



# MERE LYS newsletter

## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

August 2010

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### VIEW FROM THE HILL



The **First Sunday of Church** is one of my personal holy days.

Summer break restores my energy, replenishing the well of ideas and enthusiasm that runs dry by the end of June. But long about now I start getting restless. I get curious about what church folks are up to. Ideas start flowing and overflowing and spilling into my sleep. My mind is ready for full engagement again. And my spirit...? My spirit is now thirsty. Thirsty for connection, communion, reunion, laughter, weighty matters of theology and of fellowship. I rejoice when the **First Sunday of Church** appears on the horizon.

My vacation is just half gone (as I write) but already a corner of my mind prepares to welcome us back to church. And not just us. Our first two services at Nora this month will focus on welcoming all who seek a liberal path in religion. This congregation has long considered itself a beacon on the prairie. Well, beacons shine and guide and warn and welcome. But, you know, we're Minnesotans and some of us

Norwegians, too. From time to time we have to remind ourselves to shine. This is one of those times.

This is the time to talk up Nora--put into words why you come week after week, why you raise your kids here, why you serve on the board and make financial donations and show up for work days. This is the time to invite your friends and co-workers or the new family on the block. Tell them you can't keep the secret any longer--we've got something special and they'll want part of it, too. Tell them just one thing you find here and nowhere else, one thing that changes your life each week without fail. Invite them to try us out for just two weeks. And then it will be my turn. I'll preach about Unitarian Universalism, what we are and how our faith informs and shapes and blesses our lives, week by week, year after year. I'll choose some good hymns and good stories. We'll lay on a couple of great pot-lucks. If we all do our part, the **First Sunday of Church** (and the second one, too) will be holy--for me, and for us, and for our visitors.

#### UU HUMOR

Shortly after a woman began attending the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, New Jersey, she found herself in a restaurant on Sunday noon. It was a small establishment, with tables close together, and so she could not help overhearing the conversation at the table behind her. Two people were discussing their dissatisfactions with some aspect of the church they both attended. Suddenly, one of them asked, "Well, what do the Unitarians believe in?" Without a pause, the other replied, "Recycling!"

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Here it is - August already! It seems the summer season goes much to fast. However, here we are with a new church year ahead of us.

Several items need our attention this coming year. some are already in the action stage such as shingling and the wind project.

The next issue is setting up a meeting we had to cancel, due to weather, back in June. The meeting will be to look back at the past year... what went well? what didn't go so well? and also to look into the future to see where we want to be and what we want to look like. We will find a process for making a decision about a "call" to Rev. Lisa to become the settled minister for Nora.

As I write this, the date has not been set but will be sometime in August. As always I invite input and participation. Thank you

-Scott Schmiesing

## THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thank you from the board goes to the ladies who helped provide and serve food for the Bloodmobile workers in New Ulm.

Thank you goes to Darrell Hinsman for the time he has spent painting and sprucing things up around the church.

Thank you to our outgoing board members Julie Sellner and Sheldon Rieke. An extra thanks to Sheldon for all his hard work as president.

## THE LUNCH BUNCH



August Lunch Bunch hasn't been decided yet, but watch for news on it. All are invited for good food and good socializing. See you someplace!

## 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 3rd.

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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD SHELF

Nora Church and UCC share the month of August providing volunteers at the New Ulm Food Shelf. Our dates are August 9, 11, 23 and 25. We need three workers each day to pack orders. Hours are 11:30 to 3:00 PM. Training will be provided for those who haven't done this before. Contact Darrell at 359-7494 if you can help out.

## NORA CHURCH TAKES FURTHER STEPS TOWARD WIND ENERGY

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting the congregation faced the question of continuing steps toward producing some of our own electricity. Members voted in favor of having Prairie Beacon purchase a Jacobs 21-30 generator with a 120 foot tower. This should be able to produce 1½ times what the congregation consumes. A reverse meter would be installed. The excess electricity would be sold to Alliant, the church's energy provider.

Prairie Beacon is a corporation formed by the church with the shareholder being the Nora UU church board. The congregation's vote is pending the approval of a USDA grant for alternative energy production that was submitted by Prairie Beacon. The grant was submitted the end of June and we hope to get word on approval by this Labor Day.



