



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

October, 2014

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 4
(see page 5)

Start-Up Workshop
facilitated by UUA
Saturday,
October 11
(see pages 2 & 3)

Transgender
Potluck & Panel
Discussion
Sunday, October 12
(see page 5)

Service Learning
Project
Sunday, October 26
(see page 7)

October 5

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Loneliness and Disconnection

Connection is one of the most important aspects of joyful living: first and foremost with ourselves, and then with others with whom we have some affection, understanding or purpose. We reflect on loneliness, disconnection and connection.

October 12

Rev. Frieda and LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

The Sound of Young LGBTQ Omaha Poets and Musicians

In honor of National Coming Out Day, we have the joy of experiencing the stories of young people through poetry and music. Sponsored by the Second Unitarian LGBTQ Welcoming Committee and led by Rev. Frieda Gillespie

October 19

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

The Judgment of the Birds

Loren Eisley, naturalist, brilliant thinker and writer found profound meaning in his observations of nature. In this story, he observes a violent attack among some birds and witnesses their response to the injustice. What might we learn from this terrible and wonderful event and Eisley's commentary?

October 26

Service to Be Announced

Second Thoughts is a publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Please send articles and submissions to info@2Uomaha.org.

Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



Autumn is here! A season of transition in a time of transition here at 2U. This month holds many opportunities for us. In addition to our services, the LGBTQ welcoming committee will be sending members to an Omaha-wide celebration of National Coming Out Day on Saturday, October 11. The same day, we will be having a half-day-long Start-Up Workshop facilitated by Sherry Warren of the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. It will be an all-day program designed in cooperation with the 2U church leaders. Its purpose is to get us started on solid footing in our relationship (Interim Minister to Congregation), to understand your priorities for the year and do some of our transition work together. All members and friends of 2U are invited to attend. Your participation is important to all of us.

One of the things we'd like to start this month is a visual timeline of the history of this church – your history. The Transition Team and I will create a paper timeline that we can add important milestones onto in order to create a picture of where the church has been and where it is today. We'll include what we can find of membership data, major events, ministers (or not), etc. Also, you can help by including major decision points and events that don't make it into the official history, but nevertheless have had a great impact on people and how the church functions. We will reflect on this timeline together and whatever unfinished business, surprises, and proud moments that comes from it.

I look forward to getting together with you in this way and we will have future gatherings throughout the year hosted by the Transition Team to continue further.

We seem to be going gently into cooler weather—let's hope it continues to be gentle and beautiful.

In faith,
Frieda

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.



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees

Just when you thought Second Unitarian couldn't get more interesting, everything changes. Our congregation has now officially entered interim ministry as we transition to a new settled minister two years from now. **Our work for the next two years is to reexamine who we are and what are we called to do.** These questions are not only for us individually but also for the congregation. Rev. Frieda Gillespie will guide us as we strive to answer those questions and more. A Start-Up Workshop provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association and led by a UUA consultant is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11**, and all are welcome as we explore the purpose of interim ministry and begin on our tasks. One is to challenge past assumptions such as:

- Are we truly a welcoming congregation?
- Do visitors feel comfortable when they come to worship, and can they lay their burdens down and be comforted?
- Are all members of the congregation cared for, and do we create an environment in which lifespan education about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist becomes real?

In order to create the church we want to become, everyone must find his or her shared ministry: the gifts each one of us brings to the church that makes it welcoming and a place for everyone to grow and become our best selves.

Shared ministry is the focus of our Strategic Plan because we will not grow without it. The congregation depends on worship associates, the choir, and our greeters to help enrich our worship experience. New families and visitors depend on a vibrant religious education experience for their children so they will want to come back and learn more about Unitarian-Universalism. The church needs volunteers to pull weeds, take out the trash, and do some painting or repairs when needed. All of this is shared ministry and each of these tasks builds connections; with the church and with individuals. If you are experiencing shared ministry, you know you get more out of those experiences than you put in, and if you want to share that experience with others, then recruit a friend, whether new or old, to help him or her find a shared ministry. It is only through this giving of ourselves that each one of us will fulfill the mission of Second Unitarian, to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative, in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.

