



May, 2011

# Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## Inside this issue:

From the Minister	2
Board of Trustees	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Stewardship Campaign	5
Religious Education	6
2011 Nominations	7
Guidelines for Right Relationships	10-11
Silent/Live Auction Thanks	12
Membership Journeys	12
Calendar	14
Church Information	15

## Join Us This Sunday!

First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m.

### May 1 **Hosea Ballou and the Promise of Universalism**

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

*Our Universalist ancestor, Hosea Ballou, once declared, "Oh, love, thou great physician of souls, what a work thou hast undertaken! All souls are thy patients." When we find ourselves paralyzed by fear or brimming with anger, how can we open ourselves to compassion and even to love? Is this notion still relevant in a world marked by deep political and religious divides? This Sunday, we will explore the gifts offered by our Universalist heritage.*

First Hour

**Writing for Spiritual Growth**

David Martin

5 p.m.

**Installation of Rev. Scott McNeill**

at Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church, 3111 S. 119th St.

### May 8 **Annual Youth Coming of Age Service** YRUU & Rev. Scott McNeill

*We will recognize Brian Huggins from the Wednesday night YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Coming of Age Class and also will recognize high school graduates from both churches. There will be a special homily by Rev. Scott McNeill as we discuss the importance of learning from our youth and sharing leadership with them.*

No First Hour Scheduled

### May 15 **The Education of God: Abraham**

Rev. Scott McNeill & Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks

*Join Revs. Scott and Sarah Gettie as they portray Abram and Sarai, or Abraham and Sarah, or God and Satan or.....well, come join us to re-learn the story of Abraham in a comical, enjoyable tale.*

First Hour

**From Age-ing to Sage-ing - A Discussion**

Anita Jeck

### May 22 **The River Running O'er**

Rev. Scott McNeill

*As life flows past, we feel the all too common urge to hold tightly to what we know instead of what is changing around us. However, there is another way: releasing ourselves to the river running o'er. This Sunday, we will look at change and how it relates to our own lives and the church.*

No First Hour Scheduled

12 noon

**Annual Meeting of Second Unitarian Church**

### May 29 **Come Sing a Song With Me**

David Plank

*This Sunday, we celebrate in music with David Plank. We'll enjoy lots of music this weekend and celebrate David's work with us!*

No First Hour Scheduled



**Sunday, May 1**  
**The Installation of**  
**Rev. Scott McNeill**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**Assembly and**  
**Procession from**  
**Second Unitarian**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Installation at**  
**Prairie Lane**  
**Christian**  
**Reformed Church,**  
**3111 S. 119th St.**

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



The Installation Service of a new minister at a congregation really means very little about the minister. Truthfully, the primary focus is on the connection the religious community has with its ministry to the world. The installation of a new settled minister creates an opportunity to reflect on where the congregation is headed, especially after working for a bit of time with a new religious professional.

So on May 1, 2011, we hope that you will bring friends and family and old members of Second Unitarian to the installation service (5 p.m., Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church). In addition to fantastic music from the choir, we'll have special ministers from Chicago, South Carolina, New York and all over the Prairie Star District. There will probably be fifteen to twenty Unitarian Universalist clergy, and hopefully local non-UU clergy from the Omaha area.

Why do all of this, though? What does any of this mean? I was reminded in a meeting with a committee chair recently that I have used the phrase, "there is a world out there that needs us," pretty regularly. She mentioned that it had not dawned on her beforehand, but of course it was true.

The importance of this installation service is for the congregation to be reminded through all of its hard work and efforts that we do ministry not solely to do ministry, but because you, I, and everyone in this world need a place to wrestle with theology, to wrestle with our identities and experiences, and to find some comfort amidst all of the difficulties we face. Indeed, there is a world that needs saving, and we are part of that world and part of its salvation.

While this may not seem real and tangible – there are a couple of examples:

- The family with a loved one who is ill and in the hospital (as well as the family member himself or herself);
- The young woman incarcerated who has found Unitarian Universalism through a chaplain; or,
- The young man struggling with his sexuality, hoping for a place that doesn't deny *either* his life story or his faith in God.

