



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

September, 2015

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

**Articulating Your
Faith Workshop**
(see pages 15)

**YRUU Rummage
and Book Sale**
Sat., September 26
(see page 12)

**Library Committee
Book Sale**
Sunday,
September 20 & 27
(see page 13)

Painting Day
Sat., September 12
Fall Cleanup
Sat., October 3
(see page 13)

September 6 10:00 Lorraine Duggin
Poet Mary Oliver: Seeking Truth in Nature
Lorraine Duggin and other members of the Music and Worship team will read and explore the poetry of this Pulitzer Prize winning, prolific writer whose work resonates with UUs.

September 13 10:00 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Water Communion
We gather, both young and old, again at the start of this church year to celebrate the gifts that we each bring. If you have collected water from wherever you were this summer, bring it along. Also, we are asking everyone to bring one food item for the Food Bank.

September 20 10:00 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Gathered Here In One Strong Body
Let's begin the year on a celebratory note. There is much to look forward to this year--can we meet it all with enthusiasm and grace?

September 27 10:00 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Lessons on Living and Dying
How do we hold the knowledge that we will die along with our love of living. Is there a way to prepare for death?



In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



Something happened to me this summer that made me think about the stories we tell ourselves.

We are all storytellers. We tell stories to explain what we see or hear, to explain ourselves, to eliminate the discomfort of uncertainty.

I had been noticing that I was losing my balance occasionally on the stairs at home (we have a split level), and other places. The story that I told myself was: “I’m getting older and my balance is starting to be affected. I’m going to have to be really careful so that I don’t fall.” After that I found myself increasingly fearful of stairs and situations that require some agility like hiking where there are rocks.

On a short camping trip, I went for a hike with my wife, Jennifer. The hike was easy until we got to some fallen rocks that were jumbled across the path. I became very anxious and it did affect my balance. I wondered how I’d gotten from being a rather carefree hiker to someone that was afraid to move.

Jennifer and I both go to a personal trainer, Leslie, at the YMCA once a week, when we can, and we like her very much. I’ve done workouts with her direction for over a year now. I told her the story of that hike and said that I had a problem with my balance. She responded saying, “You have never had a problem with balance in the time that I’ve been working with you.” I had to acknowledge that this was true.

After that workout, I haven’t felt any anxiety about the possibility of falling and have felt very surefooted. So what made the difference? Perhaps Leslie’s words blew away the cloud of fear that I was giving credence to. In any case, I don’t seem to have any real problem with balance.

What are the ways in which we limit ourselves unnecessarily? We all have or will have real physical issues in our lifetime, but we don’t have to accept as final a condition that can be corrected either by specific work or by changing our minds about what is really going on.

Now the mantra in my head is, “I don’t have a balance problem.” I like this one much better.

In faith,

Rev. Frieda



Share the Plate for September: My Sister’s Keeper

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in September will go to **My Sister’s Keeper**.

My Sister’s Keeper is Nebraska’s first African-American breast cancer survivor’s support, education, and advocacy group. They provide community education and screening information to decrease the high mortality rate from breast cancer in African-American women. They offer financial assistance for women newly diagnosed while going through treatment. Along with monthly meetings, members are available for emotional support to women in need. Visit www.mysisterskeepernebr.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



Second Unitarian's Identity Workshop is behind us and we owe thanks to the Transition Team and Rev. Frieda for making it such a great experience for all the attendees. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

We must define congregational goals for our developmental ministry application, and that process will take some time. It is the Board's intent to have multiple meetings with small groups that will help us fine tune our goal, so watch the weekly email for notifications. We will meet with the entire congregation on **Sunday, October 18**, to discuss and fine tune our goals further. The Board will name the Ministerial Search Committee following our meeting in September, so if you are asked to serve, please say yes, so you can be part of the process. The UUA MidAmerica Region consultant, who will be working with us to prepare our application, will visit in early November to discuss our application and our goals. But our focus in the next 30 days is to draft some goals for discussion so that all will know where we are headed.

