



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

May, 2015

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

**May 3:
9:30 & 11:30 a.m.**

**Beginning May 10:
10 a.m.**

**Sunday, May 17
Annual
Congregational
Meeting
11:30 a.m.
(see page 3)**

**“Building Bridges”
New R.E.
Workshops
(see page 8)**

**UUA Common Read
Group Forming
(see page 11)**

**OWL Training
July 31-August 1
(see page 9)**

May 3
9:30/11:30

Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Kissing the Boo-Boo

Why do we need others when we are ill or injured? Being a grown-up and understanding that we have to take care of ourselves and not burden others with our problems, we sometimes forget what kissing the skinned knee was all about and why we still need it.

May 10
10:00

Presented by our Youth
A Blossom for Each of Us

This Sunday we celebrate the Flower Communion and Mother's Day (including those who play the role of a mother). We will also be recognizing another type of blossoming: our Coming of Age youth, who share their experiences that have led them to be the persons they are today. *Remember to bring something of the flowering variety to share.*

May 17
10:00

Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Whose Are We?

What does our life mean if we don't know who we are obligated to, who we belong to, who we are committed to? *Followed by Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:30*

May 24
10:00

Tom Peterson
What Do You Want on Your Tombstone?

No, it's not pizza communion. We'll explore together the legacies we hope to leave behind, and how we hope to make a difference while we're here.

May 31
10:00

Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Let It Begin with Me

Peace begins within us. How we relate to others, our basic beliefs about right relationship with others, determines whether we are of a warring tribe or contribute to a peaceful world.

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



By now, you must have a sense that this church—*your* church—is going to go through some more change, more than you perhaps expected. More, perhaps, than you are prepared for. So, my work and the work of the Transition Team is to help you prepare for positive change.

Change comes about for several reasons in a church. The obvious one is a minister leaving and a new one arriving. It takes time, openness, and adaptability to get to know a new minister and they you. A new shared ministry begins.

Another reason change comes about is when there is a momentum within the congregation and especially from your elected leaders, to get past a place of “stuckness” and move toward a thriving future. The status quo, while it has been good in very many ways, will not do to create the future you want and need. And so the work is one of discerning what changes need to be made. This is, in certain respects, the easy part because there will be plenty of ideas and help in implementing them.

The hard part is creating space for these changes as individuals and as a group. To do this, we have to develop an inner flexibility. There are many ways to do church and to do church well. The churches that will survive in the next 10 years are those that accept the challenge of economic and cultural changes and can adapt to them. It's time to think outside the church walls and usual practices.

What will you need to prepare yourself for change? Will you need more healing of wounds from the past? A better sense of purpose? A chance to talk about how you are affected by change? A sense that you are all in this together—that you are not alone? A determination to keep the best of who you are as a congregation and to be open to new possibilities? *All of the above?*

Answering questions like these will help you be part of the change rather than a bystander, observer, or worse, a victim! Be the change you want to create in the church! I look forward to doing this work with you.

In faith,
Frieda



Share the Plate for May: HELP Adult Services

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in May will go to HELP Adult Services.

HELP Adult Services' programs provide hope, offer resources to those in need, and are accessible regardless of race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or economic status. Their goal is to strengthen participants' limited support system by connecting them to others and identifying resources that ensure a higher quality of life. Services include family caregiver support, health equipment loan program, telephone friend connect, and special projects. Visit www.helpadultservices.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



As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the board is moving forward with the plan to determine the value of our building and investigate if there is other space in Omaha that would better suit our needs. This will require a conversation about what our needs are but more importantly who we want to be. Many would like us to have a large sanctuary with great acoustics to showcase our 100-year-old piano and a modern audiovisual system to allow us to record services for those who can't make it to service. We would like a large fellowship hall with a kitchen to enable congregational meals and entertainment. We long for bright, well-lit classrooms that could be used as meeting rooms during the week, and a parking lot to accommodate all. The conversation will include a discussion about whether we really want to leave our current church home.

Change experts Chip and Dan Heath talk about effecting change only if you can get the *Rider* and the *Elephant* moving in the same direction with a common purpose. The *Rider* is the analytical mind, making informed decisions based on the cold, hard facts. The *Elephant* is the emotional part of us that is more powerful than the *Rider* and often determines where we go. If we are to leave our current church home, our emotions will be the ones to carry us and the *Rider* will be the one to tell us it is the right thing to do. They will need to be aligned.