All three of these families and stories are a part of our church and also are incredibly universal. Somewhere in the world right now, someone is calling out in pain or confusion or despair, hoping for a community that can walk the journey of life with him or her. We are that community – and can be that community for so many people. This is the call of our faith; this is the call of our souls, that we heal ourselves and with compassion we transform the world. We have worked hard together for a year now, and I have learned an incredible amount about you and your stories, and the community around us. As May brings us an Installation service of your parish minister, and an annual meeting where we reflect on our accomplishments as well as vote for our future, may we be ever so mindful that we are not here simply for ourselves. We are here for ourselves, one another and the world.

Together, we can make a tremendous difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. Through worship, we can reach the holy and move beyond ourselves. Through fellowship, we can break bread and laughter. Through small groups, we can connect and learn about one another. Through social action, we can right wrongs and empower others. Through all that we do, each and every thing, we can change the world through acts of love and justice. Thank you for giving me that chance – and for taking on that awe-inspiring responsibility yourselves.

In faith,

**Rev. Scott**



# Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Tom Peterson, Chair, Board of Trustees



It could be reasonably stated that May is among the most important months in our church year, and even more so this May. The month begins on a high note with the Installation Service for Reverend Scott McNeill on May 1 at 5 p.m. We hope that you will all attend, and that you'll bring family and friends to celebrate this milestone event with us.

The other highly significant event this May is our Annual Meeting on May 22, which we also hope you'll attend (though you may want to give family and friends a pass). Congregational polity, the right of self-governance, has been a cornerstone of our faith since our earliest days. At the Annual Meeting, each voting member takes part in shaping the future of our congregation by electing new leaders to the Board of Trustees, Nominations and Leadership Development, and the Endowment Committee. We will also discuss and vote on the proposed 2011-2012 church budget.

As you will read on page 5 in this newsletter, this year's Stewardship Campaign received 80 pledges, totaling \$154,747, for a 4.4% increase above last year's pledge goal. While the number of pledges received was down a bit from last year (as our membership has contracted slightly), there was an increase in the average amount pledged per household. We are grateful for the faithful, generous commitment of all of our members and friends as we continue to build the beacon of hope.

At the April Board meeting, several decisions were made to increase Second Unitarian's role in our community. Among them was a resolution to join with Countryside Community Church, Augustana Lutheran, Temple Israel, Sacred Heart Catholic, and North Side Christian Church in a multi-year "Faith in Justice" initiative sponsored by Inclusive Communities to work collaboratively and promote understanding, respect and inclusion across all lines of difference (faith, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, class, age, and ability). Another outreach decision (described elsewhere in this newsletter) is the Sharing the Plate Program, which will broaden our commitment to justice and financial stewardship beyond our walls. And a third decision was to continue our support to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) through our participation in Association Sunday this coming October. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations. "We drink from wells we did not dig, and we plant trees whose shade we will not live to see." *May it ever be so.*

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha was blessed in the 1970s with a fantastic building (and no mortgage!) to hold worship. Over the years, the space has gotten full, eased off, and filled again. Over the past few years, our attendance keeps inching higher and higher, and yet there is limited space to put people!

The Growth Task Force began a survey in April to gauge the feeling at Second Unitarian Church to examine how we might manage our growth and encourage more. As of this writing, 68 responses (of 120+ members) have been gathered - many encouraging a growth to two worship services, at least until Second Unitarian expands its current facilities or obtains a new building. Once the survey ends, the Growth Task Force will examine the results with Religious Growth and Learning, Fellowship, Membership, Building and Grounds, Music and Worship, and other committees. Hopefully in May, the whole congregation can make a decision together about how to proceed with the fantastic health and vitality at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha!

