



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

What's going on at 2U this month?

- April 1st** - OTOC Fundraiser (page 15)
- April 4th** - Deadline for Annual Meeting Voter Eligibility (page 10)
- April 8th** - EnqUUiring Minds (page 12)
- April 8th** - Writing for Spiritual Growth (page 11)
- April 9th** - RE Children's Museum Field Trip (page 13)
- April 11th** - Retirees' Group (page 13)
- April 15th** - EnqUUiring Minds
- April 15th** - Open Arms Trans Social Group
- April 16th** - Easter Sunday
- April 19th** - Meditation Group
- April 28th** - POPs Parents' Potluck (page 15)
- April 29th** - Spring Clean-Up Day (page 10)
- April 30th** - Last day to schedule a 2U challenge for the Omaha Gives fundraiser (page 16)
- May 1st** - OTOC Accountability Session - Candidates for Omaha Mayor and City Council (page 17)

UPCOMING SERVICES

HERITAGE

April 2: *The Holy Fool*

April 9: *Saving Paradise*

April 16: *Occupy Jerusalem*

April 23: *Looking Back and Forward*

April 30: *Beltaine*

See page 20 for more details.

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10:30 a.m.

First Hour schedule for April

- **April 2nd - Heartland Workers Center/Building a Community That Works For All** - 2U's Share the Plate Recipient for April, Sergio Sosa, executive director of HWC will join us with a team of workers/leaders to talk about their work.
- **April 9th - Life's 5 Big Questions - Question 1** Rev. Cyndi Simpson
- **April 16th - Life's 5 Big Questions - Question 2** Rev. Cyndi Simpson
- **April 23rd - An OTOC Research Panel discussing Climate Change** - Speakers include Fr. Dennis Hamm, S.J. from Creighton University and Mary-Ruth Stegman.
- **April 30th - TBA**

First Hour runs from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Childcare is provided.

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing well as we make the transition to Spring with some much-needed rain! The days are growing longer and we survived the time change – all good things!



The national crisis of our democracy continues. This is the worst crisis of governance and democracy for our nation since the Civil War. In spite of our collective local and national resistance, there is a long way to go and it may not get better any time soon. This is where our resilience, as the Reverend Florence Caplow spoke to so beautifully in worship, becomes critical. And this is a lesson those of us with privilege may struggle with. For the people who have been so oppressed in our country – African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinx people, women (especially women of color

and transwomen) and LGBTQ people, especially LGBTQ people of color – there have been no easy times, regardless of who has been in power. What we can learn from our long-oppressed siblings, those of us with privilege, is how to settle in for the long haul. This means building two-way alliances with folks we may not have connected with before. It means being willing to learn from and listen to the leadership of those we have oppressed – they have much to show us and teach us!

Our collective ability to be resilient will depend on our ability to see the way forward, to experience hope, to believe that we are making a difference and to build these ferocious alliances across all sorts of boundaries. We must also feed and nurture our own spirits to be resilient, nurturing the presence of art and beauty in our lives, nurturing the presence of Spirit.

Our monthly worship theme for April is **HERITAGE**. An aspect of making our New Way Forward is to remember what we have received and learned from those who have gone before us. On April 2nd, we will connect with the power and teachings of Holy Fools as models for resistance. On April 9th, we will explore what was at the heart of the earliest practices of the Christian faith – and it was not the suffering of Jesus on the cross! – and how that can help us now.

On April 16th, we will hear of Jesus of Nazareth, whose life and work was to resist Empire from the beginning of his days until his death. If you are a Unitarian Universalist who has experienced pain and wounding from earlier Christian experiences in your life, I urge you not to avoid Easter, but to embrace it. There is much healing and affirmation in understanding the life of Jesus in the context of resistance. And in hearing some of those parables we thought we knew. They do not mean what we may have been taught!

FROM THE MINISTER

On April 23rd, we will consider the Holocaust in respectful remembrance, but also as the deep lesson against fascism and genocide and hatred that must be its legacy. We must never forget, **and** we will not allow such dangerous movements to arise again, most especially not in our own country. And the risk of that is ever present these days.

As Pat has said in her own writing for this month, it is time also to embrace deeply the work of the Developmental Ministry to which we are committed. The Developmental Goals and Key Outcomes are in this newsletter – please read them! Moving forward is not so much about a grand new plan, as it is about implementing new projects/experiments/ventures/initiatives AND seeing how many of the good things we already do and are planning to do also move us toward these outcomes.

