

MERE LYS

May 2023 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

May Services

May 7 Service “Boy, I can't wait to regret this!”

Guest Speaker: Donna Reimer

Donna speaks on our relationship with regret.

Donna is a native of South Dakota, having lived in MN the past 40 years. She served churches in Chicago, San Diego, rural Wisconsin, Iowa and lastly in Worthington. Tired of life in a fishbowl, she turned to garden nursery, orchard and flower shop work. The last 20 years were spent in education; first at Montessori Pre-school with Sally Anne Benson and then in Special Needs at the Worthington Public school. Now retired, Donna and mate, Roy, rural Bigelow, MN, are members of the Congregation of Humanity, singing in the Choir of Birds and taking Communion in the bounty of nature.

Potluck to follow the service.

May 21 Service “The Singing Revolution”

Documentary viewing.

We will show the Documentary called "The Singing Revolution" on our big screen. The

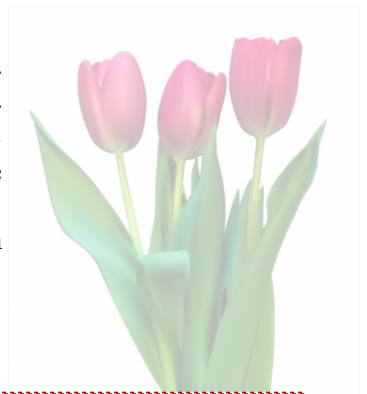
Singing Revolution narrates the remarkable story of the tiny country, Estonia & their struggle for independence from decades of Soviet oppression. Estonian's kept their identity alive, through a rich tradition of song. The film is 1 hour & 37 minutes long, so we will have a brief intermission of popcorn & a beverage. Please bring your sack lunch for after the documentary so we can eat while we discuss the film in the Fellowship Hall.

May Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, via Zoom. Contact any board member for updates.

May 7 Budget Presentation & Annual Meeting

The Nora board will present the budget to be reviewed for the 2023-24 church year at the service on May 7th. It will be voted on at the June 4th annual meeting.



Nora Services

10:30 Services

First & Third Sundays

Potluck follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org

May 7

Boy, I Can't Wait to Regret This!

Guest: Donna Reimer

May 21

The Singing Revolution

Documentary Viewing

March Income and Expenses

Income: \$10,135.00

Expenses: \$ 1,413.47

*Income/expenses presented at the last board meeting.
Income does not include memorials and gifts.*

How to Go Home

And did you get what you wanted from life,
even so?

I did.

And what did you want?

To call myself beloved,
to feel myself beloved on the earth.

—Raymond Carver, *Late Fragment*

Kinship with the World

By Lindasusan Ulrich

April 12, 2023 Braver/Wiser

Last spring, whenever I drove home from work, I'd keep an eye out for the being I came to call My Bird Friend. The lake I pass daily has part of a submerged tree—it barely sticks up out of the water, visible for a few seconds during a break in the shrubs and trees. And almost every day, I'd see a heron hanging out on this piece of wood, folded in on itself like an origami puzzle. Nature's persistence in the midst of the city always makes me feel more connected to the world beyond my skin.

As spring turned to summer and summer turned to fall, I didn't always see the bird. At some point, I realized it must have headed south for the winter. Yet I kept looking. For those few moments edging

around the curve with a clear view, I'd search for My Bird Friend. Even after the weather turned cold. Even after the lake was topped with ice. Even after my logical brain knew for sure I wouldn't see it. I kept searching as an act of faith.

Then one late winter day, I came around the corner and saw birds in the lake! But they were a pair of swans, far in the distance. A few days later, more birds appeared! Alas, this time it was a family of geese sitting atop a frozen sheet of ice where the edge met open water.

I have no idea whether My Bird Friend will be back. Perhaps it found a mate and happily settled down to raise a family by some other body of water. Perhaps something happened to it during migration. Perhaps another bird has taken over the territory. In the midst of all of these uncertainties, I keep searching for My Bird Friend—my kin—knowing we belong to each other and to this beautiful world.

Prayer

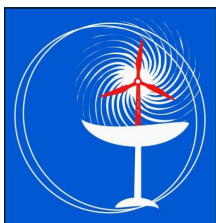
May we feel our interrelatedness with all beings on earth, both human and non-human. May we remember always the belonging that is ours simply because we were born. May we place our faith in the strength of those connections. Blessed be.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Mere Lys Newsletter content due the 20th of each month. Order of Service content due Thursday prior to the service.

Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter, grapevines, and more, to the Nora email.

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office once a week, as well as working from home. Contact via Nora email.*



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