



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## *Second Thoughts*

November, 2014

### *Join Us This Sunday!*

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

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

**Daylight Savings  
Time ENDS**  
**Sunday,  
November 2**  
**at 2 a.m.**  
**Set your clocks**  
**BACK one hour**

**November Service**  
**Learning Project:**  
**The 100 Item**  
**Challenge**  
(see page 7)

**Thanksgiving**  
**Dinner**  
**Saturday,**  
**November 22**  
(see page 5)

- November 2 Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**Gone, but Not Forgotten**  
Today we celebrate the Day of the Dead or All Saints' Day by remembering our loved ones who've died in the past year. If you would like to bring a picture of someone you miss, to place on the altar at the service, please do so. We'll reflect on death and loss and what it means in our lives.
- November 9 Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**What Is Unitarian Universalism?**  
You've heard this question before. Perhaps you've been asked by friends or acquaintances or family. Do you have your elevator speech ready? Here are some ideas to get you started.
- November 16 Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**What's in an Identity?**  
What does identity really mean? Is it something fixed or is it changing over time or even moment to moment? What does current brain research say about identity? How does your church form its identity?
- November 23 Music & Worship  
**In Celebration of Thanksgiving**  
The Music & Worship Associates present a multigenerational service in celebration of Thanksgiving. Through song, poetry, blessings and reflection, we share our gratitude for the bounty of our lives. During the service, we will share table blessings, stories, and partake in a cornbread and cider communion UU style.
- November 30 Rev. Marshall Johnson  
**Being Deliberately Liberally Religious**  
Why is "Question: What do you get when you cross a Jehovah's Witness with a Unitarian? Answer: Someone who knocks on your door and asks 'So, what do you believe?'" a joke? What does it mean to be liberally religious, and to be that way on purpose?



## In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



Loren Mead from the Alban Institute writes in *Critical Moment of Ministry: A Change of Pastors*, “Every congregation lives in dialogue with its past. Every congregation is strengthened immeasurably by its history, but every congregation has also been deeply wounded by its past. It is both the heir and the victim of its story.” Interim Minister David Keyes says, “Effective transition ministry begins with a long look in the rearview mirror, where we must read the admonition: ‘Objects may be closer than they appear.’”

Second Unitarian has looked back on its history a number of times over the years. And just as we grow and understand our own histories – our family stories, our struggles, and achievements – differently than we did when we were younger, there is great benefit in looking back periodically to glean more insight. We began that effort during the Start-up Workshop last month. The Transition Team prepared a timeline of the church’s history and added some well-known milestones. Then others were invited to add important events both “official” and “unofficial” to the timeline on Post-it notes. That timeline is now posted on the Second Showing wall. You are invited to add to the timeline anything you feel is significant to the life of the church now or in the past.

As you read the timeline and think about your church’s story, the story you’ve experienced, you may find that there are parts that you need to share. There may be experiences that are still painful and that still affect your relationship to the church. Your energy, your outlook for the church’s future may be limited by these past wounds.

We will continue to look at and share stories both happy and sad, from the timeline. Please take the time to look at it and add your thoughts. The Transition Team will host a gathering in November to walk through the history in more detail together.

Also, on **Saturday, November 15, at 10:00 a.m. at the church, we will offer our first Healing Ritual**, where there will be a safe place to share and let go of past wounds. We will offer as many of these as are needed. And you are always welcome to come and speak to me privately as well.

Loren Mead, who incidentally was the ‘founder’ of Interim Ministry, wrote, “Coming to terms with the past means the congregation comes to a place where it is able to look at its past, lay to rest its ghosts, value its heroes and heroines, honor its special story, forgive itself for its faults, and gain energy for a new stage of its journey.”

Let’s do just that this interim period.

In faith,  
*Frieda*

**Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, November 2. Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour!**





## Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees

As the wind blows a little colder and we ready ourselves for winter, we also enter a period, defined by the holidays, for mindful thanksgiving. I am thankful that I am part of this community we call Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. I have been instilled with a desire to spread the word about Unitarian Universalism and was reminded recently that there is fertile ground upon which I could spread the seeds of my faith. It has been noted that 20% of Americans and 40% of liberals are “Nones”; those who answer *none* to the question of religious affiliation. Our community needs to do a better job of reaching those people. But how do we do it?

We have to offer the group of “Nones” a reason to have a religious affiliation. I believe that they are searching for a community of like-minded souls. We become attractive if we can offer something they don’t have: a community that stands for a purpose they value, can provide a nurturing environment for religious education of their children and will help them explore the universe of spirituality available to them. We can do that only if we become a more unified and cohesive community and everyone understands our sense of purpose. The Strategic Plan attempts to outline how we can do that and I refer you to the Quick Link “Strategic Plan” on the lower right side of any page on our website.

