



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

April, 2015

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services
9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
(One service at 10 a.m.
on April 26)

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

Sunday, April 5
Spring Event
(see page 4)

Saturday, April 11
**Live & Silent
Auction**
(see page 5)

Sunday, April 26
**One Worship
Service at 10 a.m.,
followed by
Town Hall meeting**

April 5

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Easter Sunday

As we enter more fully into spring, joining in the resurrection of life after the cold winter, we offer our gratitude for all that is before and ahead of us..

April 12

Jim Coppoc

Sit at the Justice Table

(selected as the winning sermon for the 2014 MidAmerica UUA Regional Conference)

Jim invites and encourages all of us to “Sit at the Justice Table” through wonderful messages, stories, and music.

April 19

Wendy Hamilton

The Story of Fred and Leroy: Our Mom Has Autism

The presentation will raise awareness of autism in adults, provide useful tools on aging with autism, tell what's on the horizon for disability rights/advocacy, and address the topic of bullying in adults.

April 26

One Service Today at 10 a.m.

Rev. Jean Heriot

Earth Day: Celebrations and Challenges

Our home is beautiful, and every spring we cannot help but sing its praises. At the same time, we know our home is under siege. What do we do about the challenges it, and we, face? Join us for this intergenerational service at 10 a.m.

Followed by a Town Hall meeting.

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



April is a time of growth: the budding out of trees, the appearance of green shoots coming up, the early flowers that are the portent of more to come.

It can also be a time of inner growth as we are affected by the cycles of the seasons if we allow it. We feel more energy perhaps, are more eager to try new things, and connect more deeply with others. The warmer weather encourages us to get outside and work in the garden or take walks, to soak up the sun we missed so much during the winter.

We have an inner garden as well that is ours to cultivate or leave fallow as we choose. We can cultivate qualities such as humility, courage, patience, peace, whatever we long for. We can accept challenges that give us new ideas, new skills that change our idea of who we are and especially what our limitations are.

What a gift we have, multiple gifts: to have others with whom we can really talk, to have a faith that challenges, instructs, and allows room for own thinking; to have these fantastic bodies that keep us alive; to have so many possible paths in life.

It is so much easier to feel good physically and mentally at this time of year. To those who are struggling with illness, grief or depression, reach out to me or your friends at 2U, because the energy of spring can be contagious! And you know you'll be treated with tender care and encouraged along your way. I look forward to seeing your new leaves and flowers. I'm grateful for this time with you!

In faith,
Frieda



Share the Plate for April: Heartland Family Service – Better Together

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in April will go to
Heartland Family Service – Better Together.

Heartland Family Service – Better Together is a family-centered intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment facility. Parents suffering from an addiction oftentimes can't or won't get the help they need because it requires being separated from their spouse and children. The Better Together program focuses on keeping both parents and their children together throughout treatment.

Visit <http://heartlandfamilyservice.org/what-we-do/programs-and-services/addictions/#better-together>

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, [visit the church website](#) or contact the Social Justice Committee.



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



It may sound trite but spring is a time of renewal. It is especially so for Second Unitarian because there is lots of activity and much that is new. An important milestone for us is our annual stewardship drive. The stewardship drive sets our budget for the coming year and it is very important for all of us to demonstrate our generosity by pledging to Second Unitarian, our favorite charity. Please make time to talk to your steward about the rewards you get from being a member of Second Unitarian and ask about programs you would like to see in the coming year. Spiritual education that helps provide meaning and resiliency is important to us all and brings us closer as a community.

Another exciting event is the Second Unitarian Live & Silent Auction on **April 11** to raise money to continue our work for this year. There will be many goods and services up for grabs, and this is an important community activity to bring us together and to showcase our talents. Please bring your friends to help out a good cause and introduce them to the great community that is Second Unitarian.

Spring is a time for new growth and growth is essential for a vibrant organization. The congregation has sought new space and a new location off and on for the past 20 years but has never fully committed to that goal. The Board, following a vote of the congregation in 2012, has assembled a group to lay the groundwork to determine the value of our current building. This will involve listing the church building for sale and to begin an active search for a new church home. A group has also been formed to submit a bank application for a line of credit if and when a suitable location is found. These are indeed exciting times and we hope the congregation is energized. We have spent a very long winter cocooned in our current building and it is time to take action to see if new space is available to enable the butterfly to spread its wings.

Finally, our interim ministry will end in the summer of '16 and we need to prepare for our next phase of ministry. The Board is investigating the possibility of securing a developmental minister for Fall 2016 once our wonderful interim minister, Frieda Gillespie, has finished her term. A number of recent *UU World* articles have discussed breakthrough congregations and one of the common denominators seems to be having a developmental minister. A developmental minister has a limited term and is hired to help the congregation reach a number of self-defined goals. As a community, we will need to define those goals prior to submitting an application this fall for the limited number of developmental ministers available.

