



# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
MAY 2010

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## VIEW FROM THE HILL



In my childhood two closely related activities dominated May first each year. One was giggling over the fact that Mom, Carma Mae Doege (pronounced, of course, "may day"), had her birthday on... May Day! The second was making and delivering May baskets to neighbors and friends, hanging them on the doorknob, ringing the bell and running away.

Even my friends whose mothers were not born on May first and did not teach them to play an annual flower-strewn game of ding-dong-ditch have English-style visions of May poles and flowers and ribbons and dancing. My Pagan and Wiccan friends, meanwhile, observe Beltane on May first--celebrating the return of vitality and passion to the greening earth. In many parts of the world and in some circles within the US, however, May first is set apart for a very different kind of observance.

In these places May Day is known as Labor Day or International Workers Day. Commemorating an 1884 proclamation from the predecessor to the AFL, declaring "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886," it is observed as a day to highlight the contributions of workers to society, to remember the past sacrifices and victories of the labor move-

ment, and to call attention to dangers and injustices still plaguing laborers today.

The explosion of an oil rig off the coast of Louisiana (an event still unfolding as I write); the tragic deaths of nearly 30 coal miners in West Virginia less than a month ago; recent word that despite passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act women still earn on average 77 cents to a man's dollar, with disparity even greater for minority women; wide-spread, on-going child labor practices in more than a handful of countries across the global--these stories we read daily in the news and scores of others we seldom hear scream that Labor Day concerns are urgent contemporary matters, around the world and here at home.

US Labor Day, in September, has become the occasion for a day off work for salaried employees and organized workers, the official end of summer, a final opportunity for long weekend before the kids go back to school. Little to no marching. Few to no protests. Insignificant attention paid to workers' rights or safety. Perhaps a return to a May Day Labor Day would provide the shift in perspective we need to take up the cause of those nameless millions who labor for our food and clothing and conveniences. Maybe. At least I'll be thinking about them this month, listening to my Pete Seeger CD and singing along, "solidarity forever, the union marches on!"

## CLEAN UP DAY



May 2nd is our annual clean-up day. Come prepared to clean and socialize.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On May 2nd there will be a congregational meeting at noon. At this meeting the following items will take place:

- The proposed budget for next year will be presented.
- Discuss and make decisions about the church roof
- A short, four question survey will be handed out asking how you are feeling about programming and ministry as it currently is and what to look forward to.
- Discussion on the Wind Turbine...questions, request to take the next step

## 2009-2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Nora UU Church will be held after church on Sunday, June 13. In addition to any business that members wish to address, the congregation will be asked to adopt the budget for the 2010-2011 church year. (Please note that while both friends and members of Nora Church are encouraged to attend, voting is reserved for members.)

## ANNUAL REPORTS

With Annual Meeting time approaching, committee chairs should be preparing year-end reports for the Annual Report booklet. Turn them in to office administrator Cindy Mosenden by JUNE 6 so she can compile the report. June 6 is the absolute deadline. If you can turn them in sooner, that would be helpful. Thanks.

## SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

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

## SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The spirituality group will meet Wednesdays, May 5th and May 19th.

## THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board this month goes to Anne and Sheldon Reike for all their hard work putting on the Easter Breakfast and to all others who helped and brought the wonderful food.

Thank you to all the families who brighten the Sunday services with their children.

## MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Saturday, May 8th from 11 am to 1:30 pm here at Nora. Portions of the proceeds will benefit the Hanska Community Center remodeling project. A number of people have volunteered to make "goodies" but help in serving and cleaning up would be appreciated. If you wish to help out, or provide some food, please call Karen Farrell at 507-834-6917.

Help is needed for the following.:

- set-up Friday, beginning at 10:00
- food to Nora by 9:30 Saturday
- Serving starting at 11:00
- clean up

## THANK YOU

"Thank you for everyone's help and kind donations for Easter breakfast. We had such a nice assortment of dishes, rolls, muffins and fruit, there was pretty much something for everyone to eat. We hope all who attended enjoyed themselves and had a tasty breakfast. Thank you all."

Blessings, The Riekes

## SUMMER PROJECTS

Care to brush up on your painting? There are a few small jobs around the church and parsonage that should be done this summer. If you can help contact the Building and Grounds Committee.



