

# THE FLAME

October 2014



**The Monthly Newsletter of  
First Unitarian Church of  
Omaha**

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Heart & Hand  
Auction Info

# Meet Our Leaders

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Reuline Nightingale

### Summer Musician

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### Minister Emeritus

Ronald Knapp

## Nominating Committee

Mary Bort, Abby Cape, Nadine

Keith, Joe Schaaf, Dave Olson,

Kim Callaghan

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month and are open to all members.

Next Ministry Team Meeting is Saturday, October 4 at 2pm

## THE FLAME

Deadlines are the 15th of each month. Word limit: 200.

Send your submissions to

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Caring - Douglas Lee-Regier

Chalice Guild - Kay Lynn Goldner

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Marie Sedlacek, Alan Vovolka

Community Meals - Diane Withem

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Partner Church - Janet West

Religious Education - Sheri Conner

Religious Services - Megan Gustafson

Women's Alliance - Nellie Chenoweth

Young Adult Group - Maria Wallace

YRUU - Ben Wallace & Shawne Coonfare





**Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am and 11:15am.**

*The Early Morning Risers on  
Sundays at 9:30am*

**Sunday, October 5—Two Services at  
9:30am and 11:15**

**A Service of Memory and Hope  
Rev. Frank Rivas**

As we did last year, we will recall loved ones who have died during the previous year. Those who have died continue to inform our lives. This service intentionally coincides with the Jewish Days of Awe.

**October 12—Two services at 9:30am  
and 11:15am**

**Wealth, Poverty, and Balance  
Rev. Frank Rivas**

As Eric Liu pointed out in the Holland Lecture, we're all better off when we're all better off. In addressing income inequality, we might also do well to address the limits of wealth.

**October 19—Two services at 9:30am  
and 11:15am**

**Good Religions Borrow, Great  
Religions Steal  
Rev. Frank Rivas**

We all know that our liberal faith assimilates wisdom from many sources. We may not know that Unitarians appropriated liberalism itself.

**October 26—Two services at 9:30am  
and 11:15am**

**Awaken and How to Save a Life  
Matt Dewell**

Fear's become the only driver  
And there's no safe hope in view  
Memories are the only remnants  
Of your life in solitude

Where, Why and How to stop ....

# Rev. Elations

## Monthly Column from our Minister, Rev. Frank Rivas

I have served large churches with professionally led children's religious education programs, but I have never served a church with a better program than ours. There are four components to our program this year:

- Children and youth are encouraged to attend the early service, and their classes begin by discussing what they witnessed. We do this for a couple of reasons. First, all too often our children attend 12 years of Sunday school and have no idea who Unitarians are and how we worship. Second, because it's great when entire families can discuss religion on the way home.
- Children in all grades are exploring some of the ancient Jewish myths through the lens of the hero's journey. This amazing—if, in retrospect, obvious—juxtaposition was suggested by Jan Wilson.
- Children in all grades are also learning the principles of compassionate communication, which allow them to deal with conflict at church, at home, and in the classroom by affirming the humanity of those with whom they disagree.
- Most of all, teachers are encouraged to stay where their energy is. If the energy is on a loss that one of them mentions during the chalice-lighting and check-in, that's what they discuss. If something in the services disturbed or engaged them, that's what they discuss. If there's an issue that emerges among them, that's what they focus on.

Because of the commitment of Jan and the many volunteers who are committed to this program, our children and youth will have a solid experience of what it is to be Unitarian Universalist. We can be proud of this program.

I'm so glad to be part of a church like this.

Blessings and love,  
Frank

## Animal Blessing

Saturday, October 4 at One Pacific Place Park (101st & Pacific St.)

Join Rev. Frank Rivas and Jan Wilson, our Director of Education, as we bless the beasts!

Dog blessing will take place at 11am and cats will be at 12pm. Animals should be on a leash or in a carrier please. We will meet in the middle of the park at the covered structure.

## Women's Alliance Meeting

Women, members and friends, from First and Second Unitarian Church are invited to attend the Women's Alliance (WA) monthly get-together on Monday, October 13 in the Common Room. The evening will begin with socializing and beverages at 6:30pm. This month's meal, provided by Eddie's Catering, will be Chicken Pomodoro (m) and Eggplant Parmesan (v).

Our program speaker will be Brian Schlueter from Moonstruck Meadery, a local Bellevue business. He will be supplying samples of their mead and discussing the mead-making process. We ask for \$12 which goes towards the cost of dinner, our NEW Merritt Educational Fund and Partner Church Fund. If this will be your first time attending, please let us know and be our guest.

Please RSVP by emailing [wa@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:wa@firstuuomaha.org) or by leaving a message with Kathi Oliver at 402-214-2718 by October 9th. Janet West will be out of town for the month of October, so please RSVP via email or phone to Kathi. Please include in your message if you would like meat or vegetable as an entrée. An accurate headcount is appreciated for food preparations. If you order a dinner and do not attend, please send \$12 to the church office and indicate the money is for Women's Alliance.

