth Thursday of November every year.



**Exercise your right to vote
on November 4
Poles open 7 AM to 8 PM**



BOOK REVIEW

“DRUDE”, by Rev. David Danielson
Reviewed by Arline Schmiesing

As we enter the doors of the Fellowship Hall at Nora church, we are greeted by the portraits of two rather stern looking men. They are Norwegians Henrik Ibsen and Bjornstene Bjornson. Bjornson was a famous poet and philosopher, and Ibsen was a dramatist. You will never feel the same towards these men and many others after reading Rev. David Danielson’s exciting book, “Drude.”

Drude Krog Janson was the first wife of our first minister, Kristofer Janson. Their spirits permeate the history of Nora Church, and Rev. David Danielson has brought them both to life.

Rev. Danielson proclaims himself to be a retired Lutheran Agnostic Preacher. He is also a talented weaver of tales. Besides that, he dedicates his book to the parishioners of Nora Church. He celebrates the lives and memory of those on Mt. Pisquah, known in the olden days as the “Big Hill.” In his dedication he celebrates the Norwegian immigrants who doubted the existence of hell, the verbal inspiration of the bible, and the doctrine of the Trinity. “Some of these people formed Nora church and their descendants have taught their children to think for themselves,” says Rev. David Danielson.

The historical novel is told in Drude’s words. She was the mother of seven children. She and Kristofer came to this Hillside when there was no church here. They were in the church built atop Mt. Pisquah, fashioned in the shape of a cross, with the wings to be used as living quarters, when a tornado of July, 1883 came. Drude was carried with the wind, holding her child in her arms, some distance down the hill. Fifteen in all, including Kristofer and the carpenters, found themselves in the

wreckage of the church. Most of them found refuge at a neighboring farm, struggling through the broken limbs of the oak forest to their friend’s home. Here they found fellowship, warm clothes, and “blessed hot coffee.” Drude was to live until 1934, spending much of her later life in Dresden. Here she may have been in circles which included Vidkun Quisling and Joseph Goebbels. Her friends were always of the elite.

She was a talented writer, accomplished pianist and had aspirations to be an actress. Joranson was her mentor, and Nobel Prize winner, Knut Hamsun, and Minneapolis Symphony violinist, Claude Madden were her lovers. She wrote “Saloonkeeper’s Daughter” right here in the red summer cottage. She and Kristofer were divorced in 1897. Kristopher then married Spiritualist and secretary, Louise Bentzin.

A letter received by our grandfather, Anton Ouren, was the last news received from Kristofer Janson before he died in 1917. In it he thanks the Ourens for all the good times spent under their roof and tells about Drude, his second wife, Louise, who is very ill, their 15 year old retarded son, Dag, who has just died, and what his other children were doing as well. Two were medical men in Seattle.

This letter was used by Nina Draxton, through my mother, Evelyn Blomquist. She wrote “Kristofer Janson in America.” Rev. Danielson used my Ouren letter and Draxton’s book for background information.

Drude and Kristofer brought culture to Minneapolis and Hanska. His pastorate coincided with the one at Hanska. Summers were spent in Hanska and Kristofer wrote, “I wish everyone had a summer resort like I have here in Brown County.” Rev. David Danielson calls Brown County “flat as Norwegian lefse.”

“Drude” is a very good book, excellent writing and exciting and mesmerizing reading. I hope it is a best seller! It may be ordered through Booklocker.com; Amazon.com; or purchased at Barnes and Nobel book Stores.



“A MINISTRY REMEMBERED”

We were privileged to have Rev. Fred Doty with us, here at Nora, on October 12. On that day he shared with us, recollections from his recently published book, “A Ministry Remembered”.



If you would like an autographed copy of his book, give him a call at 507-388-7793.

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2008

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Set your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday Night	
2 ASSOCIATION SUNDAY 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	3	4	5 6:30 pm Spiritual Growth Group @ South Point Fed. Credit Union	6	7	8 9:30-12:30 Fall Bake Sale Rhein River room
9 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	10	11 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ Turner Hall	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Mtg with parents following service	17	18	19 6:30 pm Spiritual Growth Group @ South Point Fed. Credit Union	20 	21	22
23 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service						

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

2	JoAnn Huss	Wally & Beverly Wellmann	Jerry & Susan Allen
		Jason & Katie Monnens	
9	Jordan Rathman	Eiroy & Ardis Wellmann	Wayne & Janet Johnson
16	JoAnn Huss	Warren & Kristine Paulson	Pat & Laurie Kunerth
23	Sally Hanson	Ron & Julie Peck	Charles Anderson
30	Muffy Rathman	Nora & Janet Rosenbloom	Wendy Tuttle - Karen Farrell



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Reynolds will be at the parsonage late Tuesday/early Wednesday thru Sunday afternoon/evening. This is, of course, is subject to change depending on what's going on.



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Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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NOVEMBER 2008



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services **NOVEMBER 2008**

Coffee Time 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

- **Nov. 2** - "The Meaning and Value of Covenant." The word "covenant" sounds either like an overly religious term or a technical business one. We look at why churches need to have covenants.
- **Nov. 9** - To be announced
- **Nov. 16** - "A Grateful Heart." Not only are grateful people more enjoyable to be around, but they are healthier. Gratitude can be cultivated.
- **Nov. 23** - "Religion as Jesus Taught It." Christianity and the religion Jesus taught are not necessarily the same thing. We will explore those differences.
- **Nov. 30** - To be announced