



June, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join Us This Sunday!

First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m.

June 5

Defying Gravity

Rev. Scott McNeill

Join us this Sunday as we delve into the spirituality of Wicked, the Musical. No spoilers will be shared and no knowledge of musical theatre needed - BUT, a fun attitude and an open mind toward the Good, the Bad, and the Green will be encouraged!

First Hour

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin

June 12

From You I Receive, To You I Give

Rev. Scott McNeill

This Sunday, we share a worship based on the gifts we give and receive. Please bring a flower to share with someone else as part of our Flower Communion!

No First Hour Scheduled

June 19

The Education of God: Moses

Rev. Scott McNeill & Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks

Ever wonder how Moses REALLY got the Israelites out of Egypt? This Sunday, we explore one of the last chapters in the series, "The Education of God."

First Hour

Our Unitarian Universalist Story

Stu Burns & Anita Jeck

June 26

The Unexpected Journey of Gender

Joni Stacy

Ms. Stacy will talk about confronting the societal and cultural expectations of gender as a binary concept. She will explore this in a general educational sense and also by sharing her daughter's story and how her daughter's experience has educated her family about what gender truly means.

First Hour

12 noon

Our Unitarian Universalist Story

PFLAG Transgender Panel

**LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation
Pride Month Events
See page 9**



**Registration for
Camp StarTrail
closes July 6
See page 7**



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



In one seminary class, our professor of arts and ministry had us all work with partners to create masks made of plaster of Paris and cotton strips. After making these masks and letting them dry for a few days, we came back the following week and were instructed to paint them – however we saw fit. We painted the inside and outside and then we were instructed to share with the class how the masks explained our ministry – both our public and private faces.

All of us walk through life wearing masks of some sort. After hearing bad news, we meet people in the store or at the gym, along the road, and instead of telling them exactly how or who we are, we share some sliver with them, meanwhile hiding behind a mask. It takes time to build the trust necessary to let people see behind our masks. It takes time, too, for us to even fully understand our own masks and the different dimensions to them. (Before I forget, if anyone wants to see my oh-so-very artistic mask created in seminary, feel free to ask – it's sitting in my office.)

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, I began to notice some tingling in my hands and feet, some fatigue in my arms and legs, and pain in my hips. Seeing my mother with similar health problems, we began a series of tests and discovered we both had a type of muscular dystrophy, as well as a degenerative hip problem.

Clearly my case of muscular dystrophy is not as progressed as others and yet is more progressed than some. Like everyone in the world, our stories are unique, something particularly tied to our own lived experience and informed by a multitude of factors. Perhaps you have some sort of health problem that you suffer from – one that is either visible or invisible, masked or unmasked.

One major reason I share this with you all is that this summer I may need a minor surgery on my hips to work on relieving some pain, discomfort, and to reshape them. I'll be around, working some and recovering some, but it's important for you to know why I may or may not be bounding up and down the stairs at church all summer!

It's also very important because it reminds us that we are not always aware of the stories and experiences of others and that our assumptions can get in the way. Ninety-nine out of one hundred people see me and project a host of identities, accurate or inaccurate. It can be especially difficult for people to understand someone who seems healthy also having a disability or illness.

Maybe you're as likely as I am to see someone on the street and assume any number of things about them – and yet our faith calls us to challenge that assumption, to remember that there are deeper levels to each of our stories and that we must take the time to listen as well as to share our own stories. Maybe together we can remember to ask rather than assume and to teach the world to do the same.

If you have questions, I am happy to hear them and answer as best I can. Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks often uses a quote from one of our great theologians, Rev. Rebecca Parker, "The purpose of religion is to allow us to unmask all the false faces of the world." May we patiently unmask ourselves to one another and create a community guided by values of compassion, transformation and caring.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Tom Peterson, Chair, Board of Trustees



What sort of church is Second Unitarian of Omaha? How do you answer that question if you're asked by someone not familiar with us? Various sources I have read suggest that we should each have an "elevator speech" of 15-60 seconds that sums up our feelings and beliefs about what our church is about. The recent Project Interfaith "Face to Faith" event offered young adults, including Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, the opportunity to share with each other their religious views in brief conversations - a format much like "speed dating."

