



May, 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.

## May Worship Theme is Transcendence

### May 6

### **Celebration Sunday**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*Everyone involved with Second Unitarian Church of Omaha has so much fantastic stuff going on in their lives. This worship will get us to celebrate with one another – join us for a great day of fun and community!*

### May 13

### **Blessed Are the Animals**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*Our Seventh Principle talks about the "interdependent web of life" and often we think of the environment – but this Sunday, we celebrate our pets. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and your pets (or a picture of them) for an outside worship!*

### May 20

### **A Time to ACT**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*As we gather for our annual meeting, Rev. Scott will preach on the importance of being **Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative** (ACT). We hope you will join us for this important day as we prepare for our future together.*

1 p.m.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

### May 27

Guest Speaker Rev. Jean Heriot

*This Sunday, a Unitarian Universalist minister from Hastings, Nebraska, will lead us in worship. Rev. Heriot works for the service learning project at Hastings College.*



Remember the  
**Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, May 20

1 p.m.  
(details, page 6)

Interested in  
joining Second  
Unitarian Church?  
Attend **Pathways  
to Membership**  
Saturday, May 5  
(details, page 13)

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



**On June 3**, we are having one of the most important conversations of the church year. At 4 p.m., we will have a meeting to discuss our Ministry With Children and what the program looks like and where it's heading.

We want to draw your attention to this because we need to invest time and energy into our ministry with children. Whether you have children or not, this community is built on having multiple generations grow and teach one another about their experiences – and so we are hoping that you will come (there will be food and fun activities).

Particularly, if you have had children come through the program, or if you are interested in how our faith will grow and stay strong for generations to come, we hope you will bring your insight and voice. We are hoping to strengthen the program by focusing on what Unitarian Universalism and our church is about (highlighting the words **Authenticity, Compassion, and Transformation** – just like our adult ministry).

Instead of relying on a model that just delivers information, we are hoping to encourage people to relate to the children through whatever means works best. By talking about our own lives, we can share the most important lessons – and so if you have interest in walking with our children as they grow, please join us on June 3.

Between that discussion and our church conversation about buildings and capital campaigns, there is much going on here that deals with growth.

What's important to me – and likely to many of you – is that our ministry maintains a high level of caring for one another. Part of what makes Second Unitarian great is our commitment to building strong relationships with members and visitors alike – and as we grow, we hope to strengthen that commitment.

My partner, the fantastic Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, did her parish internship at All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the largest parish ministry in the UUA. She can vouch for the fact that large churches do not mean isolation or loss of their ability to care for people. Instead, churches that grow give people more opportunities to get to know others, to grow, and to experience new events.

Personally, I don't particularly care how many members Second Unitarian has. We will never (in a way) have enough. I think that way because I understand that our faith, our message is one that this world needs. We could never be big enough to meet the needs of all the people who believe that truth is always unfolding, that religion is about connection, that we are meant to be our real selves, to care for one another and to keep changing.

As we grow, I want each person to remember that we are here for a purpose – which is to build a community that helps people be authentic, compassionate, and transformative. It may take time for that to sink in – but those values are the ones that pop up in conversation after conversation, worship after worship, meeting after meeting. People like our church and our faith because both encourage integrity and kindness and action.

As we begin May, I urge you to invite a friend to worship. Maybe the Celebration Sunday will speak to someone's needs, or the Animal Blessing. Whatever it is, we have some fun, interesting things happening at Second Unitarian and we are lucky to share that message with Omaha. So go forth, and share the good news – there is a church that encourages people to be themselves, to care for one another, and to change this world.

In gratitude for your ministry, and this ministry that I serve,  
*Rev. Scott*



# Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



At the Stewardship kickoff event at the end of February, we lifted up the three words that are at the heart of the new mission statement for Second Unitarian: Authentic, Compassionate & Transformative. I have been a member here for over 30 years so Rev. Scott recently asked how this experience had been transformative for me. One of the problems of being “older” is that you can’t always remember the sequence of influences in your life! When I first joined the church, the conversations of members – new and old - seemed focused on what they were not rather than what they were. I understand how wonderful it feels to finally find a faith tradition that lets you define your religious self, but eventually we have to transition from what we aren’t to what we are.

