



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

August 2009

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVE

Join us on Thursday evening, July 30 beginning at 7 pm

Various musicians will entertain us at the Nora Church.

We will also have a PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL.

Come and enjoy a fun summer evening! Bring your friends and relatives for a night to remember.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for a chance at the Nora Women's Society Quilt Raffle.

The quilt has been donated by Nancy Brudelie.

The drawing will be after the service on September 13th.



Extra tickets can be turned in or purchased from Joy Rathman or Julie Sellner.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings! Just a few notes since we all met last. The Board decided to keep all services at Nora for the new church year. The Search Committee is hard at work doing their job, (best of luck to them).

One of my goals as board president is to listen to thoughts and concerns relating to Nora. Please contact me as needed. Thank you
-Scott Schmiesing

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the board this month goes to Sally Hanson for her six years on the board as Treasurer and for organizing that position to a professional level. Also thanks to Rev. Dana Reynolds for his year of service to Nora as our interim minister.



THE LUNCH BUNCH

August Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday the 12th at New Grand Moon Buffet located in the strip mall by Walmart. Time is 11:30. See you there!

Tri-State Unitarian-Universalist Gathering in Worthington - August 9

Broaden the circle of the U-U family. Join us at the annual Tri-State Gathering in Pioneer Village in Worthington on August 9th. The service begins at 10:30 am in the "Big Barn" followed by a pot-luck dinner.

Rev. Phil Lund, Life-Span Education Director for the Prairie Star District, is the guest speaker. His topic is "Loveable Beings of Infinite Worth". It will be an intergenerational service so be sure to bring the children and youth.

Come join UUs from southern Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and northwestern Iowa for a service and potluck! (We provide good coffee, tea, cold water, & eating utensils. you may contribute the rest.)

Pioneer Village is just off Interstate 90 (look to the south as you approach Worthington. After eating, participants can browse the historical replica of early pioneer life.

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Our kickoff Sunday at Nora is August 16th. Rev. Jerry Peterson, who has been attending Nora this past year, is our guest speaker. Jerry is a retired Methodist minister, and we are fortunate to have him. Our "Kick-Off Sunday" includes a potluck picnic. Hamburgers, Brats, and Hot Dogs will be provided by master chefs Darrell and Warren. There will also be a meeting to discuss Religious Education for the coming year.

The members of the program committee have different ideas as to what constitutes a 'great service'. However, we all agree that we come to Nora to have our minds stimulated, our hearts touched, our questions valued, and to tap into the nourishment that this religious community provides. We are doing our best to provide quality services and are pleased with the guest speakers we have lined up. What we, as a community, need is everyone's presence. Remember **"if you're not at church on Sunday Morning, you are missed, and someone was looking forward to seeing you."** This religious community is valued in part because of the fellowship that is shared here.

NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

At a well-attended meeting on July 1, The Nora Women's Society began planning for Smorgasbord and also discussed ideas to help promote the church and its activities.

The women decided to have lefse-making sessions on Aug. 10 and 17, beginning at 2 p.m. at the church. In addition to those who make lefse, workers are also needed to help bake and clean up. It was also decided to check into purchasing a small freezer to store food items for Smorgasbord and other occasions.

To promote the church and to bring members together during the summer break, it was decided to revive the "Music for a Summer's Eve" program. The date was set for Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m., in the church. Various musicians will be asked to play. Following the musical program, pie and ice cream will be served. News items will be put in area newspapers to advertise the event.

The drawing for the quilt donated by Nancy Brudelic was set for Sunday, Sept. 13. It was also decided to take the quilt to Worthington to the Tri-state UU service on Aug. 9 to allow attendees from other con-

gregations to purchase chances. Shirley Olson asked for volunteers to help sell tickets there.

-Secretary, Janet Rosenbloom

MEET & GREET

By Jeanie Hinsman

Meet and Greet..... Jerry Peterson...

If you've been in church on any Sunday that Jerry Peterson has attended, you've noticed his friendly smile, cheery disposition, and boundless enthusiasm. He's a great conversationalist to boot! I called Jerry for the purpose of sharing some of his background with the readers of MereLys. In future newsletters I'll do articles on other recent newcomers.

Jerry lives in Springfield, having purchased his "perfect place" two years ago while visiting his mother who was then in the nursing home. Jerry grew up in Springfield so he's come full circle back to his roots. Jerry is an ordained Methodist minister. He has spent over 25 years serving as a minister of children and youth. He continues to conduct weddings, baptisms, and funerals whenever the need arises. As many bonds were created over the years of youth ministry, it is not unusual for him to get a call from some of these young folks asking for his ministerial services.

