



# 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.



**The Installation of  
 Reverend  
 Scott McNeill  
 Sunday, May 1  
 (see page 5)**



**CELEBRATE  
 SPRING!**  
 Bring a treat to share on  
 Sunday, April 24, after  
 the service

**April 3                      *The Education of God: Noah***  
 Rev. Scott McNeill & Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks  
*Embark on a wild and wet adventure with Noah and the gang in the third episode of our series, The Education of God. Revs. Scott and Sarah Gettie will be leading worship.*

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

**April 10                      *One Voice: Creating Hope, Healing Earth***                      Chris Peters  
*This Sunday, Chris Peters presents information on Peace Colloquy, an annual event in Missouri sponsored by his wife's church denomination. The event has strong Social Justice value which Unitarians will appreciate.*

First Hour: (upstairs) **Understanding the Middle East**                      Al Harrison  
 (downstairs) **The Death of Josseline** Jaime Short/Lifespan RGL

**April 17                      *Passover Stories***                      Rita Paskowitz  
*Our guest speaker today is Rita Paskowitz, who will be telling stories related to Passover. Rita is a professional storyteller, a faculty member at UNO, member of the Nebraska Arts Council, and Co-founder and Director of Creative Healing.*

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

**April 24                      *The Great Adventure***                      Rev. Scott McNeill  
*This Sunday, the entire congregation will gather together for worship as we **celebrate** the Spring of the Earth, the magic of hope and rebirth, and the joy of community and growing.*

No First Hour  
Celebrate Spring following the Service

**May 1, 5 p.m.                      *Installation of Rev. Scott McNeill***  
*See details on page 5*

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



# Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



Sitting in my office and listening to the song "We Pray" by Nick Page (which our choir did a magnificent rendition on a recent Sunday), I am struck by the power carried in our worship services. While the sacred space that is created and held in worship is meaningful and powerful during laughter, quiet, meditation, singing and all – I was particularly in awe of how our congregation handled Joys and Sorrows one Sunday.

Enveloped by a sung prayer, and underlined by a beautiful set of chords on the piano, our ritual of sharing the deepest moments in our hearts and lives was inspiring and sticks with me, days later. I felt closer to those who spoke as well as all of those participating in worship that day.

In that space, we held another Unitarian Universalist from out of town just as easily as we did the concerns and joys of those who are here weekly. And yet, it didn't *just* happen that way. Time, effort and energy went into making this ritual a symbol of the holy in our lives.

One of the things I learned when I first expressed interest in serving the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is that Joys and Sorrows is vitally important to people here because of the nature of sharing and relationship that it can create. I have seen this, week in and week out, as some people share with one another and others give their care and compassion.

I am ever so thankful of those moments when we do this well. It is, at its core, a transformational experience to share with a room full of people and have them receive you warmly.

And yet, there are times (in our church and others) that Joys and Sorrows doesn't always reach that moment of sacred time. I remember serving one church where a person who had never been there got up to announce his candidacy for local office – and then promptly left as other people tried to share their Joy or Sorrow.

One of the difficulties as a worship planner is working all week to set up a particular mood or theme for a worship and then not knowing what will happen if someone gets up to announce their personal project. I'm really appreciative of how intentional people are about using Joys and Sorrows for *truly significant* life events. This allows worship to be a communal experience instead of an individual one and strengthens our bonds with one another. Joys and Sorrows can be hard for participants/congregants in worship, too. Some of us carry heavy burdens or great joys but feel too shy or nervous to share. Some may wonder if what they have is important enough to the congregation.

If ever you wonder about the appropriateness of sharing, please pull me aside and let's talk. Either we can figure out how to share without you being the one to do so, or we can word the comments to align with the purpose of the ritual. And **parents** – if your child or teen has something to share, feel free to have them tell me so we can lift that up in worship, too!

I invite folks to read more about Joys and Sorrows and their ups and downs. Reverend X has two good chapters on the subject and Rev. Thom Belote (editor of Reverend X but not the writer of the chapters) has a good blog entry at this site ([http://revthom.blogspot.com/2009/01/joys-and-sorrows-of-joys-and-sorrows\\_10.html](http://revthom.blogspot.com/2009/01/joys-and-sorrows-of-joys-and-sorrows_10.html)). I hope you and I continue co-creating worship, making it a powerful experience that engages our minds and hearts and sends us out into the world to make a difference.