The longer I was a member, the clearer it became to me that I wanted to exclaim the good news of Unitarian Universalism and not to just say what I didn’t believe. That change in approach transformed how I talked about my beliefs everywhere. I no longer had a reticence about telling people I was Unitarian Universalist (just to avoid having them ask me what we believe); I wanted them to ask me. About this same time, I became involved with Omaha Together One Community (OTOC), a faith-based community organizing group. Working across denominational lines to achieve success on OTOC issues meant accepting that all religious beliefs are sustaining to those who believe. A few years later, this cross-denominational work put me in a place to apply for and accept a position in the ministry office of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. I said at the time of my interview that we have similar beliefs on many justice issues even though we may get to them by different paths.

Nine years later, I am still working for the Sisters of Mercy and really enjoy being in a work culture where it is okay, and even encouraged, to express one’s beliefs. I find myself saying, “In our tradition, we .....” Having these conversations challenges me to clarify what I believe and I am grateful for the opportunity. I wish this opportunity for you, wherever you are.

Keep the faith.

*Cheri*



## Share the Plate for May: The Residents of Thurman, Iowa

**One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in May will go to the residents of Thurman, Iowa.** The people of Thurman experienced a major tornado in mid-April and have pulled together as a community to rebuild; but, they could use help in making that happen. Many people have donated time and resources to help the community and we as a congregation want to help them with our Share the Plate program.

Our donation will be sent to the First State Bank of Tabor, designated to the victim's fund that has been established for the people who live there. Natural disasters tear apart families and normal life, and so we are hopeful that the support we give them during this time will be extended to all of the people in the area. One day we will all be in need of something – and so we hope to give to others in their times of need.

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 March 31, 2012

*Special thanks to the fundraising team and to all the participants in the 'Simply Sensational' fundraising event on 3/31/12 for a successful event!*

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	<b>March</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>
Income	\$25,387.50	\$141,142.51
Expenses	-\$15,147.87	-\$125,091.19
Net Over/Short	<u>\$10,239.63</u>	<u>\$ 16,051.32</u>

**YTD Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$121,084.08 reflects 77.25% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

**YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$2,925.00 received of New Pledges for \$6,145.00.00 for 2011-12.

*Contribution Statements as of 3/31/12 will be emailed or mailed during April for the church year 2011-2012. If you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.*

**Thank you!**

Treasurer  
Pat Caffrey

## Major Themes from the Stewardship House Meetings

By Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Task Force

Thank you for all the members and friends of the church who attended our nine stewardship house meetings during March. We reviewed the notes from the meetings, and these are the major themes from the discussions:

- There is a commitment to children and adults to provide space to explore and define religious beliefs – often a transformation from previous approaches to life.
- There is an appreciation of the principles and practices of Unitarian Universalism and the support these give in living an authentic life.
- We value being part of a caring community and the opportunity to build relationships that inspire, challenge and support us in day-to-day living.
- There is an active commitment to witnessing and advocating for social justice issues, especially issues concerning the LGBTQ community, the poor, the underserved, and unfair treatment of individuals or groups.
- We want a fulfilling worship service that includes inspirational/enlightening messages, good music and incorporates meaningful rituals.
- There is a commitment to live our values within the church by having an accessible church building and providing fair compensation for staff and minister.

The Board and Committee on Ministry will utilize this feedback in their development of short and long-range plans for the future of our church.



## Your 2012 Nominees

By Sue Aschinger, Chair, Nominations & Leadership Development

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The Nominations & Leadership Development Committee: Sue Aschinger (Chair), Steve Abraham, and Richard Koelling, have completed our mission of developing a slate of candidates for the upcoming Annual Meeting in May. We are very excited about the list of candidates we have created for the open posts of the Board, Nominations & Leadership Development, and Endowment Fund for your consideration.

We are proud to present the following nominees to you: for the Board, the two candidates are Bill Kuhn and Michael Lynne; for Nominations and Leadership Development, Carol Johnson; and for Endowment Fund, Don Mundy.

