



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
MAY 2009

VIEW FROM THE HILL



These are difficult economic times, no question about it. It is affecting everybody. Whether the effect has been one's job or not, everyone has lost value in what they own. So, people are making changes, cutting a little here, cutting a little there.

Churches are making changes too. I hear about what other churches are doing from my colleagues in ministry, email lists, and web sites. In general, churches are following one of two approaches. Most churches seem to be doing what households and businesses are doing, making cuts where they can.

Churches, though, are not like households or businesses. Churches have a different role to play, and an important one, when times are hard. I have observed that the churches that are coping the best in these difficult times are the ones that are clear about their purpose, their sense of mission.

Of all institutions in society, we need our religious institutions, especially liberal religious institutions, at this moment in history. It is certainly true that a liberal church has to pay attention to its financial situation. Yet, I would say that the church's purpose is just as important. The reason is that there are people from all over the world and from our nearby towns who know nothing about Unitarian Universalism, but if they did, would find our unique way of religion engaging and appealing.

This is the church's mission, to build a religious community where people are supportive of one another and where spiritual searching is honored and respected. This is what is needed today. It is also what *will* be needed in the future for the next generation. In a sense, we are building a religious community for ourselves in our time, but also keeping the institution of the church strong and thriving for the next generation.

Your support of Nora Church is a vital part of what will make it strong and thriving for the future. All of us were the beneficiaries of the congregations we found when we discovered Unitarian Universalism. I know I was. I "found" the Unitarian Universalist church in Columbus Ohio at a time when I really needed it. I am grateful to so many people, most of whom I never met, who contributed their resources of time, of finances, and of various abilities, to the strength and vitality of that congregation. It is the same in every church, Nora Church as well. Even if you grew up here, there were generations of faithful people before you who helped make Nora Church what it is today. Let us all be that kind of people that in a hundred years from now, others coming after us will say, "we are grateful for their stewardship that gave us this wonderful church."

MAY BOARD MEETING

The May Board Meeting of Nora UU Church will be held on Sunday May 3rd before the service at 8:30 am.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now you have received a letter with a pledge card for Nora's future. If you haven't already mailed it in, please take a look at it and fill it out now. You can then place it in the collection plate at the May 3rd service or if you won't be there, please mail it right away. Remember after the service on the 3rd the board will be checking off all who have given us their pledge cards and then calling those who haven't given us a card. It is very important that we do this so that we can figure the budget for the next church year. Your commitment to Nora is what keeps it alive in good times and bad. Please be as generous as you can in that commitment.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On May 10th there will be a congregational meeting to hand out the preliminary budget for the 2009-2010 church year. Every effort will be made to make this short so we can all go celebrate Mothers Day.

2008-2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Nora UU Church will be held after church on Sunday, June 14. In addition to any business that members wish to address, the congregation will be asked to adopt the budget for the 2009-2010 church year. (Please note that while both friends and members of Nora Church are encouraged to attend, voting is reserved for members.)

ANNUAL REPORTS

With Annual Meeting time approaching, committee chairs should be preparing year-end reports for the Annual Report booklet. Turn them in to office administrator Cindy Mosenden by MAY 28 so she can compile the report. Thanks.



SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

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

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The spirituality group will meet Wednesdays, May 6th and May 20th.

Ursula Christ will lead us in a self-reflection meditation on the 6th. On the 20th we will watch and discuss Eckhart Tolle's DVD, "Awakening in the Now."

Please join us at South Point Federal Credit Union in New Ulm at 6:30 on those evenings.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board this month goes to all the people who worked getting the booth set up at the Home Show and everyone who turned out to work. To Gil Hanson for setting up the slide show, Pat Kunerth for sharing his booth and many others including Sheldon Rieke, Shirley Olson, Carol Chambard, Julie Peck, Angie & Scott Kudelka and all the other workers who helped get our name out there.

TREASURER'S REPORT

UPDATE FOR MARCH 2009:

	YTD	PRIOR YTD
Receipts	\$66,827	\$89,401
Expenses	\$70,298	\$63,473

Just as last month, we are still about \$3,400 behind in our giving as compared to current expenses.

Sally Hanson, Treasurer

GUESTS ON MAY 3RD

The New Ulm Area Civic Orchestra will be performing during the service on Sunday, May 3. They will be doing a prelude, offertory, and postlude. After the pot-luck the Orchestra will be performing a concert at 1:00 p.m. in the Church.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the concert. The group will be playing a variety of music including classical music, show tunes, and medleys of tunes from around the world. There will be a free-will offering at the end of the concert.