It is in our doing and our learning and our remembering and our connecting – with others, with beauty, with power, with meaning – that we will find our resilience and our New Way Forward in this beloved Unitarian Universalist community!

Love and many blessings,

Cyndi

MARCH SERVICE ATTENDANCE

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Number in Worship
03/05	67
03/12	73
03/19	58
03/26	88

Adult Spiritual Exploration - Life's 5 Big Questions First Hour - April 9th, April 16th, May 14th, May 21st and May 28th

For Five Sunday mornings during First Hour, Reverend Cyndi will lead a class on *Life's 5 Big Questions*. Historically, these questions always have been recognized by philosophers, sages, religious scholars and teachers as important to human beings. They are so important that entire fields of philosophy have developed to answer or prove each question. Every human being on the planet has answers to these questions, regardless of culture, education, language or any other personal quality or life circumstance. The answers may remain unarticulated or unconscious, but if asked, people will have answers to them. Many of us, though, have never been asked or asked ourselves what are **our** answers to these questions! That is what we will do in this class and we will share the answers with one another in discussion.

We will engage with one question in each session. You do not need to commit to or attend all the sessions.

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

There were 30 members that participated in the Developmental Ministry Kickoff workshop and the feedback was very positive. I and others found it to be energizing and gained a sense of renewal. Rev. Cyndi's teachings on culture change and adaptive / technical challenges and solutions will be very beneficial as we integrate the four goals and key outcomes for Developmental Ministry into all that we do. It would be great if everyone could review these four goals and key outcomes as printed in this newsletter. As reiterated at the end of the workshop, we are continuing to build this New Way Forward!!!

We want to recognize the following for being part of our workshop and are resources if you have questions!

Thank you to all!!

Steve A.

Joel H.

Pete M.

Clyde A.

Kathie H.

Greg M.

Ed B.

Tera K.

Janet N.

Pat C.

Carla/Bill K.

Craig P.

Cheri C.

Larry K.

Gay R.A.

Ruth C.

Barbara M.

Tom R.

Pam C.S.

Monica M.

Lorraine D.

Anita M.

I want to take a moment to recognize a few members that will be moving:

Dodie Robinson – a founding member of the congregation, will be moving to Colorado

Nancy Amsler - a longtime member, will be moving to Loveland, CO

Milton & Marcia Forbes - longtime members, will be moving to Georgia

Rich McCardle



The Board is starting to prepare for the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on **Sunday, June 4th**, after Sunday Service. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend! RSVPs can be emailed to Board@2Uomaha.org.

2U DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS & KEY OUTCOMES

IDENTITY GOAL

2U has a clear and shared idea of our identity as Unitarian Universalists in this time and place.

- The Board of Trustees and church leaders maintain their clarity of church identity.
- Our identity drives the determination and fulfillment of the purpose of the congregation.
- Our culture, organizational structure, programs, worship, and activities reflect and are grounded in our identity.
- Our church name reflects our identity as Unitarian Universalists.
- Because we act on our identity, the church is recognized in the larger community as a UU liberal religious faith community.
- Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.

WELCOMING GOAL

2U is a welcoming and engaging congregation for newcomers and members.

- Newcomers and members are excited and enthusiastic about belonging to 2U.
- Newcomers and members want to join in on the 2U mission.
- Newcomers and members have connection and good relationships at 2U.
- Newcomers and members have personal and spiritual growth at 2U
- As a congregation, 2U is diverse, multicultural and multigenerational.
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function

2U DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS & KEY OUTCOMES

STRUCTURE GOAL

2U has an organizational and physical structure that is appropriate for and responsive to our vision for the future.

- Our structure reflects the identity, purpose and covenants of the church and continually moves the congregation forward in its development.
- More people will be engaged in doing manageable tasks that appeal to different kinds of people.
- Members experience various ministries as engaging, energizing and spiritually fulfilling.
- Our structure supports a more intentional, focused and coordinated presence in the wider community.
- Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- Our structure stimulates new ideas and the application of new ideas.
- Our structure reflects a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, and of what is essential.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function

WORSHIP GOAL

2U engages in worship that activates and transforms spirit, mind and body.

