



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

June 2012

VIEW FROM THE HILL



I'm recovering from the 2nd Annual Uff Da Just for Fun 5 K as I write this column. It was a cool, grey, windy morning for a walk or run. I'm improved over last year's time by a couple minutes, so I'm content. I'm also very happy about the company I kept (figuratively) while walking. I walked with members of my family (Mom and Bear and Maisy). I walked with members of my church (Chrissie and Peyton, Julie, Tracey). I walked with a friend (Mary Suomala Folkerds). I walked with folks from my community, Hanska and other parts of Brown County.

I think of it as a hula hoop sort of morning. I can't hula hoop, but if I could, I'd stand in place while, with the right moves, the hoop revolved around me. With each revolution it would encompass a circle, each in slightly different plane, each at a slightly different angle, each with me near the center. One revolution would encircle my family. The next would encircle this faith community. Another revolution would encircle Hanska. Another one, my colleagues. One would encircle my friends. And yet another, one all Unitarian Universalists. And one would encircle foster parents. Another still another, US citizens. All those circles, overlapping to greater and small degrees, all of them holding me.

I'm not the center of the world, but I'm the center of my life. And you are the center of your life. And you too are encircled by dozens of revolutions of a community defining hula hoop. I'm somewhere in one of your circles. You're somewhere in one of mine. Harry Chapin wrote a song about this phenomenon: *all my life's a circle*. I like thinking that imaginary hula hoops create those circles, because it places us within lots of circles and because it requires some skill and some effort on our parts to keep the circles revolving.

We need our families, our friends, all of our various communities. And our families, our friends, all of our various communities need us. Without our grounding, without our skills and efforts, the hoops of community would falter and slow and collapse. Of course, not one of us is the *only* center of each community. Nora Church's circle revolves around me, and around you, and around each member and friend. Together we provide a stable center and all the skill and effort needed to keep the hoop up and turning. We all wax and wane in our participation and attendance and commitment over time; that's life. We take over for one another when that happens. But Nora Church, and every other community in our lives, spins best when we're all shaking our hips. I loved this morning's reminder of that fact.

And I love being encircled by Nora's hoop, along with every one of you. -Lisa

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June schedule

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
3 Mimi Kamleiter	POT LUCK Alan & Carol Chambard	Susan Evers
10 Jordan Rathman	Elroy & Ardis Wellman	Lee Drogemuller
17 Sally Hanson	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom	Christopher Olson

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

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

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

At our last board meeting we received news that our grant application for a new well was approved. Great news for Nora, this will take care of roughly half the cost. Our wish is the balance will be taken care of through extra donations, so I ask that you give this some thought.

We also had election of officers Susan Allen was elected secretary, Julie Peck was elected treasurer, Joy Rathman and myself will keep our jobs of Vice President and President for the next year. Thank You. -Scott Schmiesing

ANNUAL REPORTS

If you haven't turned your report in to Cindy, do it ASAP. Deadline is MAY 27.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Nora UU Church will be held after church on Sunday, June 3. In addition to any business that members wish to address, the congregation will be asked to adopt the budget for the 2012-2013 church year and consider a proposal regarding Prairie Beacon. (Please note that while both friends and members of Nora church are encouraged to attend, voting is reserved for members)

LUNCH BUNCH

It is said that life is a cabaret, so the Lunch Bunch is going to live it up a little at the Grand Kabaret cafe on Thursday, June 14, 11:30 a.m.. Come join in the fun. It's located in the Grand Hotel, 210 N Minnesota.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks this month goes to the "clean up crew" on clean up Sunday; Warren & Darrell for cleaning out the bell tower; Julie Peck for the donation the new sink in the bathroom; Lorraine Becken for her freezer; 'he who must not be named' for work on the well grant.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Rev. Lisa and all who called, sent cards and gifts, or visited me after my knee surgery. Your good wishes were much appreciated.

-Wally Wellmann

VOLUNTEERS AT NEW ULM FOOD SHELF

July is the month for Nora Church to provide volunteers during client hours at the New Ulm Food Shelf. Our dates are Mondays July 9 and 23rd and Wednesdays July 11 and 25. The hours are from 11:45 am to 3 pm. We will need 3-4 volunteers each shift.

The duties are to pack boxes according to family size using the guides provided. No special skill is needed and someone will be there to get you started. Several families that did this in the past are not able to so we are hoping to have others give it a try. If you can help during any of these time call Darrell at 359-7494.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, MANKATO

An exciting experience will take place on Wednesday, June 20 in Mankato that we would like to share with your congregation....