Craig



Share the Plate for October: GLSEN Omaha

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in October will go to GLSEN Omaha (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - Omaha Chapter). GLSEN Omaha supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally students, educators, and parents, and they provide professional development for future and current educators. Last year, they provided more than 30 hours of training to current and future educators and support to 17 Gay-Straight Alliances and more than 160 students. They co-hosted the first-ever statewide LGBTQ+ youth and young adult conference in Nebraska for students, educators and emerging leaders from across the state. During the 2014-15 school year, GLSEN Omaha will offer the first ever Safe Space summit for educators and more programs and services to students and educators in rural Nebraska. Visit glsen.org/chapters/omaha.

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



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

August Income and Expenses

In August we transferred \$6,297.97 from Reserves to general checking to cover expenses. We also transferred in a pledge prepayment that had been in our Money Market account. Both of these transfers are included as income in the chart below.

	August 2014	Year To Date
Income	\$30,313.67	\$53,741.59 (23% of budget)
Expense	25,366.00	41,936.30 (18% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+ 4,947.67	+ 11,805.29

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges, \$22,702; Dividends, \$.05; Gifts, \$250; Fundraising, \$171.61; Offering, \$892.94. No money was received from New Pledges from New Members or New Pledges from Current Members.

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at treasurer@2uomaha.org.

Building & Grounds Fall Cleanup

By Clyde Anderson, Co-Chair

Our Fall Church Cleanup is **Saturday, October 4 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.**

Our experienced volunteers will assist novices, so don't worry about lacking skills. However, please wear suitable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops, please) 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 B&G Committee members will arrange to have a supply of tools and materials available.

As always, we'll have refreshments available. 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..

Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women from First and Second Unitarian Churches are invited to the Women's Alliance monthly get-together on **Monday, October 13**, in the common room of First Unitarian Church. The evening will begin with socializing and beverages at 6:30 p.m. This month's meal will be Chicken Pomodoro and Eggplant Parmesan.

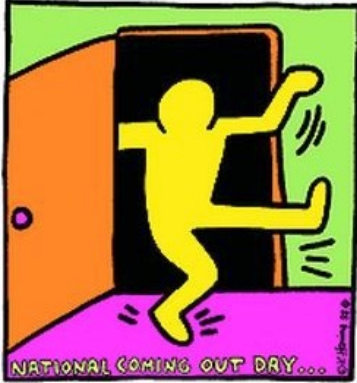
Our speaker will be Brian Schlueter from Moonstruck Meadery, a local Bellevue business. He will supply samples of their mead and discussing the mead-making process. We ask for \$12 towards the cost of dinner, our Merritt Educational Fund and Partner Church Fund. If this will be your first time attending, please be our guest.

RSVP wa@firstuomaha.org by October 9. Please include in your message if you would like the meat or vegetable entrée. An accurate headcount is appreciated for food preparations.



Transgender Potluck and Panel Discussion

By Ferial Pearson, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee



In recognition of National Coming Out Day on **Sunday, October, 12**, please join the Welcoming Congregation Committee at church for a **Potluck and Panel of Transgender Speakers**.

We will begin with a potluck at 5:00 p.m., followed by a multiracial and multigenerational panel of speakers who will talk about their experiences living in Omaha while identifying as transgender.

The panel will begin at 5:30 with each panelist telling us their story. Then we will open it up for questions.

If you'd like further information, please contact Tammy Hunter or Ferial Pearson. We hope to see many of you here!

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Retirees' Group will meet **Tuesday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.** at the church for a presentation on preventing fraud and identity theft. (You don't have to be retired to attend!)

Kathy Beers, AARP Fraud Watch Volunteer Educator will share:

- an insider look at how scammers think
- how to safeguard against identity theft and fraud
- what to do if you or someone you know has been a victim

Kathy is retired from CenturyLink and volunteers for AARP, Hope Center for Kids, and Precious Memories Child Care.

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Our meetings are composed of two parts. First, we read and discuss a meditation/Buddhist related text, then we follow with an actual meditation. We discuss the text at the meeting by bringing up interesting points and asking questions of each other about the text. We also discuss any other miscellaneous meditation-related issues that anyone would like to bring up. We end the meeting with a group meditation, usually about 20 minutes or so in length. Sometimes it is a silent meditation, and sometimes we use meditation-related music or vocally guided meditation.

We are currently reading and discussing the book *10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works--A True Story* by Dan Harris. You can read the book ahead of time if you like, but it's not necessary. We'll read and discuss the book at our monthly meetings. It's a good and somewhat humorous story about a real-life meditation experience by someone living and working in a high-stress, rat-race type of environment.

