



Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join Us This Sunday!

First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m.

February 6 To Hate Like This (Is To Be Happy Forever)
Rev. Scott McNeill
Will Blythe wrote a book about life, religion, emotion, obsession (and basketball). What are the things you hold to passionately? What are the things that sustain you and entertain you and frustrate you?

First Hour **Writing for Spiritual Growth** David Martin

February 13 The Life of a Dusty, Old, Stuffed Rabbit
Rev. Scott McNeill
Skin Horse and the Rabbit talked about becoming real and being loved in The Velveteen Rabbit. It never hurts to be reminded about how we're truly worth being cared for - and how relationships can help us find that compassion.

First Hour **Standing on the Side of Love: Marriage Equality**
Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

February 20 This I Believe As a Unitarian Universalist
Justin Short, Vicki Pratt, & Judy Eller
This continuing series focuses on individual perspectives on UU values and beliefs from members, with an invitation to connect with others through reflection and appreciation of differences.

First Hour **From Age-ing to Sage-ing - A Continuing Discussion**
Anita Jeck

February 27 The Education of God: Adam and Eve
Rev. Scott McNeill
Our third installment of The Education of God brings us the beginning of creation - and all of the follies and foibles that Adam and Eve can stumble into. Join us for an entertaining Sunday and another take on the creation stories!

First Hour **Roots and Wings - Understanding UUism**
Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning



**"We Are Family"
Fellowship Dinner**
Saturday, February 26
RSVP by February 16
Details on page 5

**Workshop on Conflict
Resolution:
Guidelines for Right
Relationships**
Sunday, February 13
Details on page 9

Second Thoughts is a monthly publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.
Please send your articles and submissions to: info@secondunitarianomaha.org.
Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



Kanye West (rap artist, outspoken about justice, music and just about everything else) has a song called "Family Business" where he talks about his relatives coming together, even during difficult times, to support one another. Confucius (Chinese philosopher, assisted governments in demanding loyalty) wrote of the need to respect one's parents, one's government, one's siblings, and one's friends.

Though separated by about 2,500 years, Kanye and Confucius both hit a similar chord: the need for a strong family support. Confucius wrote of families bound by blood and genealogy, more than families that were chosen (though he, too, thought highly of the relationship between friends). Kanye talks about aunts and uncles and cousins and friends – people who matter deeply, regardless of who is married to whom.

Families and the idea of connections that last are vital to society and to our own individual growth. For better (and worse), families are where we learn about ourselves, about human interaction, about how to treat others and how to live. Some of us are blessed to have great families of origin and others have a more difficult history. Some of us have families of one parent or none or two parents of the same sex or three or more.

The fascinating thing to me, however, is how we are able to create our own families. Sure, there is something about those to whom you are forever bonded, the relatives that may annoy you or love you, but definitely are present in your life. But after we mature and grow into our full selves, we are able to create connections and build relationships with people that sustain us more than blood can. Our "family of choosing" as many people call it – sometimes we have sisters who are ten years our elder or a second mother or father. However we define (or refuse to define) those relationships, they matter a great deal to us.

Is a church a family? Not quite. We hold deep connections with people here, love one another in a deeper sense – but there is a difference between the people we choose to be around and our families of origin. With people we choose to know and care for, there can be a deeper, but ultimately different connection because we are not bound to be with them – we decide to be. We make the voluntary choice to attend worship or religious education, to volunteer, to give, to eat together and paint together, to grow gardens together, to make justice together.

As wonderful as family can be, a church community can be even better because we are active participants in creating the world we dream about, in building the relationships that we need and that sustain us. Here, we are able to shed the dynamics of our family of origin and play new roles, freeing us of the bonds that hold us back. Here, we can create healthy, whole, right relationships that encourage us to grow and support us in our moments of real difficulty. Being in relationship with those you choose to care about or those you are bound to by blood, can be as frustrating as it is rewarding. And yet, we have the potential to gain so very much from those interactions that we cannot simply live in this world alone. May our church community grow stronger by the day, so that we can be the people we want to be, be the church we want to be, be the world we want to be.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers

By Tom Peterson, Chair, Board of Trustees



Winter's cold grip seems to have frozen everything. While the temptation is strong to curl up under the warmest blanket one can find and wait until spring, the "cold" reality is that if we want to be ready for spring, there is much to be done now. So, bundled up and warmed by the fire within, it's off we go!