On **Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 a.m.**, the congregation will hold its Annual Meeting to vote for new members of the board, Nominations & Leadership, and Endowment. We will also have some Bylaws changes and a discussion of Developmental Ministry. As we go into our last year of interim ministry, we must put together an application to the UUA which will be reviewed by prospective ministers.

The Board has elected to apply for a *developmental minister* through a new program developed by the UUA and the regions. The congregation must develop 3-5 goals to accomplish over a 5-7 year period. Then developmental ministers will review those goals in our application, and, if there is a good fit between the minister's strengths in those areas and the goals of the congregation, a contract is drawn up between the board and the prospective minister. This is a different process than the one used to call a settled minister as we did with Rev. McNeill. It is more like the process used to contract with Rev. Gillespie. As with Rev. Gillespie, at the end of the contract, the congregation will not be able to call our developmental minister. However, through this process, not only will we be partnering with the minister, but also with the MidAmerica Region which will have a representative visit with the board quarterly to monitor progress and troubleshoot roadblocks. If we choose our goals well, there is a very good chance we will see them come to fruition. This is a new process, but we have a lot of support. Our congregation has fostered good relations with our denomination and they will help ensure our success.

There will be many changes in the year to come and we will review the past year in our annual report. Please come on **May 17 at 11:30 a.m.** to participate and experience one of the strengths of our Chosen Faith, the exercise of the democratic process to chart the future and navigate change. Hope to see you there!

Craig

NOTICE OF SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 17, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Absentee ballots are available by contacting Pat Caffrey

Check your Weekly eNews for updates



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

March Income and Expenses

With the \$6,726 transfer from our reserve account into fiscal year 2014-2015, income for March was higher than expenses.

	March, 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$20,907.99	\$171,168.43 (73% of budget)
Expense	17,378.72	166,822.66 (71% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+\$3,529.27	+ \$4,345.77

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$12,427.00); Fundraising (\$734.99 – including sponsor support for the April Live & Silent Auction fundraising event); and Offering (\$1,020). Income toward the \$8,000 budgeted for New Pledges from New Members will start in April; no income or new pledges were received toward the \$2,000 budgeted for New Pledges from Current Members this month.

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

Live & Silent Auction Successful in Many Ways!

By Pat Caffrey

It is with deep gratitude that this **thank you** is extended to all for your generosity and spirit in making the Live & Silent Auction a BIG success!

April 11 turned out to be a time of building community both within Second Unitarian Church and beyond! It was a time for fun, fellowship, great food, and entertainment. One of our goals was to raise money for 2U. We raised about \$7,300 ! This includes funds from the Auction, the Scavenger Hunt/Raffle, goodwill offerings, and financial donations from members and individuals/businesses outside 2U. We hope the sense of community and good memories created at the Auction will only grow as we all continue to participate in our church.

Special recognition to the Organizing Team: Kathy Bell, Monica Meier, Lynn Alsman, and Sue Aschinger - a talented, creative, and dedicated team who invested their time before, during, and after the Auction!

In addition, we thank the following for their time, talent and resources: **All who donated** Auction Items and made financial contributions! **All bidders** who helped make the financial goal a reality! **Setup:** Lynn Alsman, Fiona Holcomb, Rick and Kathy Bell, Jay Haskins, Kalen Short, Donna Dudley, Monica Meier, Pat Caffrey. **Emcee:** Darrel Draper. **Entertainment:** Jim Coppoc and Carla/Bill Kuhn. **Greeters who came early to help:** Shirley Rundquist, Michaela Weiss, Julie Kirn, Mary Anne Chisholm. **Food/refreshments:** Stephanie and Tom Peterson, Kathy Bell. **Desserts:** Phil Dudley, Jaime Short, Ronda Stevens, Ruth Corwin, Monica Meier. **Recorders and Cashiers:** Vicki Pratt, Stu Burns, Cheri Cody, Clyde Anderson (a *special* thank you to Clyde who made it possible for us to accept credit/debit cards for payments!). **Selling Scavenger Hunt necklaces for raffle prizes:** Carol Johnson, David Johnson, Monica Meier. **Auction Item Table Captains:** Lynn Alsman (Lead), Larry Kurtz, Pete Miller. **Tear down:** Tom Rundquist, Shirley Rundquist, Craig Piquette, Jonnathan Pinzon, Carol Johnson, David Johnson, Cheri Cody (and others we may have missed). **Phone Calls:** Mary Anne Chisholm, Monica Meier, Sue Aschinger, Lynn Alsman, Kathy Bell, Pat Caffrey.