- Our worship presents diverse opportunities for inspiration, illumination, meaning and transformation.
- Our worship is a time of solace and sanctuary.
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- Our worship affirms our worth and what we hold to be worthy.
- Our worship calls and equips us to partner with others to change the world.

Treasurer's Report

by Vicki P., Treasurer

In February we spent more than we brought in. But thanks to those who have already paid pledges in full to build up a surplus for this fiscal year, we could dip into that surplus.

The Board approved moving \$200 from our Reserve Fund to our Operating Budget to cover the cost of inspecting the sewer line as recommended by the plumber who fixed the recent pipe failure. This increased our current operating budget to \$215,803.

	February 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$13,859.06	\$146,651.78 (68% of budget)
Expense	17,116.29	136,761.50 (63% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$3,257.23	+\$9,890.28

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$11,383.67); New Pledges from Current Members (\$30.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$950.00); Offering (\$1,248.15).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,579.39); Minister's Compensation (\$6,438.48); Administrative Expenses (\$122.51); General Expenses (\$3,904.98); and Committee Expenses (\$1,070.93).

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

Stewardship Pledge Drive Results as of March 26th

Number of Pledges Turned in	64	Donor will match pledge increases = \$8,834 for a Pledge Total of \$167,366 or 85% of goal
Pledge Total	\$158,532	93 Households are being canvassed – 24 (29%) have not pledged yet
Percent of \$197,000 Goal	80%	5 Households told us they will not pledge for 2017-2018
Average Pledge	\$2,477	

The annual Stewardship Pledge Drive is largely completed. If you still have not turned in a pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Fillable pledge and ACH forms are available on the church's website if you wish to email your pledge. Forms should be sent to the Office Administrator at info@2uomaha.org. Also, if you are behind on this year's pledge, please turn in contributions to become up to date. Thanks to all who pledged!

Surveys, Little Free Library Update and More!

First up, heads up! It's time for our annual RGL survey. Please, PLEASE take a couple minutes to review the past year and give me and my committee some feedback. keep what works and ditch what doesn't. If you'd rather meet one-on-one, I love coffee. There are actually two surveys: one for the participants and one for the parents/caregivers. Put on your different hats as applicable or have your child/youth fill out the other. If you would like a hard copy, contact me and I will print one out for you to pick up on a Sunday. The online version went out in the Religious Studies email from March 24th. Please look for it in your inbox!

⇒ [Parent/Caregiver Survey](#)

⇒ [Participant Survey](#)



We are finishing up our Miracles class: the last class will actually be a field trip to the Children's Museum to explore science in a hands-on way! There are additional details in the newsletter, but mark your calendar for 11 a.m. on April 9th to join us.

We had our final drawing for our Rose Theater Tickets. For those of you who may not know, this year we offered up a ticket drawing for the fall and again in the spring to those children and youth who attended Sunday classes as well as for the individuals who volunteered their time. **Our winners this year are: Mark S. and Cordelia K!**

Thanks, again, to everyone who helps in the classroom, our children and youth who come and make the classes lively and finally, to the Marketing Committee who donated the tickets to us. Every group listed above was essential to making this work.



Speaking of volunteers: we are going to be looking for folks who want to help the children and youth build our Little Free Library (LFL) as well as help out in the classrooms this summer! I have a signup I'll be promoting online as well as volunteers coming around on Sundays with a clipboard. If you could help us out, that would be great! The LFL will bounce to a few different classrooms depending on the type of work needed to be done, and you can sign up for the type of work you want to help with (sanding, painting, assembling, etc.). Parents: be sure to throw your

children into grubbies when it comes their way!

Thanks for getting caught up on everything RE: hope to see you in the "garden level" sometime soon!

With the light of learning-
Molly Kliment-Jenkins
DRE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly", is positioned to the right of the typed name.

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Church policy states: *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!

GET INVOLVED

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

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 4th** 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 4th** and any member making an attributable, recorded contribution toward their pledge between July 1, 2016 and April 4, 2017 will be eligible to vote on matters presented at the Annual Meeting. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact Joe White, Secretary of the Board.



Spring Clean-up Day - April 29th

Join us from **8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** to pitch in to help beautify the church and grounds! There will be lots of tasks for all ages and abilities.

So grab a rake, a pair of work gloves, or just yourself and make 2U shine!