The Home Town Cafe, 403 First Av. S., St. James, will be the next stop on the Lunch Bunch tour. The date: Wednesday, May 19, at 11:30 a.m. As always everyone is invited to share in the food, fun and fellowship

## CHURCH MEMBERS TO VOTE ON CLEAN ENERGY ON MAY 2ND

**Background:** At the February 28th congregational meeting the vote was 80% in favor of exploring the possibility of having a Jacobs 31-20 wind generator at Nora Church. This would be a Minnesota manufactured 20kw turbine on a 100-120 3 legged lattice (wind mill like) tower.

A committee was formed and they have been working on different aspect of the proposed project. The turbine would supply our own needs as well as do reverse metering with the electricity provider at the church (Alliant Energy). At the size generator we are proposing Alliant would pay the same rate they charge, currently 9 cents.

**Current Update:** We have had a surveyor locate the boundaries property lines, giving special attention to the area where the tower is proposed- on the south side of the property at the top of the hill. As indicated in the consultants report, this location makes best use of the south as well as the north-west winds.

At their May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting the Brown County zoning commission will review our application. Because the church property is too small, we are not able to meet the required setback (1 1/2 the tower height). Therefore we are requesting a variance for the lack of setback on our own property and also to extend the tower height to 120'. The extra 20 feet will place the turbine above the turbulent producing trees, where the wind is much more steady and stronger.

Together with an attorney we are working on an easement agreement with the neighboring property owner. This formal agreement will increase the likelihood of receiving a zoning variance. We are hoping for the agreement to be finalized soon.

**Funding:** Alternative energy development is not feasible without receiving grants. We have not found sufficient grants that the church would be eligible for as a non-profit to make the project feasible financially. However we have learned that the church could form a for-profit enterprise for the purpose of energy production and then be eligible for a minimum of 2 grants. The enterprise would remain under complete control of church members and would likely be governed by the same officers

that now serve on the church board. This could reduce the cost of the project by 46% or more. An accountant is preparing some estimated pay back scenarios using anticipated production figures and construction cost after grants. We discussed (with a grant writer) applying for a USDA REAP grant of \$20,000. Approximately three months after completing the application (but before the project would go forward) we would get word as to approval or rejection. The advantage of this is that we would not need to start the project until we got word.

The other main source comes by way of the recent stimulus bill (Federal 1603 grants) which gives a 30% rebate (not tax credit) upon completion of a project. However the project would need to be started in 2010. Likewise, the project would need to be paid for and operational before the grant and rebate could be received. The state of Minnesota is writing funding criteria that could offset as much as an additional 20% of the construction costs.

The most important reasons for supporting this project have to do with being consistent with our UU principles and values. We strive towards being good stewards of the earth and contributing to the sustainability of the planet. Generating clean energy would "be putting our money where our mouth is". Additionally, the tower would literally be visible liberal beacon on the prairie.

The proposal to use church resources is a big decision. It is understood that these funds should be used responsibly based on reasonable pay back periods. We continue to gather information and fill in details as we seek reliable answers to questions that we have. Voting members are making their best judgment as we proceed. Thankfully it's a decision that we will all make together.

There will be a meeting of voting members on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will answer questions and also ask for the next approval. This will not be a vote on the purchase of wind turbine but rather a request to take the next step (the formation of a corporation). The committee welcomes any comments.

Mark	612-799-9224
Karen	507-834-6917
Darrell	507-276-6044



**NEWS FROM COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**  
**Surveys - Committees - Reunion**

Committee on Ministry (Christopher Olson, Vicki Sieve, Beverly Jean Wellmann, Jeanie Hinsman) has met monthly with Lisa. We are well on our way to growing new relationships and thinking about what lies ahead for Nora Church.

On May 2nd, during the congregational meeting, we will be distributing a short, four question survey to all attendees. We want to know how you are feeling about programming and ministry as it currently is and what you look forward to. Constructive suggestions are always welcome. If you are not at church for clean-up Sunday, contact any of the COM members for a survey. We will gather input through Syttende Mai weekend (May 16) and share feedback as part of the annual report in June.

Church committee structures have gotten a bit fuzzy around the edges. In March we began circulating a sign-up to re-establish committees. This is still a work in progress but we are farther along than we were March! If you have not indicated a committee preference and would like to be included, please contact either Jeanie Hinsman or Rev. Lisa. The very brief descriptions of committee functions were taken in part from the mission statements drafted in 2006 and may be revisited as committees create new paths.

**RESERVE THE DATE**

Reserve the date! Mark your calendars for Monday, June 28. We will welcome past ministers and friends at a special gathering on the Monday following General Assembly.