One major goal of that Plan was to help each member of the community mature as a Unitarian Universalist, understanding what it means to be a UU. The means proposed to do this were to make everyone feel that if they did not commune on Sunday morning for worship that they would be missing something of great importance. Through worship, we renew our commitment to our faith and grow stronger as a community. By contributing to and attending religious education programs, we gain a deeper understanding of how our faith can help heal a hurting world. Finally, if everyone pitches in to help our community become stronger, each will find his or her personal ministry, the work that gives meaning to life. I hope that as we reflect on what we are thankful for, that each one of us will commit to attending worship regularly, to becoming more engaged in our community, and to searching for one’s personal ministry.

*Craig*



### Share the Plate for November: One Spirit (for benefit of Pine Ridge Reservation residents)

**One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in November will go to One Spirit: for benefit of Pine Ridge Reservation residents.**

One Spirit is a Native American service organization that assists and supports American Indians. At present, they focus on the Lakota Sioux in South Dakota. Their programs reduce or eliminate hunger, replace the high youth dropout and suicide rates with enthusiasm for learning and pride in their Lakota heritage, and provide protection from the winter cold that can drop to 40 below zero. Visit [friendsofpineridgereservation.org](http://friendsofpineridgereservation.org). **This Share the Plate is being coordinated with this month’s Service Learning Project, *The 100 Item Challenge* (see page 7).**

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

## September Income and Expenses

September was a "normal" month for income and expenses. All pre-paid pledges were previously transferred into this year's income and there were no unbudgeted expenses.

	September, 2014	Year To Date
Income	\$15,482.53	\$69,224.12 (30% of budget)
Expense	18,078.06	59,947.21 (26% of budget)
Net Over/Short	- 2,595.53	+ 9,276.91

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$14,462); New Pledges from Current Members (\$100); Fundraising (\$313.41 – book sale and purchases from Amazon.com through church website); Offering (\$642.50). No income or pledges have been received toward the \$8,000 budgeted for New Pledges from New Members.

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

## Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Retirees' Group will be meeting on **Veterans' Day, Tuesday, November 11, at 1:00**. We will be hearing stories from our Veterans about how military service impacted their lives after discharge. All Second Unitarian Veterans are invited to talk about their experiences.

Sample guiding questions include: Where/when was the Veteran discharged? How did military service affect his career and other aspects of their lives? Has the Veteran accessed benefits/services? Was that easy or hard? Does the Veteran continue to have contact with others he served with? What should we say to Veterans after "Thank You"?

Looking forward to seeing you on the 11th to celebrate Veterans' Day.

## Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Meditation Reincarnated meets downstairs in the church, normally on the fourth Thursday of each month, 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. **Due to Thanksgiving, our November meeting will be Thursday, November 20, at 7:45 p.m.** 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.

## Time Change for Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

Our book club is making a major shift in the time we are meeting to the **fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** This time change takes place on **November 25**. If you are free during the day, we welcome you to our monthly discussions. We are reading *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin for the November meeting. We will also be choosing books both fiction and nonfiction for the coming months. Bring your suggestions!



## THANKSGIVING DINNER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 6 P.M.

It has been a long-standing tradition here at Second Unitarian to share a Thanksgiving meal the weekend before Thanksgiving Day. **This year our Thanksgiving dinner will be on Saturday, November 22, at 6 p.m.**

*Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert that can serve 10-12 people.*

Fellowship will provide turkey and beverages.

*Donation is \$5 per adult or \$12 per family.*

This is a wonderful feast that you won't want to miss!

*If you can help with setup, please come at 5.*

Please contact Janet Nichols or Gay DeWester if you have questions.



## Nominations & Leadership Development

*By Carol Johnson, Chair*

### Leadership Development 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. *Be watching for registration details about this training!*

### 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!



# Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



## Sunday Signs of Success Are Everywhere

Every Sunday, I have a goal in mind: to create a safe, supportive community for our children where they are free to explore their faith. Now that the church school year is settling in, I have had a chance to float amongst the various classes and get feedback from parents, children, and our guides/teachers.

And you know what? We ARE creating that magic community!

