



September, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join Us This Sunday!

- First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m. September 4 only
Forum Adult R.E. 12:45 p.m. beginning September 18

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. September 4 only
Worship Service 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. beginning September 11

Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m. September 4 only
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m. beginning September 11

September 4 10:30 a.m. Worship

Water Communion

Rev. Scott McNeill

Yearly, we gather together and share in the ritual of combining water to demonstrate our unity, even as we are different. Please join us for this ceremony and after worship, we'll share ice cream together.

9 a.m. First Hour
11:30 a.m.

Writing for Spiritual Growth
Ice Cream Social

David Martin

September 11 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Worship

God is Not Taking Sides

Rev. Scott McNeill

On the tenth anniversary of the attacks of September 11th, we take some time to reflect on our relationships to the rest of the world and the nature of peace, war and justice. We invite you to join us this Sunday and to invite a friend to hear about our faith in a confusing and chaotic world.

No First Hour; "Forum" begins next week at 12:45

September 18 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Worship

Gathered Here

Rev. Scott McNeill

This worship hopes to look at how we are when we are at our best (our best selves, our best church, our best world). Come share with us your dreams and hopes and passions!

12:45 p.m. Forum

The Past Year

Committee on Ministry

September 25 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Worship

Thirsting for Wholeness

Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks

At least one in every ten Americans abuses alcohol, and various other addictions pervade our society, often touching our lives or the lives of those we love. Today we discuss the spiritual aspects of addiction, including the work of the UUA's Addictions Ministry Team.

12:45 p.m. Forum

Our New Forum

Lifespan Religious Education

5 p.m. Vespers Service (see page 6)

Two Sunday Morning Services!
Starting
September 11
9:30 a.m. &
11:30 a.m.
(see page 5)

Vespers Service
September 25
5 p.m.
(see page 6)

Annual BOOK SALE
September 25
(see page 11)



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



Picking up from last month, I'd like to tell you about some events happening as well as thank some people who give and do so much for our congregation.

We are so very close to the beginning of **two Sunday morning worship services** (**September 11** is our first day) and **Julie Kirn, Steve Abraham**, and the whole Music and Worship Committee have done so much to support this move! We look forward to bringing more people into worship since we'll have more services – so we're happy that people like **Megan McGuire** and **Judy Eller** are interested in being worship associates starting this fall!

Member of Second Unitarian **Laura Shennum**, whom we sponsor as a ministerial candidate, is doing good work at Lincoln Unitarian and helped First and Second Unitarian discuss **youth programming**. We owe her a great deal of thanks for her ministerial work and preaching at Second this year.

With great advisors like **Joe White, Mary Anne Chisholm, Tammy Hunter**, and **Shari Busse**, we are hoping that our **YRUU** programming continues to grow over the next year. Our youth are well-served by it and our **Second Circle** programming (housed by the **Hannemans** and supported by **Gay Robinson Abraham, Justin Short, Bryan Scherbring**, and **Joel Haskins**). Hopefully we can continue to grow and grow with our middle school and high school students.

Our physical space continues to look great thanks to **Mike Brockman, Lisa Waddell, Pam Curtiss-Smith**, and **Dodie Robison**. I'm amazed to see people like **Clyde Anderson, Rick Bell**, and **Tom Rundquist** walking around our grounds to make sure everything is okay on any given trip to Second Unitarian. We are lucky to have people care so much about our congregation – and we thank you.

Don Shennum and **Bill Kuhn** are leading us on a project to work on building a new **website** for Second Unitarian. Together with **Kathy Bell, Nancy Amsler**, and **Gary Emenitove**, they are working to strengthen our presence online – and make the website more accessible to members and visitors. We hope to offer a sneak peek at the new website in the coming months.

In **October**, the congregation hopes to restart **Covenant Groups**, small groups that meet regularly to discuss theology. I plan to host an **open covenant group** so people can see what it's like (Second Monday, monthly). In addition, **Stephanie Peterson, Megan McGuire**, and **Dave Nesbit** are hoping to lead a group, as well. If you're interested in being part of a group, please let me know via email.

One of the furthest things from our mind right now might be fundraising and the pledge drive. I want to thank **each and every one of you** who donates to Second Unitarian, which gives us the opportunity to transform the world and ourselves through love and justice. I also want to show my gratitude to **Clyde Anderson, Sue Aschinger, Marcia Leise, Stu Burns, Vicki Pratt, Chris Peters**, and **Stephanie Peterson**, as well as **JoAnne** and **Darrel Draper** for being such gracious givers of their time and energy for supporting the congregation in this form of ministry.