To begin, our stewardship campaign begins this month with our kick-off event on Saturday, February 26. As was announced last month and elsewhere in this newsletter, our theme this year is "We are Family." We believe that taking care of our family means providing for and caring for one another. And in so doing, we create and nurture a community that strengthens us, and enables us to reach beyond our walls to those who are also looking for a spiritual home. In setting our stewardship

goals for this coming year, the Board has chosen these priorities:

- Providing fair compensation for our professional staff, according to UUA guidelines.
- Adding a paid Membership Coordinator staff position, to attend more closely to our visitors, friends, and new members, helping them (and all of us!) to better connect with one another.
- Funding program budgets according to their needs, in fulfillment of our mission.

I hope you will plan to join your church family in the fun and fellowship on February 26.

Saturday, March 26 brings the return of the Second Unitarian Silent/Live Auction. Last year's event was a rousing success, and we would love to top it this year! Even though it is tempting to hoard all the wonderful offerings of goods and services to ourselves, please tell your friends about the auction as well so they can plan to participate in the fun and help support Second Unitarian Church.

Looking quite a ways ahead to May, there are a few dates to circle on the calendar. Starting off the month, we will have an installation ceremony for Rev. Scott on the afternoon of Sunday, May 1. This is our chance to "show off" a bit, and celebrate our joy at finding one another. Next will be our Annual Congregational Meeting at noon on Sunday, May 22. Important items of business to be transacted that afternoon will be approval of the 2011-2012 budget, election of Trustees and Endowment and Nominations Committee members, and approval of Guidelines for Right Relationships in support of our Congregational Covenant. Look for more information on these events in coming months.

Helping those in need -

A very special thank you to all of those who gave to the offering during our Christmas Eve Service. This offering went to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which assists people throughout various stages of life and development. We are privileged to offer this assistance to members and friends of Second Unitarian Church. The offering on December 24th added \$461.52 to the total amount. Additional contributions can be made by writing a check or completing a cash envelope and specifying "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church

Treasurer's Report

Month End for December 31, 2010

Wishing everyone a joyous New Year and a heartfelt thank you for your generosity in 2010!

Contribution Statements for the 2010 Tax Year were mailed on Jan. 18, 2011. Also included in the mailing was a contribution statement for the church year of 07/01/10 thru 12/31/10. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$ 8,761.74	\$102,300.27
Expenses	-\$14,094.31	-\$ 79,428.68
Net Over/Short	-\$ 5,332.57	\$ 22,871.59

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

Thank you!
Treasurer
Pat Caffrey



YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$81,645.94
reflects 55.09% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

Offerings year to date: \$3,526.87

Stewardship

By Sue Aschinger and Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Co-Chairs

We Are Family

Year round stewardship — it's not just a one time event anymore! And it's not just about money. As we have been communicating, it's about connections and commitment. Most of us have come to and stayed at Second Unitarian Church because of the connections we have found. Once we have those connections, we become committed to making the church a viable place not only to meet our own personal needs, but also those of our church family and of the wider community. Yes, we make that commitment through our annual monetary pledge, but more than that, through our giving of our time and our caring for one another.

