



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha *Second Thoughts*

February, 2016

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.



**Faith-Funding-Action
2016 Stewardship
Campaign Kickoff**

**Saturday,
March 5, 6 p.m.**
(see page 4)

**Join a
Hospitality Team!**
(see page 9)

- February 7 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Let's Admit Our Diversity
As UUs, we covenant to be in community even with diverse beliefs about the big questions. Do we avoid recognizing our differences in order to belong?
- February 14 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Facing Our Shadow--Finding Love
We all have a shadow side that tries to get us to see what is broken in us so that it can be healed through relationship.
- February 21 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Life With Loss
No one lives on this earth unscathed by loss. How do we reconcile ourselves to losing those we love who are part of our identity?
- February 28 Jeffery Jones
The Awakening
The movement of "Black Lives Matter" has become so important for many reasons. One of the biggest is perception. The system doesn't see Human lives, but Black! This leads to distinction of how one is treated, may it be lynching, police brutality, harassment, mortgage loans, sentence disparities, or murder under the guise of justifiable homicide. It is color we see first, not the human.

Second Thoughts is a publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Please send articles and submissions to info@2Uomaha.org.

Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



Our Office Administrator of seven years, Gary Emenitove, is leaving his position at Second Unitarian on March 3. While we will hate to see him go, we also will think with gratitude for the work that he has given to the church these many years, and know that his decision is the right thing for him and his family.

How will you relate to a new minister once he or she arrives next summer? Have you gotten what you need from the lessons of the past to start fresh? Can you face the future of 2U with faith rather than fear? If the answer is “no,” then talk with someone about the pains of the past, the fears you still hold. Don’t let this opportunity be shadowed by worry, anger, hopelessness, or guilt.

We have five more months together to prepare you for what comes next. Don’t let that time go by without reflecting on what you need to be able to face forward, to give your best efforts toward the goals you’ve set out.

I have great faith in you. Not the kind of faith that is blind, but faith founded in my experience of you. Don’t let your work be a burden. Find your lightness of being that will guide you into the next years at 2U. If the work you are doing is tiring rather than uplifting, step out for a time and reassess what you are doing and why. Find others who can bring to you a new perspective. If it is not invigorating, it is the wrong thing for you and for the church. What is needed is for each of you to find what makes you come alive. Lend a hand to others who may be struggling. Help them find their energy and faith. Don’t ever give in to the imagination that you are alone.

I commend to you this poem by Rumi:

Zero Circle

Be helpless, dumbfounded,
Unable to say yes or no.
Then a stretcher will come from grace
To gather us up.

We are too dull-eyed to see that beauty.
If we say we can, we’re lying.
If we say No, we don’t see it,
That No will behead us
And shut tight our window onto spirit.

So let us rather not be sure of anything,
Beside ourselves, and only that, so
Miraculous beings come running to help.
Crazed, lying in a zero circle, mute,
We shall be saying finally,
With tremendous eloquence, Lead us.
When we have totally surrendered to that beauty,
We shall be a mighty kindness.

Rev. Frieda



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



Do you have a good idea about raising money for the church or how you could help the church? Have you ever asked yourself, how do I get that idea to the church leadership? As part of the Board’s plan to make the workings of the church more transparent, this Planks and Slivers will outline what members can do to get their ideas to the leadership for adoption.

The best way to get an idea to the leadership is to think about which committee would be most interested in hearing the idea. Section IV of the Standing Rules outlines the structure and function of the committees and the Standing Rules are available on the church website under governing documents, located in the Member Resources tab in the upper right corner of the home page. I would encourage you to start by looking at the Standing Rules because this is our policy document and the Board will be asking the committees to review their section and revise it to reflect their current work and to add anything that reflect how that work meets the mission of the church. In that same Member Resources tab, there is a section labeled Committees, and by clicking there you will find the names of the current chairperson of each committee.

If your idea does not apply to just one committee, it may need to come before the Program Council. The Program Council is composed of the committee chairs and select members of the Board. A committee chair elected by the Program Council and the Vice-chair (or Vice president) of the Board will serve as Co-chairs of the Program Council. They meet every other month to discuss special initiatives by committees and ways in which two or more committees can collaborate to reach a common goal.

