



April, 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.

## April Worship Theme is Transformation

### April 1

### **An Hour Lecture on Tax Law and Religion**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*Come to church but bring a pillow for a nap - it'll be very boring!*

### April 8

### **Everyone a Butterfly**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*Each of us face ridicule, frustration and despair. May we use our difficulties to transform into something great.*

### April 15

### **Apartheid By Another Name? — Criminal Justice in America**

Rev. Kate Rohde

*Historically, "Law and Order" has been an acceptable way to legitimize a two-tiered society. A recent book by ACLU attorney Michelle Alexander taught me a lot I didn't know about the justice system in America. The latest news from Florida is only one case amongst hundreds of thousands.*

### April 22

### **The IKEA Church**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*Do-it-yourself takes on a whole new meaning when it comes to building furniture – and when it comes to building faith. This Sunday, come to church and see what you can create (no allen wrenches needed!).*

### April 29

### **Mistakes, Re-Takes, New Takes**

Rev. Sarah Voss

*Change yourself, change the world. In this sermon guest minister Rev. Dr. Sarah Voss will offer a brief look at how and why we deal with our errors.*



## Spring Celebration

April 8  
(see page 5)

## Spring Church Cleanup

April 18  
(see page 10)

## Social Justice Movie Night

April 29  
(see page 10)

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



# Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



## Congratulations!

Holy Moly – I am so proud and excited that this congregation has decided to purchase TD Ameritrade Park and to move in. With all of the excitement over the upcoming move, I want to highlight a few notes and changes:

- Creighton Baseball tickets come automatically with a pledge (please don't let this deter you).
- College World Series tickets come automatically with a 10,000 pledge (please let this encourage you).
- Red Sky Music Festival tickets will now include a 3-hour sermon, co-preached by myself, Rev.

Sarah Gettie Burks, and our dog, Jake. The cat (Yen) is holding out for more tuna in her contract.

- In homage to the San Francisco Giants, TD Ameritrade Park will now be known as Chalice-stick Park.
- Offerings will be harder to collect, with our incredible amount of seating. Please just buy something at the concession stand and that'll cover what we need.
- On that note, the concession stand will now be serving Fair Trade Coffee, All-You-Can-Eat Veggie Dogs, and Wine.
- Finally, we will need volunteers to umpire every week – we all need someone to disagree with!

This month marks one of the **holiest holidays** – the joy of April Fools. I hope that you will find a way to lighten your mood by laughing with (or at) the rest of the world.

Our faith is one that encourages people to deepen their spirituality – but to also find the holy in lots of places, even laughter. I encourage you to send me any of the jokes you have – and tell me what April Fool's pranks you have played on others.

It can be hard to make the space and time for laughter – with all of the struggle and suffering in the world (and in our own lives), it can seem foolish to chuckle. And yet, without that laughter, without those smiles, we find ourselves too dour and sour to turn life around.

We need laughter and light-heartedness, if only for a moment.

April's theme of the month is "**Transformation.**" Sometimes we are transformed by the deep and serious situations of life and sometimes we are transformed by the silly and unexpected. Be open to the Holy in whatever way it comes to you. Sometimes, it might just surprise you!

*Oh! And see you at the Stadium on April 1<sup>st</sup>!*

In faith,

**Rev. Scott**

### **NO FOOLING: SAVE THE DATE -- SATURDAY, APRIL 21**

Join Dave Rickard, UUA Capital Consultant, for a conversation about buildings and capital campaigns on Saturday, April 21. More details about the discussion will be shared through our weekly e-news and in worship. We look forward to learning more and seeing how we can grow!



## Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



Another stewardship campaign has come to an end and it was a reminder of how well we, as a congregation, mix business and pleasure. The stewardship kickoff event at the end of February was filled with energy and camaraderie. Stu Burns' "treasure hunt" game helped us stay moving while we searched for members and friends who fit the criteria on our list. I'm sure we all learned new information about each other while having some good old fun. Since then, there have been several house meetings where I hope you've learned new things and met people you didn't know, or at least, didn't know well.

Friends, relationships, support, encouragement, trust, interesting and interested, committed are all words we hear when asked why this church and the people in it are important to us. We can pursue a religious life on our own, but I believe it doesn't achieve the depth or long-time commitment as does a journey within a congregational context. Attending church on Sunday and intentionally living out those common values the rest of the week will grow our faith and sustain us in the difficult times we all encounter at one time or another.