Our answers to the question are important, not just for what we might say to people outside our walls, but also for how they guide our direction **within** our walls. For several months, the Growth Task Force has been meeting to discuss various options for accommodating growth at Second Unitarian. And the choices among these options are dependent upon our collective answer to the question, "What sort of church are we?"

Think back to the time when you first came to Second Unitarian. Think about what was happening in your life that brought you to our doors. What were you needing from a church? Now imagine what might have happened had you felt there was not a place for you here, that the building was too crowded? How differently would your life have turned out? Now think about those who come to visit us each Sunday, coming with their own needs. How do we make a place for them? There have been many in our congregation who are wishing for a larger building. How will we fill it? **Who** will fill it? What sort of church can we be with room to grow?

This is my final column as your Board Chair. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees for this past three years. I leave you in the capable hands of the incoming Board, and look forward to discovering a new role for myself within the life of our church.

The Elevator Speech



Over the past few months, I have been working with Heather Haskins on a class project in which she learned more about Unitarian Universalism and how to communicate her faith to others. While writing a fantastic paper, she also created several "Elevator Speeches," meant to articulate our faith in short statements so that one could share them in the time it took to ride an elevator. Here's Heather's "15 Second Elevator Speech":

Unitarian Universalism is a religion in which people from different backgrounds and with different beliefs come together to try to find their own personal truth. For example, in my church, there are people who were raised Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, Quaker, Jewish, and many other religions.

--- from "You're a What?" by Heather Haskins

Copies of Heather's complete paper and various elevator speeches of different lengths are in the foyer of the church. If you would like to share YOUR elevator speech, please send it to info@secondunitarianomaha.org. Please limit your elevator speech to 50 words and all submissions will be subject to review by the newsletter editors.

In faith,
Rev. Scott



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church

Treasurer's Report

Month End for April 30, 2011

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$11,486.02	\$155,478.71
Expenses	<u>-\$15,212.31</u>	<u>-\$138,699.90</u>
Net Over/Short	<u>-\$ 3,726.29</u>	<u>\$ 16,778.81</u>

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$126,076.44 reflects 85.07% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

Offerings year to date: \$7,708.00

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

Thank you!

Treasurer

Pat Caffrey



Communications Committee

By Nancy Amsler, Chair

New Communications Policy

The Communications Committee has written a new communications policy encompassing all church communications. This replaces the individual policies, such as the newsletter and the weekly e-news policy. This policy was recently approved by the Board and is being posted on the church website. Please refer to it when preparing any communications -- contact the Communications Committee with any questions. Thanks to all who helped with this project!

IS ANYTHING MISSING FROM YOUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER?

Are there features, articles, columns, or other insights that would inspire you to better enjoy your copy of *Second Thoughts*?

Are there layout improvements you'd like to see?

Is your church's newsletter meeting your expectations?

Let us know! newsletter@secondunitarianomaha.org

or 402-334-0537 ext. 114



From our Community Minister

By Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks



As your affiliated Community Minister, I will be writing newsletter articles from time to time to fill you in on the work I am doing out in the world. As many of you know, I work full-time as a hospital chaplain at Methodist Hospital in Omaha. My ministry is one in and of the community, serving the broader, interdenominational and interfaith world beyond the walls of Second Unitarian.

"What do I do as a hospital chaplain?" you may ask. The core of my ministry is caring for the emotional, spiritual, and religious well-being of patients, patients' families, and hospital staff. Being in the hospital is a trying time for many people, and can be challenging work for employees. It often involves anxiety over procedures, new diagnoses, and changes in the physical body that are beyond one's control. In many ways, knowledge and understanding of the physical body is still developing. Through scientific research and observation, we have come to know much. And yet, there is much still beyond our understanding, and that can be very scary.