Apologies if anyone was missed. Please know that you are greatly appreciated! Because of all of you, we continue to carry out our mission: *To be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.* **Thank you!**



Nominations and Leadership Development

By Carol Johnson, Chair

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is announcing candidates for Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and Nominations and Leadership Development. All offices are for 3-year terms ending June, 2018. The slate will be offered to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on **Sunday, May 17**. Meet our candidates:

Board of Trustees: Carol Johnson

Since joining Second Unitarian in 2005, I have served on several committees and leadership groups including Nominations and Leadership Development, Stewardship, Communications (Marketing), Personnel, Social Justice and Retirees Group. This will be my second term on the Board of Trustees; I last served on the Board during our last interim period, 2009-2012. I am interested in assisting organizations to adapt to changes in healthy ways.

Though now retired, my work as a Social Worker at Green Hills Area Education Agency consisted of facilitating various task groups, supervising staff, mobilizing communities and forming coalitions to address various issues, serving on boards and advisory committees for a variety of nonprofit organizations and providing training for educators and community members.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, my goals would include:

- Building the strength of our Second Unitarian community by fashioning organizational structures that support growth
- Supporting actions that define our place in the community

Board of Trustees: Gregory Minter

I became a member of Second Unitarian Church in November of 2012. Since joining, I have been involved as a greeter at second service, a member of the Committee on Ministry (now replaced with the Transitions Team) and a member of the Retirees Group. I am honored to be nominated to the Board of Trustees and will apply my experience from other nonprofit organizations to promote our mission.

From 1965 to my retirement in 2014, I was a lawyer at Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler & Brennan, P.C., L.L.O. My practice concentrated in the areas of corporate, finance, securities and immigration law. I was an adjunct professor at Creighton University School of Law for many years (1967-2004) and served as Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve JAGC from 1967 to 1978.

I have presented many seminars to my colleague attorneys and am the recipient of many honors. I am listed in Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in America and Best Lawyers in America. I have been an active member of several attorney-related organizations, holding elected office for many of them. I have also been a leader in our community, serving as President of the Omaha Ballet, the Omaha Symphony, Omaha Symphony Council, and served as a member of the KVNO Community Advisors Committee.

I recognize the challenges facing our congregation over the next 3 years and will work hard to resolve them in concert with my fellow Board members in accordance with our Covenants and to the best benefit of the congregation. I will be accessible to all members who may wish to discuss their questions, comments and suggestions. I am dedicated to furthering the mission of this Church.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Endowment Committee: Sue Aschinger

I have been a member of Second Unitarian Church since 1994. I have held several responsible positions in the church over these past 20-plus years. I accepted this nomination because I believe that our members not only have a current responsibility to meet the needs of our church, but should also be planting the seeds for future generations.

Our Endowment Fund could be used in the future to better our church, but more importantly used for reaching out to support justice in our world. As a member of this committee, I would not only promote the growth of our Fund through contributions but also to the prudent management of our investments. I have experience managing my own retirement portfolio, and, also my many years of business experience has provided me with a process-oriented approach to meeting goals.

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee: Pam Curtiss-Smith

I found my church home in Second Unitarian in 2004, having noticed it in my neighborhood and in answering my then-seven-year-old daughter's request to start going to church. I told her we would look at several different places, but felt such an immediate sense of belonging here that we never went anywhere else!

My involvement with 2U has mostly revolved around the inclusion and nurturing of the youngsters who attend with their parents. From early involvement with the Family Enrichment Ministry, to religious education teacher/assistant, and member/co-chair of the Growth and Learning Committee, I have participated in creating the environments and activities to grow new UUs. I currently serve as the Nursery Care Supervisor and adore being with the delightful children who spend time with me on Sunday mornings.