Jerry's religious training was at Hamline and Boston University both of which are of a more liberal Methodist heritage. He became familiar with Unitarianism while in Boston and in the Twin Cities. Upon his return to Springfield Jerry visited several area churches.

He was quite surprised to find an ad for Nora Church in the Journal and fondly remembers driving all around Hanska looking for the church. When he stopped at the gas station for directions he was told, "It's the church in the cornfield."

Jerry appreciates the UU Sunday services. He states that every service provides an opportunity for each person to find individual meaning. He enjoys the words of the hymns and the atmosphere of searching, questioning, open people. Jerry's spiritual journey has always been one of questioning and searching. He finds Nora Church to be a unique group of hospitable people.

Jerry believes it is a natural human trait to want to serve. He wants to be a "servant to people" in whatever way he can. He feeds his spirit by being creative whether that is through his hobby of de-

signing gardens, woodworking, writing, preaching, or working with youth. His youthful outlook and openness to all kinds of experiences make his grandkids question, "Grandpa, when will you grow up?"

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit with Jerry, just take the time to introduce yourself and you're sure to find a genuine human connection.

SMORGASBORD

"Smorg" is coming! It's not too early to be thinking about "Smorgasbord" and getting items ready for the Country Store. It's a great opportunity to work together for fun and profit and to honor our Norwegian heritage. This year it will be on October 4th. Plan on attending and bringing friends. Spread the word!

We'll be making the work schedules soon. If you know now that you won't be available that Sunday, please let either Joy Rathman or Julie Sellner know as soon as possible.

Items for the Country Store are appreciated: baked goods, garden produce, jams & jellies, games, anything you cannot use anymore and you think would be of interest to others.

SUMMER BASKET MAKING CLASS

Nancy Brudellie is organizing a summer basket weaving class to be held on Saturday August 15th in the church social hall. Starting time will be 9:30 AM.



We will be making a market basket with a wooden handle, natural reed and colored reed of your choice.

The price for this class will be \$20 to cover the cost of supplies. Anyone who is interested should call Nancy at 507-439-6838 to secure a place.



FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Our spring clean-up day, April 26th, was a rainy day. Many of the usual items were not able to be completed. It was decided to have a fall clean-up day to finish. Watch for date and time to be announced. Plan to come ready to help where you are needed.

MINNESOTA FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS



The Saga of Nick Drillbitz and
Other Hometown Heroes:
Stories from Up on Da Range
by John Berquist

Ritz Theater
345 13th Ave NE Minneapolis, MN 55413

Fri., Jul. 31 @ 5:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 2 @ 8:30 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 3 @ 10:00 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 5 @ 10:00 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 9 @ 4:00 p.m.

A story cycle about life in an Iron Range town filled with uniquely odd characters. Hear their troubles and triumphs brought to life as only John can do it.

Accessibility Venue and bathrooms are wheelchair accessible. Street parking is available directly in front of the main entrance.

Free parking is available in the lot directly across the street from the Ritz in the 13th Avenue Municipal Lot. The lot is open 6pm-Midnight, Thursday - Sunday. There is also street parking.

WELCOME!

At our church service on June 14, we welcomed two new members into our church family. Monica Sturm lives in Hanska. Karen Farrell lives in Gibbon. Watch for more on our new members in upcoming newsletters.

In keeping with the church's commitment to freedom of individual belief, no creedal test is requested of those seeking membership.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Henry Kunerth on becoming an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America at a Court of Honor-Boy Scout Troop 25, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at the United Church of Christ, New Ulm on July 10, 2009. Jordan Rathman was the musician for the evening. Henry's parents are Patrick and Laurie Kunerth. He has two sisters, Elle and Eva. Henry said his purpose in life is to make some small difference in another's life every day.

Rotary Exchange Students: Two of our recent High School graduates will be spending the next year as

exchange students to other countries. Tessa Makepeace, daughter of John and Anne Makepeace, will be staying in Magdeburg, Germany and Henry Kunerth, son of Pat and Laurie Kunerth, will be staying in Mandel, Norway. We wish them both well in this new and exciting journey through life.

Congratulations to the Linden Lutheran Church on their Sesquicentennial (150 years - 1859-2009) celebrated Sunday, July 12 on their beautiful church grounds.

A Sampling of 2009 Online Courses at THE CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

There are a variety of online courses available at the Church of the Larger Fellowship this summer. For a complete listing, go to: www.clfuu.org/learn

[Here are a few listings to whet your appetite:](#)

A Chosen Faith: Self-Study Guide *On-going*

A guided examination of Unitarian Universalism, based on the book *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church. Full participation in this course requires having the book *A Chosen Faith*, available from the UUA bookstore at www.uua.org/bookstore. *Free*

In the Arms of the Beloved: The Poetry of Rumi - Taught by Robert Moore: August 1, 2009 – September 12, 2009

Rumi was a 13th century Sufi teacher and poet who wrote wonderfully evocative and vibrant poems to his Beloved that are rich with meaning, image, and wisdom. We will create a spiritual practice over six weeks using Rumi's words as a basis for weekly reflection, prayer, and writing. With this practice, I hope we can discover abundant wisdom for our lives and our spiritual journeys. \$40

For information about these courses and more, contact The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) www.clfuu.org/learn 617-948-6150 re@clfu.org

As you travel to work or on your way to some wonderful summer vacation, wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?

