



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

October, 2013

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services
9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

**Fellowship and
Refreshments**
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

**Fall Church
Cleanup**
Saturday,
October 5
(see page 5)

**Fall Fun
Fellowship
Potluck**
Saturday,
October 12
(see page 5)

October 6 Rev. Scott McNeill - **The Idiocy and the Odyssey of Theodicy**

If you believe that life has good in it, must it also contain evil? The word *theodicy* means reconciling good and evil; our worship attempts to balance the monthly theme of **evil** with some light-hearted reflection on life.

October 13 Rev. Scott - **Standing on the Side of Love**

While the theme of the month is evil, we recognize that love can be the antidote for a world filled with divisiveness and hatred. Join us in worship as we celebrate the progress of a world "bend [ing] toward justice" and as we learn more about using love to create the world we seek.

October 20 Rev. Scott - **#FOMO**

With the rapid ascension of social media, lots of people wonder if their lives are as great as they could be. Do you struggle with a **fear of missing out**? Worship explores the concept of being present to the moment, acknowledging our worries and aspirations, and recognizing the middle ground.

October 27 Jennie White and Michael Lynne

Join Jennie and Michael as they present today's sermon.



Minister's Musings

By Rev. Scott McNeill



The heat has relented and the leaves are turning – orange, yellow, red, brown, we see the signs of change on the trees (and soon, in our yards). Rarely does life so obviously demonstrate its transitions. When we age, we do so a day at a time and often see no considerable difference until we look at a picture from ten years ago. But trees have no way of hiding their movements; their transformation is visible for all the world to see.

It's amazing to think about a life where our life and death are so obvious to everyone. Many of us feel the urge to remain private, telling only close friends about changes we undergo, for fear of judgment. And yet we often hear stories of courageous souls who put their lives out in front of others, and live as true to themselves as they can.

Perhaps this is what speaks to me about National Coming Out Day. For years, people who are bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer, and/or transgendered show the world a deeply intimate part of their identity, hoping to make the world a little bit better by telling their story.

The truth is that we could all use some form of a Coming Out Day. Often, people of any marginalized identity feel unseen and invisible – those in our community who have a different theology than the majority of Americans often feel the need to claim their religious space in a culture that pushes them aside. People learn about their familial histories and bloodlines, and delight in sharing the intricacies of their background. People who have struggled with health concerns (physical and/or mental) are empowered when they can tell others about their pain and their healing.

This is what we mean when we encourage people to be authentic in their lives – our faith recognizes that each of us adds some piece to the puzzle of life, but that only comes together when people come out of their shells to share who they are.

One of my favorite songs has the line,
*"If I hide myself wherever I go,
am I ever really there?"*
(*"For You,"* Barenaked Ladies).

One of the ways that we can share our stories and get to know the people around us is to join a small group. Whether it's the **book club** or **choir**, members of already existing small group ministries know the power of getting to know one another on a regular basis, learning about the experience and wisdom we each have, and getting to grow together, becoming our best selves.

The small group you join doesn't have to be focused (like the **retirees'** or **parents' group**); it can be a group of members and friends of Second Unitarian who just **covenant** to meet together regularly, exploring life and its many questions. However you go about it, my hope is that we all feel encouraged to show the world the many seasons we go through.

Unlike the trees of autumn, we don't naturally show the world our changes and transformations – but hopefully we can learn from their beauty and show the world the many colors of our lives.

In faith,
Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

I am guest-writing this column for JoAnne Draper who has been enjoying a well deserved vacation. The Board has been busy, however, and is excited to announce that we will be at full strength at our September meeting. Judy Eller has agreed to serve on the Board this year until a member can be elected at the May congregational meeting to fill the remaining year of the vacated position on the Board. Now that Judy is on board we will be planning a Board retreat to define our goals for the year, but many of those will hinge on the new strategic plan which is expected later this year.