From the Caring Committee

During Fellowship, we will have blank cards, stamps, and pens for you to send notes to members who are ill or can no longer attend church. A church directory is available, and we will mail the cards for you! A member of the Caring Committee can assist you. We hope that this will help further our connections. If you have a joy or sorrow that you wish the Committee to know about, please contact Kathie H.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

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. We meet downstairs. Please see Pete M. if you have any questions.

2017 Community Garden Plots

By Larry K.



The Community Garden committee is soliciting applications for the garden plots located north of the church. The plots are the same as previous years: 8 feet by 8 feet, approximately. The expectations for growers are:

1. The crops are to be grown organically.
2. There is a \$10 fee associated with each plot to reimburse the church for watering costs.
3. Growers must be willing to share watering and other gardening responsibilities.
4. Growers must sign a liability waiver and two

gardening agreements to have access to the plots.

There are 5 plots remaining with a limit of 2 plots per grower. If interested, contact Larry Kurtz to receive an application.

EnqUUiring Minds is Back!

Have you been visiting our congregation for a while and are wondering about Unitarian Universalism and this church? Have you been a member for any length of time and desire to explore your own spirituality and learn more about our faith? Would you like to meet some wonderful people and spend time with them in rich and deep discussion? Then EnqUUiring Minds is for you! This course, sponsored by the Membership Committee and led by Reverend Cyndi, is being offered again in April. ***We will meet to discuss and share our Unitarian Universalist faith and our own spiritual journeys on: Saturdays from 9:30 to 12:00 on April 1st, 8th and 15th.*** If you have been a longtime member OR are thinking about joining Second Unitarian, then this class will intrigue and surprise and delight you! Please join us! You may register with Membership Committee Chairperson Donna D.

Share the Plate Heartland Workers Center



The Share the Plate organization for April is the Heartland Workers Center. The Heartland Workers Center (HWC) was founded in 2009 after listening to hundreds of stories from workers in meatpacking, construction, restaurants, and cleaning. A vision was born to create a new model of organizing that entails finding and developing leaders, training them on workers' rights, and developing effective methods of participating in civic society.

The HWC focuses its work on three principal goals:

- Find, train, and develop Latino leaders from various demographic backgrounds (ethnicity, age, sex, educational background, etc.) in the Omaha-metropolitan area and certain rural communities in Nebraska to have the skills necessary to identify and address issues facing them in their respective communities
- Promote and defend workers' rights through education by providing bilingual trainings through the HWC Health and Safety Training Institute and advocating for improved labor laws for workers; and
- Increase civic participation among Latinos by providing opportunities for Latino leaders to effectively advocate on issues important to them, their families, and their community, and conducting Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) campaigns to increase voter participation during election cycles.

Find out more info at: heartlandworkerscenter.org

If you know of a worthy charitable organization that you would like to nominate for Share the Plate please complete the nomination form. [Here is a fillable PDF form for Share the Plate.](#) If you'd like help completing the form, contact Cheri C., Carol J., or Pat C.

Retirees' Group

Unitarian History in Transylvania



Please join us **Tuesday, April 11th from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.** for Retirees' Group. Our presenter will be Janet W., a member of First Unitarian Church, on "Unitarian History in Transylvania." Do you know that Eastern Europe Unitarianism started in Transylvania in 1568? Transylvania, which is now a region of Romania, is steeped in Unitarian history. Janet West's presentation will include an early history of Transylvania Unitarianism showing pictures of historical sites which still exist today, and of villages and cities which are home to 21st century Unitarians.

E-bingo Winner!



Congratulations to Joan B.'s grandson Hayden! Hayden was the lucky winner of the e-bingo game. Hayden won the \$73.75, and 2U raised \$221.25. Thanks to everyone who played!

Religious Education Field Trip - April 9th

For our final Miracles class, we are going to go out in style at the Children's Museum on Sunday, April 9th at 11 a.m. We will take some time to experience the miracle of play and discovery, companionship and fellowship.

We have a meeting room reserved in the back down the green hallway. Ask at the front desk and they will direct you back. After we take our headcount, we'll do our "off-site" worship and then head out to have fun! If you have a membership for your family, please bring it to help offset our costs. For directions and parking, visit: ocm.org

Meditation Group

A wonderful group meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of each month. The Meditation Group is a loving, caring, and spiritually nurturing group of people who learn about and practice meditation. Meditation is a practice that can be easily learned by anyone and is very helpful in dealing with negative emotions and an over-active mind.

