



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

April, 2016

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

Annual Reports Due May 5th

Committee reports, updates, pictures, etc. that you would like to submit for the annual report are due to Jaime Short **by May 5th**. You may email to info@2uomaha.org or drop in the OA folder on the door of the church office.

Save the Date!
Sunday, April 24th

Join us April 24th for a Town Hall Meeting after Sunday Service – a conversation with the congregation, hosted by the Board. Why?

- Come to hear about progress in our search for a Developmental Minister and ask questions
- Hear about and share happenings and events at Second Unitarian
- Celebrate all that it means to be Second Unitarian.

RSVP to Board@2uomaha.org

April 3

Russ Alberts

The Life and Legacy of Whitney Young

April 10

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

The Mystery of the Child

Martin Marty writes about the child within us as a kind of archetype. What does this child represent and what does it give us?

April 17

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

The Peace of Wild Things

A multigenerational service in honor of Earth Day.

April 24

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

What's in the Box?

Last August a group of 30+ of you got together for an Identity Workshop that was unique. Let's revisit the work you did there and reflect on it's meaning now. I will take this opportunity to fulfill the promise of last year's silent auction also and make this the "word salad" sermon.

Meditation Group Change

The meditation Group will now be meeting on the **third Wednesday of the month from 8 pm to 9pm!** The group will meet in the Sanctuary.

This change goes into effect Wednesday April 20th.





Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



Mid-March signaled the end of Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Grades 1-2 and 5-6 for this year. It was bittersweet to see it come to an end: we have seen remarkable growth and maturity within the two classes. I am very proud of our team of facilitators. This was our first time working through the materials with these ages and they all handled it with grace! Thanks for your time and volunteer efforts, Ed Bok, Michelle Godfrey, Jeff Jenkins, Fiona Matthews, and Joe White. I am also a facilitator and assisted with the 5-6 class on occasion.

This summer I am looking forward to getting the engine chugging on the 7-9 OWL class in the fall. If you know anyone who would be a good fit to attend, let them know!

In YRUU, we are in the process of drafting a new policy! Question my exclamation mark? Seriously, this is exciting business! We have parents and youth involved in making a policy that will bridge both congregations and provide clear expectations for all involved. We are also looking for new primary youth advisors to take over next fall. If you're interested, check out the promotion in this newsletter.

Our April Multigenerational service will feature the elementary children discussing the congregational covenant by James Vila Blake. They have been studying the covenant all year and would like to share some of their activities with you all!

Finally, I hope to see you at the May Day Multigenerational celebration! It's going to be a lovely time for all - and we will create a Maypole! Please consider dressing in traditional greens and whites to celebrate with us.

Molly

Share the Plate The Urban League of Nebraska

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in April will go to **The Urban League of Nebraska**. The Urban League of Nebraska is an empowering voice in the community - advocating for economic self-reliance, parity, power, civil rights and equal opportunity for all. Their vision is to lead Nebraska in closing the social economic gap in the African American, other emerging ethnic communities and disadvantaged families in the achievement of social equality and economic independence and growth. To find out more about the Urban League's impacts in youth and education, employment help and community engagement visit their website: www.urbanleagueneb.org



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



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



Spring is here and it is time to do some cleaning and some reassessment. The church spring cleanup is scheduled for this month and what better way to meet new folks than working together on a small project at church. The stewardship campaign is winding down and soon it will be time for the board and the Finance Coordinating Council to 'clean up' our budget by examining our pledge total, make a guesstimate of how much other income will come in from new members after July, from building rentals and other fundraisers. This will establish our total income and then we will have to go through our expenses to determine how we can balance the budget. This is always a difficult task because we want to provide committees with the means to create new programs but most of our budget is non-discretionary, such as salaries, utilities, insurance and supplies to keep the church running. Over the past few years we have taken money out of reserves (i.e. savings) in order to pay for operating expenses. Fixing the parking lot and developing new programs may have to wait unless we see a substantial increase in our pledges. I urge you, if at all possible, please increase your pledge by 5% so we can help the committees do what they need to do and keep our church building looking spiffy!

Towards the end of the month the board is hosting a Town Hall meeting designed to be informational and uplifting. One goal this year has been to help us all develop a better sense of our religious and church identity. We have done that through conversations and these meetings and we hope you will RSVP for our brand of democracy after church service on April 24. Committee chairs will discuss initiatives their committees are working on, we will hear from the Search Committee regarding their work and we will recognize some members who have made important contributions in the life of the church. Please RSVP to come and celebrate with YOUR community.

Craig

Your vote is needed! **Help Decide the Future of Your Church**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 5, 2016 for our Annual Congregational Meeting.