Meditation Reincarnated meets downstairs in the church on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. to learn about and practice meditation. This group is designed for everyone, whether monk or beginner. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we invite you to come and check us out. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, October 23, at 7:45 p.m.**



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



Welcome to the beautiful colors of fall and those inside all of us! The two transitional seasons are always magical in my book - I have a hard time deciding which one I love more. The optimism of the spring - full of anticipation of all the projects and gardening I'm going to get done that summer. Looking forward to making progress and opening the windows! Fall, though... oh, you and your smells. Bonfires. The warmth of a sweater just taken from storage with the crisp air. Raking... Ah, well, there goes that magic spell!

Speaking of work, a mighty, mighty thank you to everyone who stepped up and helped fill in our 9:30 classes. You are doing great, important work with our children. We are seeing growth in all classes, and hope that we have enough volunteers (I need only two more) to add the 11:30 elementary class back.

Our children are getting into the swing of the church school year with energy and enthusiasm! Our middle school class is much larger than last year, with many new students. The Montessori Spirit Play class is finishing up orientation so they can soon get to work exploring their faith. You will be seeing our elementary class in the sanctuary soon: one of their classes will be to observe the service and identify rituals we have.

Finally, if you're active in Social Justice, let me know if you would be willing to be interviewed by the students. I am in need of one or more persons to share their experience and motivation behind their social justice work with our youth. Alternately, if you know of someone in the community who would be a great candidate, let me know.

With Joy for Our Journey-
Molly

October Teen Movie Night Sunday, October 19, 4:30 p.m. HALLOWEEN MOVIE TO BE REVEALED LATER!

Snacks, drinks, and pizza provided (free will donation)

**Bring a bag of candy or Halloween treats to share with the group!
(Not mandatory - just a suggestion
since teens don't get much of a chance for Trick or Treating)**

Costumes or Festive Garb Encouraged!

Friends and parents are welcome to join us!



Make your donation go twice as far by supporting 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 contributions to the church or leave them in the Sunday offering plate. Donations will be accepted from **October 1 – November 3, 2014**. Please make your check **payable to Second Unitarian Church, with KIOS in the Memo Line**. Questions to Nancy Amsler. Thank you!



Upcoming Service Learning Projects

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

We have a list of Service Learning Projects (SLPs) we are planning for the upcoming months. Remember, these are open to *everyone*, not just families or individuals involved with RE. It's your chance to reach out to the greater community and grow your own faith, too! Put your values into practice: join us at an upcoming SLP!

October 26: Potter's Field

Potter's Field in Omaha was part of a movement in the 1800s to find a burial place for individuals who could not afford a standard burial in a cemetery or who were not identified.

Omaha's Potter's Field is located in North Omaha, next to the historic Forest Lawn Cemetery. We will take our energy and curiosity to Potter's Field on Sunday, October 26, to provide maintenance, plant some bulbs and to learn about some of the amazing history that rests in both Potter's Field and Forest Lawn Cemetery.

We ask that participants show up around 10:30 a.m., wearing work clothes, work shoes, and gloves. If you have gardening tools (i.e., pruners, shovels, gas weed trimmers, trowels, etc.) or some bulbs you can spare (or maybe need to thin out), please bring those along!

Potter's Field is a little hard to find, although the directions there are easy. Take 680 to Hwy 75/Mormon Bridge Road. Head south to Young Street. Potter's Field is located on the north side of Forest Lawn (it's across the street from the second driveway on your left). There is an arched iron sign over the entrance - but you'll also see the cars! Parking is available on Young Street - simply pull off to the south side of the road. There is also parking available in Forest Lawn, but you will have to walk around the cemetery to access Potter's Field.

November 30: Pine Ridge Reservation

Coming in November: Native Americans saved the Pilgrims in 1621 – Isn't it time we really said *THANKS!* Our donations will go towards "Friends of Pine Ridge Reservation," whose goal is to inform others how to help provide resources to these organizations, and to donate in ways that help preserve and support the Lakota culture. Watch the Weekly eNews and November newsletter for ways you can help!

December 28: Adopt-a-Family

Adopt-a-Family is our traditional SLP in December. Keep an eye out for the Solstice/Christmas tree with needed items by the family/families we have adopted. More details about the family and needs will be forthcoming!

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!