In faith,

**Rev. Scott**



# Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Tom Peterson, Chair, Board of Trustees



As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, our pledge drive is wrapping up and spring is upon us. With the warming days and greening buds, it's time for some Spring Cleaning. In that spirit, this month's column is a collection of odds and ends.

**On the afternoon of Sunday, May 1, we will celebrate Rev. Scott McNeill with a special Service of Installation.** While at first it may seem odd to hold this service so many months after Rev. Scott's actual arrival at Second Unitarian, it helps to understand the broader purpose of the Installation Service. The *Manual for Installation Services in UU Churches* by Rev. Peter Raible says, "The usual practice is to have the installation some months after the minister's arrival and to use the occasion to have other ministers attend and take part, as well as representatives from the wider community and denomination, both lay and clerical. The approach highlights the connection of the church and minister to wider affiliations." More than just our own private celebration of Rev. Scott's ministry with us, "the installation highlights and reaffirms the bond between a minister and society." Please join us on Sunday, May 1 (see page 5).

**The Annual Meeting will be held on May 22** following the service. In a change from past years, the Board of Trustees felt that between the Installation Service on May 1, and Mother's Day on May 8, there is not time enough to hold a Town Hall Meeting sufficiently far enough in advance of the Annual Meeting. Therefore, all committees are being notified of their budget lines during April, providing them time to address questions regarding program budgets that are usually raised during the Town Hall. Please look for notices and more information about the Annual Meeting coming to you in the mail, through the weekly email, and in this and May's newsletters.

**General Assembly is June 22-26.** This year marks the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. The 2011 General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina, June 22-26, will be a celebration of 50 years of UU history, featuring dynamic speakers, inspiring worship, empowering workshops, and uplifting music. More details can be found online at <http://uua.org/ga>. If you are planning to attend General Assembly in Charlotte and would be interested in serving as one of Second Unitarian's three delegates, please contact Steve Abraham, chair of the Leadership and Nominations Committee, by April 30, so that your name can be placed on the ballot at our Annual Meeting.

## **CELEBRATE SPRING SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

**Join the fun! Everyone bring a favorite spring dessert  
or appetizer/finger food to welcome spring.**

**We will share our wonderful treats following the service.**

**Questions: contact Betty Segell or Janet Nichols of the  
Fellowship Committee. See you there!**



# Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

## Second Unitarian Church

### Treasurer's Report

Month End for February 28, 2011

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$12,814.90	\$127,806.09
Expenses	<u>-\$12,624.32</u>	<u>-\$108,868.98</u>
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ 190.58</u>	<u>\$ 18,937.11</u>

**YTD Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$106,503.92 reflects 71.87% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

**Offerings year to date:** \$5,435.78

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

**Thank you!**

Treasurer

Pat Caffrey



## Stewardship

By Sue Aschinger and Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Co-Chairs

### We Are Family



It's April and we are now busy developing our budget for the coming year based on your generous pledge contributions. We hope you have joined our family of dancers displayed on the Second Showing wall at the church. We hope you were able to meet with your steward and take the opportunity to share your own connection stories and discuss your commitment to our church. We hope the conversation helped you reflect on your commitment to Second Unitarian.

Your monetary pledges are so important for our ability to plan and to ensure we can offer our many programs, maintain our building, and provide support for our members and visitors. To help us set a budget, we need our members and friends to make monetary pledges. If you have not taken the opportunity to make your pledge for the coming church year, please use this link to find the necessary forms.

<http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/?id=officeforms>. You can bring or mail the forms to the church.

Please contact Stewardship Co-Chairs Sue Aschinger or Clyde Anderson if you have questions.

Thank you for helping make our vision and mission a reality!

# You are cordially invited to The Installation of The Reverend Scott McNeill Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 5 p.m.

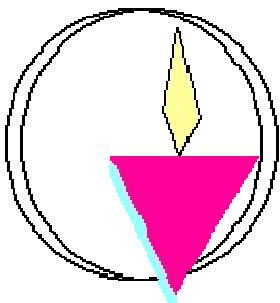
**Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 5 p.m.**, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha will install its fifth settled minister, The Reverend Scott McNeill. This celebration of our shared ministry and our congregation's mission to create justice and be seen as a beacon of hope will feature special guests from around the country, lively music, and a place in the worship for any and all attending.