For more information about the Women's Alliance, please see page 17.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20

Join us for our third Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR). This is a day that we gather as one community to remember those who have died in the name of transphobia, to share the living history of the transgender community, and to celebrate the transgender community.

Program will begin at 6:30pm and will be followed by a dessert and beverage reception. For more information please visit [www.tdoromaha.com](http://www.tdoromaha.com) or visit us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com).

## UU & You

October 15 at 7pm  
Merritt Lounge

Visitors, newcomers, and the just curious are cordially invited to this introduction to Unitarian Universalism. The class provides an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our church along with an opportunity to share our religious journeys in a theologically diverse "safe" place. Conversation will include some history of UU, our church, what the church does, how it functions, and opportunities and paths. RSVPs or questions can be addressed to [uuclass@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:uuclass@firstuuomaha.org) or call class facilitator Jaime Alexander at 402-657-9386.

## Spirit Circle

Sunday, October 5

We will meet at 6pm in the Common Room with a potluck. We will be doing divination lessons and have a day-of-the-dead workshop. Contact Ryan at [ryanpcook@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanpcook@hotmail.com).



The Team Fair on Sunday, September 14th was a success!

# President's Letter

*by Louise Jeffrey, Board President*

The air is cooler and fresher as we approach the blue skies of October, but First Unitarian feels the stirrings of fall in the customary ways. We are back to two services. Early Morning Risers are back and in excellent voice, as always. The choir is once again knocking us out with a spectacular beginning. Pat is back at the organ with her usual energy, filling the church with beautiful sounds.

And there are some new things, too. Our second fall team fair was a spectacular success with many of us making commitments to church teams for the next year and learning about teams and opportunities for work and play we didn't know about. The snacks were great and the fellowship really started off the year on a great note.

Religious Education is back (though they never went away over the summer) with exciting new initiatives. Have you seen the special Orders of Service for the children? Stop by and have a look at the Ambassadors table outside the Sanctuary as you enter the church. We look forward to more integration of the children into the first service this year.

The Hospitality Team project is off and running with 73 volunteers, and, as of this writing, ***we are seeking 35 more people to fully staff this fun project.*** Volunteering entails coming six times per year, one Sunday every other month, to welcome visitors and members to church. Meet some new folks. Learn some new things about the church. Full teams mean that there are people there to cover days you won't be at church because of work, vacations, or other activities.

Have questions? Catch us at coffee hour or call me, Kim Callaghan, or Bill Ross. We would be delighted to talk to you!

## Tolerant Atheist Discussion Group Meets Thursday, October 9

This meeting will have two discussion parts. Founder Jaime Alexander will begin the first part with a reflective review of the Tolerant Atheist Discussion Group journey from the beginning to present and offer some thoughts on the onward journey. The future TADG journey will be the focus of the first round of table topics. The second round of table topics will be like a baseball team playing in their "retro" uniforms. We will revisit the topics of yesteryear, well, Nov. 2010. Of course we will play with modern baseballs as enhanced questions have been solicited. If you haven't come to a TADG meeting this would be a great time to step up to the plate. All are cordially invited to the Thursday, October 9, TADG meeting. The conversation and fun start in the Common Room at 6pm with a BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner); the meeting starts at 7pm. Questions and RSVPs can be addressed to [jaimealexander@cox.net](mailto:jaimealexander@cox.net).



# Don't Miss the AUCTION ACTION!



Come to the **Halloween “Heart & Hand” Auction Party** on **Friday, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 6-10 pm** at First Unitarian Church! (On a Friday to avoid a Husker game.) Our major annual FUNdraiser for the operating budget. So-named because it features items that build connections (e.g., dinners, parties, lessons) as well as neat stuff.

End a busy workweek with food, fun, and friends! Free childcare by reservation. Check out the **Auction Flyer** in this Flame. Visit the **Auction Area** at church. Go the **Auction Website** ([click here](#)).

**Auction Items!** Help build an awesome Auction Catalog. What can YOU donate? Can you help with business donations? This year's goal is 120+ items and \$17,000 for the budget! With your help, we'll do it! **DEADLINE for donations is Monday, Oct 20.** To donate, visit the Auction Area at church, use the Auction Website, email [auction@firstuomaha.org](mailto:auction@firstuomaha.org) or call 402-214-2718 (Kathi) or 402-699-3183 (Donna).

**New this year: Pre-bid** on select items on-line (Oct 1-21<sup>st</sup>). Highest pre-bid becomes starting bid auction night. Plus, first 10 folks to donate multiple items can have proceeds for one item go to their favorite charity.

