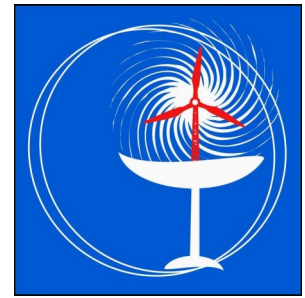


# MERE LYS

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
Hanska, MN

## June 2014 Newsletter



### A VIEW FROM THE HILL

*You can't go home again.*

~Thomas Wolfe

*Who says you can't go home? There's only one place they call me one of their own.*

~Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Syttende Mai Show was a celebration of all things home, in music and humor. My favorite part, as always, was simply being in that auditorium, in that building. Originally called the Liberal Union Hall, the Hanska Community Center was built by our Nora forbears as a place where people could meet and socialize, dance and put on plays and musicales and stay out of the bars, and where they could hear secular, educational and political speeches. Three quarters of a century later the church gifted the building to the town. The plays and musicales continue. And as I marvel at the talent of our tiny town, part of my mind (and most of my heart) imagines those earlier productions, the years and hours of music and laughter absorbed into that wooden floor and high ceiling.

Maybe there is truth in Thomas Wolfe's position and maybe there is truth in Bon Jovi's position. And maybe, in certain circumstances, there is truth to both positions. Some people, sometimes, probably can't go home again. Some people, sometimes, probably do go home again. The homecomings might be joyful and smooth. Or rocky and tumultuous. Long-lived or temporary. As with so much of life, I doubt there's much to be gained from predictions.

However, what *is* true in my life and I bet yours, too, is that there isn't "only one place they call me one of their own." I can think of about half a dozen places where they consider me one of their own—schools, churches, neighborhoods, groups where I've studied, worshiped, lived, worked or belonged over the years. And I think back to the Liberal Union Hall/Community Center, to the pictures of decades of Hanska High School graduates hanging there. And the pictures of earlier generations and former ministers of this congregation whose pictures hang in the Nora Church hallway. Some have died. Some have moved away. Some have become snowbirds or married into other churches. But we still call them our own. Heck, they even call me their own, and I've not yet been here quite five years—a drop in the ocean of Nora/Hanska time.

Being called "one of our their own" isn't always or even usually a matter of birthright. Sometimes it's a matter of choice—our own as well as that of the rest of that group that claim us. This may be especially true in Unitarian Universalist congregations, and on a larger scale here in the United States, land of immigrants. We explore and discover and plop ourselves down, declaring ourselves at home, and eventually the inhabitants of the new land or community come to recognize us as one of their own. Sometimes it's a matter of shared time or experience—kids in the same dance class, military service in the same unit, a loved one with the same diagnosis, even the same schedule on the track at the gym. In such circumstances, sometimes against all superficial expectations of class or ethnicity or age or gender, we suddenly become one their own; they become one of our own. And we know it. We know in our bones that we belong. They belong. We all belong.

May there be such places where you know beyond all doubt that you belong—Nora and a couple more besides. Whether you're ever able to go home again or not, know that here at Nora we call you one of our own, forever.

-Lisa

### Services

Coffee 10am

Worship 10:30am

~

June 1st

*We're (Not) Running  
a Business Here!*

Potluck

June 8th

*Where Running  
Amok Gets Us*

(Flower Ceremony. Bring a flower or flowering branch for each member of your family in attendance this week.)

June 15th

*Wait Until Your  
Father Finds Out!*

***Thank You***

We would like to send out thank yous to so many of you who supported us at the benefit. Our family and friends who dedicated their time to put together such a wonderful event - we love you and appreciate all you have done along the way. Thank you to the Comfrey Jazz Band and Director Amy Lee-Hesse and the Sleepy Eye Area Concertina Club for the superb music you played throughout the night. Thank you also to the Narran for making a stop by and dancing with the crowd. There are so many businesses and individual that donated to the silent auction, monetary donations and other parts that made the benefit so successful - please know that we are very blessed to have your support. All our love - *John and Julie Schmitt and Family*

***Request From the Choir Director***

Over the last couple of years more than half of the choir folders have gone missing. If you have one or know where one is, it would be appreciated if you could get it back to the church. If you see Gil or Sally Hanson, you can give it to them, or you can leave it on the organ bench.

If you are a choir member who still has a folder, it would be appreciated if you return it to the church so we know what our folder count is. You can get it back again in the fall when choir resumes for another year.