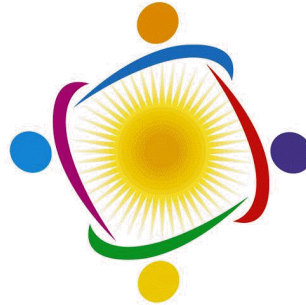
Soon you will be receiving an invitation to join your fellow Second Church family on **February 26** for an evening of fellowship. It's a family event with a catered buffet dinner, fun group dancing, and of course, some messages to start our thinking about our commitment to Second Unitarian. **(See the separate article on page 5 in this newsletter for more event details.)**

Soon after this event you will each receive a call from a visiting steward. We hope you will make the time for a face to face meeting to discuss your thoughts about our church and to show your commitment to our mission.



"We Are Family" Fellowship Dinner

By Marcia Leise



Come to the Second Unitarian Fellowship Dinner **Saturday, February 26, at 6 p.m.** in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.

The theme of the Stewardship sponsored event is "We Are Family." After the buffet dinner, Rev. Scott will lead us in a celebration of our church's vision for the future, and all will be invited to try out some line dancing designed to be fun for all ages.

The dinner will be served compliments of Second Unitarian with a special thanks to Hap Abraham Catering. Because the dinner is being catered, **reservations are needed** to provide a count for the pre-ordered meals.

To RSVP please contact the Church Office at info@secondunitarianomaha.org or 402-334-0537, ext. 114, by Wednesday, February 16, and give your name, the number of adults, teens, and children attending, and the number of people requesting the following food choices:

- *Spinach-Stuffed Chicken Breast*
- *Stuffed Portobello Mushroom (Vegan)*
- *Child's menu including Chicken Strips and Mac and Cheese*

Childcare will be provided at the First Unitarian location. For childcare, please contact Leslie Harvey at childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org or use the signup sheet in the sanctuary by February 16 to reserve childcare at this event.

See you there for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

Save the Date

**Sunday, May 1, 2011, will be the installation service of our settled minister.
This service will feature clergy from the area and beyond, and will formally install
Rev. Scott McNeill**

**as the minister here at Second Unitarian Church.
There will be more details in upcoming newsletters.**



Religious Education

By Portia Love, Director of Religious Education



On January 17, we commemorated and celebrated the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., He was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s and of the 1960s.

As I get older, I can no longer see tapes of him or read about him without feeling great emotion. I am 54 years-old. Dr. King was 39 years old when he was assassinated. He didn't even live to be 40. A very young man.

Dr. King was not willing to lead the Civil Rights Movement. Like so many great leaders, particularly some of those in the Bible (Moses, Noah), he asked, "Why me?" Not because he was unwilling or afraid, but more because he was a simple man and believed someone else could do the job better. But he did take it on, knowing that, eventually, his life would end because of it.

Dr. King led the well-known bus boycott, for which he was arrested. He was the leader of a number of peaceful protest marches, the front porch of his home was bombed while his wife and children were inside. Dr. King was stabbed, spit on, beaten, threatened, disrespected and arrested (I don't know the exact number of times, but it was more than five). One of the times he was arrested, he was thrown into solitary confinement and not allowed to make a phone call. He was kept in jail for eight days.

Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at the age of 35, making him the youngest person to ever receive the prize. He studied Mohandas Gandhi and incorporated Gandhi's principles and techniques of peaceful demonstration in his fight for civil rights.

During the "Children's Crusade," one of the marches held in Birmingham, a group of children, teenagers and college students marched. The adults did not want them to be involved in this dangerous march, but the young people insisted. ONE THOUSAND children marched. Sheriff Connor, a particularly vicious southern lawmaker, turned fire hoses on those children. Fire hoses that were so strong, the force of the water could strip the bark off trees. He turned dogs on them (for those of you who know me, this is particularly frightening) and a number of them were arrested (some of them as young as six years old) and taken to jail! I wonder how many of us would have been willing to allow our children to participate in this? I know my mother would not have allowed me or any of my siblings to participate and I know that I would not have allowed my kids to participate.

In 2011, how sad that we are still living in times that require others to fight for their basic civil rights: Gay people, Mexican immigrants, people fighting for religious freedom, etc. And, across the country, people are being arrested for joining this fight and protesting to ensure that others are not being mistreated. Just like Dr. King.