**Fabulous Food!** Apple crisp? Potato soup? Share your favorite fall foods at the potluck (or grab something at a deli). Eating, costume contest, door prizes, raffle winners! Big Silent Auction, followed by the fun Live Auction and desserts, with Kate Wiig as Auctioneer!

**Raffle!** Try your luck to win a primo Sunday parking space or a movie night. Just \$1/ticket or \$5/6 tickets. Sold at church. Unlimited entries. Need not be present to win.

**Can't be at the auction?** Arrange for a **proxy bidder** guided by your instructions and try pre-bidding.

Remember—all this fun is for a good cause, so be generous and enjoy! Hope to see you on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>!

## Do You Shop on Amazon?

DOUBLE UP AND GIVE MORE! Before you shop on Amazon for all your gift giving and everyday needs, purchase an Amazon gift card at the scrip table, visit [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org) and click the Amazon logo at the bottom of the page. Why? Because every time you make a purchase from Amazon, via the First Unitarian webpage, First Unitarian of Omaha receives 4-12% of the purchase PLUS an additional 3% for purchasing scrip gift cards. For more information, email [scrip@firstuomaha.org](mailto:scrip@firstuomaha.org) or visit with Kathi Oliver and Donna Neff during coffee hour.

## UUnique Boutique

Do you make jewelry, yard art, or crafts? Do you want to sell your books to the congregation? Use the UUnique Boutique on Sunday mornings during coffee hour to do so. The FUNdraising team is selling Unitarian postcards, sold in packs of five for \$10. All of the proceeds will benefit First Unitarian. Previously sold as TRIBUTE cards, these unique postcards can be used for any occasion with a gift to First Unitarian. Do you want to help the church also? Contact Kathi Oliver to sell your items and discuss ways your profits can benefit First UU. Email [scrip@firstuomaha.org](mailto:scrip@firstuomaha.org) for more information.

## This Is Not Your Typical Sunday School by *Jan Wilson, DRE*

We are focusing our study in RE this semester on the stories in the Old Testament. I emphasize the word *stories* because to understand ourselves and our community, we need to be conscious of the ways that our identity draws from our stories.

Like the people of Old Testament times, we use stories to pass along our values and to keep the fabric of our way of life together. Imagine the power of stories for the people of oral traditions who entertained and taught by the retelling of myths, passed from one generation to the next.

Learning about the Bible mythology gives us a window of insight into the values and priorities of the time. In addition, these stories have influenced every successive generation in the way we have developed our justice system and our ethical standards of behavior.

Of course, Bible stories are a part of our secular literature. How many allusions to Bible stories can you name? If we refer to a flood of biblical proportions, being in the belly of a whale, or rules being carved in stone, we are using biblical references. Our Unitarian children are not going to hear these stories in public school. A literate education requires familiarity with these stories to understand references in the media.

What do Bible stories teach us about religion? This is not your typical Sunday school. We will be seeing the stories in the format of the Hero's Journey which is Joseph Campbell's universal outline for the development of story lines which are common to myths from all parts of the world and in all time periods. Even Disney and other modern filmmakers use this format. We will be discussing how stories are created to add drama in the form of suffering, villains, magic, triumph and rewards. Are these templates for problem-solving in our world? How can we solve issues with compassion and wisdom? What an exciting and engaging discussion for all of us, RE children, youth, and teachers as well.

This month I had the privilege of creating the hanging sticks sculpture with some very amazing artists. The opportunity to express our creative vision was a great joy. We worked long hours for a piece that hung for only one service. (Somehow, the bride who was getting married in our sanctuary didn't feel it complemented her aesthetic.) Even so, I wouldn't have missed the opportunity to puzzle over acquiring of the sticks, the color choices, the logistics of hanging the string, the building of the structure to hold it up, or the tedious hanging of the sticks while on a 15-foot ladder. The man at the paint counter at Lowe's\* finally told me he couldn't give me any more free paint stirring sticks. Towards the end I had to buy them, and he cut me a deal buying them.

Why does this mean so much? Creating a work of art is so much more if it is shared. This one was shared by the minister who gave me the go ahead (based on trust), the enthusiastic artists who made time from jobs, family responsibilities, and community work, to paint, string and hang all those sticks. Finally, the comments from the congregation on Sunday made it complete. It had to be gone by the wedding, so I cut the cord, and it crashed to the floor, tangled in a mass of string. It sits in a pile, forlorn in my studio, waiting to be reinvented. And guess what? Those fellow art junkies want to give it another life. We have been offered a place at the Connect Gallery on 38<sup>th</sup> and Leavenworth if we can, once again, solve the issues for that unique space. I relish the opportunity.

It is a distinct pleasure to celebrate our skills, talents, and gifts with the people of our beloved community. I see our church becoming ever more alive and vibrant as we embrace the gifts we have to offer with appreciation and enthusiasm.

Jan Wilson, DRE

\* I shared the pictures with the man at Lowe's. He liked it.



