



March, 2012

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m.

March Worship Theme is Brokenness

March 4 *The Picture Makes a Promise – Flesh Lets it be Broken*

Rev. Scott McNeill

This phrase comes from the music of Tracy Chapman, as she sings of hope and our quest for wholeness. This Sunday will explore the theme of brokenness, especially in music.

March 11 *How Open are the Doors for Welcoming the Stranger?*

Carol Johnson

This Sunday will give us a chance to focus on human relationships and how the ideas of borders and immigration lead to brokenness. Carol Johnson will share her thoughts on discovering the facts versus the myths concerning immigrants.

March 18 *Finding Our Greatness: Firefighting*

Rev. Scott McNeill

Our sermon series on "Finding Our Greatness" will wrap up this week as we look into how our gifts to the world are used and how we are replenished by those gifts.

March 25

Faith of Our Founders II: Unitarian Voices From Early America

Michael Lynne

This group presentation/dramatic reading will highlight some of the theological, spiritual, intellectual, and political themes and personalities that have contributed to the development of the Unitarian Universalist movement in modern America.



**Neighbors United
Community Meal**
Saturday, March 10
(see page 5)

Circle Suppers
Saturday, March 17
(see page 7)



**Annual
Fundraising
Auction**
Saturday, March 31
(see page 5)

Second Thoughts is a monthly publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.
Please send your articles and submissions to: info@2Uomaha.org.
Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



Ever try to glue together a chipped or broken glass or vase? It's a uniquely difficult and frustrating task – so of course it's best not to break anything. But how impossible is that – to go through life without breaking *anything*?

I guess you can say I'm overwhelmed with the concept of **Brokenness**. As we approach the theme of the month for March, it's amazing to me to look at how many readings, poems, songs, and stories tie into the theme of Brokenness. In part, my appreciation of the theme is theological.

Part of my theology (and I believe part of Unitarian Universalist theology) is that our world is inherently broken and that through time, we work to mend that brokenness. This is not necessarily a bad thing, however. Being broken, or cracked, or not whole is not a sign of inherent bad or evil. Instead, being broken is part of the original blessing of humanity.

Facing strife and struggle is a common human experience. All of the great religious leaders found their ministries through struggle – be it Siddhartha wanting to know more about pain and suffering, or Jesus struggling with temptation in the desert for forty days. The human story is one of being called to know struggle and wrestle with it, not always getting it right.

"We are called to know struggle ... and to overcome it."

And yet we are also called to overcome it. Finding a way to create wholeness is one of the great gifts of life. And often we find that it takes some balance of doing it ourselves and being open to the revelations that come through others and community.

Here at Second Unitarian, we talk a lot about weaving together a tapestry of our lives. A rich metaphor, definitely, but it holds such weight in our lives because it symbolizes the basic human conundrum of being apart, fractured and fragmented – and also looking to find wholeness.

Sometimes our brokenness is internal – and our bodies don't quite feel well, or whole. Sometimes our brokenness is external – whether it's about relationships on a one-on-one level or disjointedness with the world as a whole. In whatever way we feel disconnected, there is a level of dis-ease that creates conflict and potentially pain. Yet in that moment of brokenness exists an opportunity for growth and change like never before.

The originators of the theme-based ministry selected "brokenness" to come after "love" and before "transformation." How perfect, how telling that it takes a mixture of love and brokenness to be transformed.

Being fractured, or broken, or not whole is universal. Although the particulars of our cracks may differ, the fact is that we all have them in some way. Let us therefore not hide them, not hide our brokenness – but display it so that each person may be seen, and attended to, and mended in their own unique way.

Our community is made stronger by the individuals within it, and our collective story made greater by the personal stories that create the whole.

