



March, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Starts March 13
Set your clocks **AHEAD**
one hour

SILENT/ LIVE AUCTION



Saturday, March 26
7 p.m.

A showcase of members'
amazing (and often useful)
talents and services

Join Us This Sunday!

First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m.

March 6 **De Haeretico Comburendo** Rev. Scott McNeill
"On the Burning of Heretics," an English law from 1401, made it illegal to hold Unitarian views or worship. 610 years later, join us for worship as we discuss the heresies and truths of our faith and in our own lives.

First Hour **Just & Compassionate Immigration Reform** Vicki Pratt

March 13 **Come Out and Play!** Rev. Scott McNeill
In a meditation for March 13, Brian Nelson calls us to shake the doldrums of winter, find the "ripening buds on the trees" and to "let tender life grow inside." On this day, may we tend to the gardens of our lives and to our church as Second Unitarian continues to grow itself and by doing so, change the world!

First Hour **Writing for Spiritual Growth** David Martin
(second Sunday this month only)

March 20 **Life as a Unitarian Universalist** Rev. Scott McNeill
Join Rev. Scott and Michael Abraham as they explore what it means to live daily life through a Unitarian Universalist lens.

First Hour **From Age-ing to Sage-ing - A Discussion** Anita Jeck

March 27 **This I Believe As a Unitarian Universalist**
Judy Eller, Tom Rundquist, & Russ Alberts
This continuing series focuses on individual perspectives on UU values and beliefs from members, with an invitation to connect with others through reflection and appreciation of differences.

First Hour **Roots and Wings - Understanding UUism**
Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

Second Thoughts is a monthly publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.
Please send your articles and submissions to: info@secondunitarianomaha.org.
Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



As winter turns into spring, we will experience a cold snap here and there with intermittent warm temperatures reminding us of the coming spring then summer. Like life, there is no one set linear pattern – there are moments of cold, days of warmth, and then out of nowhere, a snow shower. In our own lives, we go from moments of joy, then something tragic, and then something altogether different.

There can be, and often is, anxiety when these changes present themselves, especially when we cannot see them coming. And yet, the nature of life is such that each and every day we experience something new, and sometimes that new situation or object changes our course forever.

A religious community, one bound together by common vision and purpose, can help make some sense of the changes in our lives as well as be a comfort when there is no sense to be made. I urge everyone at Second Unitarian to meet someone new this spring and see what friendships can be created when you take the chance to get to know someone else's story.

As we continue to grow, it will be important that we take the time to eat lunch and dinner together, talk about our lives and theology with one another, and be intentional about our growing together as a community. We have circle suppers, potlucks, movie nights, and more events to increase our time together, and in the next few months we will do more of these and add events like Coffee Chats and Theology on Tap.

Maybe you have something you would like to do to spend more time with fellow Unitarian Universalists. Maybe you're a retiree who would like to discuss religion and the world with others. Maybe you're a parent who has a child with illness and wants to connect with other parents. Whoever you are, there is something about your life that could create a bond with others.

I hope that if you've been longing to connect with others in some way, if you've been hoping to see a social group for a certain set of people, or a group that goes bowling or hiking – please talk to me, email me (minister@secondunitarianomaha.org) or connect with others.

We may not be able to accommodate all groups, but our goal as a religious community is to help individuals grow and deepen their lives. Part of that growth and deepening is finding others with whom you share values as well as have different ideas about theology, faith and life.

We are a community of connection and compassion – may we find a way to strengthen ourselves, one another, and the world.



In faith,
Rev. Scott

Second Unitarian welcomes FOUR new members to the congregation since the beginning of 2011! They are all new to the congregation and have joined our church. We're excited to have their membership - and to get to know other guests who have started attending. Thank you for being with us!



Planks and Slivers

By Tom Peterson, Chair, Board of Trustees



March is Stewardship Month in our church year, the time when we ask members and friends of Second Unitarian Church to make a financial pledge of support to sustain and grow our religious community.

This is a vital part of our planning process, and yet, “stewardship” can be so much more than completing a pledge form. The dictionary definition of stewardship is “a person who manages another’s property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.” We are called by our seventh UU principle to be stewards of our natural world, for in so doing we are acting as agents for those who will follow after us. (“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our grandchildren.”) We are also called by our first, second, and third principles to be stewards of our relationships with one another.