## Adult Religious Education

### The Last Session in the Wellness Series with Douglas Lee-Regier

6pm to 8pm in the Common Room on:

#### October 2—Myofascial Release with Douglas Lee-Regier

Presentation will include stretching techniques, a mini-treatment demo and methods of self-treatment. Myofascial Release is a subtle massage procedure that involves light to moderate pressure on the body to release facial restrictions caused by trauma, acute or chronic pain, or other physical or emotional conditions.

We want to present methods of self-healing that people can learn and benefit from and then have something to take home to do for self-improvement. To RSVP or to reserve childcare, please contact [adultre@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:adultre@firstuuomaha.org).

### Making of the New Testament Canon Lecture Series with Crystal DiGiorgi

The New Testament stands unchallenged, in the words of Professor Bart D. Ehrman, not only as the "'bestseller' of all time," but also as the most important "book—or collection of books—in the history of Western civilization." Yet how many of us, Christian or otherwise, are as knowledgeable about the New Testament as we would like to be? Even many who consider themselves Christian find themselves asking some—perhaps even all—of the questions so often posed by those who are not. What different kinds of books are in the New Testament? When, how, and why were they written? What do they teach? Who actually wrote them? How were they passed forward through history? And, perhaps most important of all, why and how did some books, and not others, come to be collected into what Christians came to consider the canon of scripture that would define their belief for all time? In *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon*, Professor Ehrman offers a fast-moving yet thorough introduction to these and other key issues in the development of Christianity.

7pm to 9pm in the Whitney Young Room on these Thursdays:

October 9 – Lectures 1 & 2

October 16 – Lectures 3 & 4

October 23 – Lectures 5 & 6

October 30 – Lectures 7 & 8

November 6 – Lectures 9 & 10

November 13 – Lectures 11 & 12

Each lecture is 30 minutes long. There will be time for discussion after. To RSVP, ask questions, or reserve childcare, please contact [adultre@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:adultre@firstuuomaha.org).

## The Women's Religious Studies Group

Thanks to all who stopped by our display at the Team Fair. We welcome your interest in and questions about our group! Our reading of *The Epic of Unitarianism: Original Writings from the History of Liberal Religions* continues with first person reminders of the persecution that free thinkers and religious rebels have faced, followed by our own lively discussions of the text. We meet 1pm to 2:30pm most Thursdays. Questions? Contact Rae at 402-422-1404 or [raeb1@hotmail.com](mailto:raeb1@hotmail.com).

## Share the Plate—Community Meals

Each month one-half of the loose currency in the offering plate is donated to a cause with a local presence which advances important principles of Unitarianism.

This month we share the plate with Community Meals, a program that our church helped found. Please see page 14 more information.



## The Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group will meet on Thursday, October 16th at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. In September, there was a unanimous decision to continue the Group. In October, Lana Hammel will present the final chapter on Endings from our current covenant book, and we will be signing our covenant statement at that time. Contact person is Harriet Major, 402-391-0248 or [hmajor323@cox.net](mailto:hmajor323@cox.net).

## Come As You Are: Thanksgiving Meal & Worship

First Unitarian Church of Omaha and The Inclusive Life Center invite you to this special event on Tuesday, November 18. Worship will begin in the sanctuary at 4pm. Dinner will be served in the Common Room starting at 4:30pm. Reservations (no charge) will be required. The event will be limited to around 100 people. Email [info@inclusivelife.org](mailto:info@inclusivelife.org) to make a reservation.

## Church Events Coming Up

### Holland Lecture

*Wednesday, October 1, offsite*

See page 13 for more information.

### Community Night

*Friday, October 3 at 5:30pm*

See page 13 for information.

### Gentle Yoga Class

*Tuesdays, October 2-21*

### Animal Blessing

*Saturday, October 4 at 11am and noon*

See page 4 for information

### Ministry Team Meeting

*Saturday, October 4 at 2pm in the Common Room*

### Spirit Circle

*Sunday, October 5 at 6pm in the Common Room*

See page 5 for details.

### Tolerant Atheist Discussion Group

*Thursday, October 9 at 7pm*

See page 6 for information

### Women's Alliance

*Monday, October 13—social hour at 6:30pm; program at 7:30pm*

See page 5 for information.

### Board Meeting

*Tuesday, October 14 at 7pm in the Common Room*

### UU & You Class

*Wednesday, October 15 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge*

See page 5 for details.

### Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to [admin@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuuomaha.org) by October 15 at noon.

### Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group

*Thursday, October 16 at 1pm*

See page 10 for details

### Young Adult Game Night

*Friday, October 17 at 6:30pm*

See page 18 for details

### Heart & Hand Auction

*Friday, October 24*

See pages 7 and 15 for more details.

### RE Council Meeting

*Sunday, October 26 at 1pm in Jan's office*

### Book Club

*Monday, October 27 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge*

See page 18 for information.