On April 3, 1968, Dr. King delivered a speech that indicated he *knew* he was not going to live much longer. He was assassinated the next day.

As you celebrate, think of this man. His accomplishments did not just benefit Black people, but all people. He was willing to give so much, including his life, so that others could live.

Portia's Pick of the Month:

What if Nobody Forgave?—this book is a collection of stories that include a story called, "The Children's Crusade," which is about the children who marched with Dr. King. Each story emphasizes that "Each and Every Person is Important."

portiaV.



LGBTQ Welcoming Committee

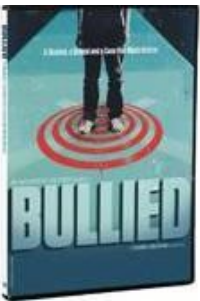
By Tammy Hunter



***The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee
is sponsoring three upcoming events:***

- **Sunday, February 13, at Second Unitarian – Social Justice Movie Night and Silent Auction to benefit Nebraska AIDS Project**

5:30 p.m. – Potluck Supper and Silent Auction - Bid on artwork, clothing, tasty treats, DVD sets, and more. We'll also “pass the plate” for donations to NAP.



6:30 p.m. – Documentary film: “Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History” tells a powerful and inspiring story of a young gay man who took a stand against the bullying he experienced in school. The 40-minute film is designed to create empathy for victims and to encourage others to take action. It is distributed by Teaching Tolerance of the Southern Poverty Law Center and has been endorsed by the NEA, the Anti-Defamation League, GLSEN, PFLAG National, and Welcoming Schools/HRC.

Following the documentary screening, we'll discuss the film and conclude the Silent Auction.

- **Friday, March 4, at Countryside Community Church, UCC (8787 Pacific St.)**

6:45 p.m. - Second Unitarian is joining other area welcoming congregations in co-sponsoring a screening of the documentary “Gen Silent,” which will be followed by a Q & A session with its director, Stu Maddux. The documentary is about the generation of LGBT elders feeling forced to go back into the closet as they age. Watch the very powerful trailer at: www.gensilent.com. Suggested donation for tickets is \$12 (please contact Tammy Hunter for tickets).

- **Saturday, March 19, at Second Unitarian – Creating Inclusive Communities Workshop**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Join us for this all day workshop facilitated by Mike Honeyman, Director of Education & Training for Inclusive Communities. The workshop will provide opportunities for members of our congregation, 6th grade and up, to deepen our understanding of what it means to live our mission and truly “embrace diversity.” Our community will be strengthened by examining and breaking down the stereotypes, myths and barriers that can divide us and by learning how to communicate with one another in ways that foster understanding, respect, and trust. Save the date, and look for more detailed information coming soon!





Roots and Wings

By Rev. Scott McNeill

Starting in February, the **First Hour on the Fourth Sunday of each month** will be discussing some matter related to Unitarian Universalism. We're calling it "Roots and Wings." This can include our UU History, current topics in Unitarian Universalism, what is happening in our UU World magazine, details about Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, and much more!

Please join us for the first of these in February as we discuss "Heroes and Mentors," an article from the Winter 2010 *UU World* (available on the web at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/172751.shtml>).

First Hour, Writing for Spiritual Growth

During First Hour at 9 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month, we will celebrate this time by placing our understanding of spirituality into poetry and prose, which adds clarity and passion to our lives. Join us in creating the world we desire through the written word.

All members and friends of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha are welcome to participate. We welcome all sojourners who wish to share the paths on which they walk in search of enlightenment.

We have no creeds, no goals, no competitive members, and no grades. Our group's motto is "Just Write." Our belief is the truth for each person will appear, when we write enough. - *David Martin*

Fundraiser for YRUU: Poetry Reading and Book Signing



Douglas Lee-Regier, long-time First Unitarian member, will read from his self-published book of poems, *A Chickpea in a Pot*, **Sunday, February 6, at 1:00 p.m.** at First Unitarian.