The Identity Workshop was critical in the process of drafting the goals and I want to share some questions that Rev. Frieda and the Transition Team asked us to answer as we examined what Second Unitarian is:

What is most important for people outside the church to know about Second Unitarian? It is a community of open-minded people on a journey of exploration for one's own truth but isn't it more than that? **Whose are you at Second Unitarian?** We give back to our Second Unitarian community but shouldn't we be more than that? **What makes Second Unitarian unique as a religious institution?** Why should people come to our church and not some other church? The Southern Poverty Law Center is a service organization and the Natural Resources Defense Council works to protect the environment. Why should we give our time and treasure to Second Unitarian if those organizations do the same thing?

If we answer these questions, we will know a lot more about who we are as Second Unitarian, and we will be living our mission *to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.*

Craig

Second Unitarian participated in the National Moment of Silence at 11:55 a.m. on Sunday, August 9, one year after the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. The Black Lives Matter banner has been mounted on the north wall of the church.

(photo by Pat Caffrey)





Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

July Income and Expenses

We're off to a good start for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

	July 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$26,359.97	\$26,359.97 (12% of budget)
Expense	17,885.79	17,885.79 (8% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+\$8,474.18	+\$8,474.18

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$23,873.00), \$12,382 of this amount was 2015-16 pledges prepaid in 2014-15; Catch-Up Pledges for 2014-15 paid in 2015-16 (\$1,615); Gifts (\$40); Fundraising (\$15.43); Other Income transfer of accumulated Money Market interest (\$207); and Offering (\$609.54). No income was received toward the \$500 budgeted for New Pledges from Current Members. No income was received toward the \$3,500 budgeted for New Pledges from New Members.

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

Are We a Healthy or Vulnerable Congregation?

By the Stewardship Team

Unitarian Universalist Association Campaign Consultant Dave Rickard visited Second Unitarian in 2012 to assess our capacity for obtaining a more accessible and functional church building. His report included this concern: "A quartile analysis showed that in 2011-2012, nine households (11%) provided 50% of the pledged amount. In my experience, such dependence on a few members is not good for the continuing financial health of the congregation."

What was Dave talking about? Are we really a vulnerable congregation?

In *Beyond Fundraising* Wayne B. Clark states, "In a healthy distribution of financial giving, the top 25 percent of financial commitments (the top quartile) is given by 10 percent of donors, with 15 percent of donors giving the next highest quartile, 35 percent giving the third highest, and 40 percent of donors giving the last quartile."

The Stewardship Team did the quartile analysis for our 2015-16 Stewardship Campaign (see table below). \$185,374 was pledged, so 25% (one quartile) is \$46,343.50. For our congregation the top three pledges (just 4% of the 84 households pledging) totaled \$44,700 or 24.1% of the total pledged. Obviously 4% is way below the desired 10% for a Healthy Congregation and even below the 5% for a Vulnerable Congregation. So, if any of the top three households leaves the congregation, drastic measures such as cutting staff or worship services or doing more fundraising may become necessary.

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha 2015-2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN <u>Actual Pledges vs. UUA Recommendations</u>						
	Healthy	Vulnerable	Second Unitarian Church			
	Distribution	Distribution	Amount	Households	% of Households	Range of Pledges
1st Quartile (Highest Pledges)	10%	5%	\$44,700	3	4%	\$24,000 - \$10,000
2nd Quartile	15%	10%	\$47,770	10	12%	\$6,750 - \$3,840
3rd Quartile	35%	25%	\$45,942	15	18%	\$3,780 - \$2,300
4th Quartile (Low est Pledges)	40%	60%	\$46,962	56	67%	\$2,220 - \$12
			\$185,374	84	100%	\$24,000 - \$12

It's vital to the financial health of our church to raise the level of pledging by members and affiliates in the lower quartile levels for the 2016-17 campaign.



Writing for Spiritual Growth

By Pete Miller

Writing for Spiritual Growth is a great opportunity to express your creative side in a safe and nurturing environment. No special skills are required, just a desire to put pen to paper and explore.