The Board wants committees to work together to further the mission of the church and provide value to its members. The Program Council is working on its charter and clarifying its role so that this can be published in the Standing Rules to inform prospective committee chairs and members alike.

Finally, as a congregation of committed and intelligent people, there is often no shortage of ideas. However, the ideas need follow-up and hands to bring them to fruition. I encourage you to bring your idea forward, but as a parent of that idea, we all would expect you to nurture it and help bring it to maturity. Talk to the appropriate leaders, demonstrate your commitment and you will improve the chances that it will be adopted.

Craig



Share the Plate for February: The Women’s Fund of Omaha

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in February will go to **The Women’s Fund of Omaha**.

The Women’s Fund examines issues and conducts research to support initiatives that improve the lives of women and girls. Since 1990, the Fund has supported agencies with more than \$1.8 million in grants and has established programs to meet unaddressed needs. The Fund looks at issues such as economic conditions, challenges facing girls, domestic violence, and the status of women’s leadership in Omaha. Findings are presented to the community along with resources to facilitate positive change. Visit www.omahawomensfund.org.

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



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

In December our expenses were considerably higher than income. I notified the Board that this year's surplus plus the remaining \$150 budgeted as a transfer from reserves may not be enough to meet January expenses.

	December 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$13,526.45	\$107,119.24 (49% of budget)
Expense	16,674.75	103,790.72 (48% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$3,148.30	+\$3,328.52

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$11,400.00); New Pledges from Current Members (\$190.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$100.00); Gifts (\$60.00); Fundraising (\$419.97); Other Income (\$449.23); and Offering (\$847.54).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,492.38); Minister's Compensation (\$6,836.01); Administrative Expenses (\$79.21); General Expenses (\$3,463.12); and Committee Expenses (\$804.03).

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

Faith – Funding – Action: Stewardship 2016

By Cheri Cody, Stewardship Committee



Save the Date

Stewardship Kickoff Event

**Saturday, March 5, at Second Unitarian Church
Dinner at 6:00 pm**

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a dinner for congregation members and affiliates on Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m., at Second Unitarian. In addition to having fun, great food, and fellowship, we will also be reviewing the draft budget for 2016/2017.

2016-2017 promises to be an exciting time for Second Unitarian as we look towards Developmental Ministry and all the opportunities that will present to us! We want everyone to have access to the budget information and to ask any questions they may have in advance of the stewardship campaign.

There will be an opportunity to make your pledge that evening, or if you'd prefer, you can wait and a steward will visit with you.

Join us! Mark your calendar now and we will be in touch with more details. Childcare is available after we enjoy a meal together. For more info, contact Cheri Cody or Ed Bok at stewardship@2uomaha.org



Developmental Ministry Search

By Sue Aschinger, Lead Contact

The Developmental Ministry Search Team (Sue Aschinger, Lorraine Duggin, Pete Miller, Jaime Short, Rachel Yamamoto, and Jack Frost) is now working to be ready to start the search process. In mid-January, our application was posted on a Unitarian Universalist Association website for ministers in search. Those interested ministers will contact the UUA, and the UUA will recommend ministers to Second Unitarian based on who we are and our goals. We are excited and anxious as we wait to hear from the UUA Transitions office.

To ensure we are ready, in January we began developing all the process steps. As you can imagine, this is much more than just an interview; there are several steps to ensure a thorough assessment to get to know each candidate. We are also putting together more information about our church and our community that we will send to the interested ministers. We are developing this process with help from Dori Davenport Thexton, our UUA MidAmerica Region Consultant.

Though we cannot share information about candidates, we will continue to keep you informed as we work through the process.

Second U's Vote on Study/Action Issues

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

Our congregation has a long record of participating in the Unitarian Universalist Association's Social Witness process. This process is how our denomination arrives at consensus on articulating our position on major issues. It's called the Social Witness process because it determines how we, as congregations as well as the national office, call attention to and work to end social, environmental, and economic injustices.

The process starts by selecting a new Study/Action Issue. Considerations include grounding in UU principles and values; time, money, person-power capacity; and whether we want our name associated with public action.

Nominations come from UU congregations. Then all congregations narrow the list; they can approve sending up to five to General Assembly. At General Assembly in June, delegates select one. After three years of congregational study and feedback, the Commission on Social Witness drafts a Statement of Conscience and actions. After approval by congregations, the Statement of Conscience becomes our position on the selected injustice.

