

Sunday Services SUMMER 2002

JULY

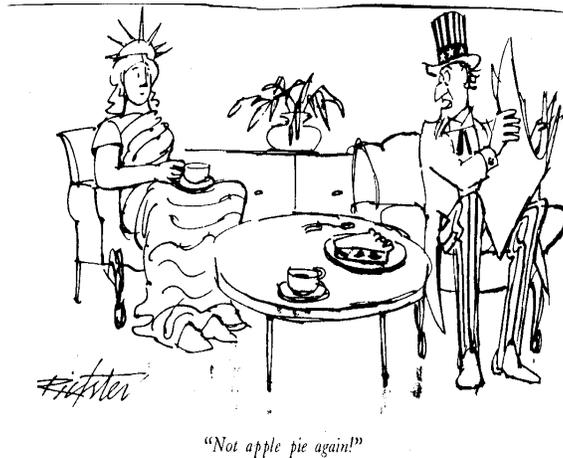
On Sunday, July 14, we will hold our third annual tri-state UU service and potluck at the Pioneer Village in Worthington. This year we have also invited the congregations in Willmar and Vermillion to join with Hanska, Mankato, Sioux Falls and Sioux City. Anticipating a larger group, we will meet in the larger of the two historic churches, and have our potluck lunch in the barn, which is both larger and cooler!

We will gather around 10:30, begin when everyone has arrived, and have our lunch after the service. If anyone can come earlier, Dorothy Swanson would appreciate some help getting things ready.

After lunch, Al Swanson will be available to give private, informative tours of the village.

AUGUST

Unfortunately, due to floods, washouts, mosquitoes, and other events, the Allens will not be able to host our August picnic brunch this year. So far, no alternatives have come to our attention. Therefore, there will be no August event, unless someone wants to sponsor and host one.



SARAH'S CORNER

Jerry and I had a wonderful time last weekend at the National Square Dance Convention! Actually, it was an international event, with dancers from Sweden, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and a large group from Japan, complete with their own caller. All square dance calls the world over are in English, but it was interesting to dance to a strong Japanese accent!

Usually we are unable to attend the national, because it is held at the same time as the UU General Assembly. Once before both were held simultaneously in the same city - Indianapolis - so we got to do some of each. Only once before had we attended just the square dancing. I had forgotten how hard it is to dance from morning to late at night for four and a half days! We did take a break Saturday afternoon to see "Anything Goes" at the Ordway. It was great! Sandy Duncan starred, and the music and dancing were superb!

Although I believe we are the only Hanskaites who still square dance, we discovered several of your relatives do! We met Becky Troidahl, Carol Chambard and Marylenn O'Reilly's cousin from Michigan; Moe relatives from North Dakota and Montana; and John and Virgene Harder from Florida, who are related to the Blomquists! It seemed like folks from Hanska were all over the place! Too bad they are from Hanska, and not living in Hanska.

As I have said before, I think Western style Square Dancing is the most American form of dance. As much as the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights, it is an expression of our liberal democratic heritage. It is our egalitarian community dance form, and our national folk dance. It consists of four couples in a square formation executing together up to 100 (or more at advanced levels) maneuvers, each of which has a name, or "call". A caller sings out any combination of these moves in any order, with the intention of challenging the dancers to follow the moves in unison and come out right at the end. There is intense satisfaction in dancing together with other people, often complete strangers, through a complicated, intricate sequence of figures, and then ending up exactly in the right place at the end of the series of calls.

I see square dancing as analogous to life: working with others in a communal endeavor, following an unpredictable pattern of directions, doing your part, and at the end feeling the satisfaction that comes from knowing you have done it! I also see it as a kind of expression of Unitarian Universalism. Like UUs, square dancers form voluntary organizations to participate in community with others toward a common goal which has meaning for each member. Like UUs, they share some basic values and beliefs, and they celebrate these with one another, usually on a weekly basis, for their individual satisfaction and mutual support.

I also think square dancing can be an expression of our religious principles. For example, when you get into a square, you have to believe in the worth and dignity of everyone else, for the execution of the dance depends equally on everyone in it. When a caller gets you all mixed up so you wonder how you can ever get out of it, you gain a real appreciation for the interdependent web of life! If one person goofs, there is a good chance that the whole group will break down, and so it is important to look out not only for yourself, but to help the others as well.

As Moliere once said: "All the disasters of humankind, all the misfortunes that histories are so full of, the blunders of politicians, the miscarriages of great commanders--all this comes from want of skill in dancing."

TO KEEP IN TOUCH

We were saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Richard Addy on June 19. His wife, Mildred, grew up in Nora church. She is related to the Bliens and the Beckens, and Mrs. Norman was a great-aunt. There was a private service for family and friends.