In faith,

**Rev. Scott**



# Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

## Second Unitarian Church Treasurer's Report Month End for March 31, 2011

*A very special thank you to the Fundraising Team and to all of you that participated in the Silent/Live Auction! Your enthusiasm and generosity resulted in a successful and fun fundraiser for Second Unitarian Church!*

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$16,186.60	\$143,992.69
Expenses	<u>-\$14,618.61</u>	<u>-\$123,487.59</u>
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ 1,567.99</u>	<u>\$ 20,505.10</u>

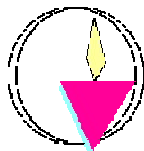
YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$115,577.77 reflects 77.99% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

Offerings year to date: \$6,132.53

*Contribution statements for 7/1/10 through 03/31/11 will be mailed out in April. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.*

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

**Thank you!**  
Treasurer  
Pat Caffrey



## Building the Beacon

On April 3, the LGBTQ committee worked with Rev. Scott to produce a workshop on Bisexuality: myths and realities. Around twenty people stayed after worship to share in stories, experiences, fears, myths, and discussion (and lunch!) in a very productive workshop.

One of the key lessons shared by Rev. Scott is the importance in our church and faith being welcoming to folks who are bisexual because often they can feel ignored and slighted by facing multiple oppressions. Also important was the emphasis placed on sharing our own

life stories and listening to others' instead of assuming anything about others.

In early June, we will have another workshop - this time on transgender education where we will talk about the myths, stereotypes, and life experiences of people who are both transgendered (meaning that they identify as a gender other than their born physical sex) and people who are cisgendered (meaning they identify their gender as being identical to the physical sex to which they were born).

# Stewardship Campaign

By Clyde Anderson & Vicki Pratt



## **We Are Family Stewardship Campaign – Done! Now It's Time to Budget**

On behalf of the Stewardship Task Force, we want to thank you for your generosity to our church. As of April 10, we received 80 pledges totaling \$154,747. That averages to more than \$1,900 per pledging household! This is a 4.4% increase over last year when we had a fantastic 14% increase in pledge income inspired by anticipation of a new minister and music director. We have once again demonstrated an exceptionally strong level of pledging in response to our deep commitment to our mission.

However, pledges this year came in \$14,000 below our \$168,800 pledge goal. The Budget Team and Board made some tough decisions to cut expenditures to match our anticipated income. Here are the cuts that were made from the February preliminary 2011-2012 budget:

- The proposed Membership Coordinator position was eliminated.....\$5,720
- Reduced the proposed insurance benefits for the Office Administrator and DRE.....5,165
- Reduced the increase in Ministerial compensation.....1,276
- Eliminated deposit to the Sabbatical Fund.....2,000
- Reduced the increase in Treasurer Administrative Expense..... 600
- Reduced the increase in Social Justice Coordinating Council expense.....100
- Total Budget Cuts.....\$14,861

In addition to cutting Pledge Income by \$14,053, the following adjustments were made under Income:

- Gifts income was reduced from \$6,200 to \$5,000
- Offering was increased from \$7,500 to \$15,000 reflecting implementation of the *Sharing the Plate* Program next fall. (See article about *Sharing the Plate* below.)
- Rental income was increased from \$350 to \$700.

A new expense line was added under General Expenses called Outreach – Share the Plate Donations - \$7,500.

Total Income = Total Expenses = \$187,958.

You can view the Proposed 2011-2012 Budget on the church website at

[http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/2UU\\_2011-2012\\_Budget.PDF](http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/2UU_2011-2012_Budget.PDF).

Members will have an opportunity to discuss and vote on the 2011-2012 Budget at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 22.



## **SHARING THE PLATE**

In April, the Finance Committee, Social Justice Coordinating Council, and the Board of Second Unitarian Church formally approved a proposal to share proceeds received during worship with Social Justice partners in the Omaha community and larger world. This will become a way that our congregation will help support other organizations to change the world and create justice. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Scott or the Social Justice Coordinating Council. Details about nominations and recipients will follow in coming months.

In faith,

**Rev. Scott**



# Religious Education

By Portia Love, Director of Religious Education



This column is going to be short (but sweet!) this month.

A friend of mine just had an accident at work, that could easily have been so much more than it was...

