



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

February 2008

VIEW FROM THE HILL



Thanks to all who helped make this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Fundraiser a great success! (Thanks especially to our Social Justice Committee members (Jeanie Hinsman, Darrell Hinsman, Brenda Wiger, Mark Wiger, Angie Becker and Scott Kudelka) for the vast amount of time and effort it took to coordinate the dinner and the program. We raised both money and awareness. The money will go to support diversity efforts in South Central Minnesota, and the awareness will better sensitize a white majority to what it means to be a person of color here.

As you probably know, February is Black History Month. Why February? The African American scholar, Carter G. Woodson, initiated *in 1926* what he called Black History Week, the second week of that month. Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, W.E.B. DuBois were born in February. The NAACP was formed in February. And those who were first to call for a month-long emphasis on black history also noted that Malcolm X was born in February, and the Greensboro, NC student sit-in took place on February 1, 1960.

But Black History Month is not without its detractors. Its *black* detractors. Several prominent African American leaders have eschewed the whole affair, suggesting that accenting black history for one month smacks of tokenism; what about the other eleven? And, as one black comedian noted, "Ain't it just like America to give us the shortest month!"

Contrast that diversity of opinion with what the presidential candidates often refer to as "the Black Community" or "the Black vote". (Similarly, we hear about "the Latino/Latina Community" or "the gay vote".) In political parlance, does having pigmented skin categorically make one a member of the Black Community? Okay. Is it a longstanding, ongoing, shared experience of individual and institutional racism? Understood. But past those admittedly important realities, does our white majority see among African Americans the vast array of opinions on any given issue? Do we appreciate that black folks come in Republican and Democrat, non-Christian as well as Christian, gay and straight, rich and poor? Factor in a number of other political, religious and social variables and what do you get? A segment of modern America that is nuanced. Diverse. Multi-faceted.

So, if uniformity – a single voting bloc – is what's meant when language like "the Black Community" is bandied about, man, do we have a long way to go in recognizing the same old racial stereotyping in new, politically acceptable forms! In political terms, we have to wonder what our would-be-presidents are selling. In religious and moral terms, we have to wonder why we're buying it.

Don

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All."

UU and YOU

Our outreach program in New Ulm is off and running! The February dates for our 6:30 Saturday P.M. UU & You services are February 2 and 16. We meet at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 125 S. Broadway. Come check it out!



LUNCH BUNCH

LUNCH BUNCH will gather at Holiday Inn "Otto's" in New Ulm at 11:30 on Wednesday Feb. 20. Come join us for good food and conversation!

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY A SUCCESS

January 20th marked the 3rd annual Martin Luther King spaghetti dinner and educational event. Thank you to Don for starting the program portion of our evening with some music, members of the Social Justice Committee for their organization and leadership surrounding the event, and the many Nora church members and friends who helped to make this a successful, thought provoking evening. Topics of discussion for the 6 panelists at the 7 p.m. forum on Diversity thru Dialogue were generated around the following questions:

- What from your vantage point, are the experiences of minority populations here?
- What local stories describe examples of harmonious racial diversity?
- What recommendations would make our communities more welcoming?
- Thinking about change, what needs to happen next?

Comments at the close of the discussion centered on our personal commitments to make change, challenging us to move outside our comfort zone and find ways to interface with diverse populations. Part of the proceeds from the evening's dinner will go to the Cottonwood River Integration Collaborative to sponsor programming and activities for youth of differing cultures.



BOARD NOTES

The great experiment has begun. We have had our first 2 services in New Ulm with both services seeing new people coming to share the service with us. There were a number of people that were at both services. Of course only time will tell if Nora is right for them and they start joining us out in Hanska but it is an encouraging start. We have seen that there are people in New Ulm that are looking for what we have to offer and are willing to do so even if the weather is less than wonderful (if you remember the weather was cold and snowy the first time and just plain real cold the second). Since this has just started we have a long way to go. Come and help when you can. If we make the effort to visit and share with these people, we will all be better for it. People who needed a religious community that respected their beliefs will have found it and Nora will have grown.

ADULT RE & GROWTH

The Spirituality Study Group will be meeting at 6:25 PM at Nora Church each Thursday through February. During these sessions, the group will continue looking at various meditation traditions and techniques, and begin exploring other aspects of spirituality.



The Open Meditation will be held in the sanctuary at Nora Church at 7:00 PM each Thursday through February. This hour-long offering will be largely silent, providing among other things, time to unplug from the pressures and stress of daily life, and find a quiet space to let some peace and tranquility enter the mind and heart.