I am also a member of the strategic planning committee and will take this opportunity to provide an update on that process. The committee is led by Carol Johnson and includes Rich McCardle, Steve Abraham, Stephanie Peterson, Rev. Scott, and me. We began the process by reading "Holy Conversations" by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann. We have conducted house meetings, reviewed annual reports, digested ministerial evaluations and have had countless meetings discussing the church. We have taken this task seriously and want to provide a plan which befits Second Unitarian. Once the plan has been written, it will go to the Board for approval and then it will be disseminated to the congregation. There will be plenty of time for discussion, but, in the end our committee's wish is that the congregation will embrace it and actively participate in its execution.

Carol Johnson wrote an update on the strategic plan for this newsletter (see page 4) and I encourage you to read that to gain more insight into the process we have experienced.

Craig



Share the Plate for October:

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in October will go to OneWorld Community Health Centers.

OneWorld Community Health Centers provide culturally respectful, quality health care with special attention to the underserved. OneWorld is the only primary care clinic that has a majority bilingual and bicultural staff, a sliding fee scale for patients without insurance, and entitlement enrollment. They maintain an open door policy providing treatment regardless of immigration status or income. In 2012, OneWorld saw 24,643 individual patients in 100,129 visits. 100% of donations go towards programs and services. Patient fees and grants are used for overhead and administrative costs. Visit www.oneworldomaha.org.

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 August 31, 2013**

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$47,864.26
reflects 26.32% of \$181,841.00 Total Pledged for
2013-14.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	August	Year-To-Date
Income	\$17,895.24	\$58,502.12
Expenses	-\$15,004.06	-\$32,044.78
Net Over/Short	\$ 2,891.18	\$26,457.34

YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$2,410.00
received of (4) New Pledges for \$5,400.00 for 2013-14.

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

Thank you!
Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

The **Marketing Advisory Council** (MAC) is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee. Its purpose is to coordinate marketing for the church. MAC has been responsible for the development of the new "brand" for the church, which includes the new logo and color scheme, and a variety of templates for use by committees.

If your committee wants to produce any sort of marketing piece, please contact any of our members: Carol Johnson, Kathy Bell, Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Nancy Amsler, Gary Emenitove, or Rev. Scott.

Strategic Planning Committee

By Carol Johnson

Your Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of writing the Strategic Plan for our congregation. Three outcomes identified by the committee for the work of Second Unitarian Church over the next five years are:

1. *maturational growth (at both personal and organizational levels);*
2. *a clearly articulated and well understood common community identity; and*
3. *a sense of shared ministry.*

This Plan will identify our current building as a barrier to achieving our goals, but does not lay out a process or procedure for acquiring new space. We firmly hold that "Job 1" is to build our congregation both internally and externally so that we can best advance our mission. The building itself should be a support to our calling and not an "end" of our vision.

For next steps: When the Strategic Planning Committee has written its final draft of the plan, it will be presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board, in turn, will present the plan to the congregation for reaction and approval.



Fall Church Cleanup

By Tom Rundquist & Clyde Anderson, Co-Chairs – Building & Grounds



Mark your calendar now! Our Fall Church Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, October 5, 8:00 a.m. to noon**. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone!

Our experienced volunteers will assist novices, so don't worry about lacking skills. However, please wear suitable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops) and bring work gloves. Wear work clothes appropriate for the weather (for working outdoors) and painting. Feel free to bring tools if you wish, but the Building and Grounds Committee members will arrange to have a supply of tools and materials available.

As always, we'll have refreshments available in the foyer beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Children are welcome with adult supervision. They usually enjoy helping with some of the lighter garden chores.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours. For more information, contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Meditation Reincarnated is studying Savor by Thich Nhat Hanh. This book deals with mindful - and mindless - eating. How often do we eat our food while juggling tasks on our to-do list or while watching TV? How often do we shovel food into our mouths without enjoying it, without savoring it? Thich Nhat Hanh guides us with thoughts and practices to improve our eating habits and help us truly taste and enjoy our food. Please join us as we continue this book.