How do we become better stewards? How do we move toward “year-round” stewardship? I believe this is part of our visioning work to re-define who we are and who we want to become. On January 25, members of the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry, and the Program Council engaged in an appreciative inquiry into our vision. Over the course of the evening, in pairs, in small and larger groups, we shared and discussed:

- What made us feel most connected
- What we valued most about Second Unitarian
- What core factors give life to this church
- What we searched for in our church experience
- What we believe others may be searching for
- What we wish for to heighten the health and vitality of Second Unitarian

Heady questions indeed, and questions we hope to explore with all of you in the weeks and months to come. For in searching for that which we hold most dear, we find the essence of what we care for and will nurture, through our time, our talents, and our treasure. And that is the path to becoming stewards of all that we touch.

March 23rd Is the Deadline for Establishing Your Right to Vote at the Annual Meeting

Members will vote at Second Unitarian’s annual meeting on May 22 on such matters as next year’s budget and who will serve on the Board of Trustees. Our bylaws state that the Board of Trustees must determine the list of eligible voting members 60 days in advance of a membership meeting.

This year’s eligibility date falls on March 23. To be considered an eligible voting member, not only must you have signed your name in Second Unitarian’s membership book prior to March 23, but you must also have made a recorded financial contribution within the preceding 12 months.

Please contact Kathy Bell if you have any questions about your eligibility.



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church

Treasurer's Report

Month End for January 31, 2011

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | <u>January</u> | <u>Year-To-Date</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Income | \$12,690.92 | \$114,991.19 |
| Expenses | <u>-\$16,815.98</u> | <u>-\$ 96,244.66</u> |
| Net Over/Short | <u>-\$ 4,125.06</u> | <u>\$ 18,746.53</u> |
| | | |

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$95,830.93 reflects 64.66% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

Offerings year to date: \$4,148.87

If you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey



Stewardship

By Sue Aschinger and Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Co-Chairs

We Are Family



It's March and we are in full swing with our annual pledge drive. We hope everyone was able to attend our Fellowship Dinner Kickoff. We hope you were able to enjoy the wonderful catered dinner, the line dancing, and listening to some stories about what our connections with our church family mean to us. If you haven't already, you will soon be contacted by a visiting steward. Please agree to meet with your steward and take the opportunity to share your own connection stories. This conversation will also make you think about your commitment to Second Unitarian. Part of that commitment is your chance to make a monetary pledge in support of our church programs.

Some people ask, "Why do I need to give a pledge, can't I just donate through the year?" But to allow planning and to ensure we can offer our many programs, maintain our building, and to provide support for our members, we need to set an annual budget. And to set that budget, we need our members and friends to make monetary pledges. So please take this opportunity to show your commitment through our giving of our treasures and through our giving of our time and our caring for one another.

You will be able to monitor our progress toward our goal on our "We Are Family" visual on the Second Showing wall, adding each of us as we complete our pledges to our annual campaign. Thank you for helping make our vision and mission a reality.

BACK by POPULAR DEMAND!

SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA PRESENTS

Live Silent & Auction

March 26th at 7 p.m.

One will find most any concoction
March 26th, at the silent auction.
Bring your friends; Bring your honey;
Bring your items; Bring your money.

By Tom Rundquist

Special entertainment!

Renowned local singer-songwriter
author and humorist

MICHAEL CAMPBELL

*Unique Items * Valuable Services * Handmade Gifts * Special Events * Life Experiences *
*Everyone welcome (7th Grade and older) *** Auction will be held at Second Unitarian *

We need your donations! Contact Darrel Draper at petersarpy@aol.com or 402-553-8117 for more information.

Social Justice Movie Night & Potluck

By Cheri Cody

Sunday, March 13, join us for a Potluck at 6 p.m., followed by our Social Justice movie at 6:30, "Gilded Age Redux?"

Mark Twain is responsible for naming the period between Reconstruction and Theodore Roosevelt, "The Gilded Age." It refers to the era of rapid economic and population growth in the United States during the post-Civil War and post-Reconstruction eras of the late 19th century.

Steve Fraser, historian and author of "Wall Street: America's Dream Palace," discusses the modern parallels and differences to the first Gilded Age, the big disparity between the rich and poor, and the increasing strain on working Americans.

This video was originally presented as part of Bill Moyers' Journal on PBS.

Everyone is invited to attend!