Enter: the Chaplain. Believing in and caring for the interdependent body, mind, and spirit involves sitting with people through times of fear and doubt, providing a non-anxious presence when emotions otherwise run rampant, and helping others make meaning of their experiences. It means connecting patients and families with their understanding of God through prayer and facilitating relationships with their religious communities and sacraments when requested. I also serve on various hospital committees, ensuring patient rights, ethics, and diversity—amongst other concerns—are respected.

Many days, after visiting with a patient or family, I find myself offering up a prayer of gratitude to the universe for allowing me to walk alongside people through difficult times in their lives. Indeed, serving the broader world as a Unitarian Universalist minister is both a privilege and blessing, and I thank you for supporting my ministry through our relationship of affiliation.



SHARING THE PLATE

In April, the Finance Committee, Social Justice Coordinating Council, and the Board of Second Unitarian Church formally approved a proposal to share proceeds received during worship with Social Justice partners in the Omaha community and larger world. This will become a way that our congregation will help support other organizations to change the world and create justice. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Scott or the Social Justice Coordinating Council. Details about nominations and recipients will follow in coming months.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Religious Education

By Portia Love, Director of Religious Education



It's June! June is my favorite month of the year. Of course, because it's my birthday month, but also because summer starts soon, the Summer Arts Festival is this month. It is my cancer remission month (8 years this year) and it's just a wonderful month!

Please join me in welcoming Kirsten Stiles. She is our new childcare coordinator. You may have seen her around and about and not known who she is or what she was doing. She started on the day of Rev. Scott's installation and did an excellent job with childcare. She comes to us highly recommended and with great experience. If you have not met her yet, please take the opportunity to stop by the nursery, introduce yourself and say hello. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Summer is upon us and as many of you already know, we will be doing a curriculum that takes the stories of Dr. Seuss and applies Unitarian Universalist beliefs and principles. At the end of each session, the children will be asked which principle might apply to that day's book, and why. It will include a number of activities that can be done outside. It will be a fun summer program for both the children and teachers. (I need to add here, that in case you did not know it, we need volunteers to teach for both summer and fall.)

Dr. Seuss wrote some political cartoons during WWII. They had both good and bad points. Some of the messages were racial, while some of them indicated that he deplored racism. If you have not received the "Important Notice for Parents," regarding this information, please stop at my desk and pick one up.

Enjoy the summer! Be Safe!

portia V.

2011 Annual Meeting *by Rev. Scott McNeill*

At our May 22, 2011, Annual Meeting, the congregation undertook a couple of weighty issues and created a path forward for the congregation.

First, we passed *Guidelines for Right Relationship*, modified for our church by the late Reverend Nancy Haley as well as Anita Jeck and Gay Robinson-Abraham. Second, our church budget was passed unamended. Two new board members, Anita Jeck and JoAnne Draper, were elected. Also elected: Richard Koelling, Nominations & Leadership Development, and Joel Haskins, Endowment Committee. We give great thanks to Carol Johnson (Past Chair), Tom Peterson (Chair of the Board), JoAnne Draper, and Cy Leise for their hard work over the past years.

And finally, the congregation undertook an hour of discussion about two worship services, following small group conversations, one-on-one discussions, and a congregational survey. A motion was made, seconded, and passed (43-2) to create two worship services on Sunday mornings, starting in the fall. Rev. Scott McNeill will work with individuals interested in the two services, as well as Religious Growth and Learning, Fellowship, and Music & Worship to determine the details and announce them by mid-June.

Minutes of the meeting will be posted in the coming weeks, and questions can be addressed to the Minister or the Board of Trustees. Thanks to EVERYONE for coming and working hard to create the community we hope for!