Nominations and Leadership Development

By Carol Johnson, Chair

Opportunities for Leadership Development

UPCOMING TRAINING

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is negotiating with a training team from the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, KS, for “Leadership 101” to be presented to leaders and potential leaders at Second Unitarian on Friday, December 5 (evening only) and Saturday, December 6 (daytime). Outcomes of the training are to: 1. Be connected to other leaders in the congregation, 2. Develop transferable leadership skills, 3. Build confidence for leadership, and 4. Identify resources available to us. All teens, affiliates, and members are welcome to attend. Watch for more details about this training.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

Second Unitarian has purchased a flash drive with audio recordings of proceedings, special lectures, and workshop sessions from 2014 General Assembly this past June. Workshop tracts include Communications, Finance, Governance, Growing Membership, Worship and Social Justice topics and more. A session recommended by Cheri Cody is “Committing Time and Treasure in the Beyond Community.” You may check out the flash drive from the church office to download presentations to your laptop. Slides are available on the UUA GA website and an index of presentations on the flash drive is available in our library.

OTOC: Find Out Where the Candidates Stand

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) has organized two Candidates Accountability Sessions so voters can be informed about how candidates stand on issues that OTOC has identified as being of concern to families in Omaha. These issues correspond to Unitarian Universalist principles of the worth and dignity of every person, economic justice, use of the democratic process, and respect for the environment.

The session for **Nebraska Governor and Legislature** is **Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church, 69th and Cass in their newly remodeled commons area. Come find out how candidates stand on accepting federal money to expand Medicaid so that low income Nebraskans can have health insurance, drivers licenses for immigrants who have been approved by the federal government as Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrival (DACA) status, and funding to improve mental health services.

Candidates for governor and state legislature from Omaha districts have been invited. Responses so far:

- Governor:** Chuck Hasebrook - yes; Pete Ricketts - maybe
- District 3:** Carol Blood - yes; Tommy Garrett - invited
- District 4:** Bob Hilkeman - no; Stacy Ryan - no
- District 6:** Joni Craighead - no; John Stalnaker - yes
- District 8:** Gwen Aspen - invited; Burke Harr - invited
- District 12:** Greg Hosch - yes; Merv Riepe - no
- District 18:** Brett Lindstrom - invited; Michael Tesar - invited
- District 20:** Matt Lathrop - yes; John McCollister - no

OTOC joined with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance for a forum for candidates for **House of Representatives and Senate, Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.** at the Swanson Center (Metro College North Campus) at 30th and Fort. Find out how the candidates stand on issues concerning immigration reform, environmental concerns, and access to health care. Responses so far:

- Senate:** Dave Domina - yes; Ben Sasse - invited
- House of Representatives:** Brad Ashford - yes; Lee Terry - yes

Watch the Weekly eNews and Order of Service for updates. For additional information contact Vicki Pratt.



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership Committee

Pathways to Membership Class on November 8

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, November 8, 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. Some find this a meaningful time to become a member, so an opportunity to sign the Membership Book will be provided at the end of the class. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

To reserve a seat, please contact Katie Tessin at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, November 2, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

Pictures for Church Directory

Has your picture become dated in the church directory? If you would like a new directory photo, the Membership Committee will have cameras on hand during the next several weeks during Sunday coffee hour.

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

By Ben Wallace & Shawne Johnson (Coonfare), YRUU Advisors

YRUU is in full swing for all 7-12 grade youth on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at First Unitarian. **On November 1 & 2**, we will have our Fall YRUU Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont, NE. We will get to know each other, have a wonderful time around the campfire, and talk about the upcoming year, what we want to accomplish, and what it means to be UU! 7-12th Grade Youth can register for the retreat at <http://tinyurl.com/yruufallretreat> If you have questions regarding the retreat or YRUU in general, contact Ben Wallace and Shawne Johnson (Coonfare) at omahayruu@gmail.com.

Attendance

Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
8/31	42	<i>Intergenerational</i>		—
9/7	69	<i>Intergenerational</i>		—
9/14	78	6	19	—
9/21	45	—	—	26

Staff

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, *Interim Minister*

402-334-0537 ext. 111

RevFrieda@2UOmaha.org

Molly Kliment-Jenkins, *Director of Religious Education*

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@2umaha.org

Gary Emenitove, *Office Administrator*

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director*

music@2Uomaha.org

Katie Tessin, *Connections Coordinator*

membership@2uomaha.org

Second Thoughts Staff: Rev. Frieda Gillespie,
Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell,
Tom Peterson, Gary Emenitove

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
3012 South 119th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org

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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