All of our nominees have served in various capacities in the Church and have a true passion for our mission and vision. This year we will be replacing two of the three board members whose terms are expiring in June 2012. This is in anticipation of a bylaw change to the total number of board members. Members can review the details of the bylaw changes in a separate communication coming in postal and email.

Each candidate has provided the following information so that you will be more familiar with each of them from a personal perspective, their church experience, and their thoughts about our church. There is extended information about candidates coming in your mail and email.

### **BILL KUHN**

#### **Board of Trustees, 3-year term**

I feel that as a board member I will bring a perspective as someone who is somewhat new to our community, but sharing the views of many who are long-time members. As a new member, I still have much to learn on my journey and I look forward to continuing my growth at Second Unitarian. Our community is very important to me, and I want to see it grow and continue to be a refuge for those seeking to find community as I have.

While I do not feel that I will be able to assume a leadership position on the board at this time, I still feel I can add value and be a contributing member of the board, advocating for social justice and technology and acting as a liaison for these and other interests.

### **MICHAEL LYNNE**

#### **Board of Trustees, 3-year term**

Although raised as a Presbyterian and confirmed as a Methodist, I have not been affiliated with a church during my adult life. Always a spiritual seeker, I practiced Transcendental Meditation and explored other spiritual traditions but have never found a spiritual "home." Second Unitarian Church is the first church where I have felt a shared spiritual and social justice mission that answers to my own needs. My work as a Worship Associate has been extremely satisfying, for which I am grateful. The sense of a communal mission, whether it be at the annual house painting, church cleanup, working on the Committee on Ministry for Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, the hiring committee for the Director of Religious Education, or the Stewardship Kickoff Event Committee, has contributed to my own spiritual and social development. The people of 2U are its greatest asset. It has been a privilege and a continuing satisfaction to work with and get to know them better.

Obviously, a small church such as ours needs to continue to provide for the spiritual, social, and social justice needs and interests of its members by continuing to involve them in all aspects of church life. At the same time, we need to reach out to potential members in order to grow both in numbers and to enrich our spiritual and social ministry. An essential step in the long-term evolution of 2U must be to upgrade our current facility. It is inadequate for our current needs and blocks our ability to fulfill our mission and to attract and hold new members. At the same time the Board needs to maintain its tradition of prudent management of resources, monitoring of all aspects of church mission and functions, and adjusting programs, personnel, and priorities as necessary. It would be an honor to serve on the Board and assist in the continuation and development of this unique and precious institution.

*(continued on next page)*

**NOMINEES** (continued from previous page)

**CAROL JOHNSON**

**Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, 3-year term**

Since joining Second Unitarian in 2005, I have served on several committees and leadership groups including Stewardship, Communications (Marketing), Personnel, Social Justice and Board of Trustees. I am interested in assisting organizations to adapt to changes in healthy ways, the growth and development of volunteers and models and qualities of leadership.

I recently retired from employment with an area education agency that served 13 southwest Iowa counties and 33 school districts in that area. In my capacity as Coordinator of the Community Youth Connections Program, my work consisted of facilitating various task groups, supervising staff, mobilizing communities and forming coalitions to address various issues, serving on boards and advisory committees for a variety of nonprofit organizations and providing training for educators and community members.

As a member of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee my goals would include:

- matching the passions and skills of congregants with the leadership opportunities that would best utilize those talents
- increasing both the skill sets and the spiritual satisfaction of leadership within our church ministries

**DON MUNDY**

**Endowment Fund Committee, 3-year term**

Owner and President of The Solutions Group, Inc. and CEO of Resource Alliance Company. Works with closely held business owners and individuals of high net worth dealing with issues of wealth transfer, intergenerational planning, business exit planning. Design and manage qualified retirement plans including ESOPs, wealth allocation models, corporate benefit packages, estate planning.

Personally enjoys college sports (especially basketball), reading, performing arts, movies and travel. Active member of the Second Unitarian Audit Committee.