There are a million more people to thank (and many more months to try and thank them) – but I want to write a special note of thanks to **Pat Caffrey** who gives so much time to be our congregation's **treasurer** as well as serving our **social justice ministry**. We owe you so much thanks for the work you do.

In faith,

Rev. Scott McNeill



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



As someone who waits all year for summer to roll around, it's hard to believe that another summer is over and I didn't come close to getting done what I'd hoped to do. It is time, however, to formally start another church year which opens up so many opportunities for fun, relationship building, and spiritual growth.

The board members and Rev. Scott came together for a retreat on August 27 to further clarify our vision for the future and to discuss how to optimize and implement our ideas for leadership. Last year, our retreat was a startup weekend with our new minister Rev. Scott, and was led by a Prairie Star District facilitator, Rev. Lisa Schwartz. Because that agenda was so full, we weren't able to establish in-depth goals, so we were grateful this year to have the time needed to develop our goals. More will come on those goals in future newsletters.

On September 11, we will begin our adventure in having two services on Sunday morning. We, as a board, look forward to being present at varying times for the services so we can stay in touch with you. The fall will also bring a busy schedule of activities, new and renewed, so we can keep connected that way, too.

So here's to new beginnings, even if it means that summer has to come to an end for another nine months! See you at church.

Introducing Our Religious Education Staff!

I'm excited to share with Second Unitarian the news of new Religious Growth and Learning staff!

Starting September 4, **Jodi Wangness** will be our Director of Religious Education. Jodi is also a full-time chaplain, and her work has included youth ministry. She will lead the program with the Religious Growth and Learning Committee and work on teen and adult programming.

Jodi has a background in working with religion and youth. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Berkeley, CA. Since that time, she has worked in parish ministry in North Dakota and in Campus Ministry and Chaplaincy here in Omaha. Jodi has incredible skills in relating to people and great energy for developing spirituality and we hope you all get the chance to connect with her.

Joining her is **Kirsten Stiles**, our current Childcare Coordinator. Kirsten will become our Religious Education Coordinator, assisting Jodi and the RGL committee in strengthening our program.

Kirsten's background is in Child Development, fourth generation in her family in this field. Children are her passion and are our future. Kirsten has two children: a son, age five and a daughter, age twelve. She serves on the Head Start Policy Council as Vice Chair. Coaching T-Ball and Blast Ball are other rewarding experiences for her.

I look forward to working more with Jodi and Kirsten and hope you meet them soon!

In faith,

Rev. Scott McNeill



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church

Treasurer's Report

Month End for July 31, 2011

How We Spend Reflects What We Believe. What do we think about money; what is its purpose? Do we let it control our lives? Do we live and spend out of a sense of abundance or scarcity? How we spend our money and how we give our money is a reflection of our values. Thank you for your continued support of Second Unitarian Church!!!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$21,501.39	\$21,501.39
Expenses	-\$11,470.27	-\$11,470.27
Net Over/Short	<u>\$10,031.12</u>	<u>\$10,031.12</u>

Additional Note: Prepaid Pledges and Gifts were transferred to Current Year.

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$20,455.08 reflects 13.05% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

Offerings year to date: \$371.31

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

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

New Pew Envelopes - Proper Accounting for Contributions

By Vicki Pratt, Finance Committee

Ever wondered what happens to the checks and cash in the collection plates? Volunteers do a count and fill out a Weekly Deposit form. Then on Monday the Office Administrator confirms the count and uses the form to apply the contributions in PowerChurch, our church accounting software.

SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA	
<i>Please apply this donation to:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> My annual pledge	
<input type="checkbox"/> Offering/ Share the Plate organization	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
(Name - please print) _____	
(Address, if not already on file) _____	

Where people thinking and honored are

To record your cash contributions as you intend, the Finance Committee has clarified the wording on **new pew envelopes**. You will now indicate whether cash should be applied to your stewardship pledge, our offering/ Share the Plate program, or another program. The pew envelopes are in a pocket at the back of the hardcover hymnals.

On your checks, please use the memo line to indicate the purpose of your contribution.

For pledgers, undesignated contributions are applied to pledges; for non-pledgers, undesignated contributions are applied to offering/Share the Plate.