As many of these guests will have traveled to the Twin Cities for G. A., what a grand opportunity to rekindle old friendships here at Nora. We anticipate visits from Harold and Sabrina Babcock, Paul Johnson and Carol Rowan, Jerry and Sarah Oelberg, Dana Reynolds, and Leroy Eggenberger. There will be a service at 5:30 p.m. with lots of special music followed by a potluck supper at 6:30. You won't want to miss it!

JUNE 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**COMMITTEES UPDATED**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

Karen Farrell  
 Darrell Hinsman  
 Warren Paulson  
 Julie Sellner

**CARING**

Carol Chambard  
 Wendy Monro  
 Shirley Olson  
 Georgine Tepley

**FINANCE**

Sally Hanson  
 Julie Peck

**MEMBERSHIP**

Diane Becken  
 Carol Chambard  
 Jeanie Hinsman  
 Julie Sellner

**PROGRAM**

Karen Farrell  
 Mimi Kamleiter  
 Christopher Olson  
 Shirley Olson  
 Kristine Paulson

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (YOUTH)**

Edith Beckius  
 Wendy Monro

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Lee Drogemuller  
 Darrell Hinsman  
 Jeanie Hinsman  
 Angie Becker Kuldalka  
 Scott Kudelka  
 Pat Kunerth

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Christopher Olson  
 Vicki Sieve  
 Beverly Jean Wellmann  
 Jeanie Hinsman



Camp StarTrail is a multi-generational summer camp experience to explore and celebrate Unitarian Universalism in the beautiful rolling hills of the Platte River Valley.

Located 30 minutes west of Omaha, just off I-80, Camp StarTrail 2010: "Seeds of a Spirited Life" will be August 1-6, 2010.

The deadline for early registration is approaching! If you haven't yet taken the time to look over what the camp will be offering this year, please do that soon.

Register by April 28, to avoid late fee. More information and registration at: [www.psduua.org/CampStarTrail](http://www.psduua.org/CampStarTrail).

### **Announcing Midwest Leadership School for Youth!**

Midwest Leadership School for Youth is a week-long intensive experience designed to engage participants in all aspects of leadership in a Unitarian Universalist faith community. For the second year we are pleased to offer Midwest Leadership School for Youth (ages 14-18) in tandem with our Adult School. It will challenge and train Unitarian Universalist youth in three areas: Leadership Skills, Worship, and Religious Values & Heritage. This Leadership School is an intentional community and learning experience. It equips young UU's with a foundation that deepens their religious development and expands their ability to contribute, both in their UU community and beyond.

Students should be motivated to learn and engage. They should be able to manage their time and needs in an environment that includes long days filled with group and individual learning opportunities along with theological reflection. Youth entering grades 9-12 may attend; youth grades 10 - 11 are especially encouraged. Congregations sending adult students would especially benefit from sending youth!

Registration fees are \$475 per youth and there is no additional "congregational fee". Cost includes housing, food, and materials. Some scholarships will be available from your district office (contact Sherry Warren at [swarren@psduua.org](mailto:swarren@psduua.org)).

Registration Deadline is JUNE 1, 2010 and a 50% Deposit due upon acceptance of registration. Balance of school due in full June 15, 2010  
For more information contact Sherry Warren at [swarren@psduua.org](mailto:swarren@psduua.org)

### **INTERCONNECTIONS**

[Leadership Tools Come in Many Forms](#) Leadership development happens in many ways in our congregations. A book makes us think in a new way. A speaker at a workshop gives us an "Aha!" moment. We watch someone flawlessly lead a meeting or execute a project. We're talked into taking on a task that's different from anything we've done before.

Since most of us can use all of the help we can get in honing our leadership skills, InterConnections asked several staff members of UUA districts to tell us about their favorite leadership development tools.

To sign up for the monthly InterConnections email newsletter go to <http://www.uua.org/publications/interconnections/>

### **Da End Iss Near!**

Reverend Ole is the pastor of the local Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Pastor Sven is the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church across the road.

One day they were seen pounding a sign into the ground that said:

**"DA END ISS NEAR!  
TURN YERSELF AROUNT  
NOW BAFOR IT'S TOO LATE!!"**

As a car sped past them, the driver leaned out his window and yelled, "Leave me alone, you Skandihoovian religious nuts!"

From the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash...

Rev. Ole turns to Pastor Sven and asks, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should jüst say, Bridge Out?"

**NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY  
FUND RAISER**

**Mothers' Day Weekend  
TEA LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, May 8th**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
in the social hall**

**We have invited Hanska area churches this year, so spread the word. We will have a free will donation and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Hanska Community Center refurbishing.**



**FAMILY NIGHT AT LAKE HANSKA**

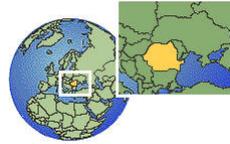
The women of Lake Hanska Church invite you to a Family Night

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**

Salad Supper will be served at 5:30 PM followed by a program

Guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Harvey Ronglien from Owatonna. He was a Ward of the State as an orphan living at the Minnesota State Orphanage for 11 years. Today Harvey gives audiences a panoramic view of the State School, first through the eyes of a child, then as an adult, and finally as its most proactive and respected historian. People of all ages can learn from his stories that are mixed with humor and wisdom, ending with a powerful view of the value of family.

This evening is planned for men, women and children. All are welcome. We look forward to an evening of community fellowship with everyone.



**NEWS FROM TRANSYLVANIA**

*Update on Krisztina Pall*

*Tue, March 30, 2010*

*Dear Nora Friends!*

*I am so sorry , but the next few months I will not be available to translate our newsletter in English, because on 6<sup>th</sup> of April I will have 2 more surgeries with my leg... So I will stay in bed again a few months. I will try it, but I cannot promise anything. I promised to redact the Hungarian version also. But I don't know how hard will be the operations. Now I am in Portugal with an EUgrant and as I arrive at home on 5<sup>th</sup> of April, I have to go to the hospital. (on 6<sup>th</sup> of April) So I am so sorry... But as I recover I will continue my work... I send my kisses to all member of the community. Krisztina*

*Sun, April 18, 2010*

*Dear All!*

*I would like to inform you, that I am after the surgeries. I am much better, now, I am at home. I still have pains in my leg and in my head also... But I am strong!!!! I have to stay in bed. I am not allowed to walk yet... BUT I will!!!! a little bit later... Kisses, K*

**Hanska's 26th Annual SYTTENDE MAI 2010  
May 13, 14, 16 - 7:00 PM**

***Cruisin' thru Dreamland***

(Saturday's show is reserved for attendees of the Antique Automobile Club of America's Minnesota Region Spring Fling)

This year's performances will be held upstairs at the community center.

contact Sonja Smesmo (507-439-6401) or smesmo@sleepyeyetel.net for tickets.

**SUNDAY IN THE PARK**

- Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 to 10:00
- Church Service at 10:30
  - Parade - 12:30
- Entertainment in the tent all afternoon
  - Arts & Crafts - 10:00 to 5:00
- The Tasting Tea and Food Stand will be open throughout the afternoon.

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## MAY 2010

Parsonage: 507-439-6240  
Lisa's Cell: 507-766-5682

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 CLEAN UP DAY Congregational meeting at noon 	3	4	5 6:30 pm Spirituality Group	6	7	8
9 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Syttende Mai 10 AM service in the Big Tent in Hanska	17	18	19 LUNCH BUNCH 6:30 pm Spirituality Group	20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21	22
23 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	31 		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>♥ To Keep In Touch ♥</b></p> <p>Memorial service was held for Sally Hermann on April 2nd. Our sincere condolences to Sally's family. Her smile and wonderful personality will be missed by all her family and friends. Our best wishes to her family</p>			

**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

MUSICIANS	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
2 ---	CLEAN UP SUNDAY	---
9 Muffy Rathman	Edith Beckius & Doug Anderson	Nancy Dickson
16 ---	SYTTENDE MAI	---
23 Sally Hanson	Karen Farrell & Nancy Brudelic	Jerry Peterson
30 Jordan Rathman	Gil & Sally Hanson	Christina Schmitt

**PASTOR'S SCHEDULE**

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.  
Friday will be sermon writing day.  
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office





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<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

**May 2010**

**Happy Syttende Mai**



*May 17*

## Nora Church Sunday Services

**MAY 2010**

**Coffee Time 10:00 AM**

**Worship Service 10:30 AM**

May 2. ....Clean up Day & Congregational Meeting

May 9. ...."Kissing and Scolding"

May 16. ....Syttende Mai - No service at Nora. There will be a service in the Big Tent in the Hanska park at 10:30 AM.

May 23. ...."About to Commence."

May 30. ....