Both of these offerings are open to members and non-members of Nora Church, and people need not attend both in order to participate in the session that is of interest to them. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Christopher Olson, either via e-mail at ki-takis@aol.com or by phone at 507-995-7059.

THANK YOU

It's time once again to say thank you...for all you do for our church, community and folk here at Nora. This month's people being honored are:

*Gene & Georgine Tepley,
Warren & Kristine Paulson,
Mark & Brenda Wiger.* Kudos to you!!!



IT'S TIME FOR A VIST



When was the last time you visited our longtime members in assisted living or nursing care? Consider getting to know some of the folks who helped make sure that our congregation stayed strong in earlier days. If you have neighbors or acquaintances that aren't

able to get out much during this arctic season, stop in and visit them. Put a smile on their face and yours. See Carol Chambard, Georgine Tepley or Don for names and contact information on members of our church.

RECEIVE TAX CREDIT

The Office for Social Justice and Minnesota Council of Churches are working to increase awareness of two important tax credits. 'Federal Earned Income Tax Credit' and 'Minnesota Working Family Credit.' Last year, more than 267,000 families benefited. The average refund was \$2,000 per family. If the family qualifies, they can get these credits, even if they owe no tax. No special paperwork or application forms are need. All you have to do is file your federal and Minnesota income tax returns. Ask your tax filer if your eligible.

ALL NIGHT BLAST

Fri-Sat, February 8th & 9th
GRADES 7 - 12

Vogel Recreation Center, New Ulm

Stay up all night with your friends at the Rec Center.

Pop, pizza and a quick breakfast will be available free. Extra pop, water and candy available for purchase. Doors will close at 10:30 pm. No one will be allowed admittance after that time. Pre-

Registration by Feb 1st = \$10. Late Registration/night of event = \$15. Call Park & Rec at 359-8343 for information.

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

For Unitarian Universalist Law Students (enrolled or expecting to enroll in Law School and Artists studying or majoring in Fine Arts. Information about the Marion Stanfield and Polly D'Orlando Scholarships for Art and the Otto Stanfield Scholarship for Law if available on the UUAS Website at www.uua.org/awards or contact the office at 617-971-9600.

SPRING & SUMMER 2008 RETREAT

Urban Immersion Service Retreats promotes understanding - and action. The retreats combine the study of why people are poor with hands on help to those in need. Ultimately, it challenges retreat-goers to go beyond a one-time volunteer experience. Urban Immersion Services Retreats is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. For retreat information call 612-721-8687 or www.gmcc.org/retreats.

GOOD FACILITATORS NEEDED

Beyond Categorical Thinking Training of Facilitators to take place in spring/Summer 2008.

Do you want to contribute to making Unitarian Universalism a more just and less oppressive place? Do you have good people skills, like to facilitate workshops, preach, like people and find them worthwhile. Do you see our anti-oppression work as a journey we must take?

Applications for facilitators will be in early 2008. Up to 20 people will be selected for training which will occur in may or June. For more information, contact Rev. Keith Kron (kkron@uua.org).

UU UNIVERSITY.2008

June 24&25

Ft, Lauderdale, FL

If you want to increase your knowledge and ability to serve your congregation and community, then UU University is for you. UU University is an educational event just before General Assembly for congregational leaders of all kinds. For more information: www.uua.org/events/uuuniversity

WE MISSED YOU

The other day someone asked about a fellow disciple whom they had not seen for a while. It was suggested that they give that family a call, and guess what, they did and the family was in worship the next weekend. Maybe you are thinking about someone you miss in worship or maybe you are someone who is missed. If you find that your missing someone, give them a call. If you miss being here, please know that we miss you, we would love to see you back.

SOUTHERN MN REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

PSD Social Justice Network whose purpose is to inspire individuals, social justice/action committees, and congregations to work collectively to make our communities sustainable and equitable is looking for a southern Minnesota representative on the PSD Social Justice Network.

The state representatives are meeting in person on April 13, 2008 immediately following the close of the PSD Annual Meeting in Omaha. This is a great way for anyone who has questions to meet other reps and get a flavor for what this work entails.

For more information go to <http://www.psdoua.org/SocialJustice/SocialJustice>

Friends of the UUA February/March 2008 Phonathon

Dear Friends,

As a supplement to periodic mailings, [Friends of the UUA](#) will be conducting a fundraising phonathon in support of the exciting updates to the [Tapestry of Faith](#) curriculum. Beginning February 13th and continuing through March, Direct Advantage, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of the UUA to ask them to renew their support.