We are made whole by acknowledging our brokenness – so let us allow for that aspect of our lives, so that we may find our way to transformation.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



Several years ago, our Prairie Star District Executive was meeting with members here at Second Unitarian Church and he asked us why we supported the church. It was a time close to our annual pledge drive so he was asking about financial support. I still remember my response – *Supporting Second Unitarian is a gift I give myself.*

Even though I've never earned a lot of money, I pledged what I could afford each year. Some years were better than others and sometimes it was a stretch to meet my pledge. It is the combination of all of our contributions pooled together that keeps this congregation here for us and others who will find us. It is our religious foundation and touchstone. Personally, I don't want to know what it would be like to live without the religious gift I get from this church.

If this rationale makes any sense to you, then I encourage you to think of the gift you'd like to give yourself when it comes to participating in the stewardship campaign during this month. We can all deepen our connections through our conversations at house meetings where we share our desires and vision for Second Unitarian and how we can help to make those dreams come true. See you there.

With gratitude for the gift you are.

Cheri



Share the Plate for March: The Tom Mahony Pride Prom

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in March will go to The Tom Mahony Pride Prom.

For the past seven years, a number of community groups including PFLAG Omaha, Proud Horizons, GLSEN Omaha, and metropolitan Gay Straight Alliance clubs have sponsored this Pride Prom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their allies. Attendance has grown from about seventy youth the first year to three hundred from all over the state of Nebraska last year.

The Tom Mahony Pride Prom will take place for the eighth time this May, once again allowing youth a special place where they can feel safe and celebrated, and where they can rejoice and dance with whomever they want. The youth chose the theme "A Night on the Red Carpet" as their prom theme this year.

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit the church website or contact the Social Justice Coordinating Council or Rev. Scott.





Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

**Second Unitarian Church
Treasurer's Report
Month End for January 31, 2012**

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$93,054.58
reflects 59.37% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2012-13.

Thank you for your generosity and stewardship!

YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$982.00
received of New Pledges for \$5,785.00 for 2012-13.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | January | Year-To-Date |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$15,405.37 | \$103,136.86 |
| Expenses | -\$16,673.66 | -\$ 95,955.40 |
| Net Over/Short | <u>\$ -1,268.29</u> | <u>\$ 7,181.46</u> |
| | | |

Contribution statements for the 2011 Tax Year were mailed in January. If you have questions, or if you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

Find Our Greatness Stewardship Campaign

By Carol Johnson



We are in our last few weeks of "Find Our Greatness" Stewardship Campaign and there are several house meetings for you to participate in. The house meetings are a unique opportunity to connect with other members and affiliates of the congregation to talk with one another about what is meaningful about Second Unitarian as well as hopes and dreams for the church and its place in the community.

If you didn't sign up for a house meeting at the Kickoff Event February 25, sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church or you may call the church office. The schedule of house meetings is below. If you need childcare, there are two house meetings at the church that include care for children at your request. We hope every member and affiliate can attend a house meeting! If there is not a house meeting that fits your schedule, please arrange a time to meet with your visiting steward for a face-to-face meeting that is convenient for you.

You are encouraged to submit your pledges as soon as possible. We are targeting March 18 to have most pledges submitted; the absolute, drop-dead, final deadline for pledges is March 25. You can turn in your confidential pledge at the house meeting you attend or in the pledge box on the table under Second Showing. It is important to the church for you to pledge so that our church leaders can plan and prepare a realistic budget for the upcoming church year. The timeline for submitting pledges is based on a budget preparation process that must be completed for the membership to review and question the budget prior to approval at our annual meeting on May 20.



Fundraising Auction March 31

By Stephanie Peterson

Sharing Our Greatness

The annual Second Unitarian Church of Omaha Fundraising Auction

Saturday Evening, March 31

In the Common Room of the First Unitarian Church of Omaha

Enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship!

Discover the gifts and talents within our community! Share your unique gifts!

Support the programs of Second Unitarian Church!

Auction Donations are needed:

- Create an experience to share with others (a dinner, a day trip, a guided tour, lessons, a party...).
- Donate *one-of-a-kind* items.
- Solicit donations from the businesses you support.
- Donation form is on the next page, also available at Second Unitarian.
- Donated items will be accepted in the days preceding the event.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Peterson

Neighbors United Community Meal March 10

By Don Shenum

Second Unitarian is once again participating in the Neighbors United Community Meal on Saturday, March 10.