At least 35% of our membership must be present to conduct business on behalf of the congregation. We will adopt a budget for the upcoming church year, elect officers to lead the congregation and decide other important matters.

Second Unitarian by-laws state: "The right to vote at congregational meetings shall be extended only to persons who have been designated Members 60 days prior to the meeting. All contributions must be recorded within the past ten months preceding the 60-day cutoff date."

This year, persons signing the Membership Book prior to April 5th and any member making an attributable, recorded contribution toward their pledge between July 1, 2015 and April 5th will be eligible to vote on matters presented at the Annual Meeting. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact Carol Johnson.





Membership Journey's

By Kathy Bell, Membership Committee Chair

Pathways to Membership “Explore Second U” Class on April 23

We invite all newcomers to participate in our next Pathways to Membership introductory class, “Explore Second U,” on Saturday, April 23, 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 how your spiritual journey brought you here, and learn about activities at Second Unitarian and how you can become involved, including how to become a member. To reserve a seat, please contact Kathy Bell at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, April 17, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

Hospitality Teams in Full Swing

It is with deep gratitude that the Membership Committee thanks all who have chosen to participate on hospitality teams this year. Newcomers as well as long-time members have commented on the warm welcome they have received. If you wish to join a Sunday morning hospitality team, we can always find a spot for you. **Make welcoming others your Sunday morning spiritual practice.** Contact Kathy Bell at membership@2uomaha.org.



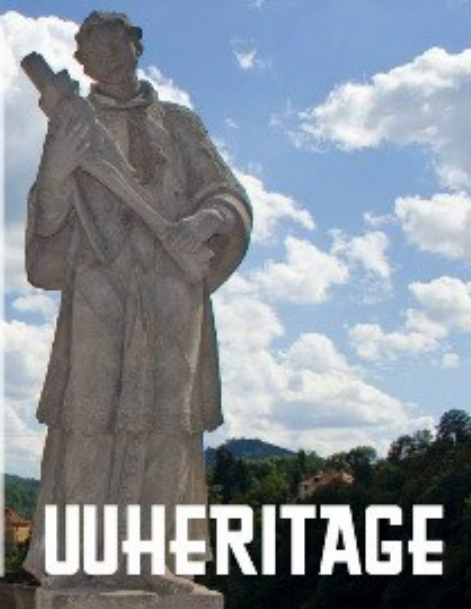
Share Your Story

A great way to share your story is to display your artwork on the Second Showing Wall. Artwork can be paintings, photographs, or needlework; virtually anything that can be displayed on the table. If you're interested, and we hope you are, contact Dodie Robison or Pam Curtiss-Smith.

The Adult Religious Education Subcommittee is offers **UU Heritage** classes with Russ Alberts.

The series looks at the Historical Jesus - not the Jesus of faith or theology, but about what scholars tell us was probably the actual, historical Jesus of Nazareth. Who was he? What did he do? What really happened to him?

The series will meet the four Wednesday evenings in May, beginning May 4. Sessions will be held in the downstairs meeting area and begin at 7 p.m. Please join us for these inspiring and informative classes.





Developmental Ministry Search

By Sue Aschinger, Lead Contact

The UUA is now talking to ministerial candidates for Developmental Ministry. The candidates are looking at all the churches in search for a Developmental Minister. These candidates have been through ancillary training for this specialized ministry. The candidates are, of course, UUA ministers; however, with this additional training they will be able to lead us in meeting our goals for the future. At this time, the UUA and the candidates are deciding which churches are the best matches in terms of our church overall, but most importantly, our goals. Is the candidate motivated by our goals and ready to provide inspiration and leadership for our journey?

So your Search Team -- Sue Aschinger (Lead), Lorraine Duggin, Pete Miller, Jaime Short, Rachel Yamamoto, and Jack Frost -- is ready to start our selection process once the UUA provides candidates for us. We will continue to provide updates to the congregation as we have information to share. Support from the UUA will be ongoing to help facilitate the hiring process. And, more importantly, they will provide ongoing support to ensure success of our goals for the future - *becoming an even more vibrant, growing church in support of our members and our community!*

Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt

In February our income did not meet monthly expenses but we maintained a surplus for the year to date.

	February 2016	Year To Date
Income	\$15,264.23	\$141,598.86 (65% of budget)
Expense	16,021.16	137,684.20 (63% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$756.93	+\$3,914.56

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$13,595.00); New Pledges from Current Members (\$140.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$470.00); Other Income (\$122.23); and Offering (\$937.00).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,776.14); Minister's Compensation (\$6,734.31); Administrative Expenses (\$49.00); General Expenses (\$2,739.66); and Committee Expenses (\$722.05).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at 402-334-0678, or email: treasurer@2uomaha.org



News & Events

**Social Justice Documentary Night:
“The Powerbroker: Whitney Young’s Fight for Civil Rights”
by Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee**

Hearing a lot about Wall Street vs Main Street in this election cycle? That tension has been around for decades. At the Social Justice Potluck and Documentary Night we’ll find out how African American activist Whitney Young guided Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon toward historic civil rights legislation and actions. By challenging America’s business and political communities directly, Young made inroads blocked to other civil rights leaders.