Our contract with this firm requires that all callers must be courteous, respectful, and succinct as they offer identified Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to support our Association directly. Your feedback about the calls will help us to monitor their quality. We have established a Friends Phonathon Hotline to facilitate that feedback:

Members may send an email to friends@uua.org or call (617) 948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.

Your willingness to support the UUA enhances our ability to provide services and programs to member congregations and presents avenues for future growth of Unitarian Universalism throughout the country.

With gratitude, Liz Baker McClain, Manager Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Association Stewardship & Development.

OPT OUT OF UNWANTED CATALOGS!

Dear Donald Rollins,

Thank you for making Catalog Choice extremely popular! Within three months we've become a community of over 450,000 strong, opting out of more than five million unwanted catalogs - that's about 60 million catalogs in a year.

You've done your job and we're doing ours. Catalog Choice is working every day on your behalf to ensure that catalog mailers respect and honor your opt-out requests. But there is more work to do. Here's where we stand:

We are delivering your mail preferences to every company in our system on a regular basis. We have invited all catalog mailers to participate in Catalog Choice's free service for merchants.

More than 100 merchants are participating in Catalog Choice's Merchant program, including some of the largest mailers in the industry. The number of participating merchants is growing every day. You can view a list of merchant account holders at <http://www.catalogchoice.org/pages/merchants>.

Our collective voice is loud and clear, and a growing community of support from individuals like you and leading organizations (see <http://www.catalogchoice.org/endorsements>) is our greatest strength. The mailing systems in place throughout the direct marketing industry have been developed over many years. We ask for your patience and appreciate your continued support as we work with merchants to implement new practices to honor your requests.

One final note: The influence we have on merchants to honor opt-out requests grows with the size of our community. You can help by inviting your family and friends to join the community, using the "Invite a Friend" feature on the website.

Sincerely,

The Catalog Choice Team

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2008

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
Don's cell: 507-276-8464



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 "UU & YOU" 6:30
3 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service Pot Luck	4	5 RE 6:30 at Kunerths	6	7 6:25 Spirituality Group 7:00 Open Meditation	8	9
10 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	11	12	13 6:30 Board Mtg- UU Fellowship, Mkto	14 6:25 Spirituality Group 7:00 Open Meditation	15	16 "UU & YOU" 6:30
17 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	18	19	20 Lunch Bunch 11:30 Newsletter Articles Due	21 6:25 Spirituality Group 7:00 Open Meditation	22	23
24 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	25	26	27	28 6:25 Spirituality Grp 7:00 Open Meditation	29	

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
3 Mimi	Darrell & Jeanne Hinsmann Wayne & Janet Johnson	Alon & Carol Chambard
10 Sally	Kevin & Shannon Weiss	Mimi Kamleiter Vicki Sieve
17 Mimi	Doug Anderson Kristi Paulson	Gene & Georgine Tepley
24 Muffy	Angie & Scott Becker Kudelka	Shannon & Kevin Weiss

To Keep In Touch



Glenn Chambard has recently moved to Comfort Homes in Hugo. Glenn has Alzheimer's, but has days where he remembers people. If you are a past acquaintance of Glenn, please send him a card of cheer. It has been proven that past events (people) can trigger the brain and offer improvement. Address: Glenn Chambard, Comfort of Homes, 5607 150th St N Rm 15, Hugo, MN 55038.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska. MN 56041
Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.
Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

DON'S SCHEDULE

Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments, don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
12333 155th Avenue
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041

Nora church @ sleepyeyetel.net
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>



Nora Church Sunday Services FEBRUARY 2007

Social Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

February 3 “Billie Holiday as Spiritual Guide” – In this first of a three-part series on African American figures, we’ll explore the bittersweet life of an American jazz legend.

February 10 “Energy Conservation and You” - Erik Hamm from Alliant Energy is a construction specialist who will bring everyday ideas on what we can do at home and at Nora. We also hope to provide updates on our energy audit and the energy challenge from this fall. Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

February 17 “Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby as Spiritual Guides” – Baseball, whatever else it is, is a mirror of American culture. Just ask the ghosts of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby.

February 24 “Jimi Hendrix as Spiritual Guide” – An ex-soldier from Seattle changed the way future generations of guitarists would think and play. Let’s talk about a life cut short.