Part of Spiritual Growth is asking questions; writing is a great way to go deeper into those questions and to share them with others. Writing can reveal things that we weren't consciously aware of, or give us perspective on difficult life situations.

Not that we need to be terribly serious about it all! Playfulness and humor are sometimes the best way to get past our fears and doubts. We'll be writing poems, essays, and stories. There will be writing games and opportunities to let the stream of consciousness flow freely. Sometimes we'll really challenge ourselves, and sometimes we'll just share humorous personal experiences.

Please join us on the **second Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** Our next meeting is **Saturday, September 12.** We meet downstairs. Please contact Pete Miller if you have questions.

Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group meets **on the third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. downstairs at church.** The next meeting is **Thursday, September 17.**

At our meetings we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we love visitors or anyone curious about meditation.

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Tuesday, September 8, at 1:00 p.m., Lauren Williams of Nebraska Appleseed will give a presentation on Health Care Access for Nebraskans at the monthly Second Unitarian Church Retirees' Group.

The presentation will be a bit about the Affordable Care Act and eligibility requirements for Medicaid, as well as the coverage gap that exists for Nebraska. Lauren will also talk about Medicaid expansion, which is the only solution that has been proposed to close the existing gap. Lauren is an Omaha native; her passion for equality in health care access led her to Appleseed where she is a Field Organizer.

Anyone with an interest in this topic is welcome to attend! Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning. All are invited to attend—regardless of retirement status.

Join the Choir

By Donna Zebolsky

Do you love singing? Consider joining the Second Unitarian Choir. Have fun with a delightful group — no prior experience is necessary.

The first rehearsal of the season is **Thursday, September 10, at 7 p.m.**

For information and encouragement, contact [Donna Zebolsky](#).



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



Welcome to the New Church School Year!

Our new curriculum and schedule launches on Sunday, September 6. If you haven't had a chance to register your child for R.E., extra forms are located on the cabinet at the bottom of the stairs as you head into the garden level. Look through the next few pages of this newsletter for descriptions of the curricula. On Sundaes Sunday, we received 18 registrations for Sunday school! Officially, we don't start the new curriculum until September, so there's still plenty of time to get in on the parent/guardian double-top-secret-email so you know more than they will know... at least for a couple days. How's that for a change?! If your children wish to take home their presence pins before the beginning of the new curriculum, they are welcome to. Or they can just keep on adding. I just ask that they keep the lanyards and clear plastic sleeves at church.

Can You Help Facilitate Our Classes?

I need about 16 folks to help us with our Elementary and Spirit Play Classes. We will need others to sign up for a 3-week stint in the Youth Class - if you have an interest/experience in another religion/faith, here's your chance to learn more about it. I will work with you to find a Sunday block that works for you. If you want a window into what the curriculum is, look through the following few pages of this newsletter. The Spirit Play description gives you a very good idea of what a typical Sunday is like in the class. It's very low key and enjoyable.

The "Great Room Switcheroo" (*our reorganization of the garden level*)

This was largely done on Wednesday morning August 5 with the help of many hands! I have put up a couple of signs and floor arrows reminding folks there is a new "path" to the restrooms. We have a few more weeks to adjust before classes really hit full gear so that grace period will hopefully help ease that transition. I just wish I had a camera set up to record reactions as people came into the space for the first time on Sundaes Sunday. Even the kids were in shock. Those were some keepers!

Upcoming Service Learning Projects

In September, we will be making plarn and learning to crochet mats for homeless vets. If you have plastic grocery bags, please bring them in to church. We cannot use the (usually orange) newspaper sleeves - the plastic is too stretchy! October will be a welcoming activity and November will be our Adopt-a-Family.

Children's Library

Did you know we have a children's library? Recently reorganized, it's ready for you to explore and find that perfect book to communicate a concept. It's located in the Spirit Play classroom, outside the church office.