Due to the anticipated attendance and space needs, the worship service and reception will take place at our neighbor church, Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church, just up the street at 3111 S. 119th St. **Those who are able and willing should gather at Second Unitarian Church at 4:30 p.m. to create a procession (with drumming by the teens!) to Prairie Lane. The service will start at 5 p.m.**

Information about how you can help will be posted soon. Childcare will be provided. This event will be photographed and possibly videotaped. If you do not wish your likeness to be published, please contact the church in writing. Questions or comments can be directed to: Stephanie Peterson, chair, Installation Committee.

Please join us (and invite friends, former members, neighbors) for this faithful, fun-filled evening.

## **BUILDING THE BEACON**



Sunday, April 3, after worship, the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) Welcoming Congregation Committee will sponsor a workshop with Rev. Scott on "Building the Beacon" – continuing our path toward being a welcoming congregation.

This workshop will focus on myths, stereotypes, and stories about Bisexuality and Bisexuals.

For childcare or questions about the program, please contact Tammy Hunter. This program will include lunch and will run from noon to 1 p.m.



# Religious Education

By Portia Love, Director of Religious Education



*When April showers,  
may come your way,  
they bring the flowers  
that bloom in May...*



Our weather is once more about to change (Hooray!). We will soon see trees budding, everything turning green and flowers beginning to bloom. Every year, I look forward to my favorite flowers, peonies—all of them, but the white ones in particular.

Along with renewed life comes warm weather and our thoughts begin to focus on family and outside activities, travel and vacations.

Our children's Religious Education has so many focuses. One of them is Earth Day, officially April 22, but we at Second Unitarian Church will celebrate on April 24, which is also Easter Sunday.

Earth Day was originally associated with the "hippies" of the 1960s, but the first official U.S. observance of Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, making this its 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2011. It is now celebrated by millions around the world. The idea behind the day is honoring the planet Earth and all living things that inhabit it. It is also to increase awareness of recycling and better energy efficient communities.

Not so many years ago, Global Warming was one of our "catch phrases." In the beginning, not many people took it seriously. I think we can all see now that it is not just some scientific myth, but very real and we have all witnessed its effects on our weather and our animal and plant life. Never, in my lifetime, have I heard of so many animals being on their way to or becoming extinct. Whether the Polar Bear or any other animal, I am saddened by the effects of human beings' lack of respect for the Earth.

There are some major changes that are going to have to be made in our lifestyles. We are going to have to change if we want our Earth to last.

Teaching our children respect for the Earth is one step in this process. There are a number of things we do in Religious Education to facilitate our children's awareness of the importance of taking care of our Earth. We teach them about and practice recycling, we have lessons outside so they can learn about and enjoy trees, plants, and flowers. We also teach them about animals and other living things. It will be our children's, and our, respect for our planet that will ensure we can continue to be able to enjoy the wonderful experiences we have out in the world. And, we can provide the continued opportunities to celebrate and enjoy the change of each season.

*portiaV.*







# Spring Church Cleanup April 16

By Clyde Anderson, Building & Grounds



Our Spring Church Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, from 8 a.m. to noon.

There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! For example, fertilize the lawn, rake leaves, seal air leaks identified in the Energy Audit February 8th, interior and exterior painting, make a seating diagram for the Sanctuary, repair the visitor parking sign, and patch holes in the parking lot. Volunteers may also be working on the conversion of the Pumpkin Patch to a Community Garden.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours. Refreshments will be provided. There will be no childcare, but children with adult supervision are welcome to participate!

It may be too cool April 16 for exterior painting, so we may schedule a Church Painting Day in June.

For more information contact Rick Bell or Clyde Anderson.



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## Energy Audit Finds Many Air Leaks

By Clyde Anderson, Care for the Environment Group

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February 8 was probably Omaha's coldest day so far in 2011 with a morning low of -10 F rising to a high of +1 F. That also happened to be the day that Jon Traudt, EPA Energy Star Home Rater, chose to make a free Energy Audit of our church.

How does an energy audit work? Jon lowered the pressure inside the church by installing an exhaust fan in one of the exit doors. This caused cold outside air to flow through leaks that Jon measured with a temperature-measuring device with built-in camera. Jon gave us 122 images plus many helpful documents to make our building more energy-efficient.