All the way from Sweden, Trio con Brio will play music from well known hymns such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Beautiful Savior", jazz, musicals and movies; as well as Scandinavian composers, and folk music. The **free concert** will be held on **Wednesday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church**. A free will offering will be taken at the end of the concert to support the group's travels across the United States. Please mark your calendar, pass on to friends and neighbors, and attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Grace Lutheran Church is located on the corner of 4th and Main Streets in downtown Mankato, Minnesota. (320 East Main Street)

www.myspace.com/tcbSweden

www.trioconbrio.se/

Trio con Brio biography...

It all began in 2001, when Jan Holmgren got the idea of putting together a trio consisting of one flute, one oboe and a piano. They should play music that would be arranged only for this constellation and the music genre should be very wide and connected to a specific type of music. Trio con Brio was born, and today the trio consists of Carina Cederwall - flute, Jan Holmgren - oboe/english horn, and Stig Andersson - piano/arrangements. The members of Trio con Brio were educated at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden, and whose repertoire goes from classical music to well known hymns via jazz, musicals and film music. This is the third time touring in the US. Trio con Brio will play music by Scandinavian composers, folk music and well known hymns such as "How Great Thou Art", "Day by Day", and "Beautiful Savior", all composed and/or arranged especially for Trio con Brio.

Questions About the New Region

by Nancy Heege

The major topic of conversation during the Annual Conference was regionalization - the proposed merger of three districts to a regional structure. PSD President Kathy Burek and I both wrote about this in our printed reports in the 2012 Annual Report, available here: <http://www.psduua.org/Documents/AnnualReport>.

Some interesting questions were raised.

"Will we still have District Annual Conferences?"

My answer: our District Annual Conference regularly attracts more than 300 people who come for connection and inspiration and learning - it's unlikely that we would do away with these events that attract so many people. The look of the conference might change - for example, we might have major speakers live-streamed into 3 or 6 locations spread out across the region.

"Will you have to move the office to Chicago?"

Our district is the only one of the three with a physical office where the staff work together. For the time being, our office will continue to be in its current location in Minneapolis. Cost is a factor, of course, but for now, it's good to have our office where it is.

"What will happen to Nancy and Phil and Sarah?"

The six Field Staff of the three regions [including Nancy and Phil] are in place for at least the next couple of years. It would not be wise to transition our professional staff at a time when so much else is in flux. We will be reducing our level of administrative staff for the region as we move from three web sites to one; from three newsletters to one. We are developing job descriptions and have let our administrative staff know that we invite them to consider whether they want to apply for one of the new positions.

This is a very exciting time, as we reflect on how we can help our congregations advance our UU faith in this region. If you are interested in more information about regionalization, our new Mid-AmericaUUA blog is a good resource. Here you will find new ideas for and about congregations, as well as our current thinking about regionalization and what that will mean for the congregations of our three districts. See

<http://www.midamericauua.org/blog>

My most recent contribution to the blog is a post on a new staff position we're seeing in some mid-

size and larger UU congregations here in Prairie Star.

If you have questions that aren't answered in what you can read online, please shoot me an email, and I'll do my best to get you an answer. Of course, because this is still in progress, there are some things still in development. With good will, and hope and confidence for the future, we are moving forward.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship
QA 2012

CLF Ingathering

Wednesday, June 20th, 5:45 PM
Convention Center, Room 229

CLF Worship

Thursday, June 21st, 5:00 PM
Convention Center, Room 120-A

The Revs. Meg Riley & Jeremy Taylor
With music by Namoli Brennet

Twists on the Road: Dreaming Justice
Tricksters as Spiritual Guides

Visit our new website:
www.QuestForMeaning.org

To Keep In Touch

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

Caring Committee members:
Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866 ~ Carol
Chambard - 354-2242



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

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Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041

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

June 2012

Nora Church Sunday Services JUNE 2012

Social Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

- June 3** "Membership Has Its Privileges"
- June 10** "Summer Homework"
- June 17** "Fathers and Flowers, Pops and Posies,
Dads and Daisies"
- June 24** No Service - Summer Break begins

Services and the newsletter will resume in August.
Come back in August ready to "step out of your comfort
zone" and maybe try something new.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.
Friday will be sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her cell
when not in the office



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