On April 26, following the only service that day at 10:00 a.m., the Board will host a Town Hall meeting to discuss potential goals, developmental ministry, an update on the building search, and the vision for the year ahead. We hope you will join us for a lively discussion and a renewal of our community.

Craig

TOWN HALL MEETING
Sunday, April 26
following the single 10 a.m. worship service



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

February Income and Expenses

Expenses continued to be higher than income in February. To help meet March expenses the budgeted "take from reserves" of \$6,543 will be transferred into fiscal year 2014-2015.

	February, 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$10,870.91	\$150,260.44 (64% of budget)
Expense	16,788.43	149,443.94 (64% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$5,917.52	+ \$816.50

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$9,937.00); Fundraising (\$279 – a pass-through for Build Your Own Theology workbooks); and Offering (\$654.86). No income has been received toward the \$8,000 budgeted for New Pledges from New Members this year; no income or new pledges were received toward the \$2,000 budgeted for New Pledges from Current Members this month.

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

STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF EVENT



The Stewardship Kickoff Event was part recruitment, part entertainment! This Scandinavian man (see photo at left) came to pronounce his conversion to Unitarian Universalism.

Just as inspiring was the music of Carla/Bill and Company (Julie Kirn, Tom Peterson, Deb Gibson, and Stu Burns). Stu was hot on the harmonica.

We also addressed the importance of financially supporting Second Unitarian as we enhance and embrace our faith tradition.

— Cheri Cody



Spring EVENT Sunday, April 5

Fellowship is again hosting the annual Spring Event between the services on Sunday, April 5. We would appreciate your support by bringing your favorite goodies such as muffins, cinnamon rolls, scones, cookies, etc.



Come to enjoy the fellowship and celebrate spring.





Guest Entertainer
Jim Coppoc
Poet, Author, Musician

Award-winning poet and teacher, Jim Coppoc is a UU from Ames, Iowa, and the winner of the 2014 MidAmerica UUA Regional Conference sermon contest. Jim has spent most of his life exploring performance art as an actor, stand-up comic, network radio D.J., and performance poet.

Sunday Bonus: Jim will also be in the pulpit on Sunday, April 12, to present his award winning sermon, "Sit at the Justice Table," through message, story and music.

- Sermon of Choice
- Authentic Columbian Dinner
- Dell Venue 7 Tablet Pottery
- Handmade Crib Quilt Vino van Gogh
- Movie Night w/Bob Fischbach Hot Flash
- Metals Artwork Bluebarn Theater Tickets
- Prairie Lane Print Containing Second U Church
- 3rd Annual UU Militia Muzzleloader Shoot
- Honey & Mead Gift Basket Word Lesson
- Basic Excel Lesson Poop Scoop N Care
- One-Hour Stillpoint Massage
- Parking Space by Dumpster
- Barnes & Noble Gift Bag
- Word Salad Sermon

Your Bid Paddle's Waiting!

Second Unitarian Church's Live & Silent Auction

Saturday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.
3012 S. 119th St., Omaha

Free Admission

Join us for food, entertainment,
fellowship and special festivities!

Childcare will be provided

RSVP indicating name(s) and number attending to
Auction@2uomaha.org
Please indicate need for child care with
names and ages of children.



Bill Kuhn

Our own Second Unitarian
troubadour, Bill Kuhn will
provide his mellow folk
sound.

*More Items
Added Daily!*

Please Consider Donating: We welcome services, lessons, special events, unique items, or gift certificates that will potentially sell for \$25 or more. Please, no used clothing. Donation forms at 2uomaha.org and in church sanctuary.



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



How do UUs celebrate Easter?

I was asked this question the other day and thought this might be a great place to answer that question since I wasn't completely satisfied with my reply at the time. Pick any or all below! They all work for me.

1. We don't. We just have an unhealthy attachment to beheaded chocolate bunnies.
2. If we do, we're only in it for the Easter baskets. It's a secular event.
3. Some of us use it as an opportunity to teach belief systems -- and what happens when you stop believing in them -- to the kids in our lives. But only after we pick some jelly beans out of their baskets.
4. Some of us focus on the themes that surround Easter: rebirth, renewed hope... and the mystery of Cadbury eggs.
5. We choose to celebrate the Spring Equinox instead... and replace artificial grass with the real thing.
6. Some of us take the story of Jesus and Easter and use it as a lesson on how the actions we take during our lifetimes can live past our physical lives and continue to improve the world. And devour some Jordan almonds in the process.