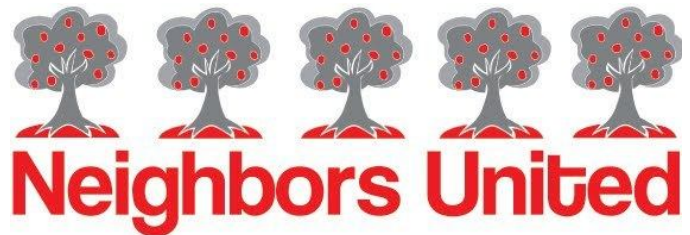
The program takes place every Saturday in downtown Omaha and different secular and religious groups cook each week. Roughly once a quarter, Second Unitarian has cooked and shared a meal with people who need food for the body and soul. If you're interested in participating, here's what happens that day.

We take over the kitchen and common room at First Baptist Church starting around 8 a.m. to prepare a meal for 150-250 homeless and low income residents from the Park Avenue and downtown neighborhoods. The meal is served from 11:30-1:00. We start cleanup around 12:30, and are done by 2 p.m.

We are organizing this as part of Neighbors United's multi-faith effort to provide a framework for larger community building. More information is at <http://www.neighborsunitedomaha.org/>

The meal is the central gathering place for this community building endeavor. In addition to the meal, there are other activities such as a clothing closet, resources and counseling, Trader Joe's now provides a large food donation that people can take home with them, and other activities depending on the week.

Please contact Don Shenum if you are willing and available to help on March 10. Any period of time during the day is appreciated. We've had people come and help get everything prepped then have to leave, we've had people show up at the end to help with cleanup. Kids are welcome!



Donation Form
Second Unitarian Church
Silent / Live Auction - Saturday, March 31, 2012
In the Common Room at First Unitarian Church

Donor's Name / Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Contact Address: _____

I tem to be donated: _____

Description of I tem (Continue on back if needed): _____

Estimated Retail Value: _____ Required Minimum Bid (Optional): _____

Permission to Advertise I tem on church website (Yes/No): _____

May the public (non-2U members/friends) bid on your donation? (Yes/No): _____

Other Comments: _____

Please drop completed form in auction box located at back of church.

Someone from the planning team will be in contact with you.

Please deliver donated goods on Friday, March 30

to Second Unitarian before 3:00 p.m. ,

or

to The First Unitarian Church Common Room between Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Peterson

Thank you for your donation!!

Circle Suppers

**CIRCLE SUPPER
SATURDAY, MARCH 17
SIGN UP NOW!**

The Fellowship Committee coordinates Circle Suppers. Attending a circle supper is a great way for people to get to know each other in a relaxed, informal, small group environment. It is a way to build community while socializing and enjoying a potluck dinner. Dinners are hosted by members who open their homes, provide the main dish and drinks and host a group of around 6 to 8 guests. Guests each bring a dish to share.

Please sign up at the back of the Sanctuary and indicate if you are able to host a supper. You will be contacted to verify whether you'll be a host or guest. Or register by contacting Judy Eller .

Signup for the **March 17 Circle Supper** is in progress! Please look for the clipboard at the back of the sanctuary. We are looking for people who are willing to host as well as those who will be guests.

Please indicate on the sheet if you are able to host and the number of guests you can accommodate.

To register via email or phone, contact Judy Eller

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible Workshop

A special invitation from Laura Shennum and the Unitarian Church of Lincoln: The workshop entitled "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible" is being held Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. The cost is \$15.00. **Registration is due by March 15.**

This dynamic workshop will combine video presentations, time for personal reflection and small group conversations. The film, *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*, features the experiences of white men and women who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge notions of racism and white supremacy. Participants in the film talk about their learned and internalized sense of privilege. Their stories reveal what is often required to move through the stages of denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making a solid commitment to ending racial injustice. The film catalyzes powerful dialogue to support the learning, change and healing of all people who want to undo race-based oppression.