A light lunch will be served for anyone wishing to attend the reading.

Donations over the cost of printing the book will be passed along to YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists).

Douglas will be reading selected poems from the five sections of *Chickpea*:

**Home at Last
Masters, Teachers & Lessons Learned
Open Spaces
Travelers
and Unborn Mind Poems**

IS ANYTHING MISSING FROM YOUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER?

Are there features, articles, columns, or other insights that would inspire you to better read your copy of *Second Thoughts*?

Are there layout improvements you'd like to see?

Is your church's newsletter meeting your expectations?

Let us know! newsletter@secondunitarianomaha.org

or 402-334-0537 ext. 114





Workshop on Conflict Resolution

By Craig Piquette, Committee on Ministry

Guidelines for Right Relationships - Keeping Hearts Connected

Workshop on Conflict Resolution

To improve skills in conflict resolution and to maintain right relationships when hearts are broken

Sunday, February 13, Noon to 1:15 p.m. Lunch will be served

All Members, Affiliates, Visitors, and Teens are invited

The Committee on Ministry will be sponsoring a Conflict Resolution Workshop on Sunday, February 13, as part of our ongoing effort to help everyone live our covenant in our daily lives. Our Covenant has not made it to the Governing Documents page on the website yet, but a draft, approved by the congregation in May, 2010, is printed in this and every newsletter (see below). We hope you take a moment to look at this document and compare it with the Covenant we recite each Sunday during worship service. The one not recited is much more specific and does not lend itself to the ritual of worship but this does not make it any less important. They are complementary and both ask us to help each other, to minister to each other.

Promotion of our ministry to each other is the function of the Committee on Ministry and our goal is for everyone to remember this covenant during those inevitable times when conflict enters our lives or words spoken by friends become hurtful. Our workshop will help those who attend recognize conflict as it develops and provide them with the means to address it and seek paths to resolution. Recent local and national events suggest that we need this now more than ever. Recognizing our humanity, our inherent fallibility, and finding a way to heal the hurt is what living our Covenant means and we hope you join us as we strengthen our bonds to one another.

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.



50 Years of Camp UniStar

By Prairie Star District Staff

50 Years of Camp UniStar!
All-Camper Reunion and Celebration



Saturday March 12, 2011

First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S., Minneapolis

History Displays and Happy Hour at 4:30pm
Potluck Dinner at 6 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. Dance at 8 p.m.

Camp UniStar is a Unitarian Universalist camp for families, individuals, and youth located on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota. UniStar is owned by the Prairie Star District of the UUA. 2011 marks Camp UniStar's fiftieth year! Join in the celebration on March 12, 2011.

Each summer, UniStar offers 13 weeks of awesome experiences, with about 65 people attending from Saturday to Saturday. In 2011 there will be Work Week (June 4-11), two Youth Weeks for 7th to 12th graders (June 11-18; June 18-25) and ten Family Weeks for families and adults of all ages (every week from June 25 through September 3). Each Family Week has a theme with a daily two hour morning program. Programs may include topics such as sailing, dance, yoga, science, religion, current events, nature, and crafts. Campers may choose to stay in the lodge or cabins, or tent right next to the lake shore.

The lake encourages water activities (swimming, kayaking and sailing); the forest trails attract hikers; sunrises and sunsets invite meditation. Each year campers tell us they return for the peace, quiet, and serenity of this island retreat with no roads or commercial enterprises, as well as fun times with friends old and new. Star Island even has its own lake, Lake Windigo. Information about 2011 summer programs and the annual Camper Reunion party (newcomers are welcome!) is available at <http://www.campunistar.org>. Join us on March 12 and plan on a great week at Unistar in 2011!!

NURTURE Your Spirit.

Help HEAL Our World.



Learn about our national marketing campaign for UUism.