- I overheard a group of four middle schoolers making connections between our service learning projects and social causes. They also pulled out Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" from a class over a month ago and applied it to a new lesson. That is a class that has grown in numbers and knowledge.
- Our elementary children have created a safe sanctuary for themselves and visitors. As they observe and learn about our rituals at 2U, they are also making their own rituals. On the corkboards downstairs check out their prayer of gratitude and the reasons why they like coming to 2U. I can't guarantee it won't make you cry.
- The PreK-first grade children are enjoying their individual faith journeys in their classroom, amazing the guides, parents and me at their retention and quiet introspection Sunday to Sunday. Quiet introspection. Pre-K kids. Sounds like contradictions, doesn't it?! We'll be hosting an open house in January for you to witness the miracle of the young UUs for yourself.

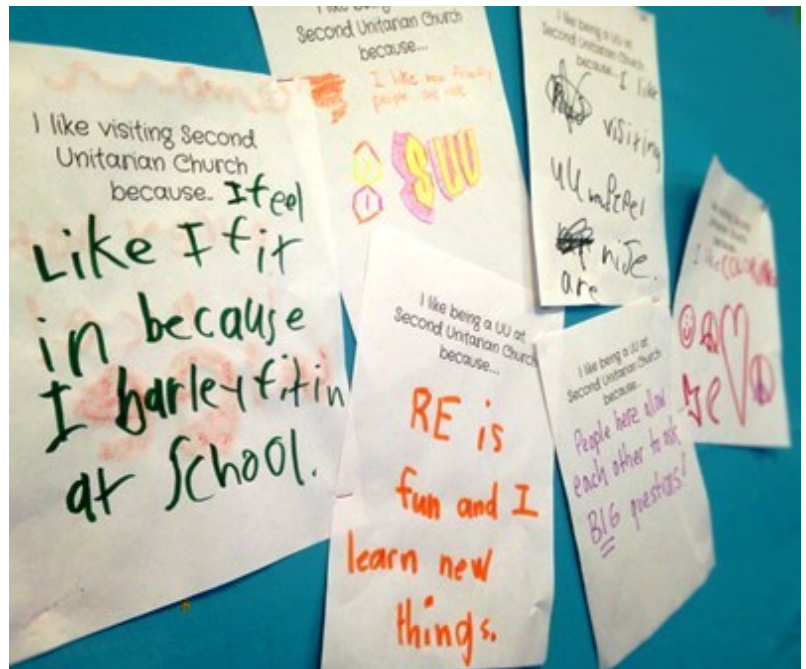
Furthermore, we have 23 children currently enrolled in our program. That's a **35% increase** over the number of registered children last year. I am so glad so many of them are finding value and a community they can be a part of. Many parents have mentioned that their children ask to come on Sundays. Yes, you read that right. They ASK to come. That is always what I hope we create each Sunday.

These are the conditions that build our children into UUs with strong identities, strong values and into strong UUs.

Related to supporting that process, we are offering the 11:30 elementary class again starting on November 2. The individuals who stepped up to make this happen are true gems to be treasured by these children. If you see Stu Burns, Pat Caffrey, Deb Gibson, Pam Miller-Jenkins, Meg Quintana, or Becky Scherbring, give them a big hug of thanks! With the addition of an 11:30 class, we will likely have even more children enrolled in our church Sunday school.

I hope this finds you well-settled into your fall routine and having some healthy, thought-provoking discussions with our UU children!

With Joy for Our Journey,  
Molly





# The 100 Item Challenge

By Jaime Short, Chair, Religious Growth and Learning

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## Did you know...?

- *The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota has been designated as one of the poorest areas in the United States.*
- *Only one Oglala in five has a job.*
- *Medical care on the Reservation is inadequate.*
- *A severe housing shortage forces hundreds into homelessness while others live in overcrowded, substandard accommodations.*
- *Sixty-nine percent of residents live below the poverty line, making do on \$2,600 per year, less than one-fifth of the national average income.*

**Native Americans saved the Pilgrims in 1621 – Isn't it time we *really* said THANKS!**

## *The 100 Item Challenge*

**In November, Religious Growth and Learning will collect 100 necessary items to be sent directly to the Pine Ridge Reservation.** These include such items as socks & underwear, items to keep warm, baby needs, and toiletries. Plus non-perishable food — *Pine Ridge Reservation is a food desert and the nearest regular-sized grocery store is 80 miles away. Most families have no transportation and 100% of the students qualify for free breakfast and lunch.*

Be watching for complete lists of needed items posted around church!

Please bring your items and drop in the designated areas. (NO OWLS! Please make sure your items do not have images of owls on them! *In Lakota Culture this is a Symbol of Death!*)

For more details, please contact Jaime Short or visit the Friends of Pine Ridge website: <http://friendsofpineridgereservation.org>.