Vicki Pratt accompanied Jon and recorded a long list of comments Jon made during the audit. Building &



Grounds will use the audit results to start plugging the air leaks and find ways to insulate wall and ceiling surfaces where heat is being lost. We plan to start with our Spring Church Cleanup Day Saturday, April 16.

To the left is an example of one of Jon's Energy Audit images. It was taken looking east in the North Stairwell. The temperature in the small square in the middle is 38.3 F. The coldest temp measured is 27.0 F. Note that the cinder block wall really conducts the cold. That's probably why that stairwell is so cold in cold weather.

To see detailed findings from the audit with many more images, look for the link on the Events & What's New page of the church web site at [www.secondunitarianomaha.org](http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org).



# OTOC Fun(D)raiser April 16

By Vicki Pratt

Attend the annual Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) Celebrating Community Fun(D)raiser event. Join OTOC supporters from across the city for an evening of food, entertainment, and silent auction bidding.



**Hot Shops Art Center, 13th and Nicholas**

**April 16, Saturday**

**6:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

\$20 in advance/\$25 at door

Tickets on sale in the foyer after service or see Cheri Cody, Pat Caffrey, or Vicki Pratt.

*OTOC is a citywide organization of congregations, community groups, and public school parents working together across lines of race, language, and economic class to create a stronger Omaha.*

## 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.

## 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.



# Circle Suppers

**THIRD (AND FINAL)  
CIRCLE SUPPER  
OF THE CHURCH YEAR  
IS SATURDAY, APRIL 16  
SIGN UP NOW!**

The Fellowship Committee coordinates three Circle Suppers during the church year.  
The last one is **Saturday, April 16.**

Attending a Circle Supper is a great way to get to know people from the church with whom you may not have visited much during coffee hour. These dinners are hosted by members who open their homes, provide the main dish and drinks, and host a group of 6 to 8 guests who each bring a dish to share.

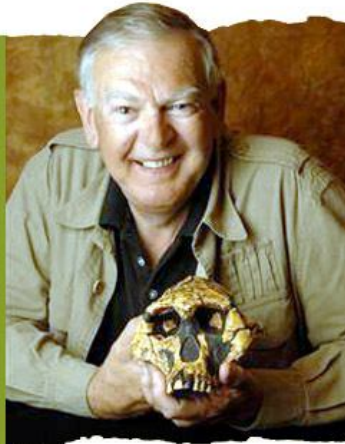
Please sign up at the back of the Sanctuary and indicate if you are able to host a supper. You will be contacted to verify whether you'll be a host or guest.  
Or register by contacting Judy Eller.

The  
**Holland  
Lecture Series**

presents

## Dr. Donald Johanson

*"Lucy and our  
Human Origins"*



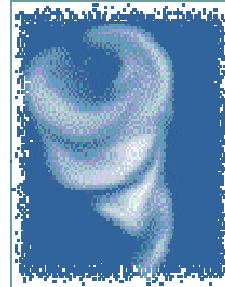
### **SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH / 7:30pm**

The Holland Lecture Series will present a **FREE** lecture by **Dr. Donald Johanson**, discoverer of the 3.18 million year old skeleton popularly known as "Lucy" on Wednesday, April 27 at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

A renowned paleoanthropologist, Donald Johanson, made this historic discovery in 1974 at Hadar in Ethiopia. Lucy was declared the first known member of the species *Australopithecus afarensis*, which has both a small skull cavity similar to apes and a knee indicating that the hominid walked upright like humans.

Dr. Johanson is Founding Director of the Institute of Human Origins of Arizona State University. In addition to Ethiopia, he has carried out field research in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Tanzania. In 1994 he co-wrote *Ancestors: In Search of Human Origins* and narrated a companion NOVA television series seen by more than 100 million people.

**FREE TICKETS** for this reserved seating event will be available April 4 at Ticket Omaha. Please put this on your calendar and on the calendar of your friends! To help you introduce friends and neighbors to the highly regarded Holland Lecture Series, each caller may request up to six free tickets for the lecture and free reception that follows.



**Tornado  
season is  
upon us  
again!**

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? Do you know our tornado evacuation plan?

