



# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

January 2009

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## VIEW FROM THE HILL

Happy New Year! It's January and that means it is a new year. This is the time when people traditionally make resolutions for the new year. I think it comes from the recognition that time is marching on, whether or not we are ready for it.

In January and in the months to come, I am going to talk to you much more about the church universal and about Nora Church in particular. I believe there are three purposes of the church. First, the church helps us make sense of the universe we live in. While we are doing this, the church helps us to craft for ourselves the meaning of the life we enjoy. Second, I believe the church allows us to respond to the human urge to be helpful to others.

Finally, I believe each of us is special and are specially gifted or specially able to do certain things. Some of those gifts, abilities, and skills are what we demonstrate in our vocations. Yet there are other gifts, abilities, and skills that we have that *could* be demonstrated in other, non-vocational ways and the church can be a place where we can do that. All three of these purposes are more likely to happen when we are engaged with others to do these things, such as we are in a church community.

How does this affect *you*, each person who is reading this article? In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, the church *belongs* to the people. It does not belong to ministers. It does not belong to the UUA. You are the members, but more than that, **YOU** are the co-owners of Nora Church. I do not believe churches fail because of shifting demographics or shifting economics. I believe churches (in any congregational tradition like ours) fail because the members forget that they are also **co-owners**. Owners take charge and they step up, asking, "what can I/we do" in this situation? I see my role for the balance of this church year as twofold, to encourage more of you to ask yourself this question in each new situation and, help you to find the answers.

Happy New Year!

*Dana*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18th. The intent of the meeting is to vote on new by-laws for what constitutes membership at Nora. As explained in last months Mere Lys, this is necessary so that we pay the correct dues to the UUA and more importantly it is another number to help gauge just how healthy we really are as a congregation.

## FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board for this month goes to everyone who worked at the bake sale at Rhein River and selling quilt tickets at Jefferson School. It couldn't be done without all of our wonderful bakers who donated items. Special thanks to Wayne Johnson for fixing the snow-blower. Continuing thanks to Wayne and Warren Paulson for clearing the snow.



## 4th Annual MLK Event January 18

The Social Justice Committee is planning the 4th annual Martin Luther King Day fundraiser. Come to the Spaghetti Dinner on January 18th. The event begins with the program and award ceremony, followed by the meal. Those of us with a job and a house are fortunate. Increasingly, friends and neighbors are experiencing layoffs and joblessness. **What happens when "the money runs out"?** Southern MN. Regional Legal Services Attorney Gary Petersen will describe the plight of the poor who are struggling with mortgage foreclosure issues; repossession; predatory lending schemes; garnishment and bill collectors. The event will be held at the UCC church in New Ulm.



Here are two additional ways you can help make this event a success. Included in this newsletter is a group of tickets and a flyer. Please SELL the tickets. Additionally, choose at least one location to POST the enclosed flyer. Area stores, libraries, other gathering locations, are all possibilities. If you would like more tickets/flyers, please let one of the SJ committee members know.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with cook-

ing, set-up, and clean up. .. "many hands make light work"! Watch for a sign up sheet at the January 11 service, or contact Jeannie Hinsman.

Ticket sale proceeds can be given to Brenda Wiger, or another SJ committee member OR bring to the event that Sunday. If you can't attend the event, a contribution would still be appreciated. The funds collected will be used to support our sister church in Transylvania as the "global" action and the "local" cause will be supporting the work of the non-profit agency-Southern MN. Regional Legal Services

## SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Please feel free to join on the first and third Wednesday every month as we watch, read, and discuss different materials that guide us along our own spiritual journeys in a caring, loving and accepting setting.

Our group includes members from Nora, as well as others from surrounding communities. People come when they can.

We meet at South Point Federal Credit Union in New Ulm at 6:30 on the first and third Wednesdays each month. In January we will meet on the 7th and 21st. Our activities for the month include exploring different ways to "play" with our spirituality. Come and join us. Please see Anne Rieke if you have questions or are interested in attending.

## GUEST AT YOUR TABLE



Guest at Your Table boxes, donations will be collected in January. Please give your box or donation to Anne Rieke by the end of January so the donations may be given to the UUSC. Thank you !!!

## SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All". Please consider a generous donation. Many are less fortunate than us and need a helping hand.

## CLF NEWS

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a UU

church via mail, email, and internet. Our mission is to provide a UU ministry to isolated religious liberals. Did you know that we have over 3,000 members all over the world?