Thank you for being on the journey. I need you.

*Cheri*



### Share the Plate for April: Food Bank for the Heartland

#### **One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in April will go to Food Bank for the Heartland**

Food is a basic human necessity, yet many don't know where their next meal is coming from, especially during this time of high unemployment and cutbacks in social services.

The mission of Food Bank for the Heartland is to eliminate hunger in Nebraska and western Iowa through community collaboration to make the best possible use of available resources. It is the largest food bank in Nebraska and Iowa, founded in 1981 and headquartered in Omaha.

Food Bank for the Heartland operates its own programs that serve vulnerable populations in our community. Programs include food for at-risk children in our community; food for seniors living in low-income housing; backpacks distributed to children who may not have food to eat at home during the weekends; a traveling food pantry delivering food directly to families; fresh fruits and vegetables distributed during the summer to low-income families; and outreach to assist people enrolling for food stamps.

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 February 29, 2012

*What are you grateful for? This church belongs to each of us. I'm grateful for your generosity in supporting Second Unitarian Church to ensure the church and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future!!*

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$12,618.15	\$115,755.01
Expenses	<u>-\$13,987.92</u>	<u>-\$109,943.32</u>
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ -1,369.77</u>	<u>\$ 5,811.69</u>

**YTD Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$103,580.58 reflects 66.08% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

**YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$2,009.99 received of New Pledges for \$5,995.00 for 2011-12.

*If you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.*

**Thank you!**

Treasurer  
Pat Caffrey

## *Find Our Greatness Stewardship Campaign Closes*

By Carol Johnson



Thanks to everyone in the congregation for a very successful "Find Our Greatness" Stewardship Campaign for the 2012-2013 church year.

A very special "thank you" to Clyde Anderson who chaired the Stewardship Committee and kept all the "pieces" in motion. Thanks, also, to Rev. Scott for his leadership and guidance throughout the campaign. Many members of the congregation were involved in the campaign this year—you are too numerous to mention by name.

Thanks to members of the Stewardship and Finance Committees. Our appreciation to the committee that planned the kick-off event at Miracle Hill Golf Club and those who held the Visionary Donor Event. Our thanks to visiting stewards, house meeting hosts, house meeting leaders and scribes and, of course, to the participants and to those who provided training and materials for the stewards, leaders and scribes. We also thank our very helpful staff—Molly Wilson for providing childcare and Gary Emenitove for countless clerical tasks.

Information from the house meetings will be reviewed by the Stewardship Committee for themes; that information will be given to the Board and to the Committee on Ministry. You will soon be seeing the budget that will be presented for congregational vote at our Annual Meeting on May 20.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible so that the budget can be finalized.

**Thank you again** for all you did to help our congregation "Find Our Greatness!"

# SPRING CELEBRATION

## Easter Sunday, April 8

During the coffee hour from 10:30 to 11:30, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Spring Celebration in the downstairs worship area. Be sure to come down for coffee, special snacks, wonderful conversation, and celebrating!

### *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](#).

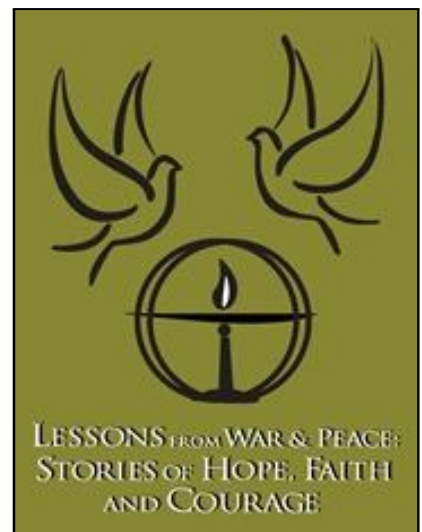
## Prairie Star District (PSD) Conference to Explore War & Peace

Join fellow UUs the weekend of **April 13-15**, 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>.



## Vespers Service

**Join us Saturday, April 28.** Our Vespers service has moved to **the fourth Saturday evening 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 charter members of Full Circle:**

*Gene and Vija Kopecky*

*Cheri Cody*

*Anonymous*

*Rick and Kathy Bell*

*Vicki Pratt*

*Sue Aschinger*

Special thanks to Sue, who also came up with the name "Full Circle." These and any further charter members will be recognized at a special event in June.