Unitarian Universalist Podcasts -- sermons, meditations, RE materials and more, are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship anytime and

any place for your ipod, MP3 player, or computer. Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication, "Quest" (also available in print and on-line), gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

You can subscribe to our free podcasts at www.clfuu.org/podcasts, or listen to segments à la carte at www.clfuu.org/quest. The CLF Quest podcast has nearly 1,000 subscribers worldwide: join our community of listeners today! Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at www.clfuu.org.

Questions? Contact Beth Murray:
bmurray@clfu.org
617-948-6150

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IN MEMORY

Helen Haugen Lodes Merville passed away Jan. 26, 2009, in Columbia Heights, MN. A memorial Service was held at the United Church of Christ, Hutchinson, MN on Saturday, June 13. Algot and Bonita Blomquist joined relatives and close friends for the service.

Helen was delivered by her father, a homesteader, Jan. 8, 1910 in a log cabin in Walker, MN. In June, 1910 the family, including her sister Doris, moved to Hanska, MN, always referred to as "home."

In 1911, her brother Henrik was born. "Where you saw one you say the other," an inseparable pair. Doris taught them her school lessons and thanks to those lessons Helen passed through the 3rd and 8th grade. At age 16 she became a country school teacher in Brown County and was honored by the Brown county Historical Society in 2003 as the oldest living country school teacher in Brown County.

She married Eugene Lodes, June 19, 1932. In 1939 they opened a hardware and appliance business in Hutchinson, MN. In 1941, they welcomed the birth of Sandra Gene. Helen was widowed on May 13, 1943 and, under difficult circumstances, continued to very successfully manage Lodes Hardware and Appliance Store, which she sold in 1959.

Helen married Raymond Merville in 1969. They resided in Watertown, Wis., where he sister Doris and husband Roy lived. Helen enjoyed those years close to her sister. Following Raymond's death in 1991, she moved to Minneapolis to be near her family. Her greatest thrill was her two grandchildren, Kimberly and Corey, and great grandchildren, Eric, Zachary and Jacqueline.

A highly dignified, intelligent, witty and respected grand lady, a beloved mother and grandmother, to her family, she will always remain our dear "Grandma Honey."

Helen was preceded in death by parents, Inga and Siver Haugen; sister Doris Pfeiffer, brother Henrik Haugen; husbands

Gene Lodes and Raymond Merville. She is survived by daughter, Sandra Langer (Michael); grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Patricia M Erickson was born Jun. 21, 1935 at Hanska, MN to Alvin and Myrtle (Paulson) Strom. She graduated from Hanska High School and attended Macalester College where she received a Teaching Certificate. Pat then taught school at New Ulm, Fairfax and Hector for several years. She married Donald J. Erickson on June 16, 1957 at Nora Church in Hanska and they have made their home in Olivia ever since. Pat was employed as an executive secretary for Trojan Seed Co. in Olivia for many years after which she was founding member and part owner of Keltgen Seed Co. in Olivia. After her retirement Pat enjoyed being a bailiff for the Renville County Court House. She was a faithful member of Faith United Methodist Church in Olivia where she often assisted with the funeral committee. Pat enjoyed playing cards, bowling, golfing, doing cross-stitch, traveling and especially family gatherings.

Pat is survived by her husband, Donald Erickson of Olivia, her five children and their families: James and Lynn Erickson of Belle Plaine, and grandchildren Benjamine, Adam and Anna; Julie and Jim Kohout of Olivia and grandchildren Craig and Jason; Jeanne and Bill Welchance of Mufreesboro, TN, and grandchildren Samuel and Daniel and step-grandchildren Ginny and Evan; Joanne and Dan Reinert of Olivia and grandchildren Rachel and Liza; Jon Erickson of Olivia; and her brother Michael (and Judy) Strom of Watertown, SD. Pat was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Shirley Nelson.

Memorial Services were held June 8, 2009 at the Faith United Methodist Church in Olivia, MN. Many friends and relatives from the Hanska area attended.

To Keep In Touch

♥ ♥ ♥

Please keep our military personnel in your thoughts and prayers.