A Religion For Our Time!

A New Video Series to Highlight Inspiring Work in UU Congregations



Religious Education

By Portia Love, Director of Religious Education



The 1-6 children are continuing to study Bible Stories and will study them until the end of the year, in June. The Pre K-K children have been learning what I would call, "life skills, positive attributes and ways to live in the world." The titles of their classes have been things such as, "Both Girls and Boys Can," "Love Means Saying and Doing," and "Cooperation Means Helping."

One of the titles that caught my eye was, "People of All Colors Are Important." It just so happened that they were learning this in February. February was Black History Month. March is Women's History Month.

Our children's religious education includes not just learning about all "religions" but also about all people. Religious education has to be about more than just "religions." In *Essex Conversations, Visions for Lifespan Religious Education*, the book tells us that religious education has to also be about justice, wholeness and liberation. I take this to mean that religious education should also teach children about the people that occupy the religions. Its purpose is also to teach children about how to become open, interactive adults themselves, adults who do not hold prejudices and bigotry.

Racism towards Black people, and others, is still strong in our society, whether we agree with it or not or whether we like it or not. In this time of continued racism towards Black people, it is important that we take time to look at some of the many contributions they have made to our society:

Crops in America have flourished because the nation was built on a slave-supported system. Black inventors include: Alexander Mills: the elevator; Benjamin Banneker: the first "Farmers' Almanac;" Bessie Bount: a device to help disabled persons eat; Lonnie Johnson: the Super Soaker; Dr. Charles Drew: developed the first blood bank; Philip Emeagwali: developed the fastest supercomputer software in the world; and Elijah McCoy: invented the "automatic oil drip cup" for trains. Other inventors tried to copy McCoy's oil dripping cup, but they didn't work as well so customers started asking for "the real McCoy." That's where the expression comes from.

Because women are still fighting for equal treatment, it is also important that we look at what women have achieved because of forerunners (many of them Unitarians) such as Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, and Dorothea Dix. There is a website that has biographies on noteworthy women. Their biographies are divided into categories which explain their achievements. By just including the list of what they are, the list reveals the contributions they have made to our society:

Actresses, adventurers, artists, athletes, businesswomen, comediennes, congresswomen, educators and scholars, fashion designers and models, literary figures, media figures, musicians and dancers, reformers and activists, saints and sinners, scientists, and women in U.S. Government.

There are many more for both groups. I tried to use examples that impacted different aspects of our lives. We are different. Let's take all of the other months of the year to learn about, celebrate and embrace our differences, thereby ensuring we not only teach, but also model tolerance to our children.

portiaV.



LGBTQ Welcoming Committee

By Tammy Hunter



The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee is sponsoring these March events:

- **Friday, March 4, 6:45 p.m., at Countryside Community Church, UCC (8787 Pacific St.)**

Second Unitarian is joining other area welcoming congregations in co-sponsoring a screening of the documentary "Gen Silent," which will be followed by a Q & A session with its director, Stu Maddux. The documentary is about the generation of LGBT elders feeling forced to go back into the closet as they age. Watch the very powerful trailer at: www.gensilent.com. Suggested donation for tickets is \$12 (please contact Tammy Hunter for tickets).



- **Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Creating Inclusive Communities Workshop**

We are thrilled to have been awarded a grant from the Social Action Network of the Prairie Star District of the UUA to offer this all day workshop at Second Unitarian! Our facilitator will be Mike Honeyman, Director of Education & Training for Inclusive Communities. This is a unique opportunity for members of our congregation, 6th grade and up, to deepen our understanding of what it means to live our mission and truly "embrace diversity." Our community will be strengthened by examining and breaking down the stereotypes, myths and barriers that can divide us and by learning how to communicate with one another in ways that foster understanding, respect, and trust. A self-priced lunch will be provided.

Objectives of the workshop include the following:

Awareness of:

- ◆ Our personal biases and their role in perpetuating division and exclusion.
- ◆ The effects prejudice and discrimination have on individuals and institutions
- ◆ The importance of cross-cultural relationships in building community
- ◆ The power of faith groups to lead by example through truly inclusive practices
- ◆ The interdependent relationships between disparate members of society
- ◆ The opportunities that exist in the realm of inter-group relations
- ◆ The power of a diverse group of committed individuals to affect positive social change

Skills:

- ◆ To move past contentious debate and towards productive dialogue
- ◆ To engage with those who may be different and find common purpose
- ◆ To look beyond the boundaries we place upon ourselves
- ◆ To become more inclusive in our personal and professional lives
- ◆ To fully embrace rather than simply tolerate diversity

Please sign up for the workshop by Sunday, March 13, so that we can anticipate our needs for food and materials. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, or you can contact Tammy Hunter.