## Making history:

Swanson taught and played role in world events

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Al's own history begins in Minneapolis, where he grew up and graduated from West High School.

"Our family had no money," he recalled. "But I made good money by myself, mowing grass in the summer and shoveling snow in the winter."

At age 19, Al joined the Minnesota National Guard.

"It was just after Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, and Hitler was raising Cain all over," he noted. "I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I knew I had to do something, so I joined the National Guard of Minnesota, 34th Division. Then they federalized the National Guard, and before I knew it, we were formed into a full division and were playing soldier at Camp Claiborne, La."

The "playing" turned serious when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The soldiers were dispatched to Fort Dix, N.J. — the embarkation point for the war in Europe.

"We went to Northern Ireland. There was no war in Northern Ireland. Drinking beer in a pub wasn't my idea of serving my country. There was a notice on the bulletin board for this," he explained, pointing to the Rangers emblem on his T-shirt. "If you got into this outfit, they were very choosy, but there was training in Northern Ireland, and from there you went to Scotland."

The Rangers was an elite fighting unit, commanded by William Darby, who had been sent with the first troops to Ireland and became interested in the British Commandos. He was assigned to direct the Ranger organization and training, and the outfit quickly became known as Darby's Rangers.

"At that time, I think he was still Major Darby," recalled Al about his commanding officer, who was quickly promoted to lieutenant colonel. "We were ready for something. 'Where we going?' — that always the question. The answer always was, 'You don't have to know.' I was in C Company, a line company. I think I made PFC (private first class)."

Following training with their British counterparts in

Scotland, the Rangers were sent to North Africa — Arzew, Algeria.

"We ran into a force and got attacked," said Al, who was called "Swanee" by his fellow soldiers — everyone had a nickname. "Three guys got wounded, one was me. Who shot me? The Italians? No. Hitler had the French Foreign Legion there under his control. We easily took the thing — they came and offered to surrender to us — but it could have been a hell of a battle, because they were fighters."

Al was wounded by a shell in his left thigh. Medical supplies were scarce, and he lay in a field for more than a day, giving gangrene time to set in. When he was finally transported to a hospital, the doctor was able to scrape out the infection and save the leg. He spent his 21st birthday in the hospital and celebrated with two bottles of wine smuggled in by a nurse.

When he returned to his unit, however, the leg injury slowed Al down, so he was sent to the motor pool.

"My first assignment was to drive Captain Anderson," Al remembered. "After about 10 or 15 miles, he said, 'Pull over. Have you ever driven a car in your life?' I couldn't lie. I said, 'No, sir.' 'Then why the hell were you assigned to me?'"

"The rest of the way, he was showing me how to drive, but when we got closer to the town, he made me move over and got behind the wheel himself. He said, 'I think you're making progress, but if you think I'm going to let you drive me into Algiers, you're crazy!'"

Al's driving must have improved, because he was later assigned to drive Darby when the Rangers were sent to Sicily. Darby was usually at the front of the action, noted Al, so his driver was in the thick of things, too.

"I guess I was an adequate driver," Al said. "I practiced a lot. I drove Darby all the way across Sicily. I got a lot of shrapnel in my head."

Following the Sicily campaign, the Rangers were reorganized and there was talk of sending them to the Pacific to battle the Japanese. But the Rangers had sustained so many injuries and were so "beat up" that most of the men weren't able to pass a new physical. Instead, they were assigned to guard POWs for the duration of their service. Their leader, Darby, was killed by a shell April 30, 1945, in Italy.

Al was discharged and returned to Minnesota, where he "goofed around" without any plan for the future. But a young woman changed that. Al met his bride-to-be, Dorothy, through her father, and they had their first date on New Year's Eve.

"Not quite six weeks later, I gave her this," said Al, pulling a ring off his pinky finger. "She took it."

Dorothy insisted that Al use the G.I Bill to further his

education, so he enrolled at Macalester College. They were married in 1946, and he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1949.

"I wanted to be a lawyer," he said. "I thought I was going to be a great lawyer. But I just didn't like it."

Instead, Al chose to be a teacher, and his first job was in Sturgis, S.D. After one year, he and Dorothy moved to Milbank, S.D., where he stayed for 12 years. Since it was closer to the Twin Cities, Al accepted a teaching post at Worthington High School in 1962. By that time, the Swansons had two children, Reid and Paula.