### Adult RE: Wellness Series and Making the New Testament Canon Lecture Series

*Thursdays*

See page 9 for more information.



*Harriet Major gives her odyssey on Sunday, September 7.*

## Recurring...

### Women's Religious Studies Group

*Meets every Thursday at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge*

See page 10 for information.

### Bridge Group

*Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after the service in the Whitney Young Room or in the corner of the Common Room*

### Choir Rehearsal

*Meets every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Sanctuary*

### YRUU

*Meets every Wednesday at 7pm in the Common Room*

## Looking ahead...

### Come As You Are:

#### Thanksgiving Meal & Worship

*Tuesday, November 18 at 4pm in the Sanctuary*

See page 10 for more details.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

*Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.*

See page 5 for details.

## Rev. Robert T. Weston 1898-1988, Westward Ho! Minister at First Unitarian Church of Omaha 1960-1964      Part III of III

*by Dave Richardson*

In Parts I and II of this series we looked at the career of Reverend Robert T. Weston who served this church from 1960 to 1964. This final part will focus on his role in the events surrounding the founding of The Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Shortly after arriving in Omaha, Rev. Weston did an examination of the demographic shifts going on in his new hometown. He was particularly concerned with two things. The church boasted a membership of nearly 500, and the Sunday School was overcrowded as the “baby boomers” were of school age by this time. He further observed that a significant portion of our families lived west of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, some distance from the church. He was also aware that this growth pattern was indicative of the city as a whole. He became convinced that the future of Unitarianism in Omaha lay in the west.

Long-time church member Frank Norris was President of the Board of Trustees during most of Weston’s tenure in our pulpit. Frank recalled that Rev. Weston was “hell-bent” on building a church in the then rapidly growing western suburbs. Much discussion followed regarding Weston’s announced intentions. The idea of moving our church to a westerly location was rapidly dismissed. The Board did agree to pursue the possibility of a second church site in West Omaha.

Rev. Weston enlisted the help of church members Mrs. Jackson Barton and N. Philip Dodge (from the noted family of realtors) to investigate suitable properties in the west. The property they recommended was a farmstead residence, located at 117<sup>th</sup> and West Center Road. A Special Congregational Meeting was called on the first Sunday of February of 1963. After much discussion, the members voted by a 3/4<sup>th</sup> majority to purchase the West Center property owned by the Cormaci family for \$50,000. The doors of “The West Meeting House”, as it was then called, opened in September of the same year. Although it was crowded for the Sunday School in the basement and a bit uncomfortable for the adults to sit in folding chairs in what had been the living room of the Cormaci home, the church met there for approximately ten years. Ultimately, the West Omaha group felt that a new location was needed. Additionally, they sought more independence. At the time the members of this group were technically members of First Unitarian Church since it still owned the property.

In 1973 the First Unitarian congregation voted to purchase for the West Omaha Unitarian Society the property at 3012 South 119<sup>th</sup> St., formerly occupied by the Westwood Baptist Church. The church took on a \$60,000 mortgage as part of the \$90,000 purchase price. The remainder came from funds

provided by the Prairie Star District and the Veatch Fund operated by the UUA. In 1975 the original church home on West Center Road was sold for \$180,000.

Subsequently, on April 11, 1976, The First Unitarian Church paid off the debt on the new church site and transferred the title in full to what became The Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. Thus, Robert Weston’s vision was fully realized.

Although he left our pulpit in 1964, he remained in touch with many of his friends in Omaha and he expressed great interest in how the West Omaha Unitarian group was faring. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the Unitarian community in Omaha was his championing of the cause of having a West Omaha home for UUs. Second Unitarian has continued to thrive as a partner to First Unitarian which gave them their start in life thanks to Rev. Robert Terry Weston.





# CommUUnity Night

Join us for CommUUnity Night on Friday, October 3 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. Definitely fun for the whole family! Join our potluck with your favorite food and a board game for this relaxing get-together. RE provides the main dish.

## "We're all better off when we're all better off" --Eric Liu, Next Holland Lecture Series Speaker



Eric Liu, author of *The Gardens of Democracy: A New American Story of Citizenship, the Economy, and the Role of Government* is the next speaker in the Holland Lecture Series. If the name sounds familiar it is because Mr. Liu was scheduled to speak last October but due to illness had to reschedule.

*The Gardens of Democracy: A New American Story of Citizenship, the Economy, and the Role of Government* asks us to think of government not as a machine that needs regular service and repair but as a garden to be nurtured. A successful garden follows natural rules, but requires goals, regular tending, and an understanding of connected ecosystems. While he wants us to have a bigger share of the harvest (we're all better off when we're all better off), Liu also asks us to be more involved as citizen gardeners.