***NOTICE OF  
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH'S  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

***Sunday, May 20, 1:00 p.m.***

**Major Agenda Items:**

- **New Members – Board of Trustees**
- **Mission Statement Revision**
- **2012/13 Operating Budget**
- **Report from Campaign Consultant**
- **Delegates to General Assembly**

***Light lunch will be provided***

***Childcare available***





# Lifespan Religious Education

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning



## ***One a Day for the Month of May (a Random Act of Kindness, that is)***

To instill the ability to show genuine compassion is something we all begin to learn at a very young age. Like the old saying goes, *"Fear not that the children do not listen to you, but that they are always watching you."* Engaging ourselves in random acts of kindness not only feels good for our soul but also acts as a perfect start in creating compassionate children. We can tell anybody about how good and warm it makes your heart feel. Explain the concept 100 different ways and you still can't recreate that feeling, but demonstrate how to create it (you can't hide that feel-good feeling from a child especially your own). Do this and they will seek it out for themselves.

I invite you to stop and explore our wall of compassion. As we grow, so does our compassion. I have added a few examples of possible random acts of kindness. I encourage you to add your own as well. The idea is to overflow our wall so that our compassion spills right out into the community. Once you have accomplished a random act of kindness, please add your name or your initials to the wall next to the completed act of kindness. You may add the name of an individual that you might have witnessed doing the same. If you don't see it, add it! There will be places available for you to do so. Can you do one a day?

*"Compassion is the ultimate and most meaningful embodiment of emotional maturity. It is through compassion that a person achieves the highest peak and deepest reach in his or her search for self-fulfillment". --Arthur Jersild*

## ***In the Spotlight This Month***

This month's highlighted teacher volunteers truly have a love for what they do. In the spotlight this month are **Anita Meyer** and **Meg Quintana**. Both of these women give their time regularly. If you want to see firsthand what it means to have compassion, join us downstairs during a service one Sunday. See for yourself the magic that is made at the hands of these devoted women! Thank you, Anita! Thank you, Meg!

## ***Religious Education Summer Program for 2012***

This summer is going to be filled with lots of exciting adventures right in our own backyard! Teaching kids to love the earth is the basic structure of this summer's program. We will be holding class outdoors as much as Mother Nature will allow us to. We will take a deeper look at how all things are connected. We will get hands-on learning in the garden, where we will use recycled items to assist with our gardening needs. We will seek earth-friendly ways to care for our garden. The children will learn how to enjoy nature without doing it harm or breaking any laws. There are many laws that protect the environment and some of them may be surprising to many of us. We will read adventure stories that will captivate their minds and spark their imagination, all while sending valuable lifelong lessons. If this sounds like something you might be interested in helping us with over the summer, even if it's only one or two Sundays, we welcome you to please join us. You never know, you just might find a new hobby or make a new friend. Contact Kirsten Stiles if you would like more information on how you can help this summer.

## ***BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS***

**Intergenerational Service**

**Sunday, May 13**

**9:30 & 11:30 a.m.**

Bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier. Bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating.

In case of rain, services will be held inside.

We will gladly bless pictures of animals for those furry friends who cannot join us.



# Find Our Greatness

## Stewardship Campaign – Done!

### Now It's Time to Budget

By Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Task Force



On behalf of the Stewardship Task Force, we want to thank you for your generosity to our church. As of April 19, we received 79 pledges totaling \$169,316. That averages to more than \$2,143 per pledging household! This is an 8% increase over last year which is a good response considering the depressed economy and financial stress many of our members are experiencing. We have once again demonstrated an exceptionally strong level of pledging in response to our deep commitment to our mission.