July 31- August 5, 2011

Come to Camp StarTrail (between Omaha and Lincoln) for another grand adventure/retreat for UUs of all ages. Past activities have included bead-making; dream analysis; painting; quilting; survival skills; Amazing Race; sock hop; talent show; barn dance, camp fire (with s'mores); challenge courses; OWL for adults; swimming, nature hikes; ad hoc writers' group, bridge games and lots more.

Theme speaker for 2011 will be Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, minister of Bull Run Unitarian Universalists in Virginia.

Rev. Scott McNeill and Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks will be the chaplains/worship leaders that week.

Camp StarTrail pampers the camper with four housing options—meals included: (a) hotel-style luxury with private baths; (b) college dorm-style rooms with bath down the hall; (c) rustic cabins with a shower house; and, for the purist, (d) actual honest-to-goodness camp-style camping with a short walk to the rest rooms.

Camp StarTrail is July 31 to August 5, 2011. Camping that fits your budget and your soul. Find out how we "pamper the camper" at www.psduu.org/campstartrail.

Registration closes July 6, 2011.

Camp StarTrail is sponsored by the Prairie Star District of UUA.

Farewell Lunch for Cheryll Wallace

Sunday, June 5

11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

First Unitarian Church Common Room

Informal, family-friendly potluck-style lunch

Bring food to share IF you wish--main dishes, sides and salads are welcomed. However, please come regardless—there will be plenty of food!

Punch and beverages, cake, and ice cream provided

Bring your fond farewells, thanks and best wishes for Cheryll as she ends 15 years of outstanding service as the Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian.





Summer First Hours

9 a.m. Sundays

Our Unitarian Universalist Story (starting June 19)

This summer during First Hour, Stu Burns and Anita Jeck offer a series on Our Unitarian Universalist Story.

We will begin by examining what religious faith means, our roots in the Protestant Reformation, and continue on to examine how Unitarianism and Universalism have evolved.

This will be a good opportunity for newcomers to Unitarian Universalism, as well as for long time members, to reconnect with our heritage.

During the summer we will generally meet during First Hour on Sundays except for the first Sunday of the month. Confirm dates in the newsletter, weekly email, and Sunday Order of Service.

Writing for Spiritual Growth (first Sunday of every month) facilitated by David Martin

During First Hour 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.



Learn about our national marketing campaign for UUism.

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.



LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

Gay Pride Month Events

By Tammy Hunter



The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee invites you to participate in these events:

Friday, June 10: "My Big Gay Italian Wedding"

Join us for an evening of fun and frivolity as we attend SNAP! Productions performance of "My Big Gay Italian Wedding" at the Shelterbelt Theater on Friday, June 10th. Each person will purchase their own tickets online at <http://www.snapproductions.com>. We'll plan to meet at California Taco (33rd & California, right next to the theater) at around 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. The play begins at 8:00. If you can't attend on June 10, try to catch the show on another evening – it sounds like a great comedy, and it's showing through June 19. Hope to see you there!

Saturday, June 25: Heartland Gay Pride Parade and Festival

Second Unitarian Church will participate in the 26th Annual 2011 Heartland Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 25, in downtown Omaha. The theme of this year's Pride Celebration is "United in Pride," reflecting the united efforts of Nebraska and Western Iowa in celebrating diversity and promoting equality for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals.

Parade lineup will take place in the ConAgra Foods driveway at 10th and Farnam, between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with the parade starting at 11:00. All are encouraged to meet there at 9:00 a.m. to decorate our parade entry, a Mazda Miata convertible, provided and driven by Bill Kuhn! Beginning at noon, we will have a booth at the Festival (10th and Pacific) which will be shared with First Unitarian. We'll provide information about our congregations' commitment to providing safe and welcoming places of worship for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) individuals and their families. In addition, Mary Anne Chisholm will delight festival-goers by creating balloon animals!