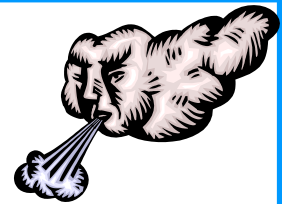
PRIVACY POLICY FOR WEEKLY E-NEWS AND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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 both the church newsletter and weekly e-news 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.

Weather-Related Cancellations

If weather or road conditions cause services or a church event to be cancelled, we will make every attempt to notify you by:



1. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
2. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
3. Placing a message on the church web site, and
4. Placing a notification on Facebook.

In case of a Service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.



Prairie Star District Annual Conference

Des Moines, April 8-10, 2011



Our 2011 Conference theme comes from a favorite reading in our hymnal, "*It Matters What We Believe*" (#657) by a beloved UU religious educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs. It begins, "Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies." What kind of believers are we? We are our best selves when we achieve understanding and empathy. We are at our worst when we can only proclaim what we are against. How do we challenge ourselves to be our best, while avoiding the trap of being exclusive ourselves? Come and explore this theme with us. How do we articulate our individual beliefs? How do we help our children form their own moral compass? And how do we, as a church, take a public stand on ethical issues?

Keynote Speaker: Brian Eslinger, former minister of the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa, served there for thirteen years. He is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities and a former president of Prairie Star District.

Judy Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, who currently serves as senior minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. She graduated from the College of William and Mary and Meadville Lombard Theological School, and now teaches at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and the Humanist Institute. She has served as President of the UU Ministers Association, and is a published author in *Parenting Beyond Belief* and the hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition*.

- Early registration deadline: March 18, 2011
- Final online or mailed in registration deadline: April 1, 2011
- Walk-in registrations will be accepted on April 8 and 9, at full rates but will not include any meals.

For complete conference and registration information, visit www.psdoua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible Workshop

By Vicki Pratt



This year's Prairie Star District Annual Conference is in Des Moines, Iowa. While making your travel arrangements consider getting to Des Moines in time to participate in Friday's Mirrors of Privilege workshop.

The PSD Social Justice Network and GRACE (Growing Racial And Cultural Equity) Team are sponsoring this workshop that catalyzes dialogue to undo race-based oppressions. The workshop combines video presentations, personal reflection, and small group conversations. Participants in the film talk about learned and internalized sense of privilege. Their stories reveal what is required to move through denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making a commitment to ending racial injustice.

This workshop is Friday, April 8, at the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch.

Join us to learn pathways to build bridges between white people and people of color, who can then have authentic relationships across a racial divide.

Details and registration are at www.psdoua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
12/26	35	Intergenerational Service		
1/2	60	3	6	--
1/9	76	6	15	10
1/16	82	6	14	--

Women's Alliance

By Ruth Nicklin

The Women's Alliance will meet Monday, February 14. It is Valentine's Day so it is only fitting that we celebrate the church's love for its community.

Please join us in the Common Room of First Unitarian Church as we welcome Louise Jeffrey as she speaks to us about Neighbors United. Learn how Baptists, Unitarians, and Lutherans together planted the seed for this now thriving organization.

The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to Lois Norris, Barb Dewell, and Betty Morar, the dinner will be spiral ham with elegant potatoes, green beans, apricot-glazed carrots, African vegetarian stew, cranberry salad, rolls, and dessert bars. The cost is \$10.

For reservations, contact Janet West by Sunday, February 9. All women of the First and Second Unitarian Churches are always welcome to attend.

Do you need a ride to the dinner? Contact Janet and she will arrange for someone to pick you up, take you to the meeting, and bring you home.



Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Have you tried meditation before? Do you know what meditation is or how to do it? Each month a group of church members and friends of the church meet to learn and practice the art of meditation. We study the writings of accomplished meditators and discuss how to apply these teachings in our own lives. We are now studying the book *Taking The Leap* by Pema Chodron.

Meditation Reincarnated meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 24. Please join us in learning what can become a very fulfilling practice in your life. It's a wonderful way to learn relaxation skills and to grow spiritually. No previous meditative experience is required.