Please feel free to drop in and join us. Meetings start at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. No previous meditation experience is needed. **Upcoming meetings will be on April 19th and May 17th.**

Do You Have a Sermon Inside You Yearning to Be Free?

The 2U Music and Worship Committee is looking for members of the congregation, family and friends, or other potential presenters you may know who have the passion, expertise, experience, and desire to share same in developing and presenting a service in collaboration with a member of our worship team. We have a few open Sundays available this summer. Please contact Michael L., Barbara M., or Chris P., or any other member of the Music and Worship Committee to explore this life-affirming spiritual growth opportunity.



Teen Movie Night for April

The Second Unitarian teens (7-12 graders) will be viewing *Persepolis* on **Sunday April 23rd at 4:30 p.m.**

Synopsis: *Persepolis* is a French film that was an Oscar nominee for best animated film in 2008 and also won multiple other awards. It is about a precocious and outspoken Iranian girl who grows up during the Islamic Revolution.

A discussion of the film and how it relates to UU values will follow the movie. Snacks and drinks will be available and a freewill donation taken for pizza. Join us!



Parents' Potluck

The POPs Potluck Night is happening on **Friday, April 28th**. All parents of littles through primary grades are invited to attend POPs Nights to connect with other parents from both First and Second Unitarian communities. Childcare is provided on-site (please RSVP by April 23rd). **Arrive by 5:45 p.m.** and bring a dish to share. Grown-ups will gather in the First Unitarian Church common room (3114 Harney Street). Kids will eat and play in the First Unitarian nursery. Kindly RSVP (for adults and children) to Sarah (email: seades.hamilton@gmail.com or call/text: 402-306-6339).

Save the dates for POPs Potluck Nights for 2017:

Fri, May 26 (RSVP by May 21)

Fri, Oct 20 (RSVP by Oct 15)

Second Unitarian is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives!, a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. **The online giving holiday will take place May 24th from midnight to midnight.** Mark your calendars because we will need your help! We will be joining more than 800 local nonprofits to raise money together and compete for prize money—the more donors we get to give to us, the more likely we are to win prizes.

Omaha Gives! is a community-wide event to show off Omaha's spirit of giving, raise awareness about local nonprofits, and celebrate the collective effort it takes to make this city great. Learn more at OmahaGives.org.



SAVE THE DATE MAY 24th!

Last Year we made over \$7000! Can we do it again this year?!

How can you help 2U during Omaha Gives!?

- **Save the date.** May 24th will be a great day of generosity in Omaha. Get excited and ready to share your enthusiasm for 2U throughout the day.
- **Arrange for a Challenge!** Here's an opportunity to take the fundraising even further! By providing Challenge Funds to support 2U, you give the community more reason to get excited about giving during Omaha Gives! Contact OA Jaime at info@2uomaha.org or check out omahagives.org for more info! Challenge funds must be arranged before **May 1st**.
- **Schedule a gift!** For your convenience, you can schedule gifts between May 1st and May 23rd. We encourage your to donate early if you cannot participate on May 24th.
- **Spread the word!** Tell your friends that you will be giving to 2U during Omaha Gives! on May 24th and that you need their help.
- **Post about Omaha Gives! on your social media pages.** Let your friends and followers know how they can give and how their donations can help us win prize funds. Don't forget to use #OmahaGives
- **Cheer us on!** On May 24th, watch the leaderboard on OmahaGives.org or join our "virtual party" and stay up-to-date on our progress via social media.
- **Donate to us on May 24th!**
- **Thank you for your support!** Thank you for your ongoing support of 2U . We can't wait to see the 2U and Omaha communities band together again to give big.

Food, Art, and Music at KANEKO

by Vicki P., Social Justice Committee

Omaha Together One Community's (OTOC) annual Spring Fundraiser is at a new location -- KANEKO in the Old Market. This fun evening features tasty appetizers and desserts, soft drinks (cash bar for wine and beer), live music, a wide variety of silent auction items, and the opportunity to get to know members of congregations throughout Omaha. As a bonus, you can view sculptures and other art throughout KANEKO's recently renovated galleries.