In his latest book, *A Chinaman's Chance: One Family's Journey and the Chinese American Dream*, Mr. Liu explores what it means for an immigrant group to move from indentured servitude and second-class status to economic and social integration and achievement. America's ongoing battle over immigration and China's growing economic and political role make this topic doubly timely.

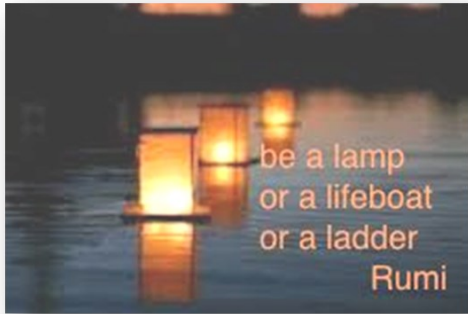
Liu, currently a lecturer at the University of Washington, is a former White House deputy domestic policy advisor and a regular contributor to TIME.com and TheAtlantic.com.

Please join us for this FREE lecture on Wednesday, October 1 at 7:30pm at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Church members will receive an invitation in the next couple of weeks for a special Chairman's pre-lecture reception and preferred seating. Free general admission tickets for this reserved seating event will become available September 1 through Ticket Omaha: online at [ticketomaha.com](http://ticketomaha.com), by phone at 402-345-0606 or by visiting the Ticket Omaha box office at 13th & Douglas in downtown Omaha.

## WHAT IS HOPE IN ACTION?

Our church believes in community, and that is what Hope In Action, a sub-team of the Caring Team, is all about. Life can leave any of us feeling vulnerable and isolated. We want to make it easier for you to ask for support and easier for you to offer support when others are in need.



### WHO IS SERVED?

Church members, friends, regular attendees and their spouses are eligible for assistance from Hope In Action.

### WHO CAN HELP?

Everyone! Hope in Action is an opportunity for everyone in our church community to support each other by sharing knowledge, skills and resources.

Hope In Action will use church communications, including the Enews, to let our church community know when help is needed to respond to a request for support. And we will report back to the church community about how we were able to respond. All communication will be done in a manner that maintains the degree of confidentiality requested by the person seeking assistance.

## WHAT SUPPORT CAN BE EXPECTED?

Our response will vary depending on the type of support that is needed in our church community and what resources we have available to respond. Hope In Action will help with referrals to social service agencies, rides to church, visits to the homebound or a sympathetic ear to talk through a problem.

Although Hope In Action is not equipped to respond to emergencies, short-term financial assistance may be available for payment of lodging, food, clothing, medication, transportation and utilities. Disbursements of financial assistance will not be made directly to the person making the request for assistance.

### HOW TO ASK FOR SUPPORT

Requests for assistance must be made directly by the person needing help. Hope In Action does not respond to any anonymous or third-party requests for assistance.

Here are the ways you can ask for support from Hope in Action. You may send an email to [hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org) or use the Hope In Action link on the church website. You may call the church office and press ext. 105 to leave a telephone message for Hope in Action. Or, you may simply complete a Caring Card located in the church pews and place it in the designated box in the church foyer.

### WHO DECIDES WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE OFFERED?

Hope in Action will use a team approach, so at least three members of Hope in Action must participate in determining the nature of the response to a request for assistance.

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY MEALS?

Community Meals is an outreach to people in need in our church's neighborhood.

Every Saturday members of various "First" churches and others take turns providing a hot meal and groceries to those in need at First Baptist Church (our neighbor just one block east of our church). First Unitarian Church has been part of this effort for several years.

Four times a year our church "caters" and serves the meal and distributes the groceries provided by Trader Joe's beginning between 10 and 11am (based on the meal preparation time needed) and ending at 1pm. Additionally, there are First Unitarian Church members who work at the site on a weekly basis and additional help is always welcome.

Our next meal will be served the Saturday prior to Christmas, December 20th.

Getting involved can be as simple as providing a pan of brownies or working in the serving line. Want to get involved? Call or email Diane Withem, 402-679-8916 or [dianewithem@gmail.com](mailto:dianewithem@gmail.com).

# HALLOWEEN "Heart & Hand" Auction Party

## Friday, October 24 2014 6-10 p.m.

At First Unitarian Church 3114 Harney St.

**A major FUNdraiser for the church operations budget**

**Eat, Party, Shop!**

### Auction Categories:

#### 1. Gourmet Gatherings

(dinners, dining out)

#### 2. Giving & Receiving

(services, lessons, a helping hand)

#### 3. Going Wild

(games, activities, sports, outings)

#### 4. Great Goods

(tempting gifts & merchandise)



What will YOU Donate??