***Crop Walk Donations, AWESOME***

Thank you to the many donors who supported this year's Crop Walk drive. Nora Church donations totaled \$557. Of this, \$410 was pre-May 1 which was eligible for a match from the Feinstein Foundation. With the match money, our contribution totaled \$967! Local contributions from the New Ulm area was close to \$8,000. Thank you for your generous spirit and for the extra effort this year honoring Noah Rosenbloom.

***Thank You***

Thank you to all of you that attended and made a donation to my Brunch for MOCA! Your support is always so over whelming! It was a lot of fun and the donations were wonderful!! Thank you all so much! -*Julie Sellner*

***The Board sends out a Thank You! to the choir, for another great year of music!***

***A Note From the Treasurer***

**Monthly Income and Expenses**

At the suggestion of the Nora Church Board of Trustees, Sunday plate collections and total monthly expenses are listed for the full month prior to the *publication* of the newsletter. Totals indicated do not include special collections for area food shelves or memorial gifts.

Collections:

April 6.....	\$1,954.00
April 13.....	\$1,258.25
April 20.....	\$1,347.00
April 27.....	\$1,374.00
Total Collections....	\$5,933.25

Total Expenses for April.....\$7,177.72  
(includes quarterly payments)

***Annual Meeting***

The Annual Meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:35 am on Sunday, June 1, 2014.

***Nora Church Board Meeting***

The next Nora Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6 pm.

***2014/2015 Pledge Drive***

Pledge letters and cards were sent out in May. Please make sure to return them to Nora, as you complete them. If you did not receive a pledge card and letter, but would like to, please email [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net).

***Next Newsletter***

There will be no July Mere Lys newsletter. The next newsletter will be delivered for August. Announcements may still be sent to [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net) during the summer break. Occasional Grapevines will be emailed out.

Please return your half-sheet slips (sent with the annual pledge letters) indicating your preferred way to receive the newsletter. Let us know if you have any questions.

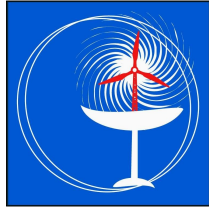
### ***Pastor Lisa's Schedule***

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.

Friday is sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:

507-766-5682



### ***Lisa's Summer Schedule***

Lisa will be away at General Assembly from June 22-30, and on vacation for the month of July. In case of pastoral emergency she may be reached at her new cell phone number (507) 766-7822. For all other matters please contact church president Karen Farrell: 507-834-6917.

### ***Here We Go Again!***

Yes, it's time for another Lunch Bunch. At the May gathering, it was decided to meet on Tuesday, June 17, at 11:30 am, at Carl's Corner in Essig. It's not far so we hope a goodly group can attend before the long summer break. See you there.

### ***Get Your Tackle and Fishing Poles Ready!***

A lively discussion followed the potluck May 4th. Handouts including ideas generated at the February potluck were distributed and each table chose two ideas they favored. After the ideas were listed on poster paper each participant voted for their first and second choices of activity to promote and energize church life.

The highest ranking item (17) was to reorganize the church calendar taking January off and replacing it with additional summer services. This is tabled for board action, as it needs to be studied by the board and has impact on the present ministerial contract. The second choice (13 votes) is to start a Nora Church Fishing Team. The third choice (11) is to reinstate Midsummer program.

Dick Gurska explained his fishing team concept as one that could include all ages, lots of fun and family involvement, think picnics, playgrounds, refreshments and fun. Other ideas that had lesser support but may still be doable in the future were adult programming (8) and Circle Suppers (7). Now that we have a better sense of direction, lets

pool our energy and look forward to new things happening.

### ***Server-Greeter-Usher System***

Our current Server-Greeter-Usher system is set up as follows:

- Three people assigned for "coffee-only" Sundays.
- Four people assigned for "pot-luck" Sundays.

Duties Include:

- Provide food for coffee hour and if it's pot luck Sunday, also provide cakes for dessert.
- Set up and clean up.
- Greet at front door.
- Usher for offering.

This system works best when people:

- Check their calendars\* and call each other to determine what foods are needed and who will provide each item.
- Decide who will greet (1 person needed). That person should go to front door around 10:15.
- Decide who will usher (2 people needed). These people should go in to church after first hymn finishes (approximately). After ushering, return to kitchen to clean up or if this is a potluck Sunday, set up for lunch and clean up afterward.