Since pledges are about \$9,000 below our \$178,000 pledge goal, the budget team and board made some tough decisions to achieve a balance between budgeted expenditures and anticipated income. Total Income = Total Expenses = \$201,416. Here's how we did it:

- On the income side we compensated for the lower pledge income by increasing new member pledges by \$1,000, allocating \$1,000 in accumulated interest income to operations, and allocating \$3,400 from the several committee funds to operations. However, the board felt that it was prudent to reduce the amount allocated from the reserve fund from \$5,000 to about \$1,400.
- On the expense side the following changes were made:
  - ◆ The new paid Membership Coordinator position was reduced from \$3,900 to \$2,600 by cutting the hours per week from 7.5 to 5.0.
  - ◆ The increase in the ministerial package was reduced by \$840.
  - ◆ Staff appreciation & development was cut by \$1,000 leaving \$250.
  - ◆ Office equipment & furniture was cut by \$700 leaving \$900.
  - ◆ General expenses were cut by \$1,300.
  - ◆ Committee expenses were cut by \$1,300.

You can view the proposed 2012-2013 budget on the church website at <http://www.2uomaha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012-2013-Prop-Budget.pdf>.

**Members will have an opportunity to discuss and vote on the 2012-2013 budget at the annual meeting on Sunday, May 20.**



### ***Making Your Summer Plans?***

Consider spending five days at **Camp StarTrail** between Omaha and Lincoln. Our theme speaker, Rev. Nate Walker, is doing creative things at his church in Philadelphia. Come hear his vision for vibrant and relevant UU religious community. **Rev. Scott is leading the worship!**

All housing is air-conditioned, and the company and the food are great! Previous campers included all ages, from toddlers to people over 80!

**This summer's dates are July 29 to August 3, 2012.**

More information here: <http://www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail2012>. **Early registration deadline is May 10.**





## Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Do you have an interest in having a more positive effect on other peoples' 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 **Thursday, May 24, at 7:40 p.m.**

No previous meditation experience or Buddhist background is necessary. Please join us!

### 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

**Our May LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee meeting will be held at the home of Ferial and Dan Pearson, Monday, May 14, 7:30-9 p.m.** Check the church directory or contact Ferial for address and directions.

LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning. Our Committee is dedicated to celebrating diversity and promoting understanding and respect for LGBTQ persons. We meet on the Second Monday of each month, generally at Second Unitarian, and all are welcome to join us!

## Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

Attention Women of First and Second Unitarian Churches.

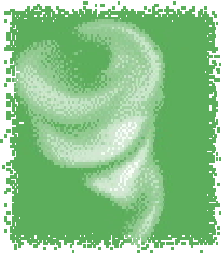
The Women's Alliance will hold its next meeting Monday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.

Our featured speaker will be Omaha poet Sarah McKinstry Brown. Sarah has lived in Omaha since 2002. She is a native of Albuquerque and studied at the University of New Mexico. She has an MFA in Poetry from the University of Nebraska. Her first full-length collection of poetry, "Cradling Monsoons," won the 2010 Blue Light Award. She is winner of the 2011 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry and the Academy of American Poets Prize. Sarah and her poet husband Matt Mason have both spoken at worship services at First Unitarian.

Our dinner will be salad and desserts donated by our members. Please indicate what you will be bringing when signing up for the meeting. We will still collect the usual \$10. for our scholarship fund.

If this is your first time, please be our guest. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, May 11, to Janet West. We hope to see you at the meeting.

## ***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*

## **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." 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 member of Full Circle, please take a brochure in the church foyer or contact Stu Burns.

## **Peace Coffee News**



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.

-- Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Coordinating Council

## **TWO FUN EVENTS ARE COMING IN JUNE!**

### **YARD SALE**

**Saturday, June 9**



Yard Sale! Fun for the Whole Family!

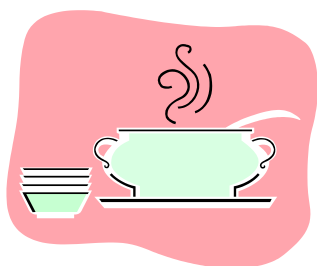
Join us on June 9 for a Church Yard Sale.

This will be a fundraiser for the church, but more importantly – it will be a FUN day.

If you have gently-used items you would like to donate, talk with Rev. Scott about bringing them to the church – we are hoping to collect items the week of the event, (but not before, please).

Bring a friend, or two, or five – this is a great way to introduce people to our space, our wonderful community garden, and to clean out your closets!

For more information, contact Rev. Scott



### **SUMMER SUPPER**

**Sunday, June 24**

**6 p.m.**

Circle this date on your calendar now!

