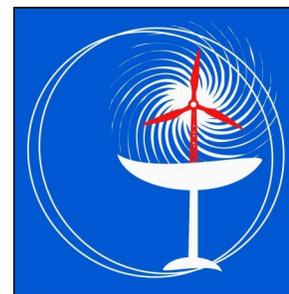


NERE LYS

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

April 2015 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

Charoset has hit the big time this spring. From balls of the sticky stuff dipped in chocolate to create charoset truffles to a kosher-for-Passover Ben and Jerry's ice cream, the mixture of chopped fruits, nuts, wine, spices and often honey isn't just for the seder plate anymore.

I'm not sure why this tickles me so much. I'm not Jewish. And though I do enjoy the sweet and spicy and crunchy tang of it, (Karen Farrell made a couple different versions with help from our RE kids a few years back—delicious!), I'm not a charoset connoisseur. And I certainly haven't reacted the same way to an out-of-the-box twist on a traditional Easter food (involving techni-colored deviled eggs) also making the rounds on social media this year.

It may be simply because I've never like deviled eggs, anyway. But I think it's more likely this:

I was taught that charoset represents the mortar Israelite slaves used for building under the rule of Pharaoh (there are theories about other possible meanings). It belongs on the seder plate as part of the story of the Exodus from slavery into freedom of the Promise Land.

And there is something profoundly liberating about taking a symbol of oppression and bondage, and transforming it beyond the ritual matzah sandwich into a tasty, celebratory treat. Or potentially so, anyway.

What hard won freedom from past oppression or bondage to habit or attitude or unhealthy relationships might you celebrate this Passover? What solemn ritual will help you mark leaving it behind? And what fun, sweet, unexpected twist on the ritual might then help you celebrate the freedom while never forgetting how you won it?

Chag Sameach. Happy Easter. See you in church.

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

~

April 5th

*"Grief, Perplexity,
Joy"*

April 12th

"It's Only Water"

April 19th

*Service presented by
Miss Jennie & the
Nora youth*

April 26th

*"What I Learn from
Memorial Services—
Over and Over
Again—and How It
Might Save Us"*



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 or memorial gifts.

January

Income: \$ 7,909.30

Expenses: \$ 5,470.13

February

Income: \$ 3,454.50

Expenses: \$ 5,940.04

Note: March expenses will be higher than previous months due to quarterly payments for property insurance, UUA and MidAmerica dues, tax withholding and the new furnace installation. The tree removal project has not been completed or paid. New Envelopes for cash pledges or memorials will be available. They will have several categories for givers to indicate choice of gift recipient.

THANKS!

Thanks from the board...

...to everyone who helped with Alon Chambard's memorial service,

... to Gil and the choir, for joint endeavors.

Spring Has Sprung

Spring officially will have sprung by the time of the next Lunch Bunch outing, and we're ready to welcome the glory that is springtime in Minnesota—we hope. The date is Thursday, April 16, 11:30 a.m., at the Green Mill in New Ulm. Join us as we raise a cup of coffee in memory of our faithful member and good friend, Alon Chambard.

Board & Prairie Beacon Meetings

On Sunday, April 12th Prairie Beacon will hold its annual meeting, followed by the Nora Board meeting.

In Memoriam

Julie Schmitt

March 15, 1958—March 19, 2015

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses once a week in April. If her appearance in your community fits your schedule, grab coffee, tea or snack and join her for a mid-week check-in.

Tuesday, April 7, 10:30—12:00 at River City Eatery, in Windom.

Tuesday, April 14, 1:00—2:30 at Encore Coffee, in St. James.

Tuesday, April 21, 1:30—2:45 at Lola, in New Ulm.

Tuesday, April 28, 1:00—2:30 at Coffee Hag, in Mankato.



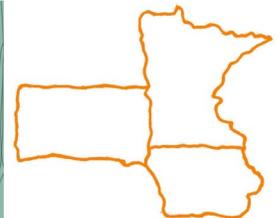
Thank You!

Thank you to all of the helping hands that volunteered during our shifts at the Food Shelf during March. Your gift of time and spirit is greatly appreciated.

**Save The Date
for the
2015
Tri-State
Gathering!**

**~
sunday, august 9th**

*Rev. David Kraemer
All Souls Unitarian
Universalist church, Sioux
Falls, preaching*

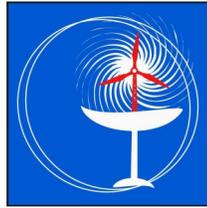


Gather

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:
507-766-7822.



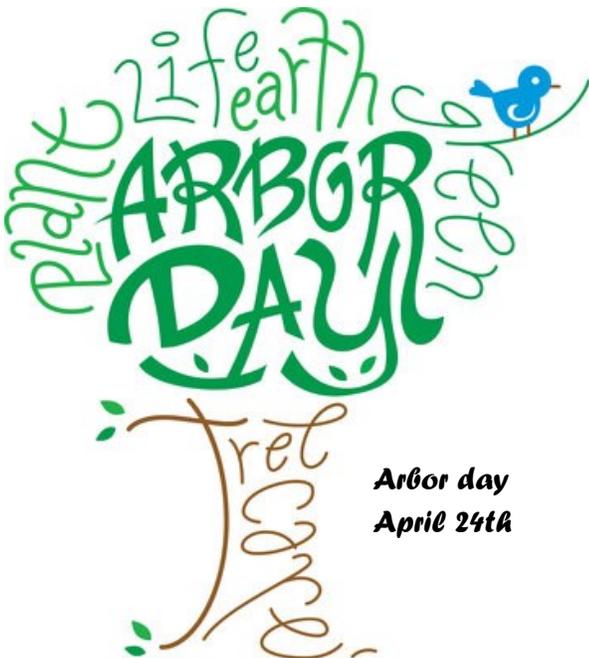
Lisa Really on the Loose!