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!***

## Peace Coffee News

by Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Coordinating Council



Our Peace Coffee supplier buys shade-grown beans directly from local farmers in Africa and Mexico. The coffee is organic and fair trade.

We just found out the packaging is being reduced from 16 ounces to 12 ounces. This impacts the coffee offered for sale by the Social Justice Coordinating Council. We now have 16-ounce bags, but when they are gone, the next order will be filled with 12-ounce bags.

The good news is that the 12-ounce bags cost less: Regular beans and ground: \$9, Decaf: \$10. Tea and chocolate pricing stays the same.

Proceeds from sales go to social justice outreach. You can buy organic and fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate in the foyer between Sunday services.



## Lifespan Religious Education

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning

# April Showers Bring May Flowers\*

### This Month's Recognition

**Congratulations to Anita Jeck and Gay Abraham** as they are being recognized for all their time and dedication to the children and the teens here at Second Unitarian! We are so grateful for all they do. They have undoubtedly touched the lives and caressed the souls of so many growing children.

As part of their recognition for outstanding volunteer work, they will be recognized with gratitude and appreciation. Anita and Gay will each receive a symbolic gift from the children as well as a Certificate of Recognition during an upcoming Sunday morning service this month! Thank you, ladies! Without your time and energy the children's RE and youth group services wouldn't be possible. You are a valuable asset to this Church. *Thank you for all you do!*

### Safety during bad weather at home, at church, or in a car

Would you know what to do if we were faced with a super storm? Is your family safe? Do you have a plan? Do your children know what to do?

In the month of April, we will be educating the children on this very subject! I will be sending home a **Family Preparedness Packet** for you to make sure you and your family are ready for whatever Mother Nature may have in store for us this year!

If you would like to receive a packet but do not have a child in RE, just contact me either by email ([dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org)), phone call (402-334-0537 ext. 112), or sticky note on my desk, and we will prepare one for you! We have available Pet Preparedness Packets as well!

*\* If you print out this page and fold it in half long ways, then hold it (with open edge facing down) while standing in front of a mirror, it might reveal a secret message!*

## UU History

On **April 16 and 23 (Monday nights, 7 p.m.)**, join Rev. Scott for a 90-minute zip through Unitarian Universalist history. April 16 will include a brief overview of early Christianity and the Unitarian and Universalist denominations. April 23 will focus on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.



## We'll Be at Earth Day Omaha on April 21

By Vicki Pratt

# EARTH DAY OMAHA

Our Care for the Environment team is again participating in Omaha's celebration of Earth Day. **We are sponsoring an information booth as part of the festivities at Elmwood Park, 60<sup>th</sup> and Dodge, on Saturday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The day's schedule includes live music, food, demonstrations, speakers, and children's activities. Details are at <http://earthdayomaha.com/schedule.php>.

Our booth will highlight how Second Unitarian lives out UU green values at home, in the community, and on church grounds. We will give away packets of organic Royal Burgundy Bush Bean seeds to encourage urban gardening and ethical eating. We will also promote the free showing of "Forks Over Knives" on April 29 (see page 10 for more information about the documentary).

**We are looking for people to spend a couple of hours in the booth** talking with passersby and handing out the seeds. This is a great opportunity to get some sun and fresh air. Please contact Vicki Pratt if you can help; youth participation appreciated.

## CANDIDATE FORUM APRIL 15

A nonpartisan forum with candidates for US Congress is being held on **April 15 at 6 p.m. at North High School**. The forum will be hosted by the **Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Omaha Together One Community, and the North Omaha Empowerment Network**. Issues to be addressed with candidates include health care, education, workforce development and jobs, immigration reform, and youth. Please call or contact Pat Caffrey or Vicki Pratt if you would like to join us or if you have questions.

## 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

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## Wonderful News!

The Equal Employment Ordinance has passed in Omaha! On March 13, the Omaha City Council voted to approve the Ordinance that will prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The measure was approved by a vote of 4 to 3, and it was signed into law by Mayor Suttle on March 15. The law will officially take effect March 28.

Much gratitude goes out to the many members and friends of this congregation whose thoughts, words, and actions contributed to the successful passage of this important ordinance.