I began to think about how precarious life can be. Most of us move through life as if our tomorrows are promised. Although I get the opportunity to tell this person I love him most days, I wrote him something to stress how much he means to me and my life.

We are celebrating new birth. New birth of flowers, grass, singing birds, and beautiful, more consistent weather. I decided today, I am going to celebrate by telling everyone that I love, that I love them, in writing!

Our children are sent to religious education programs because we want them to grow up to be certain types of adults. In our programs, they learn about Jesus' love, love for the earth, love for animals, love for their families, and many other things. And, we do this because we love them.

If your children are of an age where they can understand, would everyone who reads my words this month give your children something, hand written in your handwriting, telling them you love them? If they can't read it themselves, you can always read it to them.

Don't worry about how to say it. It doesn't have to be poetic. It doesn't have to be perfect. It can be in a blank card or on a piece of paper. It doesn't matter. It's the message of love that definitely counts on this one. And, one day, when we are not around, your child is going to cherish that written something because it is in your familiar handwriting. Don't wait until tomorrow, do it today! (You don't have to stop with just your children either!)

Years from now, when your children are older and they begin to appreciate the fact that you cared enough about them to send them to religious education and to church, sometimes when they didn't really want to go, they will also think of how you took the time to write them this message.

*portia v.*

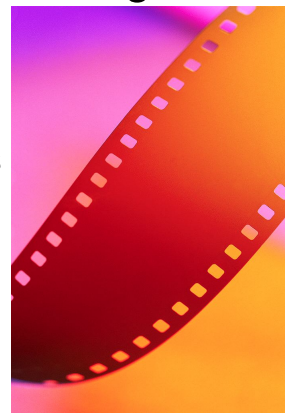
## Celebrate Mother's Day at Social Justice Movie Night



Our Social Justice Potluck and Documentary night is on **Mother's Day – May 8.**

Join us for a special surprise documentary. The subjects are adorable, they're cute, and they're the perfect topic for Mother's Day. **Potluck at 6 p.m., Documentary at 6:30.**

Feel free to join us even if you can't bring food. There is always plenty. Organic and vegetarian options encouraged.





# Your 2011 Nominees

By Steve Abraham, Chair, Nominations & Leadership Development

---

The Nominations & Leadership Development Committee -- JoAnne Draper, Sue Aschinger, and I -- present the following nominees. All have been members of the Church for at least two years, have served in other leadership roles for the Church, and have a passion for our mission and vision. You will also be able to nominate candidates from the floor at the Annual Meeting. We ask that you consult the person you wish to nominate beforehand.

## **FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **JoAnne Draper (3-year term)**

I was raised Methodist and became un-churched for several years. A long time friend thought I would really like her church, the Unitarian Church in Cedar Rapids, which was indeed impressive. I moved back to Nebraska to work for AT&T and checked out 2nd U where I found my spiritual home in 1998. After a few months, I was co-chair of Social Justice. In 2001, I was elected to the board and attended leadership training in Beloit, WI. I became President the first year and was secretary the second year of my term. We started the long range planning committee, set up the Welcoming Congregation Committee, and Reverend Josh Snyder was called as our full time minister.

After serving on the board, I became the Treasurer. I chose PowerChurch to serve our needs. From 2003 through 2008, I wrote the checks, made the deposits, reports, pledge reports, etc. In 2010, I was a proud member of our talented Ministerial Search Committee who nominated Rev. Scott McNeill as our Minister. This past year I served on the Nominations Committee and would be honored to serve our beloved church community as a board member. This church is full of fascinating people who truly embrace life.

### **Anita Jeck (3-year term)**

I have been a member of Second Unitarian Church for 25 years. During this time, I have served a term on the Board of Trustees, served on the Membership Committee, the Committee on Ministry, the former Ministerial Relations Committee, the joint First & Second Church Youth/Adult Committee, served as DRE, chaired and co-chaired the RGL and the former Adult Spiritual Education committees.