Two-Service Sundays Begin September 11

By Rev. Scott McNeill

We will celebrate **Water Communion** on September 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m., followed by our annual **Ice Cream Social**. On the **following Sunday (September 11, 2011)**, we will proceed with two worship services on Sunday morning. In the months that follow, you will see opportunities to connect through potlucks and small group discussions.

Schedule (September 11, 2011-May 20, 2012):

9:30 a.m.	Worship
	Religious Education (Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten-1 st grade, 2 nd -6 th grades)
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	Second Circle (first and third Sundays of each month)
11:30 a.m.	Worship
	Religious Education (Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten)
12:45 p.m.	"Forum" - Adult Religious Education (previously, "First Hour")

Making this change is not an easy proposition for the staff, the leadership of the congregation or you, the members. We are incredibly lucky you are willing to sacrifice and work hard in order to strengthen the congregation and its potential for growth. Please take advantage of all of the opportunities to connect with one another as they arise, so that we may stay united as a caring community growing with and because of one another.

In faith,

Rev. Scott

Community Partners

As the church year begins, we thought it might be helpful to delineate the various groups that Second Unitarian Church of Omaha works with.

Omaha Together One Community - A congregation-based community organization, OTOC brings together people of different faiths, cultures, and experiences and strives to make a difference in our city through community organizing. For more information, please contact Pat Caffrey, Cheri Cody, or any of our strong OTOC leaders.

Neighbors United - Though Second Unitarian is not a downtown church, we work with Neighbors United to provide a community meal once every few months. For more, see this month's Share the Plate article.

Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association - As we strive to be good neighbors through our presence, we have sent leaders to the Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association meetings. We hope to strengthen our connections through relationships with individuals, congregations, and through our growing community garden.

Inclusive Communities - This organization provided a workshop on understanding difference and identity in 2010 and then invited us to join their "Faith in Action" program, joining seven other faith communities in working on building understanding of diversity. We hope to work with Inclusive Communities more in the future.

Looking to Make Friends?

This fall, Second Unitarian is launching **small groups** to help people connect to one another. Some of these groups are serious, some social, some active, and some casual. For more information, contact Rev. Scott or the people listed.

ASN's Coffee Talk: A Group for Caregivers and Loved Ones of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

In coordination with the Autism Society of Nebraska, we will host discussions groups on the first Thursdays and third Saturdays each month, starting in October. For more information, contact Rev. Scott.

Pagan/Earth-based Spirituality

On October 30, several members and friends of Second Unitarian will lead a worship about pagan spirituality. Following that worship, we will convene a group of interested folks to meet to discuss Paganism and explore rituals.

Covenant Groups

Covenant groups are small groups that meet regularly to discuss theological topics (faith, forgiveness, hope, etc.) and connect with one another. Contact Rev. Scott as he lines up facilitators and times.

"No More Time Cards"

Join other retirees for conversation and friendship, with the occasional education experience/discussion. For more information, including times, talk to the minister or Richard Koelling.

Want something not listed? Let us know by emailing minister@secondunitarianomaha.org.



Share the Plate

Last spring, our congregation decided to expand our outreach by splitting one-half of the offering (cash and checks marked "offering") we receive with social justice partners in Omaha and throughout the world.

September marks the start of our **Share the Plate** program and our first recipient is in support of the **Neighbors United Community Meal** project.

Roughly once a quarter, Second Unitarian has cooked and shared a meal with people who need food for the body and soul.

The program takes place every Saturday in downtown Omaha and different secular and religious groups cook each week. The Social Justice Coordinating Council and Board approved this program as our first Share the Plate recipient, in part due to our existing work with the program and also because our next meal is on September 17.

If you would like to assist us, please contact Don Shennen for more information. If you would like to nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit our website or contact the Social Justice Coordinating Council or Rev. Scott.

Committee on Ministry Forum September 18

After a year of settled ministry, the **Committee on Ministry** has taken the time to evaluate parts of how our ministry is going.

On September 18, after the second service, the committee invites you to join us for a discussion on how things are going, what the minister does and what the lay people do, and where we are headed.

For more information, contact one of the members of the Committee on Ministry (Gay Robinson Abraham, Anita Jeck, Richard Koelling, Tina Labellarte, Craig Piquette, or Betty Segell) or the minister.

Vespers Services Begin September 25

Sunday, September 24, 5 p.m.: Be Quiet! Amidst all of the busy-ness of life (and before the holiday rush), we join in worship and experience the reverence of silence. Julie Kirn will lead our first Vespers service this night, which will focus on the importance of true silence.