This workshop will be facilitated by D. Moritz, Nebraska Unitarian state representative of the Social Justice Network, and Laura Shennum, Student Minister, Unitarian Church of Lincoln.

Register on line at <http://www.unitarianlincoln.org/events?eventId=446479&EventViewMode=EventDetails> **Registration form due by March 15.** Please send to Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68510, and include registration fee of \$15 with checks made out to "Unitarian Church of Lincoln."

Vespers Service

Looking for Connections? Looking for Silence?

Starting **March 24**, our Vespers service is moving to **Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.** Each month, our focus will be on meditation and silence – and after a contemplative worship led by 2U members, interested people will go out to dinner together.

If you're interested, contact Rev. Scott McNeill, Julie Kirn, or Steve Abraham. We look forward to sharing a different type of worship with the church, especially with the opportunity to "break bread together afterwards."

FULL CIRCLE

**Our honorary association of people who have remembered
Second Unitarian Church of Omaha in their estate planning.**

Congratulations to these initial members of Full Circle:

Anonymous
Sue Aschinger
Rick and Kathy Bell
Cheri Cody
Vicki Pratt

(Special thanks to Sue, who also came up with the name "Full Circle.")

This generous form of planned giving helps lay a foundation for our church's continued growth, including a collateral fund for capital projects (such as a new building) and expanded programming through interest-bearing investments.

If you would like to join these great people as a charter member of Full Circle, please take a brochure in the church foyer or contact Stu Burns.

Charter membership closes April 15!

Weather-Related Cancellations

If weather or road conditions cause services or an all-church event to be cancelled, we will notify you by:

1. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
2. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
3. Placing a message on the church website (www.2Uomaha.org), and
4. Placing a notification on our Facebook page.

In case of a Service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.





Lifespan Religious Education

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning

SMILING

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around a corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled, I realized I had passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile and then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

-- Author Unknown

Announcing changes in Religious Education

Due to a handful of reasons including the two service Sundays, we have decided to try a new approach to the classroom organization. We have come up with a way that will better fit our needs and support the UU teachings of connecting with one another.

This vast array of ages will provide valuable lessons on its own as the little ones look up to the older kids and learn from them, the older children learn what it means to be a good role model, and overall they help build relationships with one another that they might not otherwise get the opportunity to do.

How does this affect you?

If you are a parent, your child can attend RE at either service regardless of age group.

If you are a teacher or an assistant, you will be contacted to make proper adjustments to the schedule if needed.

The sign-up link will also see some changes. This will help lighten the load for all of our wonderful volunteers who give their time to the children every Sunday!

Thank you to all who volunteer.

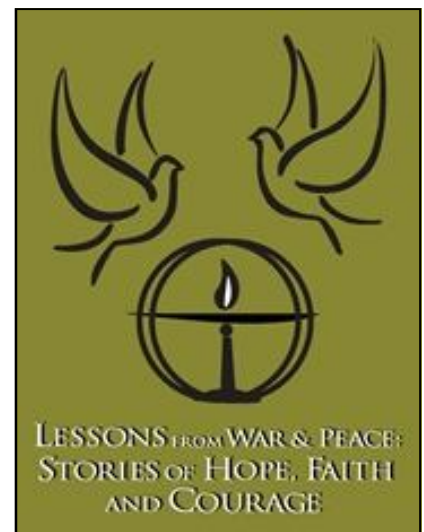
Prairie Star District (PSD) Conference to Explore War & Peace

Join fellow UUs the weekend of April 13-15, 2012, in Bloomington, Minnesota, for the Prairie Star District Annual Conference which will address the challenging theme, "Lessons From War & Peace: Stories of Faith, Hope and Courage."

In addition to examining this profoundly moving theme, you can benefit from workshops designed to strengthen your congregation, deepen your social justice work, and enrich you on a personal level. Come and experience some of PSD's top talent, culminating with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning.

For more information about the conference, please visit

<http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2012>.





Welcome to Youth Programming Director and Childcare Coordinator

By Rev. Scott McNeill

We welcome two fantastic women to our ever-increasing part-time staff.