I have continually been involved in religious education and have taught the Our Whole Lives class for teens. I have served on the PSD Chalice Lighters

Recruitment Committee. I believe in our Unitarian Universalist faith, and have a passion to see it grow as a voice of compassion and reason, and as a model of how people of diverse religious perspectives can become a vibrant and united community.

## **FOR NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Richard Koelling (3-year term)**

Richard joined Second Unitarian in 1996 and since then has served on the board, as chairman of the Finance Committee, and as a member of the Membership and Endowment Committees. Currently he is serving as a member of the Committee on Ministry and most recently has begun to serve on the Safety Committee. He also helps edit/proofread *Second Thoughts*, the church's monthly newsletter.

Professionally he served in the Air Force for five years and worked in a cubicle for the government for twelve years, but since 1972 was a manufacturers' and importers' representative in the fiber industry until retiring in 1996. That's a pompous way to say "salesman." Since retiring he has had a micro-business in woodworking and currently proofreads for court reporters.

## **FOR ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

### **Joel Haskins (3-year term)**

Member since 1991. Served on the Building & Grounds Committee in the early 1990's and was on the board in the mid-90's. Helped with children's activities. Presently involved in 2nd Circle and YRUU activities. Married to Kathie Haskins and we have 2 kids, Heather, 18, and Jay, 16. Employed at OPPD as an electrical engineer since 1990.

I was raised a Methodist. When Kathie went to a few Methodist Church services with me, she was not comfortable with all they said and did; especially communion. We both felt it was important to raise our children with a religious background, so we went looking for a more liberal church. The first Sunday we attended Second Unitarian, we knew we had found our church!

I believe it is important to make sure that the Endowment Fund is invested in keeping with all the requirements and intentions of the donors. It is also important to have accurate and up-to-date records with enough people involved to prevent the possibility of any mishandling.



# Community Ministry Update

By Rev. Scott McNeill

An update on our ministries at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: As we prepare to install Rev. Scott McNeill as the fifth settled minister at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, we also recognize that our church has chosen to affiliate with a community minister, Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks. Rev. Burks came to Omaha with Rev. McNeill and, while they are both ministers, their work is quite different.

Scott works at the church and with different organizations in the community - but as a function of the church. Sarah Gettie is a staff chaplain at Methodist Hospital, working in the community and supporting people of a variety of faiths. In addition, she occasionally preaches at churches around the Prairie Star District. She has begun to work with the Caring Committee at Second Unitarian Church and will do some volunteer work that aligns with her own professional ministry.



## ***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 restrooms, storeroom beyond the women's restroom, 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

## **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.





# Congratulations, Ferial (Again!)

By Rev. Scott McNeill



Ferial Pearson

In 2010-2011, Ferial Pearson, a member at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha and a teacher at Omaha South High School, won two awards for her work in social justice and education. The first was reported in the fall, as she won the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) Educator of the Year award. This was presented to her in Los Angeles at GLSEN's annual awards ceremony.

Recently, however, Ferial was awarded the 2011 Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights, awarded by the National Educator's Association (NEA). She was awarded this for her work in creating safe space and growth opportunities for students who are Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered, Queer, or Questioning as well as their allies.

Especially given the difficulties faced by youth and the news of many suicides of young people last fall, this is impressive and important work to which our congregation has committed.

Ferial will be given the Virginia Uribe Award in July at the national conference of the NEA. Make sure to give her your congratulations and thanks for all of the hard work she does - we're proud of her and her commitment to justice.

## YRUU Fundraiser

By Cheryll Wallace, First Unitarian

It's "NACHO" ordinary fundraiser (to go to Heifer's Overlook Ranch in Rutland, Mass.)

**Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)  
Dinner, Service Auction, & Variety Show  
Saturday, May 7, 6 - 8:30 p.m.  
At First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney St.**

*Chicken Enchiladas  
Bean Enchiladas  
Tortilla Soup  
Sopapillas*

\$10 each, \$5/child under 8, Family maximum \$30  
--OR--

VIP Package \$35/person (incl. t-shirt & upfront seating)

Plus the chance to bid on a whole host of fabulous services such as: pet walking, childcare, lawn or house work, computer help, car washes, Facebook lessons, zoo or museum companion, and much more!