Lisa will be attending a ministers' meeting, followed by the annual MidAmerica Regional Assembly in Naperville, IL this month. She will be gone from April 15 through 20. She will be available by cell phone, text or e-mail. In case of emergency please contact congregation president Karen Farrell.

UU Partner Church Pilgrimage

If you haven't heard, David and Sally Benson and Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman are participating in a UU Partner Church Pilgrimage to Transylvania. During their travels (April 14-April 30) they will have the opportunity to spend three days in our partner church village, Benced. Nora's Church Board will be sending a \$500 contribution to the Benced Church. In addition there are ministerial needs that Ildiko Ilkei, Benced's pastor, has mentioned.

The collection at our Easter Brunch will go to help with purchase of a tablet. Your support strengthens our relationship with fellow Unitarians where the roots of our denomination began.



**Arbor day
April 24th**

ECFE On the Go Program

ECFE On the Go is a new outreach program for public, private and homeschool families residing in ISD #88. If you have a child between the ages of birth to 5 and if your family is unable to attend a traditional center-based ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) class in New Ulm, then ECFE On the Go will come to you at your convenience!

ECFE On the Go focuses on early childhood literacy and is FREE for participating families. At each of two visits, your child will receive age-appropriate books and educational toys. Please call the New Ulm ECFE office at 359-8417 or email Wendy at wbertrang@newulm.k12.mn.us for more information.

In Memoriam

Alon Chambard

July 5, 1924—March 12, 2015

More on Returning to Selma

Many of you have asked for more information about my time in Alabama last month—especially choir members who missed the service on 3/15 when they were singing in Mankato. We'll figure out a time to reshoot the presentation from that service. In the meantime, here are some links to articles and videos that will give you some insight into the experience.

<https://medium.com/matter/was-selma-worth-it-b4193cb1d090>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WD5TkwP8GE&feature=youtu.be>

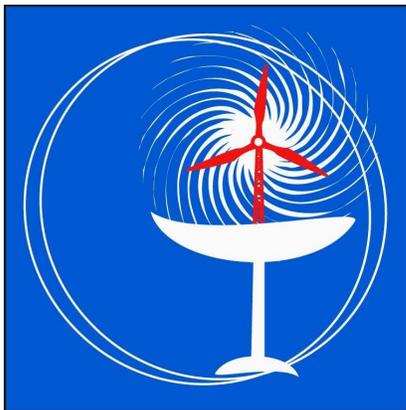
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_CpPivwHdI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBfZoWHjo2k&feature=youtu.be&list=PLDSCZgUZ8UO-BIw3IP6FGveWF5511BEVI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-D-6Wxzs7o&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/workshop-and-special-videos.html>

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 Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Church Night

*** Wednesdays in April: 8, 22 & 29 ***

A group for Nora youth (in grades 7-12 or the equivalent) on Wednesday evenings, led by Rev. Lisa. Meet in the church social hall from 7-8:30 for opening ritual, conversation, guided discussions, snacks and games. Nora youth who have not yet Come of Age will have the opportunity to be recognized this year. Non-Nora friends are welcome to participate, with parents' permission (permission forms available).

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly will take place in Portland, Oregon, June 24-28th, 2015. The theme is *Building a New Way*. Dr. Cornel West is the Ware Lecturer.

Nora may send two delegates, please contact Lisa if you are interested.

Find more information online: www.uua.org/ga/

Notes from the Nora Office...

May Newsletter Articles and Information are due by April 24th. Weekly Order of Service Content is due Thursdays at noon.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

Date	Pianist	Greeters, Servers & Ushers
Apr. 5	Jordan Kuelbs	Colleen Hokenson, Diane Becken, Edith Beckius, Christina Schmitt
Apr. 12	Muffy Kaim	Kristine & Warren Paulson, Jordan Kuelbs
Apr. 19	JoAnn Huss	Nita Gilbert, Kate & Jason Monnens
Apr. 26	Sally Hanson	Joy Rathman, Wayne Johnson, Ellen Byro

Adult RE

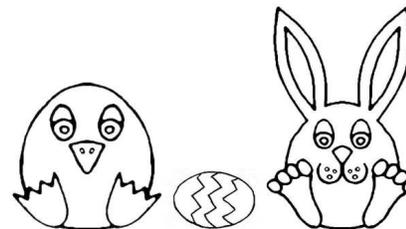
We are working with an established curriculum—Building Your Own Theology—with the understanding that as current events dictate we might break for open discussion any given month.

We meet the third Sunday of the month, this month April 19th. No registration or advanced preparation necessary. Please bring a dish to share and join us in the social hall following the service.

Southold Loses Church to Fire

The investigation continues, but early reports show that it appears to have been electrical in nature. In response, a fund to assist the congregation in their recovery has been created. Keep the congregation in your thoughts. For more information:

www.cerguua.org/news-25024/headlines-66036/676-southoldfire



To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:

Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866