Naomi Solomon is our new Youth Programming Director. Naomi is a soon-to-be graduate with a Master's of Library Science which follows a Bachelor's of Education and Human Sciences. Naomi became a part of this church by visiting with her partner Erin not too long ago. Now, she will work with our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Program (also known as YRUU).

YRUU is a joint venture between First and Second Unitarian Churches. At this time, Naomi is helping to administer the program as she learns how the history has gone and where we're headed. Over the next few months, we will use her skills to create good programming for the teens as well as to help us understand where the two churches should take this program for the long term. Naomi may seem shy, but she has a lot of good energy and intelligent things to offer, so invite her to have coffee and talk about how life is going for her and you!

We are blessed to have **Molly Wilson** as our Childcare Coordinator. Molly has, in receiving her Bachelor's in Religious Studies, learned much about faith development and had great experience in learning how to be with little ones. Molly has much experience with children, so we are lucky to have her with us. Molly is a member at First Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Even if you don't have a child in our nursery, please stop by and see Molly so that you can connect on many different opportunities and build a great relationship.

Thank you to both Molly and Naomi for working with us, for their friends and partners who support them in this work, and for those people who helped to interview these candidates and the other fantastic people who were considered!

Hungry after worship? Looking for friends?

After the 11:30 a.m. Sunday service, we are hoping to connect people
(and generate business for our local economy).

If you want to meet new people and eat lunch together,

meet in the foyer around 12:45 p.m. to head to a local restaurant.

No RSVP is needed, only a strong appetite or a desire to talk and meet others.

For more information, [contact Rev. Scott](#).

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

As stated in church policies: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion. In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information.

Regarding published photographs: If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!



LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

By Tammy Hunter

Omaha's Employment Nondiscrimination Update

Omaha's "Equal Employment Ordinance" is again on the City Council's agenda! Please get involved in this important work to make sure that ALL Omahans have equal protection under the law.

The Ordinance would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the city's current equal employment regulations. As the law is currently written, those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender have no legal recourse if they believe they have been fired or denied service due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Please call, email, or meet with your City Council representatives and inform them of your support for the Ordinance. Let them know why this is important to you. If you email, please copy Jeff of Citizens for Equal Protection at CFEPJEFF@me.com. Contact information for City Council members can be found at the Council's website, www.ci.omaha.ne.us/citycouncil/council-members, or call 402-444-5520.

Upcoming City Council meetings (all meetings are at 2 p.m. at 1819 Farnam St., Ste LC-1):

- Tuesday, February 28 – Councilman Ben Gray will introduce the Equal Employment Ordinance (all are welcome to attend in support of the Ordinance, but there will not be an opportunity for the public to speak).
- **Tuesday, March 6 – the BIG DATE! This will be the public hearing and your chance to be seen and heard. Arrive early (before 2 p.m.), and wear purple if you can. *If you would like to carpool, please meet in the Second Unitarian parking lot at 1 p.m.***
- Tuesday, March 13 – the Council will vote (all are welcome to attend in support of the Ordinance, but there will be no opportunity to speak).

Legislative Bill 912 – Statewide Uniform Employment Discrimination Policy

LB912 would ban Omaha and other communities from passing their own antidiscrimination ordinances, if they differ from the state's current antidiscrimination policy (which does NOT recognize the LGBT community as a protected class). This would nullify Omaha's Equal Employment Ordinance, if passed by the Omaha City Council. As of this writing, LB912 is still in the Unicameral's Judiciary Committee, which it must pass through in order to be voted on by the Legislature as a whole. Please contact the Judiciary Committee members and ask them to not interfere with our ongoing efforts to make Omaha a fair and equal place to live and work.

Contact information for Judiciary Committee members can be found at Equal Nebraska's website, www.equalnebraska.org/, or call 402-471-2622.

Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

The Women's Alliance will hold its next meeting, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church. All women of First and Second Unitarian Churches are invited.