Tickets now on sale after Sunday services or RSVP at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/NACHO-YRUU>

## Spring Cleanup Thanks

By Rick Bell, Chair, Building & Grounds

We had a great turnout for the spring cleanup even though the thermometer read 33 degrees as we got started. Outdoors the lawn, trees, beds and composting were attended to. The refrigerator was starting to look a little scary and was given a thorough cleaning. There is now a cleared aisle in the storeroom for the first time in recent memory, and the tablecloths hang at a more convenient height. Addressing items from the recent energy audit kept a crew busy all morning. The sanctuary benefited from attention to wall scuffs, re-directed spotlights, chair repair, and window cleaning. The smoke alarms got fresh batteries and new soap was set out that we hope will be gentler on the children's hands.

Thanks to all those who pitched in: Clyde Anderson, Rick & Kathy Bell, Julie Carda, Mary Anne Chisholm, Pam Curtiss-Smith, Judy Eller, Hank Eurich, Kelly Hanneman and girls, David Johnson, Larry Kurtz, Michael & Cindy Lynne, Tom Lundahl, Roger Nicolaisen, Janet Nichols, Tom Peterson, and Nancy VanderSluis.



# Keeping Hearts Connected: Guidelines for Right Relationships - Time to Vote!

By Anita Jeck, Committee on Ministry

---

---

Beginning with the ministry of Rev. Nancy Haley, the Committee on Ministry, with input and feedback from the congregation, developed and presented to the congregation the "Guidelines for Right Relationships." (please see the Guidelines on the following page)

These Guidelines provide a path for individuals in any type of relationship to help "keep hearts connected" while working through tension or conflict. We will be voting on accepting these guidelines for our church during this year's annual meeting on May 22. Please take a moment to review these Guidelines again, and consider as Rev. Nancy would say, "Can you live with this?"

If you have questions or concerns, please share them with a member of the Committee on Ministry by May 10. Committee members include: Rev. Scott McNeill, Gay Robinson Abraham, Betty Segell, Richard Koelling, Craig Piquette, and Anita Jeck.

## 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.

---

---

## Mindful of Our Mission

By Pam Curtiss-Smith, Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

---

---

As stated on the Religious Growth and Learning web page and literature, first and foremost in the RGL mission is the intent to encourage the learning and living of our Unitarian Universalist Principles.

What better way to encourage the living of a principle than by living it ourselves? To this end, members of the RGL Committee are striving to demonstrate respect for the dietary and personal care needs and choices of all participants in religious education offerings. We also hope to demonstrate support for the efforts of the Ministry for Earth and Building and Grounds groups to assimilate "green" philosophy and sustainable practices into church activities and routines.

Many products on the shelves of American supermarkets do not coincide with the values expressed in our Principles. If you attended the First Hour series "Ethical Eating," participated in church cleanup days, or

have been exposed to ideas promoted by organizations such as the Environmental Working Group, you are taking steps toward awareness and positive change in personal practices.

To demonstrate one way of living UU Principles, participants in Sunday RE and other sponsored activities will be offered wholesome, real food snacks with minimal or no man-made additives. RGL committee members and others are also exploring the use of non-toxic, environmentally friendly products for personal and building cleanliness.

There is an abundance of information, both poorly and expertly researched, available to environmental and health-conscious consumers. 2UU can be a "beacon" and lead the way by mindful living of the principle to respect and support our small community and the larger interdependent web of existence.

## Guidelines for Right Relationships – Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

*Agreeing and disagreeing in love, making every effort to maintain the integrity of the church community in the bond of peace, we pledge that we shall:*

### **In Thought**

*Accept conflict*

*Affirm hope*

*Commit to a process*

1. Acknowledge together that conflict is a normal part of our life in the church.
2. Affirm that we can work through our differences to growth.
3. Admit our needs and commit to a process to achieve a mutually satisfactory solution.