NEWS FROM TRANSYLVANIA

Update on Krisztina Pall Along With Firsthand Impressions of The Wiger's Visit to Our Sister Church in Transylvania

-Submitted by Mark Wiger

Many of you met Krisztina Pall, a member of our Bencid Transylvania sister church who visited Nora church members Fasching week. It is also widely known that her femur was badly broken in a car accident shortly after she returned. Brenda and I were able to make the trip to Romania to visit her in early April. This is a report of the visit.



We arrived at her parents small apartment where Krisztina lay on a single bed mattress atop the living room couch. She has remained flat on her back since the accident. She has no type of casting other than a splint devise that cups the foot with cloth ties and reminds her to keep the right leg immobilized. Her pain is controlled most of the time and she is able to lift her trunk portion enough to assist with hygiene cares. We were able to see the x-ray reports. The most recent update showed progress as the bone is thickening at the break point. It is also hopeful because the break is below the area where the ball fits into the socket. She had the rods placed in her leg starting from the top of the knee done arthroscopically. Her weight seems good and she still has the same brightness in her eyes. Her mother goes back to work next Wednesday which is a worry for her. There are others who are willing to help, but there are dignity issues related to personal hygiene etc. that any of us would feel discomfort about.

So far she has just begun to receive specifics concerning proper range of motion exercises which have been approved by the doctor. In three weeks she is expected to be supporting her weight in the standing position. The adaptive table which her father designed and built still requires some straining of the upper body in order to use her computer. When she eats she props a series of pillows behind her head and places the plate under her chin. She has fashioned a variety of adaptive gizmos that help her reach and manipulate things around her.

It is difficult for her to develop concentration or interest in the television or books that she normally likes to read although each week brings more activity with the computer and associated projects. She gets company regularly and knows that things are getting better and depends on a positive attitude.

The Bencid minister, Ildiko, and her husband have been our hosts. With a one year old and extra obligations with holy week, our visit is not well timed. However, Ildiko is very gracious and we all make good partners in negotiating through the schedule. We have been able to be the "grandma & bumpa" in short bursts which has been so fun since we are reminded of our little grandson Ty.

The atmosphere here in the vale is serene and a page from another era. Horses and carts, wood piles and hand tossed hay mounds dot the hillside. This is basic simple living which seems to promote health and appreciation for the "raw materials" necessary to support daily living. The picture taking has been surreal - complete with a rainbow over the church belfry and old people with lots of wrinkles and some with missing teeth adding character to their grins.

Last evening, Ildiko gave an address at a neighboring church where the Unitarian high school is. The service was old world and a blast. Brenda and I sang the songs phonetically with each note being held long enough for everyone to find the right pitch without regard to quarter, half, whole notes or whatever. The men on one side and women on the other. Ironically, it is the sister church of Harold Babcock and his parish in suburbia Boston. The family hosted us before and after with a meal, complete with palinka, and a chance to witness the workings of a subsistence farm. Goats galore, chickens clucking, geese, cows, sheep, a broken water pump, kids, kittens,

dogs barking to the church bell gongs, laughter and just the right amount of chaos to make for a comfortable setting.

Today we walked to upper Bencid for an appreciation coffee informally acknowledging the Nora contribution - funds used to buy supplies to refurbish the church. It is not clear however, whether the funds have wound their way through the various stopping points necessary in a land where money deposits can "disappear". Compared to the initial photos sent late this fall, the progress on the upper Bencid church is phenomenal and the work will easily be completed by July. The people were so kind and welcoming. The church visit was magical - complete with an orphaned baby black sheep that was prancing around the church as we toasted with Palinka and Romas who were doing the final steps of rain gutter installation.

We had lunch with Krisztina's future mother in law. She was so gracious and prepared wild boar. We also had pressed chicken with tomatoes and salads for another meal. Tonight we will accompany Ildiko as she gives another sermon in a neighboring town. Another adventure I am sure - quaint and basic.

In addition to the humanitarian benefits of the visit, this is eco touring at its finest. We are so glad the stars lined up so that we are able to be here.

"The Ministry of Membership"

You're invited to join your colleagues for a day of learning and sharing designed for UU Membership Professionals and Lay Membership Leaders.

When:

Wednesday, June 24th, 10am - 4pm

Where:

Hilton Salt Lake City Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration:

Cost of the program is \$100. Deadline: June 10.
More info is available on the bulletin board.

THE MOMMY TEST

I was out walking with my 4 year old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

"Why?" my daughter asked.

"Because it's been laying outside, you don't know where it's been, it's dirty and probably has germs" I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, "Wow! How do you know all this stuff?"

"Uh," I was thinking quickly," All moms know this stuff. It's on the Mommy Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mommy."

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

"OH...I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the test you have to be the daddy."

UU Spring Gifts from the CLF

It's spring!