We received a postcard from Kay Steffl, who is on an extended trip out west. She reports the mountains are breathtaking and make one reflect back in time.

Congratulations to Todd and Liz Paulson on the birth of a son, Eric Charles Paulson, on June 20. Everyone is doing fine, even the grandparents!

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

Nora church once again received a certificate from the UUA for being an honor society, having given our full share to the annual program fund. This obligation continues to be a large part of our budget, and this year will be even more, as the per member rate goes up to \$46!

At the UU General Assembly, a sweeping, landmark Statement of Conscience on the War on Drugs was adopted. It does not call for the legalization of all drugs. It does call for decriminalization of all drugs. It calls for the legalization of marijuana through regulated, taxed sales, and for the availability of other drugs through physicians, subject to peer review. It also calls for an end to the campaign against our own people and against the people of other

nations. It calls for an end to the environmental degradation of other nations in the vain attempt to stop drugs.

Like so many of our resolutions from the past, this Statement of Conscience, which was studied in our congregations for three years, blazes a trail that others are sure to follow, although it might take a long time.

The statement currently in discussion is on Economic Globalization. It will continue to be studied for another year, and voted as a Statement of Conscience next June.

The GA delegates chose Civil Liberties as the 2002-2004 study-action issue. Materials to help congregations in studying and discussing this issue will be mailed in October.

Five Actions of Immediate Witness were also adopted. These pertain to issues that have arisen since the last GA, but which seem important enough for us to take a stand on. The five adopted were:

Toward Peace and Justice in the Middle East

Support the International Criminal Court

Congratulating Quebec for giving same-sex couples Full Legal Equality

Legislation to Create a Department of Peace

Endorse the Earth Charter

The full text of all these statements may be found at www.uua.org/actions/.

KUDZU



THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD UU

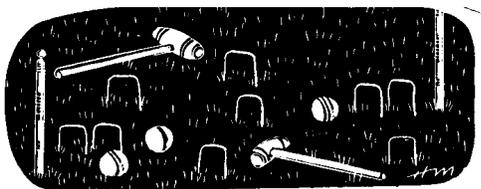
(found in several newsletters)

Blessed are the church members who pay
pledges in the days of vacation.
They go forth with a light heart.
They wear casual clothing and wander in
pleasant places.
They anoint themselves with insect spray.
They sit beside the still waters and hope the fish
will bite, the insects will not.
They build a fire of charcoal; yea, they build i
with care and do place savory meat thereon.
The wind wafteth the aroma to their nostrils and
their taste buds tingle with anticipation.
They eath thereof and are satisfied.
Night cometh.
They close their eyes with thanksgiving, and
their sleep is undisturbed.
They know that the good work through their
church will not be diminished while they are
away,
And yea, even the treasurer rejoices!

NOTE: Contributions may be sent directly to our
new treasurer, Gil Hanson, at 1622 Northridge
Lane, North Mankato, MN 56003

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

Elod, the son of the minister of the church in
our partner village, is coming to America this
summer! After a long delay in getting a visa
from the U.S. government, he is arriving in New
York and taking a bus to Champaign, IL, where
he will be working in a McDonald's to try to get
money to pay for his tuition and expenses at the
University in Kluj next year. Elod has been our
faithful translator whenever we were in
Transylvania. We hope to go through
Champaign on our way to Pennsylvania in
August and see him.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The bloodmobile is coming to Hanska from
1 - 7 pm on Monday, July 8. It will be at the
community center.

The TV show on the story of Delafield, the
closing of a rural church and the impact of the
rural economy on that event, will be repeated on
Channel 2, Public Television, on Sunday, July
14, at 11 pm. There is much food for thought in
this story.

Summer events at the Norske Mindekirke in
Minneapolis include:

- July 9 at 7:00 pm, the Leirvik Male Choir
will perform. This choir consists of 47 men,
ages 40-80, from the island of Stord on the west
coast of Norway. A variety of
romantic-national songs will be included in their
wide repertory.

- July 18, also at 7 pm, the Habbestad
Family Ensemble will give a concert.

- August 8 the Norwegian Soloists Choir, an
outstanding choral group made up of 70 singers
all capable of being soloists, will perform at 7:30
pm.

A donation of \$10 is asked for each of these
performances.

The ladies of Zion Lutheran church in
Hanska cordially invite us to be their guests at a
salad luncheon on Wednesday, August 14, at
6:30 pm.

The guest speaker will be Vi Carlson,
accompanied by Nina Faber, both from Trimont.
Vi will bring a variety of hats and tell about their
origin. She adds a monologue of jokes as she
models some of her hats.

Ladies - Come, have fun, and wear a hat!