We're trying a new experiment at the CLF: getting free money. If you're buying merchandise online of the sort sold through Amazon.com, please consider going to the CLF homepage, [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org), and click on the **Amazon.com** button that you'll find on the right hand side. Whenever you buy a book or snow blower or banjo or Bon Appetit subscription or carabiners or marshmallow shooter or gluten free brownie mix or Alvin and the Chipmunks video or hoop earrings or microscope or Kindle--or whatever else--please go through the CLF site to Amazon. The CLF will get some money by virtue of your purchase.

## TRANSYLVANIA TO HANSKA PROJECT

The visit of Krisztina Pall from our partner church in Benced, Romania is taking shape! Krisztina will be arriving in Minnesota on Wednesday, February 18, and staying through Wednesday, February 25, 2009. As mentioned in past newsletters, the Social Justice committee has been developing the relationship and organizing Krisztina's visit to Minnesota and then the UU Conference in Texas. The SJ Committee, Women's Society, and Board have all made generous donations for her visit.

We are excited to see the entire church help support her visit. Nora members and friends are hosting her entire stay in Minnesota. We hope to show her many aspects of Minnesota life such as: a school, the church, local organizations, farm and other activities. If interested in participating in one of these activities please get in touch with Vicki or Colleen. On Sunday, February 22, Krisztina will be giving the message during church, so please plan on coming to welcome her on her first visit to the United States.

Also, please mark your calendars to help with a potluck on that Sunday, February 22. This will give all of us a chance to talk with Krisztina and learn more about her and Transylvania.

## LETTERS FROM BENCED

Life here in our congregation is very good. People come seriously in the church, we had institute many programs. August 31 we had a big fest in our church, we did a family meeting, it was very good. In 26 Sep-

tember 148 people come to commune. 12 October we had celebrity the old people, etc.

My congregation and I we want this relation, several times I had invite Don and the congregation members in our congregation, and I do this now too.

*Ildiko (minister)*

I'd like to inform you that with help of Benced Foundation, Benced Church and Civitas Foundation we organized today a great meeting with our community. There was the mayor and the vice mayor, too. It was a great, and successful and great meeting. I can say that it was the continuation of your CBBAssessment. The scheme was the same, but appeared new needs. We will continue this meeting after 3 weeks. I will go this night to Bucharest to learn at the faculty, so I will be away.

Thanks again.

Bye,

*Krisztina* (women visiting in Feb. from Transylvania)

## RECYCLING IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling prevents pollution, saves energy, minimizes landfill usage and fuels a billion dollar industry.

By recycling items like paper, plastic, glass and aluminum, we will help save enough electricity to power 321,000 homes a year.

It will help keep the equivalent of 203,000 tons of coal from burning. That means fresher air and less toxic mercury in our lakes and streams.

Recycling also helps support jobs – paying an average of \$16 an hour – for some 19,000 Minnesotans.

Keeping recycling materials out of the landfill helps contribute to the state's tax revenue without paying a dime. The recycling industry adds \$64 million to Minnesota State tax coffers every year.

Minnesota has one of the highest recycling rates in the nation; in 2000 it was 46 percent.

Recycling cuts waste: Paper accounts for 40% of all municipal waste. Protects: Recycled paper saves forests, uses 55% less water, reduces water pollution by 35% and air pollution by 74%.

Recycling can also mean your food scraps everything but animal products) by using a compost bin. This will mean less garbage in the landfill.

On May 8, 2007, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law the Electronics Recycling Act requiring manufacturers of video display devices such as televisions, computer monitors, and laptop computers to recycle 80 percent of the volume of their sales by 2009. Minnesota has more than 150 registered collection sites for consumer electronics.

For more information on recycling go to the Recycling Association of Minnesota's web site: <http://www.recycleminnesota.org/>

Don't forget to reduce waste too. Visit [www.reduce.org](http://www.reduce.org) to learn how simple it is to reduce waste in your daily routine.

### **What Can I Do?**

*By Letha Fuller*

What can I do  
To make the New Year  
Better than the last?  
I can help spread cheer.  
Begin each day  
With a happy smile,  
Making it for others  
More worthwhile.

What can I do  
To make life better living?  
Abolish ugly hate  
And be more forgiving.  
Look for the beautiful,  
A grumbler never be,  
Keep a grateful heart,  
Be a little more friendly.

What can I do?  
Trust in God above,  
Reach out to others,  
Share my faith and love.  
To the sick and needy  
Be quick to lend a hand,  
Try to forget my troubles,  
Then the new year will be grand.