My husband and I have hosted an annual Easter dinner at our home for the past 15 or so years, although we don't see ourselves as Christian. I don't feel hypocritical for doing this. Easter, more than anything, has become a date for me to share my excitement over the spring. The long winter is past and my bulbs, seeds and I are all reaching, getting grounded in the thawed soil and finding new things to reach for in the sky above. Those who are Christian who come to my dinner hear a very UU prayer and enjoy fellowship. And, I could be wrong, but I don't think they feel hypocritical about my Easter celebration, either.

Whatever *your* reason (or lack thereof), join us on April 5 for a "Spring Egg" hunt. The middle school kids will have a lovely conversation about their Easter experiences while they pack eggs (and then hide them). If you have any old Easter baskets you'd like to donate, we'd love to have them!

On another note, the church school year is winding down. If you have a child in the program, you are in the program or are teaching in it, please take a moment to fill out a survey when it comes your way. We value your input and use it to improve the following year.

With hope and joy for SPRING!

Molly

APRIL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT is on the next page





Spring Church Cleanup: Saturday, April 25

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

Our Spring Church Cleanup is **Saturday, April 25, from 8:00 a.m. to noon**. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! For example, painting exterior areas of the building (weather permitting), raking leaves, setting up and repairing the irrigation system, cleaning up flower gardens and planting annuals, and cleaning inside the church.

Mother Nature was requested to provide sunny skies and warm temps. However, if it's raining we have a lot of indoor tasks to get done. To reduce expenses, our janitorial cleaning contractor will be cleaning the church only every other week. Beginning March 28, B&G volunteers will be cleaning the church on the other weekends, and one of those dates is April 25. For more information, contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.

April Service Learning Project

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins

Our Service Learning Project (SLP) for April is *Caring for the Earth*. Specifically, our little plot of the earth here at Second Unitarian Church! It's a little different than previous SLPs we've done. We're meeting at church on **Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to noon**. Our activities on Saturday will enhance our worship experience on Sunday.

Join us at 10 a.m. (or feel free to start at 8 a.m. with Building and Grounds — *see the article above this one*).

Please wear clothes & shoes you don't mind getting muddy and gloves. Bring garden spades, rakes, hand trowels, kneeler pads, pruners, loppers ... whatever garden tools you want to bring!

Building and Grounds starts at 8 a.m. on church cleanup. We will break at 10 a.m. for our SLP/ Earth Day ritual and do some loosening of the soil and planting of seeds and plants. Join us to connect to our earth as well as do some stewardship for the land we are responsible for!

Second Circle Teen Movie Nights

By Anita Meyer

April's selection for Second Circle Teen Movie Night is *Remember the Titans*. Denzel Washington plays Herman Boone, who is hired as the T.C. Williams High football coach over a white coach in Alexandria, Virginia, in the early 1970s during a time when the school has just been integrated to allow blacks into the school.

Please join us on **Sunday, April 19, at 4:30 p.m.** for snacks, pizza (freewill donation accepted) and a post-movie discussion led by our own Bob Fischbach, movie reviewer for the Omaha World-Herald.

Teen Movie Night titles were nominated by the teens and those chosen reflect or raise issues related to our UU principles and present good themes for discussion.

Movies for May and June:

May: *Kundun*

June: *Gandhi*



Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Please join us for Retirees' Group **Tuesday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m.** for Vicki Grunwald, who will be sharing her experiences visiting people at Douglas County and Omaha jails. She will talk about what she does and how her experiences interacting with prisoners have influenced and inspired her.

Second Unitarian Retirees' Group meets monthly for socialization, fun, personal growth and learning. All are invited to attend!

Learn More about UUism

By Pete Miller, Chair, Library Committee

Looking to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library has some great titles, including the *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide* and *A Chosen Faith* from Beacon Press. In fact, there's a whole section of books about UUism. These are very engaging reads that can help deepen your relationship with the broader church community. And if after reading one of these you want your own copy, please check out the UUA Bookstore at www.uuabookstore.org. It's an amazing resource for UU and Social Justice books, and a great alternative to larger online bookstores.

Thank you for your continued support of the Macy Boruff Memorial Library!

Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

The next Blackstone Book Club discussion is **Tuesday, April 28, at 1:30**. We will center on *Breakfast at Sally's* by Richard Mieux. The author is a former businessman who once was happily married and the owner of several cars and three boats. He encountered hard times financially and ended up homeless. This book details his experiences as a homeless person. Please join us for our meeting.

Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to the Women's Alliance gathering at First Unitarian Church on **Monday, April 13. Socializing and beverages at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7.**

Our program for April will feature Lisa from HETRA. HETRA's mission is to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children with disabilities through equine assisted activities. Learn more at www.hetra.org.

We ask for \$12 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, and the Partner Church scholarship. If this is your first time attending, please be our guest.

Dinner will be from Mangia Italiana. Desserts will be provided by Abby Borgmann and Ellen Shurson.

RSVP at wa@firstuomaha.org. **Please let us know if you would like meat or veggie.**



OTOC Fundraiser: Food, Art, and Music

By Vicki Pratt

You are invited to Omaha Together One Community's (OTOC) annual Spring Fundraiser. It's **Saturday, April 25, 6 to 9:30 p.m., at Hot Shops Art Center, 1301 Nicholas Street.**

The fun evening features tasty appetizers, soft drinks (cash bar for wine and beer), music by jazz pianist Paul Serrato, a wide variety of silent auction items, and the opportunity to get to know members of congregations throughout Omaha. As a bonus, many of the artists will have their shops open for browsing.

OTOC works to improve living and working conditions for residents in the Omaha metro area. Second Unitarian is a founding member of OTOC.

Tickets are on sale during coffee hour between services and are \$20. If you cannot attend, please consider paying for a ticket to donate to refugees involved in OTOC action teams.

More info about Hot Shops: www.hotshopsartcenter.com.

Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group has a new name and a new meeting time.

We now meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. downstairs at church. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 16, and the May meeting is Thursday the 21st.

At our meetings we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, so please come and check us out.

We Can Now Accept Your Plastic

By Clyde Anderson, Chair, Finance Coordinating Council

Technology Chair Carla/Bill Kuhn and I have installed equipment to enable credit card payments at church. We'll first use these capabilities at the Live & Silent Auction April 11, and will also accept credit cards for pledge and offering payments, other donations, and purchases such as fair trade products.

We selected PayPal as our credit card processor because of its record for maintaining credit card security and its good reputation with consumers. We will be able to accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover as well as payments via personal PayPal accounts.

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!



CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

Adopted May 23, 2010

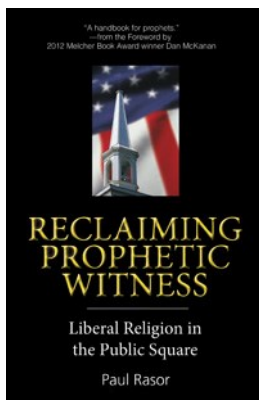
To strengthen the bond of peace within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: We pledge

- 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.

UUA Common Read Study Group Forming

By Carol Johnson



Second Unitarian Social Justice is organizing a study group around *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* by Paul Rasor. This book was selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association as the 2015 Common Read. A Discussion Guide produced by the UUA will provide the basis for a series of three 90-minute sessions. Dates for sessions will be announced and are targeted for summer months (June/July). Please contact Carol Johnson if you are interested in participating in this study group. Your input will be included in setting dates/times for the group. Books will cost \$12-\$15 per copy depending on number of participants.

Reclaiming Prophetic Witness points out a growing misconception that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in our national social policy. The book includes insights from our liberal religious theological heritage that have bearing for us today, and calls us to prophetic, faith-based justice work.

Rasor explores the forces and tensions that have weakened our prophetic witness in the last quarter century. He also makes a strong case for the necessity of a liberal religious presence in the public square to complement and strengthen secular voices raised for social justice. *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* offers new ways to think about how to remain culturally engaged and yet able to speak and act for justice from a faith-based position.

Common Read invites participants in UUA Congregations across the U.S. to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in congregations and the UUA by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership Committee

Welcome, New Members

Please take a moment to welcome our newest members and look for their biographies on the new-member board in the foyer in the coming months.

Pathways to Membership Class on May 2

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next “Pathways to Membership” class on **Saturday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.**

After a delicious 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.

To reserve a seat, please contact Katie Tessin at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, April 26, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, April 26

following the single 10 a.m. worship service

Staff

<i>Attendance</i>				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
2/22	76	7	12	—
3/1	67	4	13	—
3/8	59	7	9	—
3/15	84	4	9	—
3/22	85	<i>Intergenerational</i>		—

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, *Interim Minister*

Office 402-334-0537 ext. 111

RevFrieda@2Uomaha.org

Molly Kliment-Jenkins, *Director of Religious Education*

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@2Uomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, *Office Administrator*

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director*

music@2Uomaha.org

Katie Tessin, *Volunteer Connections Coordinator*

membership@2Uomaha.org

Pam Curtiss-Smith, *Nursery Supervisor*

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

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