### Mark Your Calendar!

New party format this year:  
Silent Auction first, then Live

### Casual-Informal-Fun!

Free Childcare by reservation

**Delicious Food!**  
**Fall Favorites Potluck**  
Non-alcoholic beverages  
provided. Cash bar.

**Costumes Encouraged**  
(but optional)

**Prizes for Best Costumes!**

**Raffle! Door Prizes!**

**Silent Auction! Amazing items**

**Fun Live Auction!**

Laugh, shop, enjoy desserts  
with Kate Wiig, Auctioneer

**To OFFER Items for Auction**

**To VOLUNTEER to Help out**

Email [auction@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:auction@firstuuomaha.org)

Visit the Auction Area (Common Room)

**To SIGN UP for the potluck or childcare**

**To GET A BIDDER # for early shopping**

Call Donna 402-699-3183 or Kathi 402-214-2718

Go to church website (<http://www.firstuuomaha.org>)

**Donation deadline is October 20 (sooner is better, of course)**



# Hospitality Teams Launched in September

As you know, our successful summer trial encouraged us to adopt a team approach to offering Sunday hospitality. Almost all of the members of the five summer teams have agreed to continue to serve going forward. This is a great vote of confidence for the program. Hospitality Teams are a very comfortable way for each of us to share six Sundays a year serving our fellow congregants.

About 50 people participated in the trials and will be staffing the September teams. They will then serve in each odd-numbered month. We need about 108 volunteers in total to have 9 full teams. At the time of this writing (mid-September), we have had good initial response to our request for additional volunteers to staff the even-numbered months beginning in October.

It may have been more prudent to wait until we had all 108 volunteers enrolled, but we decided to be very brave and kick off Hospitality Teams assuming that if we start them you will jump in to help out. Please do so. You can find complete information on our web page at: <http://www.firstuuomaha.org/#!/hospitality-teams/cluuz>.





## The Women's Alliance Education Fund

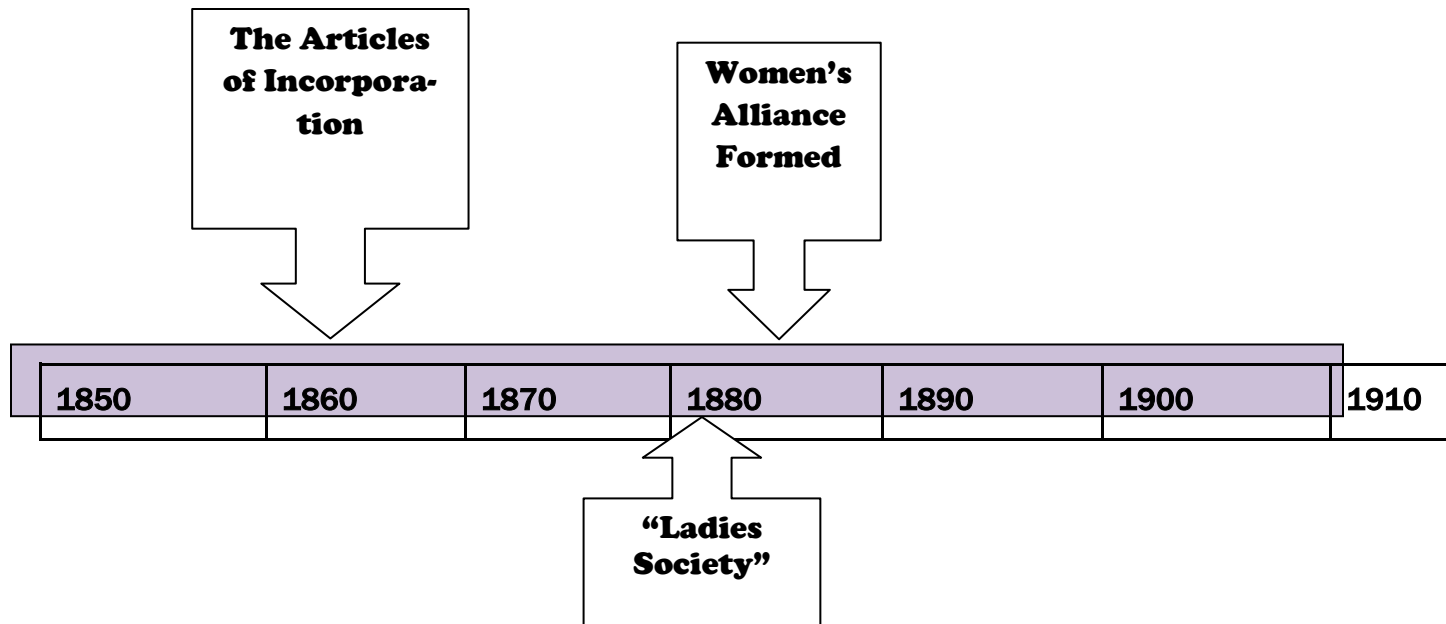
The Women's Alliance scholarship fund committee has been revamped for the 2014/2015 season, and every season hereafter. In previous years the Women's Alliance would allocate funds for a scholarship for an individual from First or Second Unitarian wanting to continue his/her education with the transition from high school to college. The WA has decided to broaden this fund, rename it, and incorporate criteria to attain funding for personal development. The name of the scholarship fund has changed to the Merritt Educational Fund. This fund's purpose is to broaden personal development directly related to church functions. Some examples can include (but are not limited to): help with costs to attend General Assembly, Leadership School or Mid-America District meetings; broadening talent (musical, religious education, technical school, etc); or help with costs for a college course to further one's education for career advancement. These are just examples. The WA team requires some criteria to apply for this educational fund.