This fundraiser allows OTOC to continue the work of connecting people in Omaha across lines that tend to divide us such as race and ethnicity, economics, religion, geography and language. Second Unitarian is a proud member of OTOC.

When: Saturday evening, April 1 (no foolin') 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Where: KANEKO, 1111 Jones Street

Entertainment: Gospel choir, Spanish ballads, Nebraska folk music

Tickets on sale at the door: \$30. If you cannot attend please consider paying for a ticket to donate to refugees involved in OTOC action teams.

Nebraska Zen Center

The Nebraska Zen Center was founded in 1977 and is located at 3625 Lafayette Avenue in north Omaha. The NZC is a Zen practice community dedicated to discerning all things in view of enlightenment and putting such a unitive awareness into practice in the midst of the reevaluated world. Everyone interested in living a life of meaning and inquiry is welcome at NZC, regardless of ethnicity, age, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or history at NZC. Learn more at www.nebraskazencenter.org

Weekday Morning Zazen - Monday-Thursday 6 a.m. -7:30 a.m. Includes two 35-minute periods of zazen beginning at 6 a.m. and 6:45 a.m. - come for either or both sitting periods (arrive and be settled in your seat by 5:55am). A short liturgy service follows, and you'll be on your way by 7:30am.

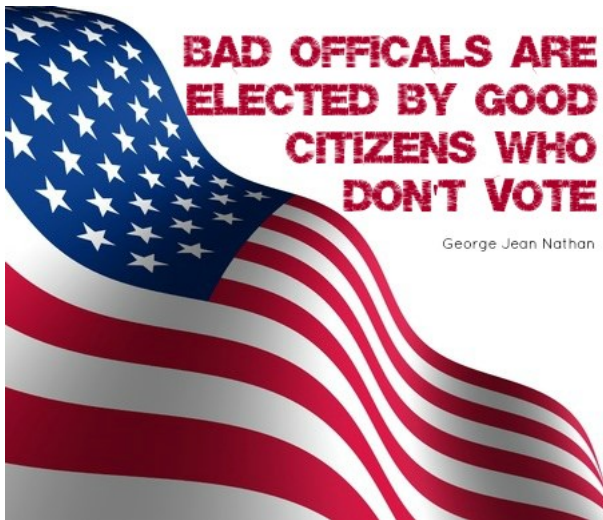
Compassionate Response: An Introduction to Dogen Zen - Tuesdays, April 25 – May 23 (five sessions), 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. During this class, we will work with our hands, eyes and the whole body to actualize compassion. We will use Dogen's "Kannon" as our text as we explore the function of awakened compassion in our lives. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Introduction to Zen Workshop - Sunday, April 23, 10:30am-3:30pm Fee: \$35. This workshop begins by gathering with the NZC community for Sunday Open Zen (a brief period of guided meditation and a dharma talk appropriate for everyone), and includes lunch and an afternoon workshop. You will receive instruction from Zen priests Dosho and Tetsugan who together have over 60 years of experience. This session is appropriate both for those with previous meditation experience, and those who are new to meditation. We will focus on posture, breath and heart. There will be time for questions and we will practice zazen (sitting meditation) together.

Learn About Candidates for Omaha Mayor and City Council

by Vicki P., Social Justice Committee

Omaha mayor and all city council seats will be elected this spring. Primary: April 4th; general: May 9th. OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) is hosting a Candidate Accountability Session so you can find out where candidates stand on local issues.



- When: Monday, May 1st at 7 p.m.
- Where: St Leo the Great Catholic Church, 102nd and Blondo

The top two candidates from each race in the April 4th primary will be on the May 9th ballot. So keep watching for updates on which candidates will be at the Accountability Session.

Women's Alliance

Women, and those who identify as women, from First and Second Unitarian Church are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering on Monday, April 10th. Our guest speaker will be Susan Whitfield from No More Empty Pots. NMEP is a grassroots non-profit corporation that connects individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. You can visit their website here for more information: <http://www.nmepomaha.org/> Drinks and gathering starts at 6:30pm with dinner following at 7:00 and our presentation at 8:00 pm. Please join us!

Our dinner selection for April will be from Eddie's Catering. The menu will be chicken breasts in a creamy artichoke sauce, red potatoes, carrots and grilled ciabatta bread. The vegetarian entrée will be a stuffed mushroom. Please email me if you dietary issues and need to know ingredients.