Guidelines for Right Relationships - Keeping Hearts Connected through Resolving Conflicts

By Gay Robinson Abraham

Conflict is an inevitable part of living in community and is actually an opportunity for creatively living our covenant. An important aspect of our ministry to each other is developing the skills to recognize conflict as it is developing and to address it directly in a loving way. As part of the process of developing our covenant last year, the **Guidelines for Right Relationships** were developed which give specific direction on *how* to navigate through conflicts while staying connected.

These guidelines were shared at a Conflict Resolution Workshop on February 13, sponsored by the Committee on Ministry. Participants split into small groups and role-played ways to address various types of conflict as described in fictitious scenarios, addressing the question: "How effective are the guidelines for addressing conflict while staying in relationship?" *People really put their hearts into it!* Many insights were shared, and each group concluded that the guidelines were helpful.

Please take time to review the guidelines (on the next page) and consider how you use might utilize them in your lives. Watch for information about future opportunities to participate in this ongoing process of strengthening our bonds to one another.

Save the Date

Sunday, May 1, 2011, will be the installation service of our settled minister. This service will feature clergy from the area and beyond, and will formally install **Rev. Scott McNeill** as the minister here at Second Unitarian Church. There will be more details in upcoming newsletters.

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.

Guidelines for Right Relationships – Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Agreeing and disagreeing in love, making every effort to maintain the integrity of the church community in the bond of peace, we pledge that we shall:

In Thought

Accept conflict

Affirm hope

Commit to a process

1. Acknowledge together that conflict is a normal part of our life in the church.
2. Affirm that we can work through our differences to growth.
3. Admit our needs and commit to a process to achieve a mutually satisfactory solution.

In Action

Go to the other...

...in the spirit of humility

Be quick to listen

Be slow to judge

*Be willing to engage in
dialogue*

4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree.
5. Go in gentleness, patience and humility, and own our own part in the conflict.
6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood.
7. Be descriptive. Suspend judgment; avoid labeling, name-calling and threats; and act in a non-defensive manner.
8. Work through the disagreement constructively.
 - Identify issues, interests, and needs of both (rather than take positions.)
 - Generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs (rather than defending one's own way.)
 - Evaluate options by how they meet the needs and satisfy the interests of all sides (not one side's values.)
 - Collaborate in working out a joint solution (so both sides gain, both grow and win.)
 - Cooperate with the emerging agreement (accept the possible, rather than demand your ideal.)
 - Reward each other for each step forward toward agreement (celebrate mutuality.)

In Community

Be steadfast in love

Be open to mediation

Trust the community

Be committed to peace

9. Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution.
10. Seek wise counsel (not gossip) from a neutral party as needed. The minister and members of the Committee on Ministry are available resources. Be open to accept skilled help. If we cannot reach agreement among ourselves, we will use those with gifts and training in mediation.
11. We will trust the community and if we cannot reach agreement or experience reconciliation, we will turn the decision over to others in the congregation.
 - In one-to-one or small group disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate.
 - In congregational disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate or implementing democratic decision-making processes, insuring that they are done in the spirit of these guidelines, and abiding by whatever decision is made.
12. Believe in and rely on the sacredness of the human spirit and strive toward peace, wholeness, health, and security.

Adapted from the Mennonite statement "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love" (1995)



First Hours in March

Join us for these discussions Sundays at 9 a.m. prior to Worship Service

March 6: *Just and Compassionate Immigration Reform, Vicki Pratt*

Immigration legislation has been in the news in Arizona and now in Nebraska. Vicki Pratt, from the Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) Immigration Reform action team, will review the history of immigration in the U.S. and proposed legislation now in the Nebraska unicameral. The discussion will also focus on how Second Unitarian can participate in UUA's Immigration as a Moral Issue.