*Taken from "Good Old Days" magazine  
Submitted by a Nora member*



The Lunch Bunchers will be going back to school in January. We'll meet and eat at the MLC cafeteria on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

### **"THE PRAIRIE STAR" newsletter of Prairie Star District UUA**

- Feb 26-Mar 1 - International Convocation of UU Women, Houston, TX [www.icuuw.com](http://www.icuuw.com)
- Apr 3 - 9: PSD Annual Conference, Duluth, MN. Registration material and info [Annual Conference](#).
- July - Midwest UU summer Assembly, near St. Louis, MO [MUUSA page](#)
- Aug 2 - 7, near Omaha, NE: Camp Star Trail [Star Trail page](#)
- Gold Star Crafter Wanted: A volunteer crafts-person to design and make the gold stars used to honor growing congregations at the PSD Annual Conference. [gold star page](#)

⇒ For more information on the above, go to the Prairie Star District Web Site [www.psduua.org](http://www.psduua.org) and then to the above underlined links.

### **To Keep In Touch**



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**

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2009

Parsonage: 507-439-6240  
Dana's cell: 612-229-5907



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 NO SERVICE	5	6	7 Spirituality Groups meets @ 6:30 - South Point Federal Credit Union in New Ulm	8	9	10
11 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service Board Meeting POT LUCK	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service Congregational Mtg	19	20 Newsletter articles due!	21 Lunch bunch - 11:30 at MLC  Spirituality Groups meets @ 6:30	22	23	24
25 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	26	27	28	29	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
4		NO SERVICE	
11	Muffy Rathman	Alon & Carol Chambard	Ron & Julie Peck
18	JoAnn Huss	Gene & Georgine Tepley	Sheldon & Anne Rieke
25	Jordan Rathman	Angie & Scott Kudelka	Colleen Tasto Vickie Sieve



### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Reynolds will be at the parsonage late Tuesday/early Wednesday thru Sunday afternoon/evening. This is, of course, subject to change depending on what's going on.



**MUSICIANS**

**SERVERS**

**GREETERS/USHERS**

2009

**JANUARY**

4 NO SERVICE  
11 Muffy Rathman Alon & Carol Chambard  
18 JoAnn Huss Gene & Georgine Tepley  
25 Jordan Rathman Angie & Scott Kudelke

Ron & Julie Peck  
Sheldon & Anne Rieke  
Colleen Tasto  
Vickie Sieve



**FEBRUARY**

1 Muffy Rathman POTLUCK  
Darrell & Jeanie Hinsmann  
Wayne & Janet Johnson  
8 Jordan Rathman Kevin & Shannon Weiss  
15 JoAnn Huss Doug Anderson  
Kristi Paulson  
22 Sally Hanson Angie & Scott Becker Kudelke

Alon & Carol Chambard  
Nancy Brudeli  
Anna Schwenke  
Gene & Georgine Tepley  
Elroy & Ardis Wellmann

**MARCH**

1 Muffy Rathman POTLUCK  
Warren & Kristine Paulson  
Jerry & Susan Allen  
8 Jordan Rathman John & Anne Makepeace  
15 JoAnn Huss Dave & Jeanne Wenk  
22 Sally Hanson Diane Becken  
Kay Steffl  
29 Muffy Rathman Clayton & Shirley Olson

Chris Bodick  
Lee Drogemuller  
Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman  
Algot & Bonita Blomquist  
John & Julie Schmitt  
Gil & Sally Hansen

**APRIL**

5 Jordan Rathman POTLUCK  
Lee & Lynn Schmitt  
Christina Schmitt  
12 Muffy Rathman EASTER  
19 JoAnn Huss Louise Guggisberg  
Chris Bodick  
26 Clean up Day

Christopher Olson  
Kristi Paulson  
Dave & Jeanne Wenk  
Beverly & Wally Wellmann

**MAY**

3 Sally Hanson POTLUCK  
Kevin & Shannon Weiss  
Anna Schwenke  
10 JoAnn Huss John & Julie Schmitt  
17 SYTTENDE MAI  
24 Jordan Rathman Gene & Georgine Tepley  
31 Muffy Rathman Pat & Laurie Kurerth

Nancy Dickson  
Louise Guggisberg  
Christina Schmitt  
Susan Evers  
John & Anne Makepeace  
Doug Anderson  
Lee Drogemuller

**JUNE**

7 Sally Hanson POTLUCK  
Ron & Julie Peck  
Nancy Dickson, Michele Bethke  
14 Jordan Rathman Wayne & Janet Johnson  
21 JoAnn Huss Alon & Carol Chambard

Diane Becken  
Nancy Brudeli  
Ann Nelson  
Edith Beckius  
Roger & Norma Breu

SERVERS ~ GREETERS ~ USHERS:

- If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please try to arrange to switch with someone else.
- If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.
- Available substitutes include: Mimi Kamleiter (375-3585) and Mark & Brenda Wiger (354-5256).

## NOTES FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Nora Social Justice committee receives a number of pieces of information that may be of interest to individuals/ other groups. The following items will be made available outside the kaffestuge under the bulletin board and can be taken from there as individuals are interested.