## **Safety First!**

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

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Part of Building & Grounds' mission is to maintain a safe environment both inside and outside the church.

**Fire Safety:** Fire exits are clearly marked. For the sanctuary use the main entrance to the south or exit via the Minister's office near the northwest corner. The door to the Minister's office must be left unlocked during events in the sanctuary. There are four wall-mounted fire extinguishers: (1) on the west wall of the foyer near the coat rack, (2) on the east wall of the Minister's office next to the door to the sanctuary, (3) in the downstairs worship area next to the double doors, and (4) in the northwest corner of the kitchen next to the sink. There is also a small fire extinguisher on the podium shelf in the sanctuary.

**First Aid Kits:** The church has two first aid kits, located in the foyer and in the kitchen. The kits have an assortment of bandages, ointments, burn spray, eye wash, and pain relievers. Feel free to use any of the supplies when needed. Please notify Buildings & Grounds when items from the kits are used so we can replenish them.

**Snow & Ice:** Although we have a contractor who plows the church driveways, parking lot, and some of the walks, we rely on volunteers to help clear snow off the walks, steps, and porches. Snow shovels, sand, and deicer are in the foyer under the coat rack. Feel free to use these items as necessary when ice and snow make walking the church grounds dangerous.

If you see something unsafe inside or outside the church, please refer to the Emergency Contact Information sheets posted around the building or notify Buildings & Grounds as soon as possible: Contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.



# Refugee Cultural Night

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

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.



**On Saturday, November 15, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**, OTOC and IPL will sponsor the Third Annual Refugee Cultural Night at First United Methodist Church in The Commons (7020 Cass).

Come to this family event and watch as African and Asian refugee groups in Omaha join together to hold a program of dance, song and sharing of their stories. The evening will reflect the rich cultures they are bringing to Omaha. Come early at 5:30 for a chance to meet the performers. Participating groups: South Sudan, Darfur, Burundi, Bhutan, and several areas of Burma (Myanmar).

Tickets are \$10.00 each or \$20 for a family of four. All proceeds will benefit the refugee groups, supporting their ongoing work to share their culture.

For tickets please see Vicki Pratt or pay at the door.

## Social Statement Collection

Do you have a collection of lapel pins, unused bumper stickers, pencils, or various promotional materials from social causes? Would you like to donate them to the congregation while cleaning out your home? We are looking for items that embrace a wide variety of social causes. We would like to put them up on display in the Religious Education space as a reminder of ways people have been involved in the past. *Please drop them off in the DRE office!*

## Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson, Co-Chair

### Church Cleanup – Thanks for your Help!

We were greeted with cool but beautiful weather for our Fall Cleanup Day October 4. Twelve volunteers got a lot accomplished!

In addition to pruning trees, edging the lawns, and removing weeds, the Yard Team made repairs to the front deck, winterized the irrigation system and rain barrel, and removed wasp nests from the compost bin and east side of the building.

Inside the church another team scrubbed the walls, replaced burned-out light bulbs, cleaned the furnace filters, spot cleaned the sanctuary chairs, changed the decorations at the front of the sanctuary, and cleaned up the storeroom and furnace room, discarding a lot of old stuff.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped: Marco Ballarin, Kathy & Rick Bell, Pam Curtiss-Smith, David Johnson, Janet Nichols, Craig Piquette, Dodie Robison, Tom & Shirley Rundquist, Nancy VanderSluis, and Clyde Anderson.

As fall progresses we'll have one or two informal Saturday morning outings to finish pruning the trees and rake leaves. Please watch for email announcements.





# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership Committee

## Pathways to Membership Class November 8

There is still time to sign up for 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](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org) by Sunday, November 2, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

## Church Directories Go Paperless

Future updated church directories will be emailed to members and affiliates after a new member signs the membership book. If you need a paper copy of the directory, please contact the church office at [info@2uomaha.org](mailto:info@2uomaha.org) or 402-334-0537 ext. 114. As a reminder, the church directory is solely for the use and convenience of church members and affiliates. It is not to be given out to other groups and is not to be used for commercial purposes.



<i>Attendance</i>				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
9/28	57	7	9	—
10/5	74	7	12	—
10/12	83	5	8	—
10/19	65	<i>Intergenerational</i>		—

## Staff

**Rev. Frieda Gillespie, *Interim Minister***

402-334-0537 ext. 111

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**Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director***

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**Katie Tessin, *Volunteer Connections Coordinator***

[membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org)

**Pam Curtiss-Smith, *Nursery Supervisor***

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

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**Second Unitarian Church**

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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*