The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway. Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and First Hour areas) and stay away from the east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The rest rooms, storeroom beyond the women's rest room and kitchen are also relatively safe areas. Please stay clear of the RE Worship Area and Nursery which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

How do we tell a severe storm is close? There is a tornado siren about two blocks away, and we have a weather radio in the kitchen that will sound a loud alarm automatically whenever the National Weather Service issues a weather warning for Douglas County.

-- Building & Grounds Committee



# Earth Day Omaha April 23

By Vicki Pratt



Our Green Sanctuary team is again joining Omaha's celebration of Earth Day. We are sponsoring an information booth as part of the festivities at Elmwood Park, 60th and Dodge, on **Saturday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** This year's theme is Earth Day Every Day.

The day's schedule includes live music, food, demonstrations, speakers, and children's activities. Details are at [www.earthdayomaha.com](http://www.earthdayomaha.com).

Our booth will promote how our congregation lives out our UU green values at home, in the community, and on church grounds. This year we are giving away packets of organic bean seeds to highlight urban gardening and ethical eating.

We are looking for people to spend a couple of hours in the booth talking with passersby and handing out the seeds. This is a great opportunity to get some sun and fresh air. Please contact Vicki Pratt if you can help.

## O! Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Scavenger Hunt

By Helen Deffenbacher, First Unitarian Church of Omaha

The Green Sanctuary Team of First Unitarian Church of Omaha invites everyone living in the greater Omaha area to join us in a citywide spring housecleaning! The O! Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Scavenger Hunt will be held from March 21 to Earth Day Omaha, Saturday, April 23.

Groups set their own rules & target date for completion, make up a list of items each individual or family hunts for in their own homes, and award one or more prizes (optional)—preferably not more stuff but a green outing, for instance.

For motivation, watch Annie Leonard's short video, The Story of Stuff: [www.storyofstuff.org](http://www.storyofstuff.org) Donate the stuff from your scavenger hunt to groups in Omaha that need them (see a partial list below), or have a garage sale to raise money for your favorite charity. Earth911 has a database of local places that recycle just about everything that can be recycled or reused: [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)

Stop by our table in Elmwood Park on Earth Day Omaha, April 23 and tell us your success stories with reducing, reusing & recycling your stuff.

### **A Partial List of Where to Donate Stuff**

*(Please contact them first about their donation guidelines & present needs).*

**Electronics** – Metech Recycling is working toward certification as a national E-Steward:

[www.metechrecycling.com](http://www.metechrecycling.com)

**Extra garden tools** - The Community Garden website has a list of local community gardens:

[www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)

**Extra tools; building materials left over from home remodeling projects** - Habitat for Humanity's Omaha Restore: [www.habitatomaha.org/restore.asp](http://www.habitatomaha.org/restore.asp) and Rebuilding Together: [www.rebuildingtogether.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether.org)

**Eyeglasses** - Lions Recycle For Sight (find a drop-off site): [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

**Gently used books:** neighborhood libraries:

[www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org)

**Hazardous household waste** – Under the Sink:

[www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org)



## Prairie Star District Annual Conference

### Des Moines, April 8-10, 2011

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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*.

- **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.psduua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011](http://www.psduua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011)

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## Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible Workshop

By Vicki Pratt

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When making your PSD Conference 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.

## DefCon 3 Youth Conference

By Sara Karbeling, First Unitarian Des Moines

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"DefCon 3" is the Youth Conference in Des Moines April 8-10, in conjunction with the PSD Conference. Middle school and high school youth - grades 7-12 - are invited to attend this event along with their adult sponsors.

Des Moines youth are planning a fun, spiritual, service oriented, community-building weekend. This youth conference will be a safe environment in which UU youth will have the opportunity to meet and spend time with like-minded peers.

Youth will be spending some of the weekend as a part of the larger UU community at the PSD conference, but will also have lots of time to meet, share and work together within their own community. The church is a short drive from the hotel where the PSD conference will take place.

Registration forms are available on-line:

<http://www.yruu-dsm.org/defcon3>



# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

## Thinking about Becoming a Member?

We invite all who are interested in becoming a member of Second Unitarian to participate in a "Pathways to Membership" class on **Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Class topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism, our individual religious journeys, Second U's ministries, and the benefits and responsibilities of church membership. Although there is no pressure to do so, many find this a meaningful time to sign the Membership Book.