March 13: *Writing for Spiritual Growth, David Martin*

*(Please note this will be held on the **second** Sunday in March)*

During First Hour at 9 a.m., normally on the first Sunday of each month, we will celebrate this time by placing our understanding of spirituality into poetry and prose, which adds clarity and passion to our lives. Join us in creating the world we desire through the written word. All members and friends of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha are welcome to participate. We welcome all sojourners who wish to share the paths on which they walk in search of enlightenment. We have no creeds, no goals, no competitive members, and no grades. Our group's motto is "Just Write." Our belief is the truth for each person will appear, when we write enough.

March 20: *From Age-ing to Sage-ing - A Discussion, Anita Jeck*

Developmental tasks for the eldering years (approximately age 50 +) include: harvesting one's life--turning experience into wisdom and joy; healing relationships; coming to terms with mortality; leaving a legacy; intellectual and creative growth. This Sunday during First Hour, we will continue our discussion on "age-ing to sage-ing" and explore ways in which to develop a new "curricula" for this stage of our lives.

March 27: *Roots and Wings, Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning*

First Hour on the Fourth Sunday of each month will be discussing Unitarian Universalism. We're calling it "Roots and Wings." This can include our UU History, current topics in Unitarian Universalism, what is happening in our UU World magazine, details about Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, and much more!

PRIVACY POLICY FOR WEEKLY E-NEWS AND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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 both the church newsletter and weekly e-news 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.

Weather-Related Cancellations

In the event of Sunday service cancellation, the church phone at 402-334-0537 will be the first notification, and when possible that will be done by 7:00 a.m.



We will also make every attempt to notify you by:

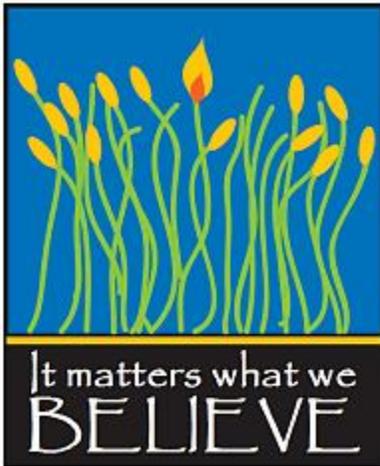
1. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
2. Placing a message on the church web site, and
3. Placing a notification on Facebook.

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



Prairie Star District Annual Conference

Des Moines, April 8-10, 2011



Our 2011 Conference theme comes from a favorite reading in our hymnal, "*It Matters What We Believe*" (#657) by a beloved UU religious educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs. It begins, "Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies." What kind of believers are we? We are our best selves when we achieve understanding and empathy. We are at our worst when we can only proclaim what we are against. How do we challenge ourselves to be our best, while avoiding the trap of being exclusive ourselves? Come and explore this theme with us. How do we articulate our individual beliefs? How do we help our children form their own moral compass? And how do we, as a church, take a public stand on ethical issues?

Keynote Speaker: Brian Eslinger, former minister of the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa, served there for thirteen years. He is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities and a former president of Prairie Star District.

Judy Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, who currently serves as senior minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. She graduated from the College of William and Mary and Meadville Lombard Theological School, and now teaches at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and the Humanist Institute. She has served as President of the UU Ministers Association, and is a published author in *Parenting Beyond Belief* and the hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition*.

- **Early registration deadline: March 18, 2011**
- Final online or mailed in registration deadline: April 1, 2011
- Walk-in registrations will be accepted on April 8 and 9, at full rates but will not include any meals.

For complete conference and registration information, visit www.psduua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible Workshop

By Vicki Pratt



This year's Prairie Star District Annual Conference is in Des Moines, Iowa. When making your travel arrangements, consider getting to Des Moines in time to participate in Friday's Mirrors of Privilege workshop.

The PSD Social Justice Network and GRACE (Growing Racial And Cultural Equity) Team are sponsoring this workshop that catalyzes dialogue to undo race-based oppressions. The workshop combines video presentations, personal reflection, and small group conversations. Participants in the film talk about learned and internalized sense of privilege. Their stories reveal what is required to move through denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making a commitment to ending racial injustice.

This workshop is Friday, April 8, at the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch.

Join us to learn pathways to build bridges between white people and people of color, who can then have authentic relationships across a racial divide.

Details and registration are at www.psduua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Thinking about Becoming a Member?

When you move from feeling like a guest to feeling like Second Unitarian has become your "religious home," it is time to think about becoming a member. But before you make this important decision, we request that you attend a class designed to help you more fully understand what it means to be a member of this church.