I also enjoy nurturing the indoor plants and decorating our sacred space as a member of the Aesthetics committee at 2U. This role feeds my creative side, which tends to be neglected in the "busyness" of my life. It is a privilege to serve the church in this way and would be a privilege to join the Nominations and Leadership Committee as well.

Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering on **Monday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.** We will meet at Lake Zorinsky, 156th & F Streets, for a brown bag dinner, and then travel to Diane Withem's horse stables, 4906 S. 180th St. (1/2 block north of 180th & Q), for a tour and other activities.

We reserved Zorinsky picnic area #2. It is a covered picnic shelter within walking distance of restrooms. Alcohol is not permitted. Please **DO NOT** wear open-toed shoes or shorts.

We ask for \$10 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, and the Partner Church scholarship.

The brown bag dinner will be provided by Jersey Mike's Subs and Sandwiches. There are three options to choose from. It is extremely important to let us know which sandwich you prefer when you RSVP.

Option 1. Ham and Provolone

Option 2. Turkey and Provolone

Option 3. Veggie: Provolone, Swiss, and Bell Peppers

Chips, bottled water, and dessert will also be provided.

RSVP to wa@firstuomaha.org **NO LATER than May 5.**



Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson, Co-chair

Nonchemical Weed Warfare at 2U

This spring, we are experimenting with a nonchemical technique to help control weeds in the church lawns – especially those pesky dandelions.

Last winter, I attended a presentation by Kyle Johnson, Groundskeeper at the Joslyn Art Museum. You may have seen an article about Kyle in the Omaha World Herald April 2:
http://www.omaha.com/living/caretaker-of-joslyn-art-museum-s-gardens-is-part-diy/article_9513fe22-db7a-5e01-8150-182478d4ee31.html

The Joslyn has adopted sustainable landscaping practices, and to avoid using chemical weed killers, Kyle has been successful controlling weed growth by cutting the lawns at a higher mower setting, about 4-1/2". The theory is that the taller grass shades the weeds, slowing their germination and growth. It doesn't mean the grass gets mowed less often because the longer blades of grass grow faster as long as there is adequate water.

Building & Grounds decided we would give this practice a try with our church lawns to see if we can avoid using lawn chemicals to control weeds. We have requested Whitney Loucks, our lawn care contractor, to start mowing using the higher setting.

For more information, contact Clyde Anderson.

How About This for Your Summer Plans?

By the MidAmerica Region, Unitarian Universalist Association

Making your summer plans? Why not go to camp? Several camps for Unitarian Universalists are located within the MidAmerica Region. Some are rustic; some have air-conditioned housing. Some have programming scheduled from morning until night; at others, the programming is minimal and you have lots of time to relax and renew your spirit. Some are for all ages; two camps in Michigan are just for adults.



- **Camp UniStar** - On Star Island in Cass Lake, near Bemidji, in northern Minnesota - 2 weeks for youth and 10 program weeks for all ages, Summer 2015 <http://www.campunistar.org/>
- **MUUSA** - Midwest UU Summer Assembly in Potoski, Missouri - July 5 - 11, 2015 Come gather with hundreds of other UUs in the beautiful forests and rolling hills of the Missouri Ozarks at YMCA Trout Lodge, located 75 miles SSW of St. Louis, where you can connect with old friends, make new ones and participate in a wide variety of activities. For all ages. This year Reverend Dr. Tony Larsen will lead the daily Morning Celebration service on this year's theme: "Can We Talk?" <http://www.muusa.org>
- **Chalice Sparx** - Located in Southwest Michigan - July 14 - 19, 2015 for all ages. Nature-based programs for children. <http://www.chalicesparx.org/>

Read about **all of the camps located in MidAmerica** Region at:
<https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/camps>



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



Our next intergenerational service is Sunday, May 10, and will be a special event. Our Flower Communion will help wrap up the church year and celebrate the blossoming of our children and youth! The children in the *Signs of our Faith* class will be receiving their stoles in a final ceremony. The youth involved in the Coming of Age program will give presentations.

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) took an active role and planned much of this May 10 service. We will be recognizing our volunteers in the YRUU program. We ask that children and youth in these programs, as well as their families, volunteers in the program, and friends, all turn out to support each other!

Our next Service Learning Project is Sunday, June 7, at 10 a.m. at the Nebraska Humane Society.