Meditation Reincarnated meets downstairs in the church on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. Our next meeting is on **Thursday, October 24**, and we will discuss chapter 4 of this book and learn about and practice meditation. Both the book and our meditation practice are designed for everyone, whether monk or beginner. No previous meditation experience is necessary, so please come and check us out.

Join us for a Fall Fun Fellowship Potluck,

Saturday, October 12, 6 p.m.

at Second Unitarian Church.

**Bring a dish to share,
bring your family,
bring your fall spirit!**



This is a family event. So, no alcohol, please.

*This event is sponsored by
the Fellowship Committee!*





Interim Director of Religious Education

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins

I'm taking this opportunity to introduce myself to some of you - I know many of you already!

My name is Molly Kliment-Jenkins, and I have stepped up as our Interim Director of Religious Education. It will be a new and exciting opportunity for me: I have long desired to contribute to the children I've encountered over the years, in a meaningful way. I started attending First Unitarian Church in Omaha in 1997. I did not join a UU church, however, until we moved to Sioux Falls in 2002. I was quite active in that congregation, holding a variety of leadership positions. We moved back to Omaha in 2011, and I joined Second Unitarian later that year.

I have a four-year-old daughter, Katharine, whom many of you have interacted with. My husband, Jeff Jenkins, while not active in our congregation, is quite supportive of our activities and attends occasional Parents' Group activities.

I am currently a fitness instructor for the Maple Street YMCA; however, you can be assured that I will not be yelling at the kids to do 20 reps of this or that affirmation! I try to encourage individuals to take ownership of their workout. Likewise, I hope that the youth as well as volunteers in our program will take ownership of their faith and grow as we go through this journey together.

Affordable Health Care Act "Lunch and Learn"

By Vicki Pratt

The Affordable Health Care Act (also known as ObamaCare) goes into effect January 1. Enrollment started October 1. Find out about the changes and how it impacts you at a Lunch and Learn on **Tuesday, October 8, at 11:45 a.m.**

AARP Healthcare Law Community Educator Vicki Pratt will present an overview of benefits, marketplaces (formerly called exchanges), and how to enroll. The presentation encompasses those already insured (Medicare, group, or individual) and those who currently do not have insurance coverage.

Bring your own sack lunch. This presentation will finish before Retirees' Group convenes (*see article below*).

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Please join us for Retirees' Group **Tuesday, October 8, from 1 - 2 p.m.** for a presentation from Christine Cady about Tai Chi.

Tai Chi is a proven intervention that prevents falling among older adults. It has been shown to reduce the risk to seniors of falling by nearly 50%. It can be done while seated or standing with or without support. "Side effects" of Tai Chi can also include: social and mental well-being, improved daily physical functioning, increased self-confidence in performing daily activities, maintaining personal independence, quality of life and overall health. This demonstration will give you a taste of a Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance class, talk about why Tai Chi movements are so beneficial, and allow you to participate in the movements. You'll leave feeling a bit better than you did when you came in!

You are also invited to the "Lunch and Learn" presentation on the Affordable Health Care Act the same date preceding Retirees' Group at 11:45 a.m. (*please see the article above*)



Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Interim Director of Religious Education



New Spiritual Journeys Await Our Children This Year

As we begin a new church year, the Religious Growth and Learning Committee (RGL) welcomes anyone who wishes to help our children along in their spiritual journey! If you are able to teach one Sunday, one service a month (and only one age group), we would love to have you join us – and so would the children! This curriculum is not only going to expand their horizons, it will also help you expand yours.

Teacher training is scheduled for October 16 and 19. You will be given the tools to make this a pleasurable and fun experience for both you and the kids. Please contact anyone with the RGL Committee for more information.

Between services on September 22, RGL hosted an open house for the congregation to share with everyone our upcoming curriculum for the 2013-2014 year. Classes begin October 6, and summaries of the curricula are provided below.

Using the “Stories About God” curriculum, young children (roughly ages 4-6) will be exposed to images, metaphors, and stories which are compatible with our Unitarian Universalist principles and beliefs at a time when our children are developmentally ready and questioning. Class for this age group will be offered at the 9:30 a.m. service; children of parents attending the 11:30 a.m. service may attend the elementary class.