"I was going to stay here for two years, then I was going back to Minneapolis, where I belonged," he recalled. "So I taught two years here, and by that time I fell in love with this place."

At WHS, Al taught a variety of classes in the social studies realm — history, economics, sociology — and coached debate and directed plays. He developed a course in Minnesota and local history that most students took during their sophomore year at WHS.

"In 1987, they told me I had to retire. That was the rule," said Al, shaking his head in annoyance.

Al admits he was bitter about the forced retirement, but he found a new focus for his energies. He was already serving on the Nobles County Historical Society board and began to volunteer more time at Pioneer Village, a pioneer-era living exhibit located adjacent to the Nobles County Fairgrounds in Worthington. He worked closely with the facility's caretaker, Roy Reimer, and helped to develop school tours and annual events such as Sunday's Fourth of July at Pioneer Village.

"If I had to feel I had any great accomplishment, it would be Pioneer Village," reflected Al, who is still an honorary member of NCHS.

But ventures out to Pioneer Village are less frequent these days. At age 88 — he'll be 89 in November — Al now resides at The Meadows senior living facility in Worthington and uses a walker to get around.

Al's daughter and son-in-law Paula and Scott Steve, live in Worthington and keep an eye on him; son and daughter-in-law Reid and Jane Swanson reside in Los Angeles. Al has three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

While his legs are his biggest physical issue, Al's main complaint is a broken heart. His love of more than 60 years, Dorothy, died in February.

"I had a marriage of 63 years, nine months and five days, if you think it isn't on my mind," his voice trailing off as he remembered their years together and rubbed both the wedding rings that now grace his left hand.

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## STILL GLOWING FROM THE AFTERGLOW

Summer is often the season for reunions of family and friends, a season for cultivating our garden of relationships. This was certainly the experience of those attending the June 28<sup>th</sup> "Afterglow" at Nora.

Lisa's spot-on service and message about home-coming set the stage. Recalling each minister's presence, the experiences intertwined in the make-up of what is present day Nora Church, we celebrated with this coming together of guests, friends, and ministers literally from coast to coast.

There were wonderful chats and visits with Laurie Bushbaum, hearing about her family's renewal of a retreat center near Red Wing, hearing stories of Dana's and Wendy's appreciation of living in the Loring Park neighborhood and planting roots in the Fridley church, visiting with Harold Babcock about Transylvania visits, hearing news of Paul and Carol and Kristin about life on the east coast and Kristin's summer internship and Paul's lecture series. Leroy and Pat Eggenberger were delighted to be back at Hanska and it was fun to hear the commonalities of board work and church mission even in a setting as different as California. Nels Oas and Holly Gudmonson were other guests that renewed memories of many experiences shared at Nora.

It was a perfect summer evening that glowed with the affection that so many have for our beacon on the hill. A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of the "afterglow". A special thank you to Norma Breu for organizing the kitchen help, to Beverly for invitations and decorating, to Jordan for the wonderful playing, and to all those who furnished plentifully for the potluck and cleanup.

**To Keep In Touch**

♥ ♥ ♥

Corrina Alica Rabasco was born on June 11th to Tonya and Rob Rabasco of Brainerd, weighing 7# 2 oz. Grandparents are Gene and Georgine Tepley of New Ulm and Ralph Sr. and Marilyn Rabasco of Minneapolis.

♥ ♥ ♥

Please keep our military personnel in your thoughts and prayers.

♥ ♥ ♥

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

**THANK YOU! Caring Committee**

## WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

One day a man saw a old lady, stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pinto was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold.. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you.

He said, 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson.'

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped.

Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, 'And think of me..'

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: 'You don't owe me anything... I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you.. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you.'

Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills.

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard....

She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, 'Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson.'



**AUGUST - DECEMBER 2010    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.
- **GREETERS:** if you are scheduled for a Pot Luck Sunday, please check with the servers to see if they need cakes.