This is the one we canceled due to bad weather in February. Patty Russell will share information about the NHS, and then we will get a “Behind The Scenes” tour of their facility. If you’ve been on this before, you know the highlight are their massive washer and dryer! If you have any leftover fabric, fleece, or socks (especially fun, patterned ones) please bring them. We will be making kitty sweaters, doggie bandanas, and fleece toys. They will be so cute the dogs and cats will fight over them like... cats and dogs. *All ages are welcome* (as always) to join us – Service Learning Projects are a part of our lifespan programming.

Our Youth are starting a program this month entitled “Building Bridges.” For a couple sessions, the youth will study a particular religion and then find a way to create a further engagement, whether that is bringing someone in to teach a Tai Chi class or visiting the Mormon Trail Museum or experiencing the Hindu Temple. It’s going to be fascinating! We will take a little different approach than just teaching one Sunday a month. I’m asking you to teach a particular religion. Each workshop is two sessions long. Have you ever wanted to learn more about cults? Do you have a background in Evangelical Christianity? Would you like to share your Pagan beliefs? Expand your understanding of another faith or to share something you know!

Here are the workshops with links to the online description. Contact me for printed descriptions.

[Workshop 1: Treasure Everywhere](#)

[Workshop 2: Unitarian Universalism: The Journey Starts at Home](#)

[Workshop 3: Indigenous Religions: The Earth Speaks](#)

[Workshop 4: Hinduism: One God, a Thousand Faces](#)

[Workshop 5: Judaism 1: The Birth of the Abrahamic Tradition](#)

[Workshop 6: Judaism 2: People of the Law](#)

[Workshop 7: Introduction to Eastern Religions](#)

[Workshop 8: Taoism](#)

[Workshop 9: Buddhism 1: Waking Up](#)

[Workshop 10: Buddhism 2: Right Living](#)

[Workshop 11: Christianity 1](#)

[Workshop 12: Christianity 2](#)

[Workshop 13: Islam 1: Peace by Surrender](#)

[Workshop 14: Islam 2: Contemporary Issues](#)

[Workshop 15: The 1800s: Five New Religions](#)

[Workshop 16: Evangelical Christianity](#)

[Workshop 17: The Quakers: Lamb and Lion](#)

[Workshop 18: Humanism: Just Us... And Everything Else](#)

[Workshop 19: Atheism and Agnosticism: Not in Temples Made with Hands](#)

[Workshop 20: Cults: Lose Your Will, Lose Your Soul](#)

[Workshop 21: Neo-Paganism: The Sacredness of Creation](#)

[Workshop 22: Wider and Stronger](#)



OWL Training (Whooo?)

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



OWL stands for *Our Whole Lives*. It is our sex-and-relationship education class. It is AMAZING. And we're going to offer it in the fall/spring to our kindergarten -1 grade and 4-6 grade children.

You may have heard rumblings about an OWL facilitator training coming up. What exactly is a "facilitator training?" In order to offer the OWL classes, two adults for each section need to learn how to facilitate the class. **The training will be offered on Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1.** It's a two-day program, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cost for the class registration and two books is being determined. We will scholarships available. This class will be taught here at Second Unitarian Church and will include members from other UU

congregations as well as UCC folks and perhaps some aligned agencies and nonprofits.

Want to learn more about OWL? Visit uua.org/owl. Want to register for the class? Contact Molly Kliment-Jenkins at dre@2uomaha.org or 402-334-0537 ext. 112.

Adult R.E. Survey

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

The Adult Religious Education Subcommittee seeks to provide fresh, varied and interactive curricula to our community that includes tools and new perspectives to empower individual searches for truth, meaning, values and a UU identity.

To that end, **we will be sending you an electronic survey in early May.** This survey is designed to narrow down the vast list of topics we could tackle to three or four topics for the coming year. We ask that you **return the survey by Sunday, May 17.** We will also be present at the Connections Table on May 17 with a laptop for those without Internet access or who are less electronically inclined.

We look forward to your input and to providing you with curricula that lives up to our mission above!

Anpetu Waste'!

Good Day! I am writing because I am making sure that all the people who donated to our school has received a thank you from us. I know it has been a while but we still would like you to know we greatly appreciate your donation. All donations are put to good use and the students and community benefits from everything that we receive. So again thank you and we hope that you continue to be a part of our community.