Books are divided into categories, including: Self/Identity, Books on Values (The Value of..., Let's Talk About...), Eastern Religions, Abrahamic Religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam), Science & Evolution, Golden Rule, Death & Dying, Environmentalism, God & Prayer, Arts, Crafts, Games & Activities, Biographies, Evolution, Nature, Earth-Centered & Indigenous Faiths, and Seasons & Holidays.

Checkout is simple and old school: fill out the card on the front or back cover and place it into the box.

We have very few books on Islam and Earth-Centered faiths: if you can help contribute to those areas, that would be appreciated!

My Office Hours

My hours are returning to Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., now that school is back in session. I'm looking forward to being in the office more again!

In Hope and Joy,

Molly



NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR

Special Section by Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

2URE: What Our Children Will Be Exploring

In 2015-2016, we will be offering three class levels. We encourage parents/guardians to sit down with their children who fall between two different levels and decide which level they wish to attend. It may be as simple as preferring one curriculum over another or wanting to be with friends. We can always move part way through the year if the fit isn't right or the curriculum is not challenging or too challenging.

Youth: Middle-Senior High

(description adapted from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum introduction)

Building Bridges is a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. This is a curriculum selected by the youth last spring as their next focus.



The program is organized roughly chronologically, capturing the strong parallel between societal change and religious evolution over human history. The Religions Time Line helps illustrate the emergence of religions in clusters at different points in history. However, this is not a history course. It is a series of workshops that attempt to lovingly and reverently examine some of the closest kept treasures of the human heart. This exploration nurtures participants' positive outlook toward other faiths and the people who follow them.

To study religion together is to invite a certain amount of discomfort for individuals and conflict in a group. This program provides youth a unique opportunity to engage the world's diversity of faiths in a safe, affirming atmosphere that is grounded in Unitarian Universalist faith. We will acknowledge tensions and disagreement and model how to work toward understanding, helping create an environment where respectful exploration and questions are encouraged, where differences are encountered with open minds and hearts.

This curriculum also offers the opportunity to explore other religious communities in our community. As a result, there may be field trips for this class that fall on days other than Sunday. We will work with families to come up with times that work for all, including our host.

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NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR

Special Section by Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

Elementary: Love Connects Us

(description adapted from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum introduction)

Love Connects Us celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.



This program will:

- Introduce the covenant statement by the Reverend James Vila Blake, which many Unitarian Universalist congregations (including ours) use, and explore the covenant's key concepts
- Build Unitarian Universalist identity by highlighting people in our Unitarian and Universalist heritage who embodied the key ideas in the Blake covenant—people who sought truth in love, dwelled together with others in peace, and helped one another when called on to act
- Demonstrate that we actively create our living faith; we contribute to its legacy when we engage with others in community and work for peace and justice
- Reveal ways in which we are called to help one another and to encourage spiritual growth in our congregations
- Explore what it means for Unitarian Universalists to be connected by love and covenant rather than shared theological belief.

Love Connects Us was developed primarily with the kinesthetic learner in mind, offering myriad activities involving both small motor control and large muscle groups. Many participants in this age range need to move and benefit from the opportunity to physically explore new concepts. Many activities have an Including All Participants section which offers specific adaptations to meaningfully include children with mobility and other limitations.

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NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR

Special Section by Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

Pre-K through Early Readers: Spirit Play

(description adapted from Nina Penfold's curriculum)

Imagine a room with shelves filled with baskets and trays of colorful materials, some made of felt, some of laminated pictures, some of wood. Each child is greeted by name at the door by a doorkeeper and helped to become quiet and “get ready” to enter a sacred space, a place where he or she can move more quietly and speak more slowly, a place where they have “all the time they need” to work with their questioning.

This is Spirit Play in a Sunday morning church school format.

The storyteller invites the children present to take a seat in a circle around her. She or he leads them in a chalice lighting to bring them into the circle and get them ready to hear the story for the day. The story may be about one of the seven promises (principles) we make to each other as Unitarian Universalists or about one of our historical heroes or heroines. It may be about the scientific story of our creation or a story from the Buddha or Jesus. When the story is finished, she or he sits back and begins a series of open-ended questions, inviting the children to wonder with him/her.