♥ ♥ ♥

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the committee members:

♥ ♥ ♥

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! Caring Committee

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2009 SERVERS ~ GREETERS ~ USHERS:

- If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.
- If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call and try to arrange to switch with someone else.

2009-2010 LEADERS AT NORA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairman: Scott Schmiesing
 Vice: Darrell Hinsman
 Secretary: Diane Becken
 Treasurer: Julie Peck

Julie Sellner
 Pat Kunerth
 Sheldon Rieke

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Edith Beckius

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

Doug Anderson Jeanie Hinsman
 Kristine Paulson Mark Wiger
 Bev Wellman

NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY:

President: Joy Rathman
 Vice President: Norma Breu
 Secretary: Janet Rosenbloom
 Treasurer: Shannon Weiss

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Mark and Brenda Wiger
 Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman
 Christopher Bodick
 Scott Kudelka
 Angie Becker Kudelka

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Susan Allen Shirley Olson
 Kristine Paulson Vicki Sieve
 Noah Rosenbloom

CARING & SHARING:

Georgine Tepley Carol Chambard
 Shirley Olson Bonita Blomquist
 Susan Allen

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Julie Sellner Joy Rathman
 Norma Breu Diane Becken
 Carol Chambard Julie Peck
 Sheldon Rieke

MT PISQUA:

PRESIDENT: Warren Paulson
 SEC/TREAS: Algot Blomquist
 MEMBERS: Scott Chambard
 Wayne Johnson
 Clayton Olson

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Darrell Hinsman
 Warren Paulson
 Wally Wellmann

SERVERS

GREETERS/USHERS

AUGUST

16	POTLUCK Alon & Carol Chambard Nancy Dickson	Scott & Angie Becker Kudelke
23	Jerry & Susan Allen	Algot & Bonita Blomquist
30	Clayton & Shirley Olson	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom

SEPTEMBER

6	POTLUCK Dave & Jean Wenk Charles Anderson	Wendy Tuttle, Karen Farrell
13	Gil & Sally Hanson	Diane Becken, Nancy Brudellie
20	Pat & Laurie Kunerth	Doug Anderson, Ann Nelson
27	Sheldon & Anne Rieke	Christopher Olson, Lee Drugemuller

OCTOBER

4	SMORGASBORD	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
11	Gene & Georgine Tepley	John & Julie Schmitt
18	John & Anne Makepeace	Warren & Kristine Paulson
25	Elroy & Ardis Wellman	Joy Rathman & Kristi Paulson

NOVEMBER

1	POTLUCK Norma & Roger Breu Michele Bethke	Kevin & Shannon Weiss
8	Ron & Julie Peck	Mimi Kamleiter, Chris Bodick
15	Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Edith Beckius, Christina Schmitt
22	Vicki Sieve, Colleen Tasto	Sheldon & Anne Rieke
29	Jason & Kate Monnens	Pat & Laurie Kunerth

DECEMBER

6	POTLUCK Wayne & Janet Johnson Ellen Byro	Jerry & Susan Allen
13	Julie Sellner, Susan Evers	Gil & Sally Hanson
20	Scott & Angie Becker Kudelke	Clayton & Shirley Olson
24	CHRISTMAS EVE Wally & Beverly Wellman	Alon & Carol Chambard
27	NO SERVICE	

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 2009

Welcome Back!

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			THURSDAY JULY 30 Music for a Summer's Eve			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Annual Tri-State area Wor- ship at Worthington. - 10:30 AM	10 2:00 pm Lefse making	11	12	13	14	15 9:30 am Basket Weaving Class
16 KICK-OFF SUNDAY 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Potluck Picnic - meeting to discuss RE for the coming year	17 2:00 pm Lefse making	18	19	20 Newsletter arti- cles due. Thanks for being prompt!	21	22
23 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship	31					

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

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
16	Jordan Rathman	Alon & Carol Chambard Nancy Dickson	Scott & Angie Becker Kudelke
23	Sally Hanson	Jerry & Susan Allen	Algot & Bonita Blomquist
30	JoAnn Huss	Clayton & Shirley Olson	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

During our interim search time, please feel free to contact one of the board members if you have questions or concerns.



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

August 2009



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services AUGUST 2009

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

AUGUST 9: Annual Worthington Service – Don't miss this year's gathering of UUs from the tri-state area! The service is held at Pioneer Village, just off I-90 in Worthington, MN, beginning at 10:30 A.M. and followed by a potluck lunch. Carpool and come on down.

AUGUST 16: Rev. Jerry Peterson - "When is Enough, Enough?"

AUGUST 23: Rev. Jacek Soroka, Chaplain at Immanuel St. Joseph Hospital in Mankato - "Sister Death, Spiritual Needs at the End of Life."

AUGUST 30: Rev. Jerry Peterson - "Why Be Happy?"