We ask \$15 which goes to the cost of the dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church scholarship, and various activities at First Unitarian. If this will be your first time attending, please be our guest!

You can RSVP by email: Kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com

You can RSVP by leaving a message at 402-214-2718

Report from February OTOC Listening Sessions

by Vicki P., Social Justice Committee

25 members of our congregation participated in recent Listening Sessions. OTOC coordinated these sessions in congregations throughout Omaha to find out where to focus time and energy in the 2017.

Issues that came up in both of our sessions:

- Concern with bill in Nebraska legislature to prohibit Omaha from having stricter regulation of guns than rest of state
- Support for regulations to limit payday lender fees and charges
- Concern for refugees and immigrants

Issues from Retirees session:

- High cost of prescription drugs
- Support for LB 358 to increase monthly amount of SNAP program (formerly food stamps)
- Need for reliable and expanded bus service
- Concern about deregulation of banks and loss of consumer protection
- Concern about loss of support for public schools
- Concern about loss of regulations that save the environment

Issues from After Sunday Service session:

- Strong concern about bill in legislature to require Voter ID
- Concern about food waste that winds up in landfill
- Strong concern about lack of services for mentally ill
- Strong concern about loss of health insurance coverage if Affordable Care Act is repealed
- Support for Omaha's Community Policing
- Question whether OTOC is part of and/or monitoring search for new Omaha Public Schools Superintendent
- Concern about bill in legislature to allow teachers to physically restrain students

The next step is to identify issues that are common to other OTOC congregations and then determine who will lead and help research solutions.

MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2017

UUs have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history, in spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country. At this year's MidAmerica Regional Assembly, we will explore just what that means.

Join us at the **Chicago Oak Brook Marriott, in Oak Brook, Illinois, April 28th -30th**. Register before April 5th and receive the early bird rate.



General Assembly 2017 June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

[Registration](#) for the 2017 UUA [General Assembly](#) is now open! General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA, where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. This year's theme: "Resist and Rejoice!"



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Holland Lecture Series

Dr. Jacob Hacker
*How the War on Government
Led Us To Forget What
Made America Prosper*



SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, May 10 • 7:30 pm
Holland Performing Arts Center

America's prosperity has long rested on robust capitalism supported, supplemented, and regulated by government. This "mixed economy" enabled steep increases in income, education, health, opportunity, and security. Yet, as the advocates of anti-government market fundamentalism gain power, they are hell-bent on scrapping this instrument of nearly a century of unprecedented economic and social progress. Yale Professor of Political Science **Jacob Hacker** describes how this war on government has led us to forget the fundamental lessons of our history. And why it must be stopped.

Last year Dick Holland called Dr. Jacob Hacker to ask if he would return for a (very rare) second lecture. He spoke here in 2010 on "The Middle Class at Risk" and was very well received. With Dick Holland's death, this will be the final lecture in the series. The Holland Lecture Series began in 2005 with the goal of presenting internationally acclaimed speakers who would challenge listener's beliefs and broaden understanding on a wide range of topics.

FREE TICKETS for this reserved seating event will be available **Monday, April 10** at Ticket Omaha. Please put this lecture on your calendar and on the calendar of your friends! Each caller may request up to six free tickets for the lecture and free reception that follows.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HERITAGE

April 2: *The Holy Fool* - The Holy Fool appears in many religions and cultures. Who is the Holy Fool and what might we learn from this character, especially during hard times?

April 9: *Saving Paradise* - For the first one thousand years of Christianity, the crucifix was unknown in Christian art and imagery! How could this be? What was at the heart of the Christian faith, as symbolized in their sacred spaces, is vital for all of us in the 21st century.

April 16: *Occupy Jerusalem* - What was Jesus up to that last week in Jerusalem before his death? Perhaps not what you were taught long ago! Perhaps he was – Occupying Jerusalem. Come hear an understanding of a central Christian story that can be both healing and affirming for Unitarian Universalists.

April 23: *Looking Back and Forward* - This evening begins Holocaust Remembrance Day, *Yom HaShoah*. We have always said that we must never forget this huge tragedy of human suffering. Why is remembering *HaShoah* so important, especially now?

April 30: *Beltaine* - Also known as the Gaelic May Day festival is halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. It is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals—along with Samhain, Imbolc and Lughnasadh.