Sunday, October 23, 5 p.m.: Join Lorraine Duggin other members of FaSoLa Omaha Shape-Note singers for our second Vespers service. In October, we will create worship by learning about and practicing Shape-Note Singing! Come make a joyful noise! Look for information in next month's newsletter about our November 27 Vespers!



Second Circle

FOR TEENS OF SECOND UNITARIAN

By Gay Robinson Abraham



Come into this circle of community.
Come into this sacred space.
Be not tentative. Bring your whole self!
Bring the joy that makes your heart sing.
Bring your kindness and your compassion.
Bring also your sorrow, your pain.
Bring your brokenness and your disappointments.
Spirit of love and mystery: help us to recognize the
spark of the divine that resides within each of us.
May we know the joy of wholeness.
May we know the joy of being together.

- Andrew Pakula

The first meeting of Second Circle will be on September 18 at 10:30 a.m.

All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting between the two services at 10:30 a.m. on the **first and third Sundays** of the month, September through May. We gather in the church foyer and walk over together to our space across the street.

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

Please refer questions to Gay Robinson Abraham.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

During First Hour at 9 a.m. on September 4, we celebrate 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. - David Martin

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

By Ben Wallace

YRUU Parent/Youth Meeting – Wednesday, September 7, 7-8:30 p.m.
First Unitarian Church Downstairs Common Room

Are you excited about a new year of YRUU? We are excited to have you! Please join us for our annual Parent/Youth meeting where we will talk about the upcoming year of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) group.

The YRUU is a youth group for those in grades 7-12. We meet weekly on Wednesday evenings to provide a community focused on social, spiritual, and intellectual activities and most of all to have fun!

We look forward to seeing you there. If you have questions before the meeting, please email them to omahayruu@gmail.com or call Ben Wallace or Shawne Coonfare.





LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

By Tammy Hunter

Monthly Meeting Change

Beginning in September, we will be meeting on the **second** Friday of each month, at 7 p.m. Our September 9 meeting will be held at Second Unitarian. Please join us, and bring a snack or a drink to share if you like.

Then and Now: Civil Liberties and Interfaith Relations Ten Years After 9/11

Please note the full page notice on the following page about this important event on Sunday, September 11, at Joslyn Art Museum Witherspoon Concert Hall.

Second Unitarian is one of the co-sponsors of this program. It is free, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged at <http://911omaha.eventbrite.com/>. For additional reflection or discussion, check out Project Interfaith's 9/11 Discussion Guide at www.projectinterfaith.org.

Save the Date: Potluck & Movie Sunday, October 9

Join us October 9 for a 5 p.m. potluck dinner, followed by a viewing and discussion of the powerful PBS documentary "American Experience: Stonewall Uprising" in recognition of National Coming Out Day (October 11).



Ice Cream Social

*Do you love ice cream? Get ready! The annual Ice Cream Social is **Sunday, September 4**, immediately following the Water Communion Service. Grab your coffee and come outside to the east lawn to get your ice cream cone. Celebrate the ending of summer, the beginning of a new church year, and enjoy the fellowship. If you have dietary concerns, please let Betty Segell or Janet Nichols know.*



Do You Have a Wonderful Workshop Idea to Share at the PSD Annual Conference?

Prairie Star District is seeking workshop applications for the PSD Annual Conference 2012, "Lessons from War & Peace: Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage," to be held April 13-15, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Workshops are sought that respond directly to this theme, or will foster leadership development, and/or will strengthen our UU community through multigenerational conversation. Information about the conference and copies of the application are at <http://www.psduua.org/drupal/AnnualConference2012>. Deadline to apply is Monday, September 26, 2011.

“THEN & NOW: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11”

A Community-wide Gathering for Reflection and Remembrance
featuring civil rights attorney and writer Sahar Aziz



Sahar Aziz



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 || WITHERSPOON CONCERT HALL

2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. || JOSLYN ART MUSEUM 2200 Dodge Street

— FREE PARKING AVAILABLE —

This program is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged

Join with fellow community members on the tenth anniversary of September 11th to remember this tragic event and to reflect on its impact on religious and ethnic relations in our community and country. Esteemed civil rights attorney and writer Sahar Aziz will share her insights on the delicate balance between national security and civil liberties in our post-9/11 America and will offer thoughts on what the next ten years may hold.