The ballot asks, "Does your congregation consider this issue worthy of study?" Our Social Justice Committee responded:

- National Conversation on Race: *Yes*
- Climate Change and Environmental Justice: *Abstain*
- Constitutional Amendment that Only Human Beings have Constitutional Rights: *Abstain*
- Ending Gun Violence in America: *Yes*

Love to make a joyful noise and have fun with a delightful group? **Please join the Second Unitarian Choir!** If you enjoy singing we'd love to have you join the choir! No prior experience is necessary. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7.



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



There are a lot of things going on in our Lifespan Learning, so let's get started...

YRUU

On January 6, First Unitarian DRE Jan Wilson and I led a workshop with parents, youth, and youth advisors to look at future directions at YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). We are working on creating a policy delineating the relationship/expectations and support of YRUU to the churches and vice versa. It was a productive meeting; I think most everyone came out of it feeling good about YRUU and what we are trying to do. Our next step is to form a Transition Team (parents, youth, and DREs) who will identify possible future primary youth advisors and review the policy draft. If you are interested in joining the Transition Team or interested in becoming a Youth Advisor, please contact Jaime Short or me.

Sunday School

So much is happening in the Garden Level on Sundays. A big THANK YOU to the folks who stepped up to help ensure the Elementary class has enough help. It really makes a huge difference for everyone!

Our Sunday school classes recently visited the Omaha Hindu temple (*see photo by Dave Jenkins at right*). We share many values with our Hindu friends. Our tour guide made the analogy of many rivers that lead to the same shared god and values - we could have been talking about how many of us feel about world religions on a whole. Their hospitality was amazing, letting us come in and witness them worshiping and being present with their faith.



Adult Religious Education

We have postponed the Building Your Own Theology class due to low enrollment. Vacations, surgeries, etc. affected almost everyone who wanted to participate, so we are taking a wait-and-see approach.

OWL

Our elementary Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes started in January. The kids are bonding and are getting comfortable talking about themselves, their bodies, and what it's like growing up in our world today. The classes are HOOOT-erific! Our facilitators are doing fantastic teaching this curriculum for the first time, rolling with the punches!

Which reminds me: the Shawnee Mission UU Church in Lenexa, KS, will be hosting a 7th-9th/10th-12th grade OWL training February 26-28. For more information and to download the registration form check out this link: <http://wathen9.wix.com/owltraining>.

Awaiting spring with bated breath!

Molly



Book Recommendation

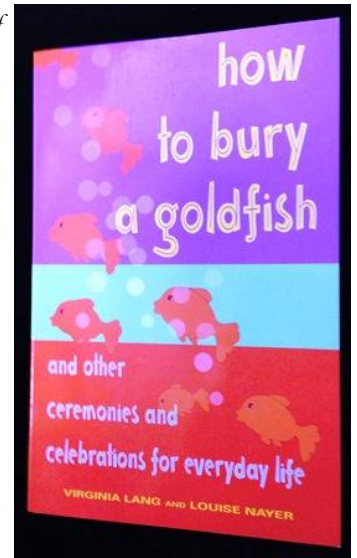
By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

We recently ordered *How to Bury a Goldfish and Other Ceremonies and Celebrations of Everyday Life* by Virginia Lang and Louise Nayer.

It's a book that will help all of us work through the joys and sorrows of life through little rituals. It is a lifespan book: rituals to help the child-free, the child-blessed, the young, and the elders among us. It is nearly 200 pages of ideas to create ritual around important life passages as well as recognizing the magic of daily life.

The book is divided into sections that organize the rituals into groups: *Everyday, Beginnings, Fabulous Firsts, Red Letter Days, Transitions, Loss, and Holidays.*

If you are interested in checking it out, please see me! Otherwise, you can purchase [your VERY OWN copy of the book](#) at the UUA Bookstore! There are a lot of great ideas in there.



February Service Learning Project

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



Our February Service Learning Project will once again help the Pine Ridge Reservation.

We will be collecting dental supplies (toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, kids' books on brushing) and packaging them for Pine Ridge. **Please drop off donations in the box in the foyer.**

On **Sunday, February 28**, at 10 a.m. on the lower level of church, we will be talking with folks about the importance of our teeth and how poverty or lack of dental care access can affect our lives.