We hope to have lots of Second Unitarian members and friends participate in this event, including children and teens! Please contact Tammy Hunter, Mark Dickmeyer, or Mary Anne Chisholm if you would like to help decorate the car, join us in the parade, and/or help at the booth. This is an important opportunity for our congregation to demonstrate support for equal rights and to act on our Mission to grow as a beacon of hope that embraces diversity and promotes justice. Please join us!

Sunday, June 26: Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Also on Pride Weekend, Joni Stacy will be in our pulpit Sunday morning at 10:30. Joni is an Omaha attorney who is active locally and nationally in advocating for the rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals. She is on the Board of Omaha's Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and is the mother of a transgender daughter.

Joni's sermon is titled, "The Unexpected Journey of Gender." She will talk about confronting the societal and cultural expectations of gender as a binary concept. She will explore this in a general educational sense and also by sharing her daughter's story and how her daughter's experience has educated her family about what gender truly means.

Sunday, June 26: PFLAG Transgender Panel at 12 noon

The panel will give the congregation a chance to meet and ask questions of transgender people and a parent of a transgender child. Our society tends to give us information only about what they consider "correct, true and right": *We have men and women. The "normal" is heterosexual.* The **reality** is that people are born and develop in different ways. As loving, caring humans, the more we allow ourselves to understand these differences, the richer and more compassionate our society will be.



Second Showing

By Pam Curtiss-Smith

Second Unitarian Church is blessed to have many multiply-talented people among our members, affiliates, and employees. We are able to display these talents and beautify our church at the same time via our Second Showing "gallery" in the fellowship area of the sanctuary, to the right of the coffee bar.

The current showing includes poetry by our Director of Religious Education, Portia V. Love. The gallery calendar includes photos by David Nesbit to be available for viewing during the summer and, following the photo display, works by the First Hour group led by David Martin, *Writing for Spiritual Growth*, will be presented.

Coordinating the transition from one fabulous showing to another does not happen as seamlessly as it may appear. Dodie Robison has dedicated much time and energy into ensuring that the Second Showing Gallery, as well as the décor in the rest of the church, is a pleasure to behold.

Dodie schedules the change-over of Second Showing "shows" with the artists and makes sure credit is given by posting the autobiographical information they provide. Please contact Dodie if you have a request or want your talents displayed in our gallery.

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!



**Mark your calendar now for the annual
Brush Up Nebraska Omaha Paint-A-Thon
Friday & Saturday, August 19 & 20**

Participation in the Paint-A-Thon is one of the charity projects organized by the Social Justice Coordinating Council, but we seek volunteers from all members and friends at Second Unitarian. Last year, 22 volunteers from Second U and 7 from First U participated!



In early July we'll find out where our assigned house is located, so check the weekly e-news or the August Second Thoughts for details. For more information, contact Melissa Konecky or Clyde Anderson.



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

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.

Commit to a process

In Action

*Go to the other...
...in the spirit of humility*

4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree.
5. Go in gentleness, patience and humility, and own our own part in the conflict.

Be quick to listen

6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood.

Be slow to judge

7. Be descriptive. Suspend judgment; avoid labeling, name-calling and threats; and act in a non-defensive manner.

Be willing to engage in dialogue

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

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.

Be open to 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.

Trust the community

- 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.

Be committed to peace

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)



Membership Journeys

Membership thanks you for being welcoming to our newcomers and visitors that we have at Second Unitarian Church. A committee can never operate alone; it takes all in the congregation to make these efforts flourish.

Please take a moment and introduce yourself to those with visitor tags or who are our newer members. We all enjoy being warmly received!

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
4/24	93		Intergenerational Service	
5/1	66	6	15	--
5/8	64	6	9	--
5/15	107	6	13	15
5/22	70	6	14	--

A Religion For Our Time!

A New Video Series to Highlight Inspiring Work in UU Congregations

- 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.