You may pre-register online at 911omaha.eventbrite.com or in person at Countryside Community Church, 8787 Pacific Street. For additional reflection or discussion, check out Project Interfaith's 9/11 Discussion Guide at www.projectinterfaith.org or www.countrysideucc.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Project Interfaith at info@projectinterfaith.org or call (402) 933-4647.

Sahar Aziz is an associate professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law and frequently writes about national security and civil rights issues for a variety of media sites including *CNN.com*, *Huffington Post*, *altermuslim*, and the *Houston Chronicle*. She has served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

PRESENTED BY



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Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee
of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery

First Christian Church
A place for all generations to Believe, Belong, Become



Fall Church Cleanup - Saturday, October 8

By Tom Rundquist & Clyde Anderson, Co-Chairs – Building & Grounds



Mark your calendars now! Our **Fall Church Cleanup** is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! See the October *Second Thoughts* newsletter and church website for details.

Please contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist if you have a task we should schedule for October 8. For example, the Aesthetics Committee suggested that we install a second rope and pulley system to hang a second banner on the north wall of the Sanctuary by the north stairwell.

First Hour Becomes Forum!

By Anita Jeck, Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

As we take on the exciting challenge of holding two worship services, many of us are asking "What will become of First Hour?" First Hour has traditionally met the hour before the church service (hence "first" hour) as a time to present and discuss issues surrounding the living of our Unitarian Universalist values, such as Writing for Spiritual Growth, politics, UU history and issues, ethical eating, sharing journeys, as well as many other topics.

Now we'd like to explore a bit what the possibilities might be for this new First Hour turned **Forum**. You are invited to join us at **12:45 p.m. on Sunday, September 25**, for a light lunch and a forum on *Forum*!

Gathered Here

By Rev. Scott McNeill

The Unitarian Universalist Association is working on a new project to discern what our faith does well and what that means for our future, using a process called Appreciative Inquiry.

This new project will take course over the next eighteen months as congregations, individuals, groups, staff, leaders and more sit with questions about how it feels when we are at our best, as a faith.

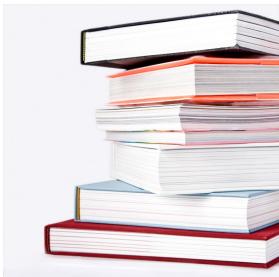
Rev. Scott has been invited to co-lead this project with thirteen other senior facilitators (in addition to the project leaders) from around the country.

In the coming months, Rev. Scott will ask you to participate in conversations about our faith, our history, and our vision as a church and as a denomination. This provides each of us with an opportunity to shape the future of Unitarian Universalism!



It's Book Sale Time!

By Melissa Konecky, Chair, Library Committee



It's almost time for the annual Second Unitarian Macyl Boruff Library Committee book sale, **Sunday, September 25 and October 2**. Have you been looking for a great excuse to get rid of some books you no longer need, or have already read? We want your unwanted books! If you want to get rid of some books, just bring them to the church and set them near the library. Videos, DVDs and magazines are welcome also! You will have an opportunity to purchase some "new" material or simply browse. So, dust off those old books that are taking up space and make room for some new purchases. The cost is simply a free-will donation.

Additions to Our Library

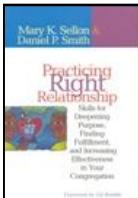
By Vicki Pratt, Library Committee

Our Library contains nonfiction that researches or describes our UU principles and values. Everyone is encouraged to browse the shelves to find something of interest. Our library operates on the honor system -- write your name on the card at the back of the book and put the card in the blue box on the shelf. Then return the book to that shelf and the Library Committee will put it away.

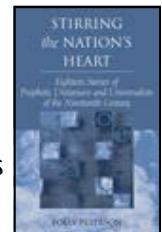
Thanks to your generous contributions to last year's fundraising book sale, the Library Committee recently purchased:



Coming Out in Faith by Keith Kron and Susan Gore. This collection of testimonials illuminates the lives of LGBT Unitarian Universalists and raises awareness of the strengths they bring to questions of personal faith and organizational vitality.



Practicing Right Relationship by Daniel Smith and Mary Sellon. The authors make the case that the health of a congregation depends on learning how to live out love in right relationships.



Stirring the Nation's Heart: 18 Stories of Prophetic UUs of the 19th Century by Polly Peterson. This study guide contains quotes and stories of the lives of reformers and Transcendentalists Thoreau, Emerson, Peabody, Dix, and Alcott. Includes activities and group discussion questions appropriate for adult RE as well as family conversations of our proud history.