*\*If you are not available for the Sunday you have been assigned, please call someone else to switch with you.*

Because our numbers are declining, we will need to be available for 2-3 Sundays per year. In the 2013-2014 church year we had 40 services that required Servers-Greeters-Ushers and 2 services that required Greeters/Ushers only (Smorg and Christmas Eve).

- 9 people were assigned 3 times.
- 46 people were assigned 2 times.
- 8 people were assigned 1 time.

Returning to the former system of separate greeter/ushers would require **two more additional Sundays availability** and we no longer have the numbers to support it.

### ***Notes from the Nora Office***

#### **Newsletter Articles and Information**

Are due by the 20th of each month.

#### **Weekly Order of Service Announcements**

Are due Thursdays at noon.

Church Email: [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

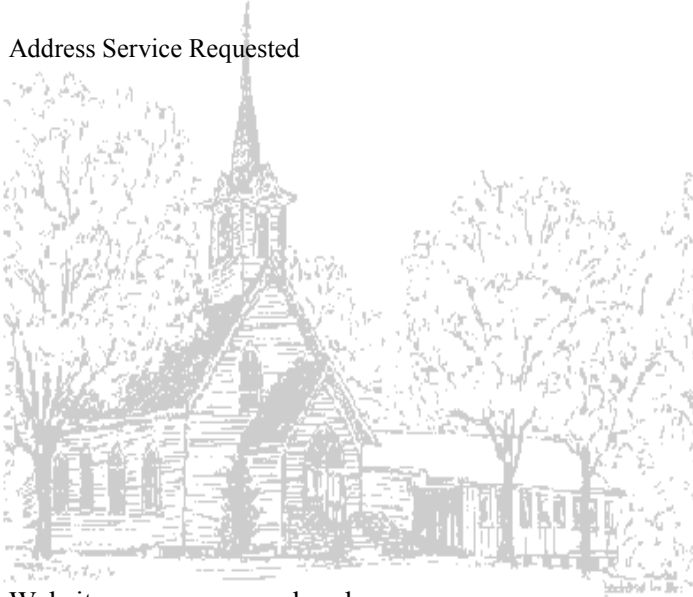
Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

*In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

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***Graduation Celebration***

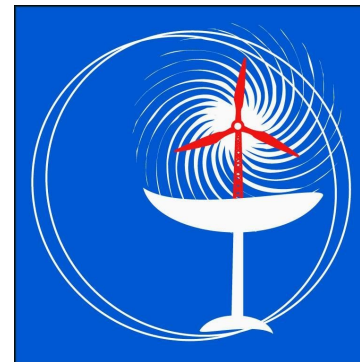
Jared Brown , grandson of Nancy Brudelie, will graduate from Parkland High School, Allentown, PA on June 9 with a 3.85 grade point average. Jared has spent most of his life in a wheelchair. It is his dream to walk across the stage at graduation. With the help of his Mustang Gait Trainer, his dream has a good chance of coming true.

***Pie and Ice Cream Social***

Bernadotte Lutheran’s Annual WELCA Social will be June 4th, 5:30-8 pm will feature music from the Lafayette City Band, homemade bake sale specialties of the Bernadotte Ladies. The Pie Social Menu includes: cold ham and hot turkey sandwiches, homemade pie and cake, ice cream, coffee, lemonade and milk.

***Swedefest Family Fun Festival***

Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-8:00 pm at the Bernadotte Lutheran Church Park, 34122 515<sup>th</sup> Ave. Entertainment, including the Ken and Ken Show, and the Little Prairie Pickers; Quilt Raffle; Silent Auction; Swedish Smorgasbord; refreshments; horse-drawn wagon rides and kids activities. For more information got to [www.fields-of-grace.org](http://www.fields-of-grace.org). In case of inclement weather activities will be held at the church.



<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Pianist</i></b>	<b><i>Greeters, Servers and Ushers</i></b>
June 1st <b><i>Potluck</i></b>	Muffy Kaim	Beverly and Wallace Wellman, Shannon Weiss, Christina Schmitt
June 8th	Mimi Kamleiter	Janet Rosenbloom, Louise Guggisberg, Kristine Paulson
June 15th	Sally Hanson	Edith Beckius, Shirley Olson, Karen Farrell