- 3 DVD set from Veterans for Peace (VFP). Their collective experience tells us that wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary.

#1--No More Victims, Narrated by Peter Coyote (15 minutes)

#2--Videos for Waging Peace:

Bringing the War Home: On the Road with Eyes Open (11:30 min.) Since January 2004, this traveling exhibit of empty boots and shoes has opened eyes and stirred emotions across the country. This short documentary, which captures the essence of exhibit, is a effective tool to spark discussions with school, church or community groups about the human cost of the Iraq War.

Before You Enlist! (14:30min.) Addressed to young people and their families, this video is an effective counter-point to the seductive (and often deceptive) recruiting practices of the U. S. military. Soldiers, veterans, and military family members paint a vivid picture of the realities of war and military life.

Wage Peace (3 min. ) Through a series of devastating still images, this moving short video conveys the stark truth about the ongoing loss of life in Iraq - and encourages viewers to take action to end the war and bring the troops home. An ideal piece to open a meeting or rally.

Twenty The Robert Cray Band (8 min) Robert Cray's provocative blues ballad Twenty tells the story of a young soldier, who questions his mission in Iraq, but is killed before his deployment is up. The music video stars Iraq War veteran Aidan Delgado and uses AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit as its setting. Published by the American Friends Service Committee

#3--music by Pat Scanlon: Where is the Rage? I've got a feeling I've been here before. Produced by Pat Scanlon (BMI)

- Paper which includes the Draft Statement and comment forms for
  - 1) the Draft Statement of Conscience on "Peacemaking"
  - 2) the current Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Ethical Eating Food and Environmental Justice"

Individuals/congregations are encouraged to submit comments which will be included in developing the Statement for the General Assembly in June 2009. Your voice can be heard on these important topics!

- The Community Church Unitarian Universalist of New Orleans, Louisiana has a short DVD, Wash Us Away and a brief essay, Salvation in a Baggie. The DVD shares the story of Community Church after Katrina. CCUU is one of the 3 UU churches in this area telling the story of that church and the post-Katrina difficulties.
- The New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf sends a thank you to Nora
- Paper from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse Prevention including Roles, Responsibilities, and Facts.

For example....94.4% of Clergy consider Substance Abuse an important issue in their Congregations...however, only 12.5% receive any training.

.....The influence of parental attitudes on a child's drug taking behaviors may be as important as actual drug abuse by the parents. An adolescent who perceives that a parent is permissive about the use of drugs is more likely to use drugs.



**What happens when  
the money runs out?**



**4th Annual**

# **MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENT**

**Sunday, January 18, 2009**

**United Church of Christ,  
301 S. Minnesota, New Ulm**



## **PRESENTATION**

**5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

- **New Ulm Human Rights Outstanding Citizen award**
  - given by the New Ulm Human rights Commission
- **What Happens When “The Money Runs Out?”**
  - Southern MN Regional Legal Services Attorney Gary Petersen will describe the plight of the poor who are struggling with mortgage foreclosure issues; repossession; predatory lending schemes; garnishment and bill collectors.

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Includes salad, roll & beverage**

**ADULTS \$7.50**

**STUDENTS \$5.00**

**5 AND UNDER FREE**

**tickets available at CashWise, HyVee & at the door**



**Sponsored by the Nora Unitarian Universalist Church & the New Ulm Human Rights Commission**  
**Facility host is the New Ulm United Church of Christ**





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**Sunday, January 18, 2009**

**United Church of Christ, 301 S. Minnesota, New Ulm**

PRESENTATION ~ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- New Ulm Human Rights Outstanding Citizen award
- What Happens When "The Money Runs Out?" Gary Petersen

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



## Nora Church Sunday Services JANUARY 2009

**Coffee Time 10:00 AM**

**Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**January 4** - No Service

**January 11** - guest, Ursula Christ - "Personal Experience and Connection with God." In My time as an interfaith minister I've seen how we all relate to God in many different ways and at many different levels. Even those of us who do not relate to the idea of God still find a kind of deeper meaning to life in nature and humanity. This sermon is about accepting and exploring the concepts that we each carry about what God is to us and what role that plays in our lives individually. What is the difference between one's religion and one's spirituality? This sermon is about owning our personal connections and experience with the divine in all the many ways that it occurs to us during our lives; learning to love the way we all "go to God".

**January 18** - "How You Can Tell When the Church is Working Well." - We explore the purposes of the church and some guides to help us see how we are doing in achieving those purposes.

**January 25** - "The Radical Reformation Continues" -This is where our spiritual/religious forebears came from. Knowing our history helps us to plan our future. This is a multigenerational service designed to be accessible and informative to our young people.