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!



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next "Pathways to Membership" class on **Saturday, October 1, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

After a tasty breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and of this church, be given the opportunity to share a few words about your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations 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.

RSVP: Please reserve your spot in class by contacting Kathy Bell by Sunday, September 25. Please indicate if you will need childcare when you sign up for the class.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
7/24	62	2	5	--
7/31	49	4	9	--
8/7	62	3	5	--
8/14	68	4	10	--
8/21	75	2	6	--

SECOND SHOWING

Please notice the Writers Group Display on the Second Showing wall at the back of the sanctuary. There's a wonderful array of writings.

A special thanks to **Frank Daman** and **Julie Homan** for their efforts in assembling this work.

- 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

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, September 22. 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.



35th Anniversary Party

August 6, 2011

Thirty five years and going strong! We celebrated our history with a potluck, chalk drawing, bubbles, a chalice lighting and reading, and stories from several of our original members. A good time was had by all, and the event was capped by a spectacular lightning show!



**More photos
available on the
church website.**

Photos by
Larry Kurtz and
Rev. Scott McNeill

Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

Attention Women of First and Second Unitarian! The Women's Alliance will hold its first fall meeting, Monday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.

Our very own Barb Ross will be the featured speaker. Barb is an active and talented actress and will speak to us on local theater offerings this fall.

Our dinner (\$10) will be catered by Crystal Jade who will provide a "Pan-Asian" dinner. There will be three menu choices. When registering please indicate your choice of either lemon chicken, chicken with mixed vegetables, or tofu and vegetables.

If this is your first time, please be our guest. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, September 9. to Janet West.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

September, 2011

Sun., Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m., Ice Cream Social (WH)
Mon., Sept. 5, Labor Day (Church Office Closed)
 7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)
Tue., Sept. 6, 7 p.m., Religious Growth & Learning (FH)
Wed., Sept. 7, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
 7 p.m., YRUU Meeting (offsite)
Thu., Sept. 8, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (DNW)
Sun., Sept. 11, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m., TWO SERVICES BEGIN
 2 p.m., 9/11 Interfaith Event (offsite)
Mon., Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
 7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
Tue., Sept. 13, Noon, Lunch @ Church resumes
Wed., Sept. 14, 10 a.m., Communications (DNW)
 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
Thu., Sept. 15, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite)
Sat., Sept. 17, 11 am, Neighbors United Community Meal (offsite)
Mon., Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
Tue., Sept. 20, 7 p.m., Membership (FH)
Thu., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., Meditation (SA)
Sat., Sept. 24, 8 a.m., Program Council Startup (WH)
Sun., Sept. 25, 9-9:30, 10:30-11:30, Book Sale (foyer)
 5 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)
Mon., Sept. 26, 7 p.m., OTOC Immigration Forum (offsite)
Tue., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Thanks to Paint-A-Thon Volunteers

Our enthusiastic volunteers completed our 15th Paint-A-Thon house despite heat, humidity, and storms! Thanks to all the volunteers from First and Second Unitarian Churches who participated. Carolyn, the home owner, is most appreciative of our work. To see photos of the house before and after, visit <http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/?id=paintathon>

-- Clyde Anderson, Melissa Konecky, Helen & Ken Deffenbacher -- Paint-A-Thon Coordinators

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
First & Third Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Second Circle
Sundays, 12:45 p.m., "Forum" - Adult Religious Education
Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch @ Church
15th of Every Month: Second Thoughts deadline
"Getting to Know UU" returns October 15th

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:

October 1: Pathways to Membership Class
October 6 & 15: Caregivers Group (Autism)
October 8: Fall Church Cleanup
October 9: Social Justice Movie Night
October 23: Vespers Service

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

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

Kirsten Stiles, R.E. & Childcare Coordinator childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org

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

Music Director music@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, 2012

Kathy Bell
Lorraine Duggin
Don Shennen, Secretary

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody, Chair
Laura Neece-Baltaro
Nancy VanderSluis, Vice-Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2014

JoAnne Draper
Anita Jeck

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

Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Caring

Dodie Robison, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Fellowship

Janet Nichols & Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Chris Peters & Stephanie Peterson, Co-Chairs

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson, Chair

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Jaime Short, Chair

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Julie Kirn, Chair

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison & Pam Curtiss-Smith, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Sue Aschinger, Chair

Personnel

Carol Johnson, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Contact to be announced

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey & 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