You won't want to miss this fun, summer event.

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring this potluck on the east lawn of the church (inside if you prefer) for the entire family.

Drinks and paper products provided.

Bring a dish that will serve 12, please, and lawn chairs.

Questions? Contact Betty Segell or Janet Nichols.



*"You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always."*

*-- Ann McCracken, Cincinnati, OH.*

**The UU's of Napa, California** proudly announce the sixth season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

**We offer two choices:** Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact Tom Wilson, 707-254-7443 or [2wilsons1dog@comcast.net](mailto:2wilsons1dog@comcast.net).

*We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!*



We send our prayers and thoughts with Julie Carda as she moves to Bend, OR.

*-- Rev. Scott McNeill*

### **Special Retirees' Meeting May 15**

The May retirees' meeting will be held Tuesday, May 15, rather than our regular day May 8.

The reason? Our resident performer, **Darrel Draper**, will give a presentation relevant to the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act, and will be **Daniel Freeman**, the first homesteader in Nebraska. We've all enjoyed Darrel's variety of personalities he becomes. It will be interesting to see him as one of the original sodbusters who started to change the plains into what they are today.

Even if you're not a "senior," join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. for the performance.



# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

## Pathways to Membership

There's still time to sign up for the next Pathways 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. Please indicate if you will need childcare.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
3/25	83	4	3	--
4/1	102	4	6	--
4/8	87	<i>Intergenerational services</i>		
4/15	52	6	7	3
4/22	81	5	8	--

## 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



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. All 7th through 12th graders are welcome to this teen program.

Here's the remaining YRUU schedule for the semester: **May 2** - Transition Night - Welcome next year's incoming 7th Graders; **May 9** - Spaghetti Works; **May 13** - Coming of Age Intergenerational Service at First U; **June 17** - Coming of Age Youth Service at 2nd U



# Second Unitarian Church Calendar

May, 2012

Tue., May 1, 6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)  
7 p.m., Hungry for Change (DNW, K)

Wed., May 2, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (FH)

Sat., May 5, 8:45 a.m., Pathways to Membership (FH, DN, K)

Sun., May 6, 12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)  
7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)

Mon., May 7, 5:30 p.m., Executive Committee (offsite)

Tue., May 8, 6 p.m., Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)

Wed., May 9, 6:30 p.m., Finance Coordinating Council (FH)  
7:30 p.m., Committee on Ministry/McNeill (MO)

Thu., May 10, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)

Sun., May 13, *Mothers' Day*

Mon., May 14, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)  
7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation (offsite)  
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)

Tue., May 15, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)  
7 p.m., Membership Committee (FH)  
5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)

Thu., May 17, 7:30 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)

Sat., May 19, Noon, Transgender Youth Group (WH)

Sun., May 20, 1 p.m., Annual Meeting (SA)  
7 p.m., Covenant Group (offsite)

Mon., May 21, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)

Tue., May 22, 1 p.m., Marketing Advisory Council (FH)  
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Thu., May 24, 7:40 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)

Sat., May 26, 11 a.m., Private Event (SA)

Mon., May 28, *Memorial Day*  
*Church Office Closed*  
7 p.m. Earth-Based Spirituality (FH)

Tue., May 29, 6:30 p.m., LGBTQ @ Werner Park (offsite)

Thu., May 31, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)

## 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  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., **Young Religious Unitarian Universalists**  
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

**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:

*June 9: Yard Sale*

*June 20 - 24: UUA General Assembly (Phoenix)*

*June 24: Summer Supper*

*June 30: Heartland Pride Festival & Parade*

**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!**

Join the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation  
Committee @ Werner Park Diversity Day  
**Take Me OUT to the Ball Game!**  
**Tuesday, May 29, 6:35 p.m.**  
*Omaha Storm Chasers vs. Iowa Cubs Baseball*

## **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**

402-334-0537 ext. 114  
[info@2Uomaha.org](mailto:info@2Uomaha.org)

**Donna Zebolsky, Music Director**

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

**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*