**2010-2011 LEADERS AT NORA**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

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

Pat Kunerth  
 Joy Rathman  
 Karen Farrelll

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Edith Beckius

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-YOUTH:**

Edith Beckius

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:**

Christopher Olson     Jeanie Hinsman  
 Bev Wellman     Vicki Sieve

**NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY:**

President:     Joy Rathman  
 Secretary:     Janet Rosenbloom  
 Treasurer:     Shannon Weiss

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

Mark and Brenda Wiger  
 Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman  
 Scott & Angie Becker Kudelka  
 Lee Drugemuller

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

Susan Allen     Shirley Olson  
 Kristine Paulson     Christopher Olson  
 Mimi Kamleiter     Karen Farrell

**CARING & SHARING:**

Georgine Tepley     Carol Chambard  
 Shirley Olson     Wendy Monro

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Julie Sellner     Diane Becken  
 Carol Chambard     Jeanie Hinsman

**MT PISQUA:**

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

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:**

Darrell Hinsman  
 Warren Paulson  
 Karen Farrell  
 Julie Sellner

**SERVERS**

**GREETERS/USHERS**

**AUGUST**

22	POTLUCK	
	Alon & Carol Chambard	Ann Nelson
	Nancy Dickson	
29	Jerry & Susan Allen	Karen Farrell

**SEPTEMBER**

5	POTLUCK	
	Clayton & Shirley Olson	Wendy Tuttle
	Charles Anderson	
12	Gil & Sally Hanson	Diane Becken
19	Pat & Laurie Kunerth	Doug Anderson
26	Sheldon & Anne Rieke	Christopher Olson

**OCTOBER**

3	SMORGASBORD	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
10	Gene & Georgine Tepley	Nancy Brudelie
17	John & Anne Makepeace	Lee Drogemuller
24	Elroy & Ardis Wellmann	Joy Rathman
31	John & Julie Schmitt	Kristi Paulson

**NOVEMBER**

7	POTLUCK	
	Norma & Roger Breu	Nancy Dickson
	Michele Bethke	
14	Ron & Julie Peck	Mimi Kamleiter
21	Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Ann Nelson
28	Vicki Sieve, Colleen Tasto	Jerry Peterson

**DECEMBER**

5	POTLUCK	
	Wayne & Janet Johnson	Edith Beckius
	Ellen Byro	
12	Julie Sellner, Susan Evers	Karen Farrell
19	Scott & Angie Becker Kudelka	Jerry Peterson
24	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	Wally & Beverly Wellman	Christopher Olson
26	NO SERVICE	

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## AUGUST 2010

# Welcome Back!



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 7 PM Music for a Summers' Eve	5	6	7
8	9 Food Shelf 11:30-3:00 Volunteers needed	10	11 Food Shelf 11:30-3:00 Volunteers needed	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Potluck dinner	23 Food Shelf 11:30-3:00 Volunteers needed	24	25 Food Shelf 11:30-3:00 Volunteers needed	26	27	28
29 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	30	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
22 JoAnn Huss	Alon & Carol Chambard Nancy Dickson	Ann Nelson
29 Sally Hanson	Jerry & Susan Allen	Karen Farrell



**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



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

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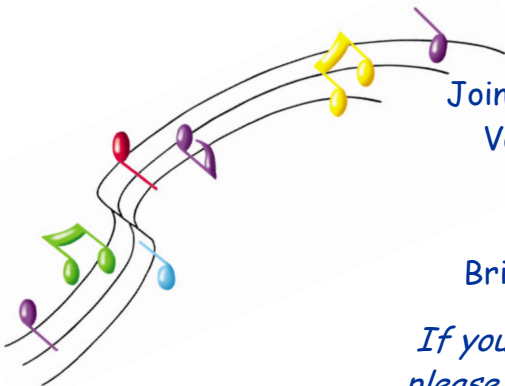
# August 2010



EMAIL  
[norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

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

## MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVE



Join us on Wednesday evening, August 4 beginning at 7 pm.

Various musicians will entertain us at the Nora Church.

PIE & ICE CREAM will follow.

Come and enjoy a fun summer evening!

Bring your friends and relatives for a night to remember.

*If you are interested in sharing your musical or pie baking skills  
please call Julie Sellner: 375-8737 or Kristine Paulson: 439-6316*

## Nora Church Sunday Services

### AUGUST 2010

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

**AUGUST 22: We Dare Not Fence the Spirit**

**AUGUST 29: We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike**