Give the perfect UU gift to celebrate Mother's Day, Father's Day, UU volunteers, Coming of Age students, mentors, RE Teachers, your favorite UU minister!

Visit our website.

Click on **CLF Shop**

to view and purchase products

617-948-6150

Email: clf@clfu.org

www.clfu.org

the Church of the Larger Fellowship

Proceeds support CLF's work to bring Unitarian Universalism to isolated religious liberals throughout the world.

WHY MOMS WERE MADE

Answers given by elementary school age children to the following questions:

Why were Mothers made?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How were mothers made?

1. With dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. My Mom was made just the same as me. Just bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. Out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did you get your mother and not some other Mom?

1. We're related.
2. They knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your Mom?

1. My Mom has always been my Mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did Mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your Mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work & at home, & dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your Mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your Mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on her back.



**NORA WOMEN'S GROUP
FUND RAISER**

**Mothers' Day Weekend
TEA LUNCHEON**

Saturday, May 9th

**11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at NORA**

**suggested donation \$5.00
Bring a mother, daughter, sister,
friend, neighbor.
Come for an enjoyable time.**



**Hanska SYTTENDE MAI 2009
"Songs from the Silver Screen"
May 14 to 17 ~ 25th Anniversary**

This year's performances will be held upstairs
at the community center.

May 14 & 15: 5:30 & 8:00

May 16: 2:00 & 7:00

May 17: 7:00

Some performances are already sold out.

For advance tickets
contact Sonja Smesmo (439-6805)

Sunday in the park will start with a pancake break-
fast from 8:00 to 10:00, followed by a
church service at 10:30.

The parade begins at 12:30 followed by
entertainment in the tent.

Arts & Crafts in the park 10:00 to 5:00

Bingo at the park shelter 2:00 to 4:00.

The Tasting Tea and Food Stand will be open
throughout the afternoon.

**All roads lead to Hanska!
Come for a day fun and socializing!**

To Keep In Touch

♥♥♥

Best wishes to Virgil Schmiesing
who was hospitalized for a few days
and is now a resident at the
Divine Providence Nursing Home in
Sleepy Eye.

♥

Our thoughts and best wishes to
Carol Chambard who is hospitalized
In Rochester following surgery on
April 8th.

♥

Congratulations to Gene and Georgine
Tepley who celebrated their 40th.
wedding anniversary on April 12th.

♥

Best wishes to Krisztina Pall. She is at
home recovering from an
auto accident.
She will be bed confined for several
more weeks, so she will be
in our thoughts.

♥

Know of someone who needs spe-
cial 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 - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2009

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
Dana's cell: 612-229-5907

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 3: Board meeting at 8:30 AM before the service.					1	2
3 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service with the NU Area Civic Orchestra participating Pot Luck following 1:00 Orchestra performance	4	5	6 6:30 pm Spirituality Group @ South Point Federal, New Ulm	7	8	9 Mothers Day Weekend Tea Luncheon
10 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Work on newsletter articles & Annual Reports				
17 Syttende Mai in Hanska	18	19	20 Spirituality Group @ South Point Federal, New Ulm - 6:30 pm Newsletter articles due	21	22	23
24 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	 <p>Come join us and remember those who have gone before us. MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE Hanska Community Center, Monday May 26, 10:00 AM A potluck dinner will follow. Bring a dish to pass. Beverage, bread and eating utensils will be provided.</p>					



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
3 Sally Hanson	Kevin & Shannon Weiss Anna Schwenke	Nancy Dickson Louise Guggisberg
10 JoAnn Huss	John & Julie Schmitt	Christina Schmitt Susan Evers
17	SYTTENDE MAI	
24 Jordan Rathman	Gene & Georgine Tepley	John & Anne Makepeace
31 Muffy Rathman	Pat & Laurie Kunerth	Doug Anderson Lee Drogemuller

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

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



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
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 Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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May 2009

Happy syttende Mai



May 17

Nora Church Sunday Services

MAY 2009

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

- May 3**....."A New Look at That Old-Time Religion." Dana Reynolds
 There's nothing the matter with society today that a dose of polytheism wouldn't help. We will look at what is polytheism from several different angles.
- May 10**.....Jill Wagner - "The Importance of Being An Individual" Shirley Olson - Liturgist
- May 17**.....Syttende Mai - No service at Nora. There will be a service in the Big Tent in the Hanska park at 10:30 AM.
- May 24**....."We Remember Them." Dana Reynolds
 Memorial Day is the traditional day that Americans remember those who died defending the United States. Lately, this weekend has become a time to remember all of those who were close to us and are now gone. We will share with each other who we remember and the impact they have had for us. You may bring a picture of anyone you would like to remember.
- May 31**.....David Danielson, author of "Drude."
 David will share with us stories from his book, as well as some of this history from that time.