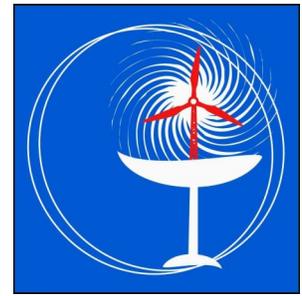


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Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

March 2015 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

As this winter's fierce winds blow February into March, Black History Month 2015 morphs into Women's History Month 2015. You've probably seen the educational spots between commercials on television—highlighting important figures and moments in Black History and Women's History. You may have wondered or heard others wonder, why.

Why in 2015 do we still have Black History Month? Why in 2015 do we still have Women's History Month? And why, some folks even grumble, isn't there a White History Month or a Men's History Month? The answer should be as obvious as it is disheartening. Labeled so or not, every month is Men's History Month and every month is White History Month.

From incarceration rates to wage gaps, from academic achievement gaps to opportunities and recognition for behind the camera work (directing and producing) in television and movies, from corporate glass ceilings to medical and pharmaceutical research and testing—and hundreds of other areas of modern life just as varied—white folks and men and, it must be said, especially white men, enjoy advantages (often life-saving advantages) that women and people of color are denied. The root causes of these gaps are deeply entrenched in our society, complex and interwoven and well beyond the scope of this column, but one is worth noting:

Allowing the experiences and contributions of women to be overlooked, ignored, dismissed or forgotten creates conditions under which it becomes easy to believe that men deserve more money than women with identical education, qualifications and work experience for the same job. Allowing the experiences and contributions of people of color to be overlooked, ignored, dismissed or forgotten creates conditions under which it becomes easy to believe that imposing harsher sentences on black or Hispanic offenders than white offenders for the same crime is somehow just. But believing it doesn't make it so.

Maybe in 2020 or 2115 our history texts and entertainment award ceremonies and governmental funding and sentencing patterns and hiring and salary data will all demonstrate that we've finally reached such a degree of racial and gender justice and equity that Black History Month and Women's History Month are obsolete or at worst quaint and vintage concepts. Maybe.

But in 2015, paying extra attention to Black History and Women's History, stating loudly, often and for the record that Black Lives Matter, acknowledging the shameful, painful reality that Yes All Women have cause to fear sexual violence, and bold statements of similar, too often hidden truths—in 2015, all these are still necessary means of seeking to transform the world we know into the world we would give to our children and grandchildren.

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am

~

March 1st

“Refusing Prediction”

March 8th

“Hymn Sing Sunday”

Guests UUFM Choir

March 15th

“Well? How Was It?”

March 22nd

*“The Signs Are
Everywhere”*

March 29th

*“Turning Life Upside
Down”*

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Sarah Oelberg

Minister Emerita

A Note From the Treasurer

Monthly Income and Expenses

At the suggestion of the Nora Church Board of Trustees, Sunday plate collections and total monthly expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter. Totals indicated do not include special collections or memorial gifts.

December:

Income: \$ 7,909.30
(not including memorials and gifts)

Expenses: \$ 5,470.13

Important Note: Coffee and potluck collections should be combined and placed in an envelope (located in the kitchen by the phone) and then turned into the collection plate. Coffee/potluck envelopes should go with that day's collection. There are also envelopes available in the church foyer for pledge credit for cash pledges.

THANKS!

Thanks from the board...

...to everyone who helped with Virgil Schmiesing's memorial service,

... to Wayne for snow removal,

...to Warren for parsonage pest reduction.

March Into Spring

This time of year most Minnesotans are ready to bid winter a not-so-fond farewell, so March into Spring when the Lunch Bunch crew meets on Tuesday, March 10, 11:30 a.m., at the scenic New Ulm Country Club, 1 Golf Drive, New Ulm. Think warm sunshine, birds twittering, etc. I know this is being optimistic, but we can hope for the best. See you there.

Nora Church Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be a weeknight, Tuesday, March 21st at 5:30.

Adult RE

At our meeting in January we decided to begin working with an established curriculum—Building Your Own Theology—with the understanding that as current events dictate we might break for open discussion any given month.

In March we return to the third Sunday of the month, meeting after service on March 15th.

No registration or advanced preparation necessary. Please bring a dish to share and join us in the social hall following the service.

March Food Shelf

March is the month that Nora Church, along with UCC in New Ulm, furnishes volunteers for the New Ulm Food Shelf. The work involves refilling orders as families come in. No special skill is needed and someone will explain what to do if you've not worked before. Our dates are Mondays March 16, 23, and 30 as well as Wednesdays March 18 and 25. The hours are 11:45am to 3pm.

We should have three volunteers each time, feel free to sign up for more than one slot. We are a small group so we need all who can help. Volunteers are still needed for each day. Volunteering by young and old is a good way to become more familiar with the needs in the community. There is a sign up sheet in the entry or feel free to contact Darrell Hinsman at 359-7494 or 276-6044.

Coming Soon!

As soon as we can figure out the logistics, that is! We'll launch a community salad/soup/hot dish making/sharing day. **You're input and ideas are desired!** If you're interested or have experience with such ventures, please contact Lisa.

Notes from the Nora Office...

April Newsletter Articles and Information are due by March 20th.

Weekly Order of Service Content is due Thursdays at noon.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

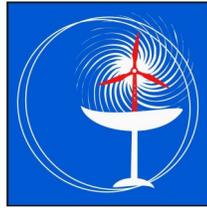
Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
507-766-7822.