In this context, children of all ages wonder about the nature of the mystery of God, having deep theological and philosophical discussions that would have rivaled those in my theological school classes. The storyteller is only the facilitator to this process; it is the children themselves who make their own meaning. No definitive answers are given; no questions with set answers are asked. Sometimes the storyteller will repeat a portion of the story if she feels that the children have missed something important. After the wondering, the children are invited to choose work for the morning, responding to the story in art materials, choosing to tell the story their way or how they felt about it in paint or construction paper or markers or clay. They can choose instead to work with a story that they have heard some other week, one that has called to them that day. A child might choose other work in the classroom such as building a sacred space with special blocks or decorating the altar table in the church corner. This choosing helps to lead the child into her own development, pulled by the materials to respond to an inner knowing rather than an outer imposition of activities. The children get out a work rug, put their materials on it and begin to explore for the next ½ hour or so. Some share work with a friend after receiving permission from the friend, some work alone, some right next to another, talking over their work. They walk carefully around each other's work rugs and keep the sound level low so that the classroom is a peaceful place.

The storyteller and the doorkeeper help the children as needed but act more as witnesses to the children's unfolding because the room has been set up so that children can be as independent as possible. Materials are limited. There is only one copy of each story so that children have to learn to share or wait their turn. There are only a few scissors or glue sticks or paint boxes for the same reason. The children negotiate their way into being in a community, learning what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in a practical way. When necessary, the adults get down to the children's level to speak to them, either kneeling next to them or sitting on the floor. They do not talk over the children's heads but go to each other when they need to communicate. The room is set up for the children's community, not for the adults' convenience. For the most part, the adults observe and only interact with the children as needed.

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A bell is rung when it is clean-up time. They put stories back on the shelves in the way they found them,



NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR

Special Section by Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

clean up their paint or markers or paper. If their work is unfinished, it is saved on a tray or in a special place for another week. Sometimes a chalice is lit and children will be asked to say what they are thankful for, or share a song, or a storybook before parents return. Sometimes they talk about what is coming up in the church year. It is a time of fellowship and sharing. Then each child says goodbye to the storyteller and doorkeeper and is told to “go in peace.” Children leave the space affirmed. Parents have told me that their children leave the Spirit Play space in a much calmer mood than previous Sunday School experiences. Some are reluctant to leave and want to show the parent what they worked on that day. Art responses are kept for the child to take home. The Storyteller and Doorkeeper talk about the morning as they make sure that materials have been put away and are ready for the next week.

OWL — Our Whole Lives

The OWL Training

Wow... what a weekend! For 20 hours on July 31 and August 1, we had 11 folks from South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska come to our Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitators’ training. The facilitators who lead the OWL classes are trained due to the sensitivity of the material we cover. Our facilitator trainers, June Grubb and Ashley Johnson, were remarkable and did a great job for us! It was a pleasure working with them. Our own congregation ended up with 6 individuals trained in these levels of OWL: Ed Bok, Fiona Matthews, Michelle Godfrey, Joe White, Jeff Jenkins, and Molly Kliment-Jenkins.



I was so proud of our congregation for being such a great host for this event. I received so many compliments about the food and family feel: it’s something that I felt as a visitor back in 2011, and it’s still a vibe we’re sending out. I’d like to call out these individuals specifically for going the extra mile: Jaime Short, Pam Miller-Jenkins, Betty Segell, and Sue Aschinger. Tom and Shirley Rundquist

also accommodated us when they came in to clean. And Whitney Loucks, our lawn care professional, asked if he would be interrupting if he mowed. We are a very thoughtful group of people!

Upcoming OWL Classes

Religious Growth and Learning has been discussing timing of future OWL classes, **starting in January**. Since we would like to have ten consecutive weeks, we decided to offer a class for grades 1-2 and another class for grades 5-6. Children who are in kindergarten or 4th grade, don’t fret: we will probably offer it again next year so you’ll be able to take the class before you age out. I’d also like to offer a “parent chat group” during the class so if folks want to just hang out and connect, they are welcome to.