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



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

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

At Meditation Reincarnated, we explore ways to calm the mind through meditative techniques. You can try a little yourself by taking as little as five minutes to sit in a quiet place and notice your breath as it comes in and out of your body. If you notice that you've lost track of your breath (and everybody does this), simply go back to noticing your breath. It doesn't make sense to a busy mind to spend time this way, but the beneficial effects of noticing your breath accumulate very subtly and gradually. By putting in time this way each day, you'll improve yourself in enriching ways. Simplicity and consistency are keys.

Please join us on the fourth Thursday of each month in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. We have interesting and enjoyable discussions, and we practice meditation in a low-key setting. It's for everyone, beginners or otherwise.

We will meet on May 26, and then again on July 28. No meeting in June.

Are you looking for an interesting summer read? Contact the Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning Committee for a copy of *The Death of Josseline - Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*.

Contact Jaime Short.



Tornado season is upon us again!

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? Do you know our tornado evacuation plan?

The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway.

Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and First Hour areas) and stay away from the east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The restrooms, storeroom beyond the women's restroom, and kitchen are also relatively safe areas. Please stay clear of the RE Worship Area and Nursery which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

How do we tell a severe storm is close? There is a tornado siren about two blocks away, and we have a weather radio in the kitchen that will sound a loud alarm automatically whenever the National Weather Service issues a weather warning for Douglas County.

-- Building & Grounds Committee

Shop at Amazon.com and help Second Unitarian Church

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church website 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!

Remember to Recycle

Use the white recycling bin in the office for paper and the blue bins to the left of the kitchen refrigerator for aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Or, place your recyclables directly in the green bins in the storeroom beyond the women's restroom.

Also, we are resuming recycling of computer printer ink cartridges for which we receive credit at Office Depot. Place empty cartridges in the cabinet to the left of the kitchen refrigerator.

Thanks for your participation!



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

June, 2011

Wed., June 1, 6 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)
7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
Fri., June 3, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (offsite)
Mon., June 5, 7 p.m., Fellowship (FH)
Tue., June 7, 7 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)
Wed., June 8, 10 a.m. Communications (DNW)
6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
Thu., June 9, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Fri., June 10, 5 p.m., Private Rental
Sat., June 11, 5 p.m., Private Rental
Sun., June 12, 9 a.m. Caring Committee (DN)
9 a.m., Teacher Appreciation Brunch (DNW)
3 p.m. OTOC Spring Assembly (offsite)
Mon., June 13, 7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
Tue., June 14, 7 p.m., Membership (FH)
Sat., June 18, 1 p.m., Worship Training (SA)
Sun., June 19, Father's Day
Mon., June 20, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
Wed., June 22 - Sun., June 26:
UUA General Assembly (Charlotte, NC)
Thu., June 23, 7:30 p.m. Meditation (SA)
Sat., June 25, 11 a.m., Pride Parade/Festival (offsite)
Tue., June 28, 7 p.m., Program Council (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Community Garden

Second Unitarian Garden Plots are available for the 2011 growing season within the area of the old "pumpkin patch." Plot size is 4 ft. x 8 ft. If all plots are not taken, those interested can obtain multiples. A donation of \$10 per plot is suggested.

If interested, please contact Marco Ballarin or Larry Kurtz.

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9 a.m., First Hour
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
Second Sunday, Noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch at Church

15th of Every Month: Second Thoughts deadline

Off for the summer:

Second Circle, YRUU, Parent Support Group

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)=Kitchen, (MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.

Save These Dates Next Month:

July 4: Independence Day



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

Church Phone (402) 334-0537

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111

minister@secondunitarianomaha.org

Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Community Minister communityminister@secondunitarianomaha.org

Portia Love, Director of Religious Education 402-334-0537 ext. 112 dre@secondunitarianomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator 402-334-0537 ext. 114 info@secondunitarianomaha.org

David Plank, Music Director music@secondunitarianomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, Childcare Coordinator childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org

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
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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

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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