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## Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

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Do you have an interest in having a more positive effect on other people's lives? Meditation Reincarnated has begun a new focus as we take a unique look at Buddhism. We are learning how to use Buddhist philosophy in our everyday interactions with people. We are learning how to apply Buddhist philosophy to help other people and ourselves as well. What a great way to make the world a better place! And, of course, we will practice meditation as well. Everyone is welcome.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the sanctuary. **The next meeting will be April 26 at 7:40 p.m.** No previous meditation experience or Buddhist background is necessary. Please join us!

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## Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

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Attention Women of First and Second Unitarian Churches!

The Women's Alliance will hold its next meeting Monday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.

Our featured speaker will be Omaha World-Herald Reporter Erin Grace, who will talk about her trip with Habitat for Humanity to Léogâne, the epicenter of the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Erin, 39, is a 14-year reporter for The World-Herald. Following her Marquette University graduation, the Omaha native spent three years in south Louisiana with Teach for America. She has been at the paper since, covering education, government and issues affecting women and children. She covered the Hurricane Katrina response in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the aftermath of the Von Maur shooting and was on the reporting team that wrote about Omaha's racial wealth gap and black poverty. Awards include the 2007 Thomas C. Sorensen for her work on the poverty series, and she was recognized by the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs for a 2009 story on Omaha's lack of women in leadership.

Our dinner (\$10) will be from Eddie's -- Chicken Parmesan. For the vegetarians, a vegetarian patty will replace the chicken portion of the meal.

If this is your first time, please be our guest. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, April 6, to Janet West.



## Church Spring Cleanup - Saturday, April 28

By Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist – Building & Grounds



Our Spring Church Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28, from 8 a.m. to noon.**

There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! For example, fertilize the lawn, rake leaves, seal air leaks identified in the energy audit last year, set up and repair the irrigation system, clean up flower gardens and plant annuals, and clean windows. Community Garden volunteers will be making preparations for spring planting.

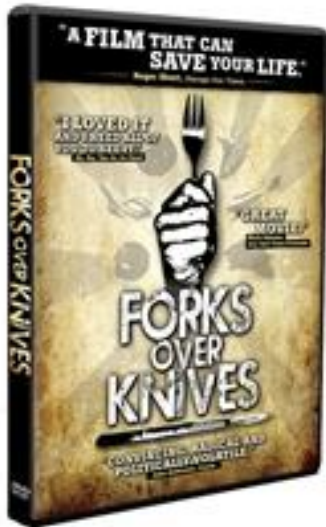
Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours. Refreshments will be provided. There will be no childcare, but children with adult supervision are welcome to participate!

For more information, contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.



## Social Justice Movie Night April 29: "Forks Over Knives"

by Vicki Pratt, Care for the Environment



Sunday evening, April 29, our Social Justice Movie Night documentary, "Forks Over Knives," examines the claim that most, if not all, of degenerative diseases can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. The documentary traces the personal journeys of pioneering researchers, Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn.

Despite advanced medical technology, Americans are sicker than ever. Two out of every three are overweight. Cases of diabetes are exploding, especially amongst our younger population. About half of us are taking at least one prescription drug. Heart disease, cancer and stroke are the country's three leading causes of death. Millions suffer from a host of other degenerative diseases.

The idea of food as medicine is put to the test. Cameras follow patients who have chronic conditions from heart disease to diabetes. Doctors teach these patients how to adopt a whole-food, plant-based diet as the primary approach to treat their ailments.

**Join us Sunday, April 29, at 6 p.m. for a potluck.** Organic or other healthy dishes encouraged. Everyone is welcome to the potluck, or arrive around 6:30 for the viewing and discussion. This showing is in honor of Earth Day and the current Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience.

Visit [www.forksoverknives.com](http://www.forksoverknives.com).



## 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 for 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 will be made available to the wider Omaha community.



### ***Tornado season is upon us again!***

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? **Do you know our tornado evacuation plan?**

The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway. Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and library areas) and stay away from the larger east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The restrooms, storeroom beyond the women's restroom, and kitchen are also relatively safe areas. Please stay clear of the downstairs worship area and church office which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

**How do we tell if a severe storm is close?** There is a tornado siren about two blocks away, and we have a weather radio in the kitchen that will sound a loud alarm automatically whenever the National Weather Service issues a weather warning for Douglas County.

-- *Building & Grounds Committee*

### ***Shop at Amazon.com and Help Second Unitarian Church***

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church website at [www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org), under Quick Links click on Books, and then click on the link for Amazon.com. *Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.* What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!