This curriculum, with *trained facilitators*, teaches confidence when making decisions about our bodies, answers questions about development, and involves parents and families in discussions about values.

Please let Molly know if your child is interested and what grade level she or he falls into. We will place you on the mailing list with details about registration.



Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, of First and Second Unitarian Church are invited to the September Women's Alliance meeting. Women's Alliance meets the second Monday of every month starting **Monday, September 14, at First Unitarian, 3114 Harney St. Socializing and beverages start at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7.**

Our first program for the 2015-16 year, "A Glimpse of General Assembly," will be presented by First Unitarian's Sharon Conlon, Jan Wilson, and Nadine Keith. Dinner for September's program will be soup and salad bar. There will be two vegetarian soups (broccoli cheese & tomato basil) and two non-vegetarian soups (chicken Florentine & beef barley).

We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, and the Partner Church scholarship. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest.

RSVP by September 10 to wa@firstuomaha.org. Please include your name and meal preference when you RSVP.

Holland Lecture Series

From First Unitarian Church



Holland Lecture Series speaker Dale Ho presents: "In Defense of Democracy: Voting Rights 50 Years after Selma," **Thursday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Holland Performing Arts Center,

Mr. Ho supervises the ACLU's voting rights litigation nationwide. He defends our most fundamental right by combating voter suppression and by opening opportunities for participation for the historically disenfranchised.

In March, he joined 80,000 other Americans in Selma, AL, to commemorate the marchers whose bravery led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As the 2016 elections approach, hear about the state of voting rights, redistricting, and the continuing effort to block voter registration.

Free tickets for this reserved seating event are now available from [Ticket Omaha](#).

Join our own Garden Guru Marco as he becomes Chef Marco for six Italian Bachelor Cooking Sessions!



First Unitarian is offering sessions on Italian and Mediterranean cooking and eating from 2U member Marco Ballarin, a 65-year-old Italian bachelor who learned to cook watching his mother in the kitchen.

In these six sessions, you will create antipasti, pasta, soups, skillet meals, and delicious fruit sides! Space is limited and it's first come, first served. We will meet in the Common Room and kitchen at First Unitarian, 3114 Harney St., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **Thursdays, September 10 through October 1; on Tuesday, October 6 (please note the change of day); and on Thursday, October 15.**

Contact admin@firstuomaha.org to reserve your spot today!



September Teen Movie

By Anita Meyer

The Second Unitarian Teens will be viewing the movie "Promised Land" on **Sunday, September 20, at 4:30 p.m.** This movie shows the difficult decisions a community faces when a company wants to use hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in their area to extract natural gas. People in the community may make a lot of money, but there are also environmental risks. (Parents: note this movie is rated R for some rough language.)

Our favorite movie reviewer, Bob Fischbach, will lead a discussion after the movie. We will also take some time to discuss movies we'd like to see this coming year, so please come with a list of suggestions.

Drinks and snacks will be provided and a freewill offering taken for pizza.

YRUU Rummage and Book Sale

By Ben Wallace and Shawne Coonfare, Youth Advisors, YRUU

The YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Rummage and Book Sale is **Saturday, September 26, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney St.**, in the Common Room.

Help the youth group fundraise for its new program, IncluCity (*see below*).

Please drop off donated items at First Unitarian, Monday, September 21, through Thursday, September 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or Friday, September 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (*Friday is preferred as that is the date the youth will be setting up the sale.*) Please do not leave donated items at Second Unitarian.

The YRUU Youth Group is excited to announce its participation in the 2015-16 IncluCity Program through Inclusive Communities Omaha.

The IncluCity program works to reduce acts of school violence and bullying by challenging the assumptions, attitudes and beliefs around issues of difference (appearance, gender, race, faith, sexual orientation, ability, etc.). The program includes a full day workshop for youth and adults, a year-long internship program for two youth that will focus on putting the tenets of the Inclusive Communities program into action, and a 4-day Intensive Residential Program that will be held in Ashland in January.