This documentary and discussion is a follow-on to the talk by Russ Alberts during Sunday service. Young was the Executive Secretary for Omaha’s Urban League in the early 1950s and attended First Unitarian Church here. He became the Urban League’s national director in 1961 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1968.

When: Sunday, April 3; potluck at 5:00; documentary at 5:30 followed by discussion
Vegan and vegetarian food options appreciated.

**Last Teen Movie Night Before a Summer Break
Erin Brockovich**

April is Earth Day month and the teens will explore business ethics and other issues related to our 7th UU Principle: *Respect for the interdependent web of existence*. **On April 17 at 4:30** we will view and discuss Erin Brockovich. This movie is based on real events that are still impacting environmental regulations today. Julia Roberts won an Oscar for her role as the title character. It is about an unemployed single mother who becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply. Please join us before we take the summer off, we will have snacks, drinks and free will donation will be taken for pizza.

**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 us in the choir! The choir rehearses WEDNESDAY evenings at 7 p.m. Childcare available upon request. To join or for more information, contact music@2uomaha.org.



News & Events

Bingo!

Coming in April & May, the Fund Raising Committee will be playing bingo. During the month of April, we will sell bingo cards for \$5.00 apiece. Starting May 1st, we will draw one bingo number per day and send it to you via email. The first person to report their bingo will receive 25% of the money that was collected on the sale of the cards. Don't worry if you don't have email, you can still participate by letting the Fund Raising Committee play your cards for you. You will receive rules as you purchase your bingo cards. The more cards we sell, the more money goes into the general operating budget for the church.



Come to OTOC's Celebration



Join people from diverse congregations at Omaha Together One Community's 7th Annual Spring Fun(d)raiser Celebration.

When: Saturday, April 9 from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Hot Shops Art Center, 13th and Nicholas

This fun evening includes great food, music, desserts, silent auction, and chance to meet people from across Omaha who work to make Omaha a better community. Many artisan shops will be open for browsing.

\$20 tickets on sale after service. See Pat Caffrey or Cheri Cody. Tickets at the door: \$25.

Retiree's Group

Please join Retirees Group on Tuesday, April 12th, 1:00 pm, for a presentation by Second Unitarian member Mark Tipton on "Paganism and Unitarian Universalists." Mark will give a basic overview of the history and structure of Paganism and Neo-Paganism, leading to the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (C.U.U.P.S.) Movement. Mark has been an active participant since 2004 in the C.U.U.P.S group meeting monthly at First Unitarian Church. Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning. All are invited!



UU Travel Opportunities



JUNE 22 - JUNE 26

HEART LAND: WHERE FAITHS CONNECT

The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future for all.

GA Registration and the **GA Housing Reservation System** open now.



Regional Assembly 2016
**The WHO in the New Era
Of Unitarian Universalism**
April 29 - May 1 St. Paul, MN
Midamericaregionaluua.org/ra

Registration is open for Regional Assembly!

Join us to explore "The Who in the New Era." Our three keynote presenters will share their thoughts on how Unitarian Universalism could be exactly what current religious explorers want from faith communities. There will be many great workshops and outstanding worship services led by ministers from across the region.

For complete information and a link to register, please visit:

<https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>

Be sure to check out the volunteer opportunities for a reduced rate when you register.



Step Up for Youth!

Have you wanted to recapture some of your youth and interact with the most amazing teens in the Omaha area? Are you comfortable with facilitating and articulating Unitarian Universalist values? Then we are looking for you!

We are looking for an individual who would be interested in becoming our Primary Youth Advisor from Second Unitarian. This person will co-lead a group of youth advisors from both congregations to manage the YRUU group. We do background checks on all adults interacting with our youth.

It reaps big rewards for both parties. [Contact Molly Kliment-Jenkins](#) for more information!

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



**Second Thoughts is a publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.
Please send articles and submissions to info@2Uomaha.org.
The submission deadline is the fifteenth of each month.**

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!



Join the New 2UOmaha Forum
We have a new Facebook discussion group only for members and affiliates of Second Unitarian Church. Search for "2UOmaha Forum" on Facebook!

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
3/6	46
3/13	54
3/20	63
3/27	79

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