Our featured speaker will be Douglas Lee-Regier, licensed massage therapist, English teacher, and long time Unitarian. He will present some talk and some demos on massage for wellness. Douglas specializes in myofascial release, reiki and craniosacral therapy. He will attest to the benefits of massage as more than "getting a good rub" or even "feels-good relaxation." He will also speak on his own journey toward wellness in body, mind and spirit.

Our dinner (\$10) will be a Traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day Dinner. If this is your first time, please be our guest.

Our Alliance "outreach" project for the month of March will be gathering non-perishable items for the First Lutheran Church pantry. Please "be generous to those in need."

Reservations must be made no later than Friday, March 9. to Janet West. We hope to see you at the meeting.



Immigration as a Moral Issue

By Carol Johnson

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly selected "Immigration as a Moral Issue" to be the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it and take action —each in their own way.

The course continues Sundays in March from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the church. Topics for each session are:

March 4 *Security, Enforcement and Human Rights*

March 11 *Who Benefits From a Broken System?*

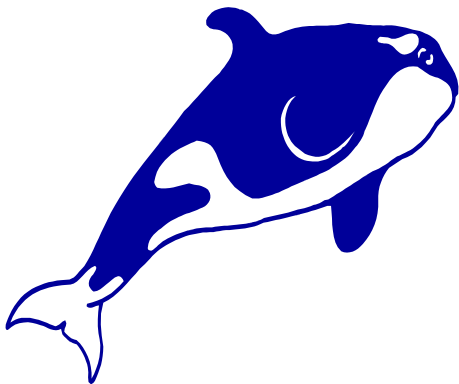
March 18 *Seeking Solutions*

You need not attend all sessions; however, there is reading preparation for each session, so please pre-register for the sessions of your choice so that materials can be sent to you. For questions and/or to sign up for sessions, please contact Carol Johnson.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

At the Second Unitarian Church, **10-11:30 a.m., on the second Saturday of each month** all year long, we celebrate Writing for Spiritual Growth by placing our understanding of this awareness into poetry and prose, which adds clarity and passion to our lives. Join us in creating the world we desire through the written word.

All members and friends of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha are welcome to participate in this project, which is part of this church's adult religious education. We welcome all sojourners who wish to share the paths on which they walk in search of enlightenment. There are no creeds, no goals, and no competitive members, here. Our group's motto is "Just Write." Our belief is our truth will appear, when we write enough.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you!

Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year!

See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation.

To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



Community Garden Plots Now Available!

By Marco Ballarin



The Community Garden committee is kicking off the 2012 growing season by soliciting applications for the garden plots located north of the church.

The size of the plots are the same as last year: 8 feet by 8 feet, approximately.

The expectations from growers are also the same:

1. All crops are to be grown organically
2. There is a \$10 fee associated with each plot to reimburse the church for watering costs
3. Growers must be willing to share watering and other gardening responsibilities
4. Growers must sign a liability waiver and two gardening agreements to have access to the plots.

There are a total of 14 plots available and there is a limit of 2 plots per grower. Contact Marco Ballarin to receive an application as well as the other forms.

Any plots not assigned to the members of our congregation by March 31 will be made available to the wider Omaha community.

New Acquisition for Library

By Vicki Pratt, Library Committee

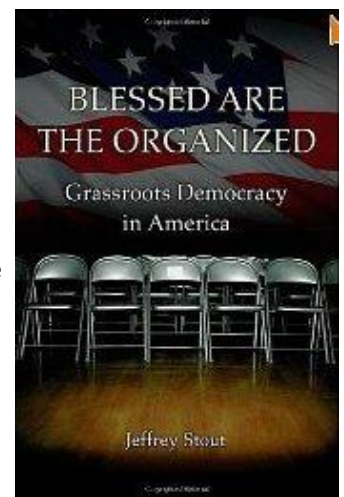
Blessed are the Organized by Jeffrey Stout, professor of religion at Princeton University, probes into the background and current condition of grassroots democracy in America. Of special interest to Omahans, Stout concentrates research on the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), of which Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) is a member.