- 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](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
 or write to  
[info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)

[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
 43 Vermont Court  
 Asheville, NC 28806  
 828-281-3253

## 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.

## 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

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next **"Pathways to Membership" class on Saturday, May 5, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

After a tasty breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and of this church, be given the opportunity to share a few words about your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership. Although there is no pressure to do so, some find this a meaningful time to sign the Membership Book. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

**RSVP:** Please reserve your spot in class by contacting Kathy Bell by Sunday, April 29. Please indicate if you will need childcare when you sign up for the class.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
2/26	86	3	6	--
3/4	95	3	7	3
3/11	74	5	6	--
3/18	66	4	6	6



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

# LOVE

[www.StandingontheSideofLove.org](http://www.StandingontheSideofLove.org)

## Second Circle

*FOR TEENS OF SECOND UNITARIAN*

By Gay Robinson Abraham



All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting at **11:30 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.

**The new time of 11:30** is to give teens and their families an opportunity to see how a different meeting time works. As always, your feedback is welcome and valued! At the end of the church year, we will be contacting you to discuss your views more fully, so that we can evaluate the best time for meeting the needs of teens and their families.

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. YRUU is currently 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

April, 2012

Sun., Apr. 1, 7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)  
Mon., Apr. 2, 5:30 p.m., Executive Committee (offsite)  
7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)  
Tue., Apr. 3, 6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)  
7 p.m., Hungry for Change (DNW, K)  
Wed., Apr. 4, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (FH)  
Thu., Apr. 5, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)  
Sun., Apr. 8, *Easter*  
10:30 a.m., Spring Celebration (DNW)  
Mon., Apr. 9, 6:30 p.m., Website Meeting (FH)  
6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)  
7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation (DNW)  
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)  
Tue., Apr. 10, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)  
6 p.m., Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)  
Wed., Apr. 11, 6:30 p.m., Finance Coordinating Council (FH)  
7:30 p.m., Committee on Ministry/McNeill (MO)  
7:30 p.m., Holland Lecture (offsite)  
Thu., Apr. 12, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)  
Fri., Apr. 13 - Sun., Apr. 15, Prairie Star District Conference  
(offsite)  
Sat., Apr. 14, 10 a.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)  
Sun., Apr. 15, 6 p.m., Candidate Forum (offsite)  
7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)  
Mon., Apr. 16, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)  
7 p.m., UU History Course (DNW)  
Tue., Apr. 17, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)  
5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)  
7 p.m., Membership Committee (FH)  
Thu., Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)  
Sat., Apr. 21, TBA, UUA Capital Consultant (SA)  
Noon, Earth Day Omaha (offsite)  
Noon, Transgender Youth Group (WH)  
6 p.m., OTOC Fundraiser (offsite)  
Mon., Apr. 23, 7 p.m. Earth-Based Spirituality (FH)  
7 p.m., UU History Course (DNW)  
Tue., Apr. 24, 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)  
Wed., Apr. 25, 7 p.m., Marketing Advisory Council (FH)  
Thu., Apr. 26, 7:40 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)  
Fri., Apr. 27, 5 p.m., Private Rental  
Sat., Apr. 28, 8 a.m., Spring Church Cleanup  
3 p.m., Private Rental  
5:30 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)  
Sun., Apr. 29, 6 p.m., Social Justice Movie & Potluck (WH)  
Mon., Apr. 30, 7 p.m., Executive Committee (offsite)

## Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service  
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments  
First & Third Sundays, 11:30 a.m. (new time), 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:

*May 5: Pathways to Membership*

*May 20: Annual Meeting*

**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](http://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](mailto:minister@2Uomaha.org)

**Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Affiliated Community Minister**

[community\\_minister@2Uomaha.org](mailto:community_minister@2Uomaha.org)

**Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning**

402-334-0537 ext. 112  
[dre@2Uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2Uomaha.org)

**Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator**

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[info@2Uomaha.org](mailto:info@2Uomaha.org)

**Donna Zebolsky, Music Director**

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**Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Director**

[YRUU@2Uomaha.org](mailto:YRUU@2Uomaha.org)

**Molly Wilson, Childcare Coordinator**

[childcare@2Uomaha.org](mailto:childcare@2Uomaha.org)

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

## Board of Trustees

[board@2Uomaha.org](mailto: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](http://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*