Lisa will be out of town March 4th—9th for *Marching in the Arc of Justice: Revisiting Selma*. See page 4 for more details.

Church Night

A group for Nora youth (in grades 7-12 or the equivalent) on Wednesday evenings, led by Rev. Lisa. Meet in the church social hall from 7-8:30 for opening ritual, conversation, guided discussions, snacks and games.

Wednesdays in March: 11th, 18th & 25th

Nora youth who have not yet Come of Age will have the opportunity to be recognized this year. Non-Nora friends are welcome to participate, with parents' permission (permission forms available).

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses once a week in March. If her appearance in your community fits your schedule, grab coffee, tea or snack and join her for a mid-week check-in.

Tuesday, March 3, 1:30—3:00 at Lola, in New Ulm.

Wednesday, March 11, 10:00—11:30 at Stray Cat Coffee House, in St. James.

Tuesday, March 17, 1:00—2:30 at River City Eatery, in Windom.

Thursday, March 26, 10:30—Noon at Coffee Hag, in Mankato.



ECFE On the Go Program

ECFE On the Go is a new outreach program for public, private and homeschool families residing in ISD #88. If you have a child between the ages of birth to 5 and if your family is unable to attend a traditional center-based ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) class in New Ulm, then ECFE On the Go will come to you at your convenience!

ECFE On the Go focuses on early childhood literacy and is FREE for participating families. At each of two visits, your child will receive age-appropriate books and educational toys. Please call the New Ulm ECFE office at 359-8417 or email Wendy at wbertrang@newulm.k12.mn.us for more information.



UUA General Assembly

General Assembly will take place in Portland, Oregon, June 24-28th, 2015. The theme is *Building a New Way*. Dr. Cornel West is the Ware Lecturer.

Nora may send two delegates, please contact Lisa if you are interested.

Find more information online: www.uua.org/ga/

Waving the Palms

David O. Rankin

Palm Sunday is found:

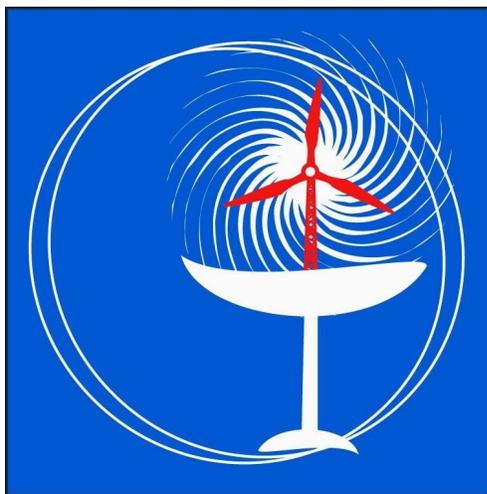
whenever we are serving a noble and unpopular cause with selfless devotion, holding to the ideals of truth and justice;

whenever we are seeking to uplift the fallen, to comfort the brokenhearted, to strengthen and encourage the weak and hopeless;

whenever we are working bravely and persistently in the face of abuse and criticism to establish more equitable relations in the world;

whenever we are sacrificing our lives in behalf of what we believe to be the service of love for all humanity.

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



Phone: 507.439.6240
 Website: www.norauuchurch.org
 Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Date	Pianist	Greeters, Servers & Ushers
Mar. 1	Sally Hanson	Warren & Kristine Paulson, Kristy Paulson, Janet Rosenbloom, Vickie Sieve, Lara Fletcher, Nancy Brudelie
Mar. 8	Mankato Choir	John & Julie Schmitt, Susan Evers
Mar. 15	JoAnn Huss	Lynn & Lee Schmitt, Jeremy Schmitt
Mar. 22	Mimi Kamleiter	Tracey & Scott Schmiesing, Julie Sellner
Mar. 29	Sally Hanson	Norma & Roger Breu, Michelle Bethke

Meditation on the Equinox

Thomas Rhodes

Over our heads, the great wheel of stars shifts,
 the autumnal (or spring) equinox manifests itself,
 and for one precious instant darkness and light
 exist in balanced proportion to one another.

Within our minds the great web of neurons shifts,
 new consciousness arises,
 and for one precious instant experience and meaning
 exist together as revelation and epiphany.

Within our hearts the great rhythm of our lives shifts
 a new way of being reveals itself,
 and for one precious instant
 the nexus of the body and the seat of the soul
 truly exist as one.

Let us give thanks for those times in our lives
 when all seems in balance.
 For those times are rare and precious.
 The equinox shall pass, the revelation may be forgotten,
 and our actions will not always reflect our true selves.
 But through our gratitude
 we may remember who we are,
 reflect on who we may become,
 and restore the balance which brings equanimity to
 our lives.

Let us be quiet for a moment, together.

Grapevine

If you aren't on the Grapevine list for important updates and reminders email Brooke at norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

Marching in the Arc of Justice: Re-visiting Selma

This conference honors the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign. Participants are going to Selma to affirm solidarity with all those engaged in the ongoing struggles for human dignity, human rights, and social justice.

Several keynote events will be live-streamed for all to view. Links will be posted on the website for three separate events:

Friday, March 6th at 9:30 am

Friday, March 6th at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 7th at 9:15 am

Living Legacy Project: www.uulivinglegacy.org

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:
 Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
 Shirley Olson: 354-1866
 Carol Chambard: 354-2242