We are using the UU curriculum, “Holidays and Holy Days,” for grades 2 through 5. Through exploring the various celebrations and traditions of the world religions, the children will be introduced to the variety of beliefs, symbols, rituals, and stories. Each lesson is connected to an aspect of our Unitarian Universalist faith where the children learn more by “doing” rather than being “told” about the lesson. Class for this age group will meet at both the 9:30 and 11:30 services.

A new, separate class will be offered this year for youth, grades 6 through 8. The “Amazing Grace” curriculum for this class uses stories, activities and discussion to help youth address the tough questions of self and society we all encounter. Through their involvement in this program, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise. Sessions for this age group will be offered at the 11:30 service, youth in this age group attending the 9:30 service may join the elementary class or stay upstairs in worship.

We will continue to offer childcare during the services for those under four.

With peace and joy,
Molly

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!



Refugee Cultural Night

By Vicki Pratt

Over 20,000 refugees from Africa and Asia live in Omaha. OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) and IPL (Institute of Public Life) work with them to meet challenges with the education system, housing, and cultural awareness by law enforcement.



At the Refugee Cultural Night you can meet families, taste foods, and enjoy dances and songs from South Sudan, Darfur, Burundi, Bhutan, and several area of Burma (Myanmar).

The Refugee Cultural Night is **Saturday, October 5, at Creighton Prep Commons, 7400 Western Ave.. Snacks and conversation at 5 p.m., dance and song performances at 6.**

The cost is \$10 for individuals up to maximum of \$20 for families. All proceeds will benefit the refugee groups, supporting their ongoing work to share their culture.

For tickets see Vicki Pratt or Pat Caffrey.



Connecting Our Congregation to Our Larger Faith

By Vicki Pratt, Denominational Connections Chair

This month focuses on how we can connect with other Unitarian Universalists. There are 159 congregations in the MidAmerica Region geographic area. The count includes two congregations in Omaha, one in Lincoln, and one in Kearney, but not the congregation in Scottsbluff. Why? Scottsbluff is assigned to the Mountain Desert District.

Connecting by paper: Each voting member household receives the quarterly UUWorld magazine. This resource provides inspirational essays, updates on social justice actions, and news about other congregations.

Connecting by electronic media: You have many options here – emails, blogs, and social media sites for special interest groups such as youth, pagans, and humanists. Get started at <http://www.midamericauua.org/> or <http://www.uua.org/lists/175584.shtml>

Connecting in person: In addition to workshops described last month, you can meet other UUs at annual social and business gatherings. The closest to us geographically is the MidAmerica Regional Assembly in Topeka, Kansas, April 11-13, 2014. The site was chosen because 2014 is the 60-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs Topeka Board of Education that separate but equal segregated schools are unconstitutional. Commemorative activities are part of the conference.

This conference is also historic for UUs -- the first live streaming to four simultaneous conferences. Plan to attend this weekend of fellowship, entertainment, inspiring lectures, workshops, and worship.

The largest UU gathering is **General Assembly**, June 25-29, 2014, in Providence, Rhode Island.

October 15 training: "Leading a Congregation During Times of Anxiety" webinar. Sign up at <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/icalrepeat.detail/2013/10/15/182/52/webinar-leading-a-congregation-during-times-of-anxiety>



2013-2014 UUA Common Read: *Behind the Kitchen Door*

The 2013-2014 UUA Common Read selection is Behind the Kitchen Door by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions -- discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens -- affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables.