This is an opportunity for our youth to learn skills to confront and challenge prejudice, bias and stereotypes, and discover new ways to become allies for one another. The program has a significant cost and will require fundraising efforts over the next 6 months.

If you have questions or are interested in donating, contact Ben or Shawne at omahayruu@gmail.com.

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!



Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Your Help Is Needed Maintaining Our Church!

We believe our church building instills spiritual warmth and beauty. However, the building is almost fifty years old and needs constant maintenance to remain clean, safe, and inviting. This is the responsibility of the Building & Grounds Committee. You can help us by participating in two events this fall:

- Several areas of the Church exterior need painting, and we have scheduled a **Church Painting Day, Saturday, September 12, from 8 a.m. to noon**. If weather is unsuitable for painting, we will reschedule. Contact Rick Bell for details.
- Our **Fall Church Cleanup is Saturday, October 3, from 8 a.m. to noon**. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! Contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.

Our experienced volunteers will assist novices, so don't worry about lacking skills. However, please wear suitable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops, please) and bring work gloves. Wear work clothes appropriate for the weather (for working outdoors) and working conditions. Feel free to bring tools if you wish, but the B&G Committee members will arrange to have a supply of tools and materials available.

As always, we'll have refreshments available. Children are welcome with adult supervision. They usually enjoy helping with some of the lighter garden chores.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours.

Annual Library Committee Book Sale

By Melissa Konecky

The annual Library Committee Book Sale is rapidly approaching — this year, **Sunday, September 20, Sunday, September 27**, and rain date Sunday, October 4. It will be before and after the service. We always have a wide variety of good books so you will have a good time browsing.

Do you want to get rid of some books you have already read and find some exciting and new (to you) books to read? We are looking for donations!

If you have books to donate, please leave them on the bottom left hand shelf of the library or under the coat rack in the foyer.

Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

Blackstone Book Club members begin the fall church year by discussing *The Illusionist* on Tuesday, **September 22, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

We are always open to whoever would like to join us for the discussion on the **fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month**. Each month we read a book of members' choosing, be it fiction or nonfiction.

Our selection for October is *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman. We will discuss *Kindred Spirits* by Allen Schoen in November.

Please join us!



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.

FAIR TRADE COFFEES ARE BACK!



Gay DeWester will be selling Equal Exchange Fair Trade organic coffee during Fellowship hour one or two times a month. Whole bean and ground are available. Chocolate bars will be available in October. Other food items such as teas, nuts, and olive oil are available. Purchase quality products at a fair price. The sales are an additional source of revenue for the church. Additionally, these sales benefit farmers by providing fair prices, a voice in distribution/marketing decisions, and democratic management by workers.

Visit with Gay if you are interested in these products.



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership

Returning Members

Over the past several months we have enjoyed welcoming back Russ Alberts and Ruthann Irby, who have resumed their membership after moving back from Southampton, UK. Please extend a hearty welcome to our returning members!

New Church Directory Coming in September

An updated church directory in PDF format will be emailed to all members, members emeriti, and affiliates this month. If you need a paper copy of the directory, please contact our office administrator, Gary Emenitove. As a reminder, the church directory is solely for the use and convenience of church members and affiliates. It is not to be given out to other groups and is not to be used for commercial purposes.

Interested in Membership?

We will soon schedule our fall Pathways to Membership Class for those interested in becoming a member of Second Unitarian. If you are interested, please let the person at the Welcome Desk know. More information coming soon.

Articulating Your Faith

As Unitarian Universalists, we have countless beliefs and values. *Articulating Your Faith* is a four-week workshop aimed to help you answer questions like "What do you believe in?"

Join us in the Sanctuary, **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. from September 16 to October 7**, as we explore how we can each put our faith into our own words.

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
7/26	64
8/2	58
8/9	59
8/16	59
8/23	59

Staff

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Second Unitarian Church

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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