



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

MAY 2013

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

We have just lived through a month of unending winter in spring. A month of anniversaries of disaster and tragedy. A month of disaster and tragedy unfolding before our eyes. I know I am not alone in my eager anticipation of the turning of the calendar page. Yet the first couple weeks of May alone holds both joy and sorrow in my family's life—from Mom's birthday on the first, to the anniversary of Dad's death on the fourth, and the anniversary of my grandmother's death on the sixteenth. And even as I tell myself, "once it is May it cannot possibly snow anymore!" I remember the few flakes that drifted down as we buried Grandma on a bitter, damp May afternoon so many years ago.

And so life goes. May first is both Beltane, the pagan celebration of fertility, fire, abundance, and Labor Day in many countries around the world. A day for celebrating flowers and workers, life and labor. May will be just another month that is neither all festival nor all protest, neither all rejoicing nor all mourning. Governments large and small will fail in their duties to the people and people will rise up in revolt-taking to the streets or the editorial pages or the internet to make themselves heard. Leaders will serve and some will be great and some will not. Pagans and Wiccans and just plain folks will dance in delight at spring, around May-poles or kitchen floors. And all of us will go about life-working, playing, sleeping. Eating, praying, making love. Helping our neighbors and nameless folks around the world.

Here at home we probably will see the last of the crusty snowbanks melt away this month. And green will return to our world, along with pink and yellow and purple and red. Still, effects of the long winter and cold, late spring will linger. Rivers might flood. Planting might be late. Moods might stay irritable a bit longer. But May will be beautiful. Somehow, someway, May will be beautiful. We'll shed our coats and walk more slowly through parking lots or along side walks. We'll sit on stoops and porches. We'll see our neighbors more and more. Catch up on the news without hurrying out of the weather. There is beauty enough in that alone. But there will also be flowers. And babies of many species. And kind acts. And sunshine.



LUNCH BUNCH



The intrepid band of Lunch Bunchers who braved the snow on April 18(!) hopes to have better luck in May. The group picked Thursday, May 16, at 11:30 a.m. Location is the newly opened restaurant on Sleepy Eye's main street (name to be announced in the Sunday order of service). Think Spring!

NAME TAGS

We will order new and replacement name-tags in time for the start of the 2013/2014 church year. Please add your name to the list hanging near the name-tag board if you've lost yours or never had one.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A brief congregational meeting will follow the service on Sunday, May 5 for the purpose of presenting the proposed 2013/2014 budget and revised Nora UU Church by-laws, both of which will be voted on at the annual meeting of the congregation on June 2.

ANNUAL REPORTS

With Annual Meeting time approaching (June 2), committee chairs should be preparing year-end reports for the Annual Report booklet. Turn them in to office administrator Cindy Mosenden as soon as they're complete. Thanks.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

The minutes from the monthly board meetings are posted on the bulletin board.

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

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

CROP WALK

Hunger kills more people annually than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. One of every four children in developing countries is underweight. Malnutrition leads to nearly one third of all childhood deaths before age 5. Hunger is a real issue and governments' policies and political issues often get in the way of providing relief when and where it is most needed. These are some reasons

why a faith based response is both effective and imperative.

The Brown County CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5. This inter-faith effort has raised local awareness about world hunger issues for the past 22 years. It is sponsored by Church World Service, an ecumenical ministry working to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. I was happy to represent Nora at a planning meeting in early March. At that time fifteen different congregations were already committed to participate. As we join forces with other congregations, I know we will think of our own UU principles, reminding us of the interconnected communities around the world that need our help.

Here's how you can help: First, join me in the walk. It begins at The Putting Green at 20th South and proceeds on the paved bike trail to German Park, 2 ½ miles, and returns to the Putting Green. I can provide you a sponsorship envelope if you choose to do your own fundraising or just join in the walk as a demonstration of solidarity.

Secondly, you can contribute financially by writing a check to CWS/CROP or thirdly, our church board is designating proceeds from the May 5 potluck meal as a donation to CROP Walk. Lastly, you can choose to donate online at

www.churchworldservice.org.

25% of the funds earned locally will go to Brown County Food Shelf programs. When you make your donation you can designate specific agencies to be recipients. UUSC is one of the participating agencies.

My goal is for us to raise a minimum of \$150. This would provide three farm families with training, hives, and equipment to become honey producers or it would provide emergency food for a family of five for one month. Please consider CROP Walk generously when you come to church on May 5.

Thank you. -Jeanie Hinsman

Please join us
As we celebrate the graduation of

Courtney Marie Schmitt

Graduation Commencement
Friday, May 17th, 7 PM
Sleepy Eye High School

Open House Graduation Reception
Following commencement at
Sleepy Eye Golf course
27898 US Hwy 14
Sleepy eye, MN

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2013

Parsonage: 507-439-6240

Lisa's Cell: 507-766-5682

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
			1	2	3	4		
5 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Pot luck dinner Congregational Mtg	6	7	8	9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>To Keep In Touch</p> <p>♥♥♥</p> <p>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 - 354-1866 Carol Chambard - 354-2242</p> <p>THANK YOU! Caring Committee</p> </div>			
12 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	13 	14 6 PM Board Meeting	15	16 			17	18
19 10 AM service in the Big Tent in Hanska - Syttende Mai Celebration	20	21	22	23			24	25
26 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	27	28	29	30			31	
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Reminder: the annual meeting will be held on June 2, 2013</p> </div>								

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

5 Sally Hanson
12 Jordan Rathman
19 JoAnn Huss
26 Muffy Kaim

SERVER/GREETER/USHER PARTNERS

POTLUCK
Susan Allen-Jerry Allen-Ross Chambard-Diane Becken
Shirley Olson-Clayton Olson-Nancy Dickson
"Syttende Mai" in the park
Sally Hansen-Gil Hansen-Pat Kunerth



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



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041

May 2013

Happy Syttende Mai



May 17

Nora Church Sunday Services MAY 2013

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

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|---------------|---|
| May 5 | A Place In the Choir |
| May 12 | Harmony Is All |
| May 19 | Same Tune; Different Lyrics -
Syttende Mai service under the tent in
Hanska park |
| May 26 | Program Committee Sunday |