**July 31-
August 5, 2011**

Come to **Camp StarTrail** (between Omaha and Lincoln) for another grand adventure/retreat for UUs of all ages. Past activities have included bead-making; dream analysis; painting; quilting; survival skills; Amazing Race; sock hop; talent show; barn dance, camp fire (with s'mores); challenge courses; OWL for adults; swimming, nature hikes; ad hoc writers' group, bridge games and lots more.

Camp StarTrail pampers the camper with four housing options—meals included: (a) hotel-style luxury with private baths; (b) college dorm-style rooms with bath down the hall; (c) rustic cabins with a shower house; and, for the purist, (d) actual honest-to-goodness camp-style camping with a short walk to the rest rooms.

Rev. Scott McNeill and Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks will be the chaplains/worship leaders that week.

Camp StarTrail is July 31 to August 5, 2011. Camping that fits your budget and your soul. Find out how we "pamper the camper" at www.psdoua.org/campstartrail.

Camp StarTrail is sponsored by the Prairie Star District of UUA.

Mandatory Ten Digit Phone Dialing Begins February 26

Because of the limited number of telephone numbers available in the 402 Area code, the Nebraska Public Service Commission has announced that beginning **February 26, 2011**, all calls made from the 402 Area Code must include the area code. This is commonly known as 10 digit dialing.

This includes all home, business, and wireless phones as well as phone lines used as fax lines or connected to alarm systems.

In recent years, the increase in dedicated phone numbers (cell phones, ATM machines etc.) has resulted in a depletion of available numbers in the 402 calling area. The implementation of 10 digit dialing will help alleviate the problem.

This change will not create any new charges on your phone bill.

Long distance dialers will still have to dial 1.

Emergency (911) and other three digit numbers (411, 211 etc.) are not affected by this change.

All telephone providers operating in the 402 Area Code are impacted by this dialing change

Shop at Amazon.com and help Second Unitarian Church

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church web site at <http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/>, click on Bookstore, and then click on Shop Now @ Amazon.com. Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.

What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!



Second Circle

All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting the **first and third Sundays of the month, September through May**. We meet across the street from the church, walking over together after the first portion of the worship service.

Our time is spent focused on connection: to each other, to the outer community, to the world, and to our religious and spiritual selves. We explore through discussion, ritual, and a variety of activities. All meetings are facilitated by two adult volunteers from our church community.

Please refer questions to Gay Abraham or Anita Jeck.



YRUU & Parents of Teens

The YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is a youth group for 7th - 12th grade youth from First and Second Unitarian Churches of Omaha. The group meets every Wednesday during the school year, September through May, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney Street.

For more information, contact Ben Wallace or Shawne Coonfare, YRUU Leaders, or Cheryl Wallace, Youth Director, at OmahaYRUU@gmail.com or 402-345-3039

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A group for parents of youth in grades 7-12 meets monthly on the **first Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at First Unitarian Church.

The group, for parents from both Omaha UU churches, will be facilitated by Joel Haskins from Second Unitarian. The group meets during the YRUU time but your teen does not have to attend YRUU for you to attend the parents' group.

Contact Cheryl Wallace at 402-345-3039 or dre@firstuuomaha.org if you have questions.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