Pila Miya ye (Thank you)

Heather Kelly

Human Resource Officer Wounded Knee District School

Second Circle Teen Movie Nights

By Anita Meyer

Our May Second Circle Teen Movie is *Kundun*. Please join us **Sunday, May 17, at 4:30 p.m.**, for snacks, pizza (freewill donation accepted) and a post-movie discussion led by our own Bob Fischbach, movie reviewer for the Omaha World-Herald.

Teen Movie Night titles were nominated by the teens, and those chosen reflect or raise issues related to our UU principles and present good themes for discussion.



Learn More about UUism

By Pete Miller, Chair, Library Committee

Looking to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library has some great titles, including the *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide* and *A Chosen Faith* from Beacon Press. In fact, there's a whole section of books about UUism. These are very engaging reads that can help deepen your relationship with the broader church community. And if after reading one of these you want your own copy, please check out the UUA Bookstore at www.uuabookstore.org. It's an amazing resource for UU and Social Justice books, and a great alternative to larger online bookstores.

Thank you for your continued support of the Macyl Boruff Memorial Library!

Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group has a new name and a new meeting time.

We now meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. downstairs at church. Upcoming meetings are Thursday, May 21, and Thursday, June 18.

At our meetings we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, so please come and check us out.

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

All are invited to join Retirees' Group **Tuesday, May 12, 1:00 p.m.** for a presentation by Ray Harris about Omaha's historic Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Founded in 1858, Prospect Hill is one of Nebraska's oldest cemeteries, a Nebraska State Historical Site, and a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Site. Mr. Harris has held many volunteer positions with the Cemetery Foundation over 20-plus years including Chair of the Foundation. He will talk about the history of the cemetery and give information about upcoming events at the site.

Second Unitarian Retirees' Group meets monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning. All are invited to attend!

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!



UUA Common Read Study Group Forming

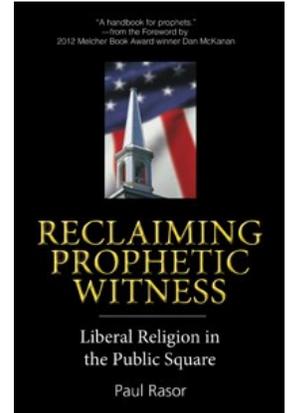
By Carol Johnson

Second Unitarian Social Justice is organizing a study group around *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* by Paul Rasor. This book was selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association as the 2015 Common Read. A Discussion Guide produced by the UUA will provide the basis for a series of three 90-minute sessions. Dates for sessions will be announced and are targeted for summer months (June/July). **Please contact Carol Johnson if you are interested in participating** in this study group as soon as possible so that your input can be included in setting dates/times for the group. Books will cost \$12-\$15 per copy depending on number of participants.

Reclaiming Prophetic Witness points out a growing misconception that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in our national social policy. The book includes insights from our liberal religious theological heritage that have bearing for us today, and calls us to prophetic, faith-based justice work.

Rasor explores the forces and tensions that have weakened our prophetic witness in the last quarter century. He also makes a strong case for the necessity of a liberal religious presence in the public square to complement and strengthen secular voices raised for social justice. *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* offers new ways to think about how to remain culturally engaged and yet able to speak and act for justice from a faith-based position.

Common Read invites participants in UUA Congregations across the U.S. to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in congregations and the UUA by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.



Attendance

Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
3/29	62	9	8	18
4/5	91	7	17	—
4/12	80	9	12	—
4/19	69	9	12	—

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
 3012 South 119th Street
 Omaha, Nebraska 68144
 402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org

Staff

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, *Interim Minister*

Office 402-334-0537 ext. 111 Cell 508-207-7566

RevFrieda@2Uomaha.org

Molly Kliment-Jenkins, *Director of Religious Education*

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@2Uomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, *Office Administrator*

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director*

music@2Uomaha.org

Katie Tessin, *Volunteer Connections Coordinator*

membership@2Uomaha.org

Pam Curtiss-Smith, *Nursery Supervisor*

Second Thoughts Staff: Rev. Frieda Gillespie,
 Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell,
 Tom Peterson, Gary Emenitove

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

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