Stout claims that the imbalance of power between ruling elites and ordinary citizens is the principal cause of democracy's ills and that they can be set straight only by large scale broad-based community organizing. Community organizing bridges racial, ethnic, class, and religious divisions in a community to form a public with the relational power to improve the common good.

Power for improving the common good comes from one-on-one meetings in the community, then neighborhood house meetings to hear stories, identifying a common issue from the stories and leaders who want to improve conditions caused by the issue, research and analysis, calling attention to the issue through public forums, publicly asking officials for their stand on rectifying the issue, and holding officials accountable for outcomes. Stout includes examples of how the common good has been improved by IAF organizing in New Orleans, the Rio Grande Valley, and Los Angeles.

Stout then examines whether local community organizer skills are beneficial for a U.S. President and delves into the possibilities for deploying community organizing tactics at the national and international level.

You can find this book in the Social Justice section of our church library.





- **Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals**
- **Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money**

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com

www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

Adopted May 23, 2010

To strengthen the bond of peace within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: We pledge

- to create a religious community where we freely explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength.
- to build healthy relationships by respecting our differences and assuming good intentions.
- to listen appreciatively and endeavor to speak directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- to do our best to forgive if we hurt one another, to make amends and to reconnect in a spirit of gratitude and generosity.
- to abide by this covenant in celebration of the common purpose that unites us.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and supports our mission to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice, and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

You have probably noticed a lot of new faces lately on Sunday mornings. We have an increasing number of visitors checking us out as they seek a spiritual home.

Thank you for taking a moment to introduce yourself to those wearing visitor name tags or who are our newer members. We all enjoy being warmly received!

| Attendance | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Date | Adults in Worship | Adults in R.E. | Children in R.E. | Youth in Second Circle |
| 1/29 | 97 | 8 | 11 | -- |
| 2/5 | 74 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 2/12 | 91 | 3 | 9 | -- |
| 2/19 | 64 | 5 | 4 | 3 |

March 21 Is the Deadline for Establishing Your Right to Vote at the Annual Meeting

Members will vote at Second Unitarian's annual meeting on May 20 on such matters as next year's budget and who will serve on the Board of Trustees. Our bylaws state that the Board of Trustees must determine the list of eligible voting members 60 days in advance of a membership meeting. **This year's eligibility date falls on March 21.** To be considered an eligible voting member, not only must you have signed your name in Second Unitarian's membership book prior to March 21, but you must also have made a recorded financial contribution within the preceding 12 months. Please contact Kathy Bell if you have any questions about your eligibility.

Second Circle

FOR TEENS OF SECOND UNITARIAN

By Gay Robinson Abraham



All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting between the two services at 10:30 a.m. on the **first and third Sundays** of the month, September through May. We gather in the church foyer and walk together to our space across the street. Our time is spent focused on connection—connecting to each other, to the outer community, to the world, and to our religious and spiritual selves. We explore through discussion, ritual, media, and a variety of activities. All meetings are facilitated by two adult volunteers from our church community.

Questions to Gay Robinson Abraham.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

By Rev. Scott McNeill



Second Unitarian is privileged to be hosting YRUU. For years, the program has met at both locations and they are meeting at Second Unitarian on **Wednesday nights** for the January-May 2012 semester. We look forward to having their energy fill the space at Second Unitarian!

If you have questions, please talk to Rev. Scott McNeill. All 7th through 12th graders are welcome to this teen program, as well as our Sunday morning program, Second Circle!