### **In Action**

*Go to the other...  
...in the spirit of humility*

*Be quick to listen*

*Be slow to judge*

*Be willing to engage in  
dialogue*

4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree.
5. Go in gentleness, patience and humility, and own our own part in the conflict.
6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood.
7. Be descriptive. Suspend judgment; avoid labeling, name-calling and threats; and act in a non-defensive manner.
8. Work through the disagreement constructively.
  - Identify issues, interests, and needs of both (rather than take positions.)
  - Generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs (rather than defending one's own way.)
  - Evaluate options by how they meet the needs and satisfy the interests of all sides (not one side's values.)
  - Collaborate in working out a joint solution (so both sides gain, both grow and win.)
  - Cooperate with the emerging agreement (accept the possible, rather than demand your ideal.)
  - Reward each other for each step forward toward agreement (celebrate mutuality.)

### **In Community**

*Be steadfast in love*

*Be open to mediation*

*Trust the community*

*Be committed to peace*

9. Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution.
10. Seek wise counsel (not gossip) from a neutral party as needed. The minister and members of the Committee on Ministry are available resources. Be open to accept skilled help. If we cannot reach agreement among ourselves, we will use those with gifts and training in mediation.
11. We will trust the community and if we cannot reach agreement or experience reconciliation, we will turn the decision over to others in the congregation.
  - In one-to-one or small group disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate.
  - In congregational disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate or implementing democratic decision-making processes, insuring that they are done in the spirit of these guidelines, and abiding by whatever decision is made.
12. Believe in and rely on the sacredness of the human spirit and strive toward peace, wholeness, health, and security.

*Adapted from the Mennonite statement "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love" (1995)*



# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

A new member recognition ceremony will be held during the church service on May 15. New members being celebrated are: Barry Ashley, Megan McGuire, David Nesbit, Gypsy Ballard, Nancy Saunders, and Don Mundy. The Membership Committee will provide a cake for fellowship hour after the service.

Please take a moment to welcome and get to know our newest members. Their pictures and bios will appear in the newsletter and on the New Member board in the foyer.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
3/27	67	9	16	--
4/3	63	6	7	4
4/10	62	6	9	--
4/17	57	4	16	8

## Silent/Live Auction a Big Success

By Darrel Draper – Fundraising Chairman and Kathy Bell



The Silent/Live Auction Team thanks all of the many members and friends who donated goods and services; who helped plan, set up, operate, and clean up after the auction; and who so generously bid on the items. Entertainment was provided by singer, songwriter, and author Michael Campbell. Fun and good fellowship were evident throughout the evening and will hopefully extend into the future through the numerous services, lessons and events purchased. **The auction earned just under \$6,500 for church programs!**

See more auction pictures at [www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/2011\\_Auction\\_Pictures.pdf](http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/2011_Auction_Pictures.pdf)

### With Special Thanks to Our Auction Donors:

- Al Harrison
- Anita Jeck
- Anita Meyer
- Ann & Kumail Thariani
- Ann Thariani, Gilden Tree, Inc.
- Anne Nagosky
- Betty Segell
- Bill Kuhn
- Building & Grounds
- Clyde Anderson
- Craig Piquette & Nancy VanderSluis
- Dan & Kelly Hanneman - Stillpoint Massage
- Darrel & JoAnne Draper

- David & Carol Johnson
- David's Flower Shop
- David & Yolie Martin
- David Nesbit
- Dawn Marie Dilley
- Ferial Pearson
- Eric Wilson
- Frank Daman
- Gene & Vija Kopecky
- Ginny Dodge
- Gwen & Hank Eurich

- Jill Archer Family
- Judy Eller / Barnes & Noble
- Larry Kurtz
- Laura Neece Baltaro & Richard Baltaro
- Lisa Christensen - Old Market Massage
- Lisa Waddell
- Lynn Alzman
- Marco Ballarin
- Mark Dickmeyer - West Omaha Piano Conservatory
- Mary Anne Chisholm & Hot Flash Metals
- Michael & Cindy Lynne
- Michael Campbell
- Nancy Heinemeyer
- Pam Curtiss-Smith
- Pat Caffrey
- Portia Love