Please reserve a spot in class by contacting Kathy Bell. Special children's activities will be planned. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
2/27	69	6	10	--
3/6	76	4	17	--
3/13	85	5	10	--
3/20	77	5	16	Joined service

The Library Committee would like to thank Tom Lundahl and all of the others who have donated books to us. What we do not put in our collection will be used for the book sale. We do appreciate people thinking of us when they're clearing out their old books and DVDs.

*-- Melissa Konecky, Chair, Library Committee*



**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.psduua.org/campstartrail](http://www.psduua.org/campstartrail).

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





## Women's Alliance

By Ruth Nicklin

On Monday, April 11, the Women's Alliance goes "backstage" with Bob Fischbach, the current World Herald reviewer. He will talk about preparing a review, meeting deadlines, getting feedback (positive and negative), and having what he says is the best? or worst? job on the paper. (What's your guess?)

Women's Alliance meets in the Common Room at First Unitarian, 3114 Harney St. Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting and this night a catered dinner (\$10).

We welcome all women from both Unitarian churches. If this is your first time at an Alliance meeting, please be our guest. For reservations, contact Janet West by Sunday, April 10.



## Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Have you tried meditation before? Do you know what meditation is or how to do it? Each month church members and affiliates 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 will be **Thursday, April 28**. 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.



## 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, Shawne Coonfare, or Cheryll Wallace at [OmahaYRUU@gmail.com](mailto:OmahaYRUU@gmail.com) or 402-345-3039.

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**Friday April 15:** Fish Fry at St John's Greek Orthodox Church, 602 Park Avenue, meet at St John's at 5:45 p.m. The whole family is invited. Adults & Teens \$9, kids \$5  
**Wednesday May 4:** End of the Year Banquet, Old Market Spaghetti Works, 7-9 p.m.  
.....

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 Cheryll Wallace at 402-345-3039 or [dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org) if you have questions.





# Second Unitarian Church Calendar

April, 2011

Fri., Apr. 1, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (offsite)  
 Sat., Apr. 2, 9 a.m., Pathways to Membership (FH)  
 Sun., Apr. 3, 12 noon, Building the Beacon (SA)  
 Mon., April 4, 7 p.m., Fellowship (FH)  
 Tue., Apr. 5, 7 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)  
 Wed., Apr. 6, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)  
 7 p.m., Committee on Ministry (DN)  
 Thu., Apr. 7., 7 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)  
 Fri., Apr. 8 - Sun., Apr. 10, Prairie Star District Conference  
 (Des Moines, IA)  
 Mon., Apr. 11, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)  
 7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)  
 Tue., Apr. 12, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship & Finance Coord. (DNW)  
 7 p.m., Membership (FH)  
 Wed., Apr. 13, 10 a.m. Communications (DNW)  
 Thu., Apr. 14, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)  
 Sat., Apr. 16, 8 a.m., Spring Church Cleanup (WH)  
 5 p.m., OTOC Fundraiser (offsite)  
 6 p.m., Circle Supper (offsite)  
 Mon., Apr. 18, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)  
 Thu., Apr. 21, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite - Abraham offices)  
 Sat., Apr. 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Earth Day Omaha (offsite)  
 Sun., Apr. 24, Easter  
 11:30 a.m. Spring Event (SA)  
 Tue., Apr. 26, 7 p.m., Program Council (DNW)  
 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)  
 Wed., Apr. 27, 7:30 p.m., Holland Lecture (offsite)  
 Thu., Apr. 28, 7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (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 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:

May 1 (5 p.m.) Installation of Rev. Scott McNeill  
 May 8, Social Justice Movie Night  
 May 22, Annual Meeting



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

[www.StandingontheSideofLove.org](http://www.StandingontheSideofLove.org)

**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](http://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](mailto:minister@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Community Minister**

[communityminister@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto:communityminister@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**Portia Love, Director of Religious Education**

402-334-0537 ext. 112

[dre@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto:dre@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator**

402-334-0537 ext. 114

[info@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto:info@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**David Plank, Director of Music**

[music@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto:music@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**Childcare Coordinator**

[childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto:childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org)

**Second Thoughts**

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

## Board of Trustees

[board@secondunitarianomaha.org](mailto: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](http://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**

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

### **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*