We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in a **"Pathways to Membership" class on Saturday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** After a tasty breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and of this church, share your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and responsibilities of church membership. Although there is no pressure to do so, many find this a meaningful time to sign the Membership Book. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

Please reserve a spot in class by contacting Kathy Bell by Sunday, March 27. If you need childcare, please also register on the childcare sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary by Sunday, March 27.

A Note from Your New Volunteer Membership Coordinator

I am excited to begin work as Second Unitarian's new volunteer membership coordinator. But don't expect to see my name at the top of this column for long. I will work with Rev. Scott to help develop this new position through the end of this church year, and then, if all goes according to plan, I'll turn the reins over to a paid membership coordinator around July 1. Until then, I look forward to visiting with visitors and affiliates who would like to become engaged in the life of this church and with existing members whose "internal batteries" may have run low and want to become re-energized.

| Attendance | | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Date | Adults in Worship | Adults in R.E. | Children in R.E. | Youth in Second Circle |
| 1/23 | <i>Services canceled due to weather</i> | | | |
| 1/30 | 75 | 5 | 15 | -- |
| 2/6 | 70 | 3 | 17 | 11 |
| 2/13 | 72 | 8 | 17 | -- |
| 2/20 | 62 | 6 | 13 | 9 |

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com

Shop at Amazon.com and help Second Unitarian Church

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church web site at

<http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/>,

click on Bookstore, and then click on Shop Now @ Amazon.com. Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.

What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!

Women's Alliance

By Ruth Nicklin

March 14 (3.14) we are having pi. Not just any pi but the authentic 3.14. In a calculus class, Lars Erickson was suddenly inspired to convert the first 32 digits of pi to musical notes. Lars, a member of First Unitarian, will share his Pi Symphony.

The evening begins in the First Unitarian Common Room with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by a brief business meeting. Our catered dinner (\$10) is at 7:30 and will be a feast of corned beef and cabbage in honor of St. Paddy. The program will follow.

We welcome all women from both Unitarian churches. If this is your first time at an Alliance meeting, please be our guest. For reservations, contact Janet West by Sunday, March 13.



Second Circle

All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting the **first and third Sundays of the month, September through May**. We meet across the street from the church, walking over together after the first portion of the worship service.

Our time is spent focused on connection: to each other, to the outer community, to the world, and to our religious and spiritual selves. We explore through discussion, ritual, and a variety of activities. All meetings are facilitated by two adult volunteers from our church community.

Please refer questions to Gay Abraham or Anita Jeck.

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Have you ever tried meditation before? Do you know what meditation is or how to do it? Each month a group of church members and friends of the church meet to learn and practice the art of meditation. We study the writings of accomplished meditators and discuss how to apply these teachings in our own lives.

We are now studying the book *Taking The Leap* by Pema Chodron. Meditation Reincarnated meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 24. Please join us in learning what can become a very fulfilling practice in your life. It's a wonderful way to learn relaxation skills and to grow spiritually. No previous meditative experience is required.

Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the church and invite anyone interested to attend our lively and interesting discussions on a wide variety of books.

Our selection for March 22, 7:30 p.m., is *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier. Looking ahead for the next few months, we are reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* by Mark Hadden in April, *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson in May, and *The March* by E. L. Doctorow in June. Come join us!

YRUU & Parents of Teens

The YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is a youth group for 7th - 12th grade youth from First and Second Unitarian Churches of Omaha. The group meets every Wednesday during the school year, September through May, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney Street.

For more information, contact Ben Wallace or Shawne Coonfare, YRUU Leaders, or Cheryl Wallace, Youth Director, at OmahaYRUU@gmail.com or 402-345-3039.

- Friday, March 4- Sunday, March 6, the YRUU hosts the Prairie Star District Youth Con at First Unitarian.
- There will be no YRUU on March 23 (spring break)
- Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m., the YRUU will attend the Shabbat Service at Temple Israel.

A group for parents of youth in grades 7-12 meets monthly on the **first Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at First Unitarian Church.

The group, for parents from both Omaha UU churches, will be facilitated by Joel Haskins from Second Unitarian. The group meets during the YRUU time but your teen does not have to attend YRUU for you to attend the parents' group.