February, 2011

Mon., Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)
 Wed., Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
 7 p.m., Committee on Ministry (DN)
 Thu., Feb 3., 7 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)
 Fri., Feb. 4, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (offsite)
 7 p.m., Second Circle Movie (SA)
 7 p.m., Social Justice Action Teams (DNW, DN)
 Sat., Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. Silent/Live Auction Planning (offsite)
 Sun., Feb. 6, 12 noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
 2 p.m., Spirituality in its Right Mind (SA)
 Mon., Feb. 7, 7 p.m., Fellowship (FH)
 Tue., Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
 Wed., Feb. 9, 10 a.m. Communications Committee (DNW)
 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
 Thu., Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
 Fri., Feb. 11, 6 p.m., YRUU Special Event (offsite)
 Sat., Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Visionary Donor Event (offsite)
 Sun., Feb. 13, 12 noon, Guidelines for Right Relationships (SA)
 2 p.m., Spirituality in its Right Mind (SA)
 5:30 p.m., Social Justice Movie & Potluck (WH)
 Mon., Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
 7 p.m. OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
 Thu., Feb. 17., 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite - Abraham offices)
 Sun., Feb. 20, 9 a.m., Caring Committee (DNW)
 Mon., Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
 Tue., Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Program Council (DNW)
 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
 Thu., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
 Sat., Feb. 26, 6 p.m., "We Are Family" Fellowship Dinner (offsite)
 Sun., Feb. 27, 2 p.m., Spirituality in its Right Mind (SA)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9 a.m., First Hour
 Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service
 Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
 First and Third Sundays, Second Circle (offsite)
 Second and Third Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Children's Choir
 Second Sunday, Noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
 Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch with the Church Staff
 Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
 Wednesdays, 7 p.m., YRUU @ First Unitarian
 First Wednesday, 7 p.m., Parent Support @ First U
15th of Every Month: *Second Thoughts* deadline

Calendar Codes:

RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary, (DN)=Downstairs, (DNW) = Downstairs Worship Area (OS)=Offsite, (WH)=Whole Church, (PR)=Private Rental, (KI)=Küchen, (MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.

Save These Dates Next Month:

March 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 13: Movie Night & Potluck
March 19: Creating Inclusive Communities
March 20: Building the Beacon
March 26: Silent/Live Auction

Let us know how you use this calendar. Do you post it on your refrigerator? Do you use it to remind you of a meeting you need to attend? Or perhaps do you prefer to check the online calendar which is updated regularly, not just once a month like this calendar in the newsletter? Please let us know how important this calendar is to you, and if you have suggestions for improvements. **Thank you!**

All events are subject to change.

To check the latest church calendar updates anytime, visit www.SecondUnitarianOmaha.org and click on CALENDAR OF EVENTS in the left-hand column, or call the church if there is a question.

Contact Us

Staff

Church Phone (402) 334-0537

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111

minister@secondunitarianomaha.org

Portia Love, Director of Religious Education

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@secondunitarianomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@secondunitarianomaha.org

David Plank, Director of Music

music@secondunitarianomaha.org

Leslie Harvey, Childcare Coordinator

childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org

Second Thoughts

Staff: Rev. Scott McNeill, Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell, Gary Emenitove

Board of Trustees

board@secondunitarianomaha.org

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2011

Carol Johnson
Tom Peterson, Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2012

Kathy Bell
Lorraine Duggin, Secretary
Don Shennum

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody, Vice-Chair
Laura Neece-Baltaro
Nancy VanderSluis

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Of Omaha

3012 South 119th Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68144

(402) 334-0537

www.secondunitarianomaha.org

Committees

Building and Grounds

Rick Bell, Chair

Caring

Jill Archer, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Denominational Connections

Cheri Cody and Tom Peterson, Contacts

Fellowship

Janet Nichols and Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Darrel Draper, Contact

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson and Sue Aschinger, Co-Chairs

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Anita Jeck and Jaime Short, Co-Chairs

Membership

Position available

Music & Worship

Steve Abraham and Julie Kirn, Co-Chairs

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison and Vija Kopecky, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Steve Abraham, Chair

Personnel

Sue Aschinger, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Julie Carda, Chair

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey and Cheri Cody, Contacts

Welcoming Congregation / LGBTQ Beacon

Tammy Hunter, Contact

Technology

Bill Kuhn, Chair

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin, Contact

Many church communications are sent via e-mail. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA**

“Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is an inclusive and nurturing religious community engaged in thoughtful pursuit of truth and meaning. Our mission is to grow as a beacon of hope – sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity and promotes justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.”

Adopted May 16, 2004