- Rev. Scott McNeill & Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks
- Richard & Norma Koelling
- Rick & Kathy Bell
- Roger & Julie Nicolaisen
- Russ Riley
- SJCC/LGBTQ
- Social Justice Coordinating Council
- Steve & Gay Abraham
- Stu Burns
- Tina Labellarte
- Tom and Stephanie Peterson - Dreamtime Balloon Adventures
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay
- Vicki Pratt
- Victor Kelemen

# Women's Alliance

By Ruth Nicklin



# Second Circle

The Women's Alliance will meet Monday, May 9, at the home of Nancy Scott, Gardener Extraordinaire.

As we tour her large garden, Nancy will share her expertise. "The garden should be beautiful in mid-May," she said. If you bring a small bag you may get to take home a plant or two!

Members are encouraged to meet at First Unitarian Church **no later** than 6:15 to carpool. Supper (\$10) will be a box lunch from Panera of sandwiches (four choices) or salad with chips and a cookie. Pick your choice when you make your reservations with Janet West by Sunday, May 8.

We welcome all women from both Unitarian churches. If this is your first time at an Alliance meeting, please be our guest.

**Are you looking for an interesting summer read? Contact the Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning Committee for a copy of *The Death of Josseline - Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*.**

Contact Jaime Short.

# Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Do you spend your days with a constant sense of calmness and peace? Do you sleep deeply and easily at night? Are you free from worry and nervousness? Is stress something that only happens to other people?

If you've answered "yes" to these questions, you can stop reading this now! For the rest of us, we should all ask the question, wouldn't it be good to pursue this kind of living? Even if you were to never succeed in mastering nervousness, worry, and stress, wouldn't it be great to make some progress towards that? Perhaps this sounds like an old, broken New Year's resolution. Whether it is or not, now is the perfect time to pursue a more calm and peaceful state of mind.

We can all use the simple technique that humans have used for thousands of years - meditation. And we're doing it every month. Right here in your church! And it's easy, too. It's the most relaxing meeting you will ever attend! Meditation Reincarnated meets every fourth Thursday of the month in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. We spend some time reading and discussing guidance offered by accomplished meditation teachers, and we practice meditation as well. Please join us on Thursday, May 26.

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.

**Wednesday May 4: End of the Year Banquet, Old Market Spaghetti Works, 7-9 p.m.**

**Saturday May 7 YRUU Fundraiser -- Dinner, Service Auction, & Variety Show, 6-8:30 p.m. at First Unitarian (see page 9 for more information)**

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, is 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

May, 2011

Sun, May 1, 5 p.m., Installation of Rev. Scott McNeill (offsite @ Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church, 3111 S. 119th St.)

Tue., May 3, 7 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)

Wed., May 4, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)

Thu., May 5, 7 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)

Fri., May 6, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (offsite)

Sat., May 7, 6 - 8:30 p.m. YRUU Fundraiser (offsite @ First Unitarian Church)

Sun., May 8, 6 p.m., Social Justice Movie & Potluck (WH)

Mon., May 9, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)  
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)

Tue., May 10, 7 p.m., Membership (FH)

Wed., May 11, 10 a.m. Communications (DNW)  
6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)

Thu., May 12, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)

Mon., May 16, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)

Thu., May 19, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite - Abraham offices)

**Sun., May 22, 12 noon, Annual Meeting (SA)**

Tue., May 24, 7 p.m., Program Council (DNW)  
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Thu., May 26, 7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)

Mon., May 30, Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)

## Community Garden

Second Unitarian Garden Plots will be available for the 2011 growing season within the area of the old "pumpkin patch." Plot size is 4 ft. x 8 ft. If all plots are not taken, those interested can obtain multiples. A donation of \$10 per plot is suggested.

If interested, please contact Marco Ballarin or Larry Kurtz.

## 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:

*June 22-26: UUA General Assembly  
(Charlotte, NC)*

*June 25: Pride Parade & Festival*

**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*