

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
Sarah Oelberg, Minister

12333 155th Avenue
Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310

norachuu@prairie.lake.com
http://nora-uu-church.org/nora/



Permit Number 2

Hanska, MN 56041

Address Service

Requested

Sunday Services
September, 2002
Social Hour: 10:00 A.M. Worship Service: 10:30 A.M.

September 1 -NO SERVICE

September 8 - "Coming Together." What have we learned in the past year about coming together, as families, church, nation and world? Rev. Sarah Oelberg.

Musician: Sally Hanson

Servers: Gene and Georgine Tepley; Janet and Wayne Johnson

9:00 - Board of Trustees

11:30 - POTLUCK LUNCH

September 15 - Rev. Ben Kjelsus, "Religion: The Human's Total Response to the Universe."

Rev. Kjelsus grew up in Hanska and Nora church. He will reflect on how that influenced his life.

Musician: Mimi Kamleiter

Servers: John and Julie Schmitt

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group convenes

September 22 - "Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." Jews the world over are celebrating sacred religious holidays this month. Given the current situation, what have they to celebrate?

How did things get to this state?

Musicians: Ardelle and Doug Becken

Servers: Al and Dorothy Swanson

September 29 - "Three Famous UU Potters Plus One." Several Unitarians have been named Potter.

We will look at some of them and how they have contributed to our lives and religion.

Musician: Muffie Rathman

Servers: Ron and Julie Peck

SARAH'S CORNER

September is a time of new beginnings. Even more than January, September marks the start of many things - school, church, regular activities, sports seasons, harvests, to name a few. Most of us anticipate most of these things with a sense of joy. Summer is when we are supposed to have fun, enjoy life, be happy, and relax. But by September, we feel a need for change, for new horizons, for renewed vigor. We look forward to a new year.

Last year at this time, we were full of hope. The economy was good, things were going relatively well in our nation, there was reason for optimism. We entered September with gladness, only to have our high hopes devastated before the month was even half gone. This year we enter September with a sense of wariness. Things are not so good. Many are suffering from a diminished economy; the nation is fearful and at war with itself over how to deal with the fear; our president keeps raising the spectre of war, even as our friends and allies throughout the world advise against it. Even the weather has turned against us - in many parts of the world climatological extremes are causing hardships for many people, from drought to flooding.

How are we to deal with this pessimistic outlook? What can we do to greet the season of new beginnings with hope and harmony? How can we find solid ground in this tumultuous world?

I would suggest that we can continue to do what members of this church have done for over a hundred years - years which have included bad times along with the good, war as well as peace, and economic depressions interspersed with boom times. What we can do is to continue to love and support one another. We can continue the journey we have embarked upon to find satisfaction in carrying out our liberal values. We can march together toward spiritual fulfillment. We can go on our way, steadily and evenly, knowing that the way we have chosen is a good one. In other words we can, as our ancestors did, find loving kindness with one another, and meet the vicissitudes of the world as a beloved community. As the Rev. A. Powell Davies once wrote: "...this world of blood and sorrow is hardly worth mentioning unless in addition we are the beginning of something, unless our religion is new."

We are at the beginning of a new church year which will help define the future of Nora church. Let us work together to find ways to greet and meet the challenges of our life together. Let us make our religion new.

CALENDAR

This year, instead of trying to anticipate what is going to happen for an entire year in advance and printing a calendar for the whole church year, we will be inserting a monthly calendar in each newsletter. Although this involves a little more work for the editor each month, and a slight additional expense, it will be more useful and up-to-date.

The insertion of an extra page provides some additional space. I would like to suggest that the backside of the calendar be used each month for a member to write something that is on his or her mind -- kind of the like the "op-ed" page in newspapers. I am sure many of you have thoughts you could share, and it would be a wonderful way to start discussions, get to know one another better, and to learn what being a UU means to various people.

How about it? Who would like to volunteer to offer the first contribution?

Welcome Back!

Some of our members have moved over the summer. *Maynard Moe* is now living at the Luther Memorial Home in Madelia. *Alon and Carol Chambard* have sold their home and will be moving into the Garden Terrace apartments in New Ulm, and *Jeanie and Darrell Hainsman* have moved to a new home at 69 Roslyn Rd. in New Ulm.

Joanne Saxton continues to have serious health problems, and will need further surgery in the future. She has decided to rejoin the church in Fairmont in which she was married, in order to have a religious community closer. She hates to leave Nora, and will miss us, as we will certainly miss her. We wish her the best as she goes.