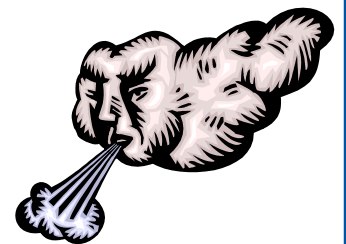
Weather-Related Cancellations

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

1. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
2. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
3. Sending a message on Facebook, and
4. Placing a message on the church website (www.2Uomaha.org).

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

If you arrive at church and experience patches of ice on the walks and parking lot, deicer and sand are located in the foyer under the coat rack. Feel free to use them or alert a member of Building & Grounds to treat the ice. A shovel and broom are also available for snow.





Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to the Women's Alliance gathering on **Monday, February 8**, at First Unitarian, 3114 Harney. Socializing and beverages start at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7. The program will be by Amy Campagna about a wildlife rescue program.

We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church scholarship, and various activities at First Unitarian. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest. Our dinner choices will be pork tenderloin or vegetarian burger

RSVP by February 3 to Kathi Oliver at wa@firstuomaha.org. Please indicate your dinner choice.

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

You are invited to a presentation by Civil War re-enactor, Rev. David Lundholm, on **Tuesday, February 9**, at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rev. Lundholm will describe what it was like to be a Civil War infantryman and what it would have been like to be in an encampment during the war. He will have equipment and artifacts from that era to describe their purpose and utilization. Included will be a description/demonstration of the Zouave uniform.

In addition to being a Civil War re-enactor, he is a retired American Baptist pastor and denominational staff member. He and his wife Linda were married in our building on July 25, 1969. He will bring wedding photos that show what the building looked like in 1969 and share memories of his time here as part of the presentation.

Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning.

Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. downstairs at church. Upcoming meetings are **Thursday, February 18, and Thursday, March 17**.

Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh says, "Mindfulness helps you to touch the wonders of life for self-nourishment and healing." This is an example of a type of philosophy that we study and practice in the Meditation Group. At our meetings we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we love "drop-in" visitors or anyone curious about meditation.

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

As stated in church policies: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion.

In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information.

Regarding published photographs: If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell

“Explore Second U” Class on February 20

Visitors! Once you have attended church for several Sundays, are you ready to become more involved? We invite all newcomers to participate in our new Pathways to Membership introductory class, “Explore Second U,” on **Saturday, February 20**, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. You will learn about the rich heritage and ongoing values of Unitarian Universalism, be given the opportunity to share a few words about your religious journeys with each other, and learn about activities at Second Unitarian and how you can become involved. Finally, we will touch upon the membership process. To reserve a seat, please contact Kathy Bell at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, February 14, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

Five New Hospitality Teams Coming Soon

Whether you are new to Second Unitarian or a long-time member, we hope you will join one of our five new Sunday morning Hospitality Teams starting in March and April. In a nutshell, Hospitality Teams help create a welcoming experience for members and guests on Sunday mornings. Our pilot teams, *The Flames*, *Pleasant Porters*, *Chalice Bearers*, and *@ UU’s Service* have shown that team camaraderie has transformed how we welcome people.

- **Team Activities:** Anything to help members and guests feel welcomed. Give a hearty welcome as you open the door. Help newcomers get oriented. Take families downstairs to help settle their children into the right classrooms. Prepare coffee and treats. Chat with newcomers during coffee hour. Clean up after coffee.
- **Team Details:** Nine teams. Eight persons per team. A team serves one Sunday every other month (six times per year). That’s 72 people working to make Second Unitarian the most welcoming church in Omaha!
- **Hospitality Team Training Dates:** Reserve a seat on either **Wednesday, February 24** at 7 p.m. or **Saturday, February 27** at 9:30 a.m. Make welcoming others your Sunday morning spiritual practice. Ask about joining a team at the Welcome Desk or contact Kathy Bell at membership@2uomaha.org

Attendance	
Date	Adults in Worship
12/27	26
1/3	69
1/10	53
1/17	55
1/24	51

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 Kathie Haskins, Gary Emenitove

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA***

“Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.”

Adopted May 20, 2012