Contact Cheryl Wallace at 402-345-3039 or dre@firstuomaha.org if you have questions.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

March, 2011

Tue., Mar. 1, 7 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)
 Wed., Mar. 2, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
 Thu., Feb 3., 7 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)
 Fri., Mar. 4, 6:45 p.m., "Gen Silent" Movie (offsite)
 LGBTQ Welcoming Group (offsite)
 Sun., Mar. 6, 2 p.m., Spirituality in its Right Mind (SA)
 Mon., Mar. 7, 7 p.m., Fellowship (FH)
 Tue., Mar. 8, 7 p.m., Membership (FH)
 Wed., Mar. 9, 10 a.m. Communications (DNW)
 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
 Thu., Mar. 10, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
 Sun., Mar. 13, 2 a.m. **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**
 12 noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
 2 p.m., Spirituality in its Right Mind (SA)
 6 p.m., Social Justice Movie & Potluck (WH)
 Mon., Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
 7 p.m. OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
 Thu., Mar. 17., 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite - Abraham offices)
 Sat., March 19, 9 a.m., Creating Inclusive Communities (WH)
 Mon., Mar. 21, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
 Tue., Mar. 22, 7 p.m., Program Council (DNW)
 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
 Thu., Mar. 24, 7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
 Fri., Mar. 25/Sat., Mar. 26, Auction Setup (WH)
 Sat., Mar. 26, 7 p.m., Silent/Live Auction (WH)
 Thu., Mar. 31, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9 a.m., First Hour
 Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service
 Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
 First and Third Sundays, Second Circle (offsite)
 Second and Third Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Children's Choir
 Second Sunday, Noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
 Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch with the Church Staff
 Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
 Wednesdays, 7 p.m., YRUU @ First Unitarian
 First Wednesday, 7 p.m., Parent Support @ First U
15th of Every Month: *Second Thoughts* deadline

Calendar Codes:

RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary, (DN)=Downstairs, (DNW) = Downstairs Worship Area (OS)=Offsite, (WH)=Whole Church, (PR)=Private Rental, (KI)=Küchen, (MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.

Save These Dates Next Month:

April 2: Pathways to Membership
 April 8-10: Prairie Star District Conference
 April 16: Spring Church Cleanup, OTOC Fundraiser, Circle Supper
 April 23: Earth Day Omaha
 April 24: Spring Church Event
 April 27: Holland Lecture



Let us know how you use this calendar. Do you post it on your refrigerator? Do you use it to remind you of a meeting you need to attend? Or perhaps do you prefer to check the online calendar which is updated regularly, not just once a month like this calendar in the newsletter? Please let us know how important this calendar is to you, and if you have suggestions for improvements. **Thank you!**

All events are subject to change.

To check the latest church calendar updates anytime, visit www.SecondUnitarianOmaha.org and click on CALENDAR OF EVENTS in the left-hand column, or call the church if there is a question.

Contact Us

Staff

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Leslie Harvey, Childcare Coordinator

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Second Thoughts

Staff: Rev. Scott McNeill, Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell, Gary Emenitove

Board of Trustees

board@secondunitarianomaha.org

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2011

Carol Johnson

Tom Peterson, Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2012

Kathy Bell

Lorraine Duggin, Secretary

Don Shennum

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody, Vice-Chair

Laura Neece-Baltaro

Nancy VanderSluis

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Of Omaha

3012 South 119th Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68144

(402) 334-0537

www.secondunitarianomaha.org

Committees

Building and Grounds

Rick Bell, Chair

Caring

Jill Archer, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Denominational Connections

Cheri Cody and Tom Peterson, Contacts

Fellowship

Janet Nichols and Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Darrel Draper, Contact

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson and Sue Aschinger, Co-Chairs

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Anita Jeck and Jaime Short, Co-Chairs

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Steve Abraham and Julie Kirn, Co-Chairs

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison and Vija Kopecky, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Steve Abraham, Chair

Personnel

Sue Aschinger, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Julie Carda, Chair

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey and Cheri Cody, Contacts

Welcoming Congregation / LGBTQ Beacon

Tammy Hunter, Contact

Technology

Bill Kuhn, Chair

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin, Contact

Many church communications are sent via e-mail. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA**

“Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is an inclusive and nurturing religious community engaged in thoughtful pursuit of truth and meaning. Our mission is to grow as a beacon of hope – sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity and promotes justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.”

Adopted May 16, 2004