Once again, Nora is cooperating with Mankato in providing the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program for young people in the sixth-eighth grades. The curriculum will be taught again by *Nancy and Dennis Cramblit*, and will meet every Wednesday evening throughout the year at their home in North Mankato. An orientation for parents will be held September 18 from 7-9 pm, and classes will begin on the 25th. If you have not been contacted and have a young person in this age range, please call Sarah or contact *Nancy Cramblit*, 388-8243. Parents can arrange car-pooling from New Ulm to Mankato.

through her ordeal, and send her a song of hope,

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Brenda Wiger is ready to meet with our children on Sunday, September 8, and will be trying a new curriculum based on Bible stories. However, she will be very busy this fall (hubby Mark is running for the legislature!) and would appreciate some help, and some substitutes for when she can't be here.

We are asking all the parents of children in the RE program to meet together in the Kaffe Stua with their lunches during the potluck on Sunday to talk about plans for the year.

NORA WOMENS SOCIETY

The NWS will have their September meeting on Friday, September 13! Old Celtic religions consider this a very lucky day, so we should have a good meeting. Bring something to share for a potluck lunch. We will have final planning to do for the Smorgasbord, and other items to discuss, as well as getting caught up on what people did over the summer. All women of the church are invited!

Because *Carol Chambard* will be in the midst of moving, her devoted service to Smorgasbord will be absent this year. If anyone can increase their involvement, it would be appreciated. Contact *Janet Rosenbloom* to volunteer.

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

The son of the minister who serves our partner village of Benced is in America this summer, working to earn money for his college expenses next year. *Jerry and Sarah* visited him in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where he is living and working at MacDonald's. He was very glad to see us. He has discovered that his wages at MacDonald's will probably not even cover the debt he owes to the agency that set up the trip and made the arrangements for job, apartment, etc. plus living expenses in America. What sounded like a lot of money in Romania doesn't go far in America! Although he has gained some valuable experience, he will probably not realize his goal of having enough money for tuition, etc. for next year.

We showed him around the area, which is where we went to University, met, and got married! In the summer, it is not an exciting place to be. Elod's first observation about America? Americans are so fat! Since most of the ones he sees are customers at MacDonald's, this seems a valid critique!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jim Reilly, a former music director here at Nora, is giving a piano recital on Sunday, September 8, at 4:00 p.m. at the Mindekirken, Franklin Ave. E, and 10th Ave. S., in Minneapolis. He will play:

Hjalldan Kjerulf; Brureslatt; Two Elegies; Bonde-Idyl

Beethoven: Sonata in A, Opus 2, #2

Niels Gade: Neue Aquarelle, Opus 57

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach: Ballad, Opus 6

A donation of \$10 is suggested.

MOUSIE

Your editor received a letter, addressed to Mousie, after Mousie announced his departure from Nora church:

Dear Church Mouse,

Indeed, yours is a serious business, and, being an urbane creature, you no doubt seek to broaden the scope of your resume. There must be many opportunities for a mouse of your ability.

But, I'll miss you. A lot of people will miss you. On occasion you've commented on the high quality of crumbs and kitchen scraps you find. Do you think this is a lapse of housekeeping? I think not! People care about you.

Departure is so final; maybe a sabbatical would do the trick. Since it's almost the end of the church year, perhaps you could get away for a bit, see a few sights, and things might appear differently in the fall. Since I can't admit I'm writing to a mouse, I sign myself...

An Admirer.

With Mousie gone, it is hard to know what has been happening at the church, especially when Sarah is also gone on vacation. It is apparent, however, that Gordie and Algot have been very busy keeping the grounds looking good. This is a very big job, and they deserve our thanks over and over.

Also, Scott Chambard has been busy painting areas of the church that were looking a bit messy, and generally fixing up things that needed it. Thank you, Scott.

If anyone else did something that was not noticed, our sincere apologies, and also our thanks.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

We usually plan to have three All-Committee meetings during the church year. The first will be on Monday, September 30. Soup will be served at 6:00, and the actual meetings will start around 7:00 p.m. Please try to attend, so we can plan the year's activities for each committee. If you would like to join a committee, come! The committees that meet on these nights are: Facilities (Building and Grounds), Religious Education, Membership/Fellowship, Finance and Ministry. The Ministry Committee has taken on the task of facilitating the decisions needed because of Sarah's retirement, and will become the core of

the search committee. It will, therefore, need some additional help. If you are interested in this area, please call Mark Wiger or Sarah.

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

All UU Young Adults (those 18-35ish) are invited to a PSD Young Adult Conference at First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis on September 20-22. This is an opportunity to hang out with, learn from, and be inspired by other young religious liberals. For a registration form or more information, contact Ben Stallings at (612) 961-9881 or e-mail ben@workscited.net.

The Bismarck, ND UU Congregation is celebrating its 50th anniversary at the end of this month. We wish them many more good years!

The annual Prairie Star District Conference will be held in Rochester, MN April 4-6. The theme is: "Congregations in Changing Times: 40 Years in the Prairie Star District." They are asking for applications to present a workshop at the conference. The deadline for applying is Sept. 27, and Sarah has forms. It would be wonderful if Nora were represented. Any ideas?