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

March, 2012

Fri., Mar. 2, 7 p.m., Stewardship House Meetings (FH & offsite)
Sat., Mar. 3, 9 a.m., Building & Grounds (DNW)
10 a.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
7 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
Sun., Mar. 4, 1 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
2 p.m., Immigration as a Moral Issue (SA)
7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)
Mon., Mar. 5, 6 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (FH, DN)
7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)
Tue., Mar. 6, All Day, Chaplain Meeting (upstairs)
7 p.m., Hungry for Change (DNW, DN, K)
Wed., Mar. 7, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (FH)
Thu., Mar. 8, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Sat., Mar. 10, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Meal (offsite)
10 a.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)
6:30 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
Sun., Mar. 11, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)
2 p.m., Immigration as a Moral Issue (SA)
Mon., Mar. 12, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation (DNW)
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
Tue., Mar. 13, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)
6 p.m., Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)
6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DRE ofc.)
7 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (DNW, DN)
Wed., Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m., Finance Coordinating Council (FH)
7:30 p.m., Committee on Ministry/McNeill (MO)
Thu., Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)
Fri., Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
Sat., Mar. 17, 9 a.m., Stewardship House Meeting (offsite)
Noon, Transgender Youth Group (WH)
6 p.m., Circle Suppers
Sun., Mar. 18, 2 p.m., Immigration as a Moral Issue (SA)
7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)
Mon., Mar. 19, 6 p.m., Audit Committee (DNW)
6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
Tue., Mar. 20, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)
5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Membership Committee (FH)
Thu., Mar. 22, 7:40 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
Sat., Mar. 24, 5:30 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)
Mon., Mar. 26, 7 p.m., Earth-Based Spirituality (FH)
Tue., Mar. 27, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
Wed., Mar. 28, 7 p.m., Marketing Advisory Committee (FH)
Fri., Mar. 30, All Day, Auction Setup (offsite)
Sat., Mar. 31, 6 p.m., Fundraising Auction (offsite)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
First & Third Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Second Circle
Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch @ Church
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., **Young Religious Unitarian Universalists**
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
Second Saturdays, 10 a.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth
15th of Every Month: Second Thoughts deadline

Calendar Codes:

*RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary,
(DN)=Downstairs Classroom, (DNW) = Downstairs Worship Area,
(OS)=Offsite, (WH)=Whole Church, (PR)=Private Rental,
(KI)=Kitchen, (MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.*

Save These Dates Next Month:

April 13-15 Prairie Star District Conference
(Bloomington, Minnesota)
April 21 Earth Day Omaha
April 28 Spring Church Cleanup

Let us know how you use this calendar. Do you post it on your refrigerator? Do you use it to remind you of a meeting you need to attend? Or perhaps do you prefer to check the online calendar which is updated regularly, not just once a month like this calendar in the newsletter? Please let us know how important this calendar is to you, and if you have suggestions for improvements. **Thank you!**

All events are subject to change.

To check the latest church calendar updates anytime, visit www.2Uomaha.org and click on CALENDAR, or call the church if there is a question.

Contact Us

Staff

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111
minister@2Uomaha.org

Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Affiliated Community Minister

community_minister@2Uomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning

402-334-0537 ext. 112
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Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

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Donna Zebolsky, Music Director

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Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Director

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Molly Wilson, Childcare Coordinator

childcare@2Uomaha.org

Second Thoughts Staff: Rev. Scott McNeill, Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell, Gary Emenitove

Board of Trustees

board@2Uomaha.org

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2012

Kathy Bell
Lorraine Duggin
Don Shennum, Secretary

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody, Chair
Laura Neece-Baltaro
Nancy VanderSluis, Vice-Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2014

JoAnne Draper
Anita Jeck

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Of Omaha

3012 South 119th Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68144

402-334-0537

www.2Uomaha.org

Committees

Audit Committee

Richard Baltaro, Chair

Building and Grounds

Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Caring

Dodie Robison, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Fellowship

Janet Nichols & Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Chris Peters & Stephanie Peterson, Co-Chairs

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson, Chair

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Jaime Short, Chair

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Julie Kirn, Chair

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison & Pam Curtiss-Smith, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Sue Aschinger, Chair

Personnel

Carol Johnson, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Contact to be announced

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey & Cheri Cody, Contacts

Welcoming Congregation / LGBTQ Beacon

Tammy Hunter, Contact

Technology

Bill Kuhn, Chair

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin, Contact

Many church communications are sent via e-mail. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA**

“Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is an inclusive and nurturing religious community engaged in thoughtful pursuit of truth and meaning. Our mission is to grow as a beacon of hope – sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity and promotes justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.”

Adopted May 16, 2004