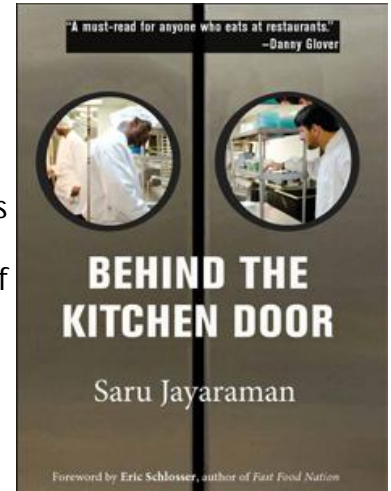
Blending personal narrative and investigative journalism, Jayaraman shows us that the quality of the food that arrives at our restaurant tables depends not only on the sourcing of the ingredients. Our meals also benefit from the attention and skill of the people who chop, grill, sauté, and serve. Behind the Kitchen Door is a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of dining out. Jayaraman focuses on the stories of individuals, like Daniel, who grew up on a farm in Ecuador and sought to improve the conditions for employees at Del Posto; the treatment of workers behind the scenes belied the high-toned Slow Food ethic on display in the front of the house.

As part of the UUA's commitment to ethical eating and economic justice, Behind the Kitchen Door invites Unitarian Universalist individuals, groups, and congregations to advocate for just working conditions for the 10 million restaurant workers who bring passion, tenacity, and insight into the American dining experience.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversation.

Behind the Kitchen Door is now available for checkout from the Macyl Boruff Memorial Library! This looks like a great book! Please let the Library Committee know if you'd like to write a short review of it for a future newsletter; contact Pete Miller.

In addition to this year's UUA Common Read (see article above), the Macyl Boruff Memorial Library has also received a beautiful hardback copy of the *Koran* from the Council on American-Islamic Relations.



Pride Players at Second Unitarian!

By Tammy Hunter

Join us Sunday, October 13, as a part of our National Coming Out Day observances, as the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee is bringing the Pride Players to Second Unitarian Church.

The National Education Association recently awarded the Pride Players the Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human and Civil Rights. The group uses improvisation to create songs, poetry, monologues, and skits that explore what it means to be a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight-allied teen in Omaha.

Please join us for a potluck at 6:30 p.m., the performance at 7:00, and a talkback session, and some theater games until 8:30.



- 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.



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

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

Membership Journeys

By Leslie Briar Harvey, Membership Committee Chair

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in joining us to attend our next "Pathways to Membership" class, which is being held on **Saturday, October 12, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

After breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and our church. You'll also have an opportunity to share your own religious journey, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership. Following lunch, you'll also have an opportunity to officially sign the Membership Book if you wish.

If you're interested or have questions, please contact Katie Tessin at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, October 6, to reserve your seat. Sign up for childcare is also available at this time. We look forward to seeing you!



Make your donation go twice as far: support two of your favorite things with one check! Our church can bundle your KIOS Public Radio contribution with others to purchase ad spots for our church. Please send your contribution to the church or leave in the Sunday offering plate. **Please make your check payable to Second Unitarian Church (note this is different from last year) with KIOS in the Memo Line.** Questions to Nancy Amsler. *Thank you!*

Staff

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Family Service Learning
8/25	88	7	10	---
9/1	82	<i>Intergenerational</i>		---
9/8	62	2	7	---
9/15	79	3	5	---
9/22	77			---

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111
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Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill, Affiliated Community Minister

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402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org

Save the date!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Thanksgiving dinner:
Saturday, November 23, at 6 p.m.

Nine Questions Church Visitors Aren't Asking (...but churches are still trying to answer)

1. So how soon can I get involved with your committees?
2. Can I get a longer bulletin—maybe something with more detail?
3. Will you please single me out in front of all the people during worship this morning?
4. Will you please send some "callers" by my house later and interrupt me while I fix dinner?
5. Can you please seat us in those uncomfortable pews with our fidgety kids and aging parents?
6. How quickly can I fill out a pledge card?
7. Does this church have weekly meetings, rehearsals and other activities that will consume most of our family's free time?
8. I need more paperwork! Can you give me a folder filled with glossy pamphlets, old newsletters and denominational statements of belief?
9. During the worship service, can someone with a monotone voice speak (at length) about all the insider church happenings and people's private health matters? I find this so inspiring.

(Reprinted from MinistryMatters.com)

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA***

“Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.”

Adopted May 20, 2012