1. The recipient must be a First Unitarian contributing member or friend of the church
2. Funding must be used for continuing education or for church-related activities
3. An application must be submitted with the following information: what direction you are headed in and what the funds are for. Applications can be picked up in the mailroom of the church or by emailing Women's Alliance at [wa@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:wa@firstuuomaha.org).

*The listed criteria may be altered by the contributing members of the Women's Alliance Educational Fund Committee at any time. More criteria may be added if, and when, the committee sees fit.*

### The History of Women's Alliance— Part I

"We warm ourselves at fires we did not light. We drink from wells we did not dig." —Rev. Peter Raible



**1869-** The Articles of Incorporation for the church were signed, making it a church. 26 people signed them, 10 of whom were women. It was called "Unity Church" then.

**1890-** "Ladies Society" took out ads, embroidering them on a quilt top to be used as an organ cover. Monies raised went to church renovations and to pay the minister's salary. The "Ladies Society" was retitled The Women's Alliance and was officially chartered with Mrs. Fannie Emerson elected president.

**1893-** Women's Alliance was officially formed.

**1890s-** The Women's Alliance took a leadership role in fundraising including "taking ads" for a quilt as a fund raiser. This project and several others helped to pay for essentials such as the minister's salary and for the purchase of an organ.

## Book Club

In October we will meet on Monday, October 27 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. At that meeting we will discuss a book that we have voted on previously. At the time of this printing the title of the book is not available. If you would like to receive emails about the book club, please contact Dave Richardson at [drichardson@westside66.org](mailto:drichardson@westside66.org).

## Young Adult Group

The next Young Adult Game Night is Friday, October 17 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Are you a young adult? Want to get involved? Contact [youngadults@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:youngadults@firstuuomaha.org).

## Save the Date

Our Annual Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 7pm in the Common Room. More information will be available soon!

## Wedding Invite

You are invited to Dave Rosser and Evy Boonyawiroj's wedding at First Unitarian Church on Saturday, November 8 at 2pm. A non-traditional ceremony will be followed by a casual reception in the Common Room. The final (optional) activity is a walk in the church area's neighborhood.

We encourage you to wear a full or partial costume or something retro, or a hat with personality, or something in your closet that never or seldom gets worn, or something creative.

In lieu of gifts, Dave and Evy request a donation to the church Choir Fund.

As a headcount is needed, please RSVP by Saturday, November 1st to Evy: [eyboonyawiroj@yahoo.com](mailto:eyboonyawiroj@yahoo.com) or 316 N. 50th St. Omaha, NE 68132.

We hope you can join us for our celebration!

## KIOS Bundled Donations

Would you like to hear news programs from Canada, England's BBC or other countries and learn how others view the U.S. and its policies?

Click on 91.5 FM.

Have you ever had car problems but didn't know how to handle your mechanic?

Listen to *Car Talk* on Saturdays at 9am.

Do you like political satire?

Listen to *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* at 10am on Saturday mornings.

Do you like to hear jazz, best parenting tips, or programs on history or law?

Tune in to 91.5 FM.

KIOS is not about mindless commercialism like most radio and TV programming. It's about intelligent, stimulating and articulate programming. Try it, then pledge through First Unitarian Church. We also know something about intelligent, stimulating and articulate programs. Helping spread the UU Word through advertising on KIOS is a win-win proposition for you and the church. This drive pays for our public relations! Place your check made out to KIOS in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or give it to Lois Norris.

Donations will be taken during the month of October.

## OTOC News

Come to OTOC's Candidates Accountability Session for Governor & Unicameral on Monday, Oct 6 at 7pm at First United Methodist Church (7020 Cass St.). Find out where candidates stand on key issues including: reforming Nebraska Medicaid to include more working families; improving access to mental health care for families; allowing drivers licenses to young adult dreamers, providing treatment mentally ill prisoners and help with re-entry supporting sustainable energy policies, assuring fairness to working families in state tax policies, OTOC has invited major Candidates for:

Nebraska Governor—Chuck Hassebrook and Pete Ricketts

District 3-- Carol Blood & Tommy Garrett

District 4-- Bob Hilkeman & Stacy Ryan

District 6-- Joni Craighead & John Stalnaker

District 8-- Gwen Aspen & Burke Harr

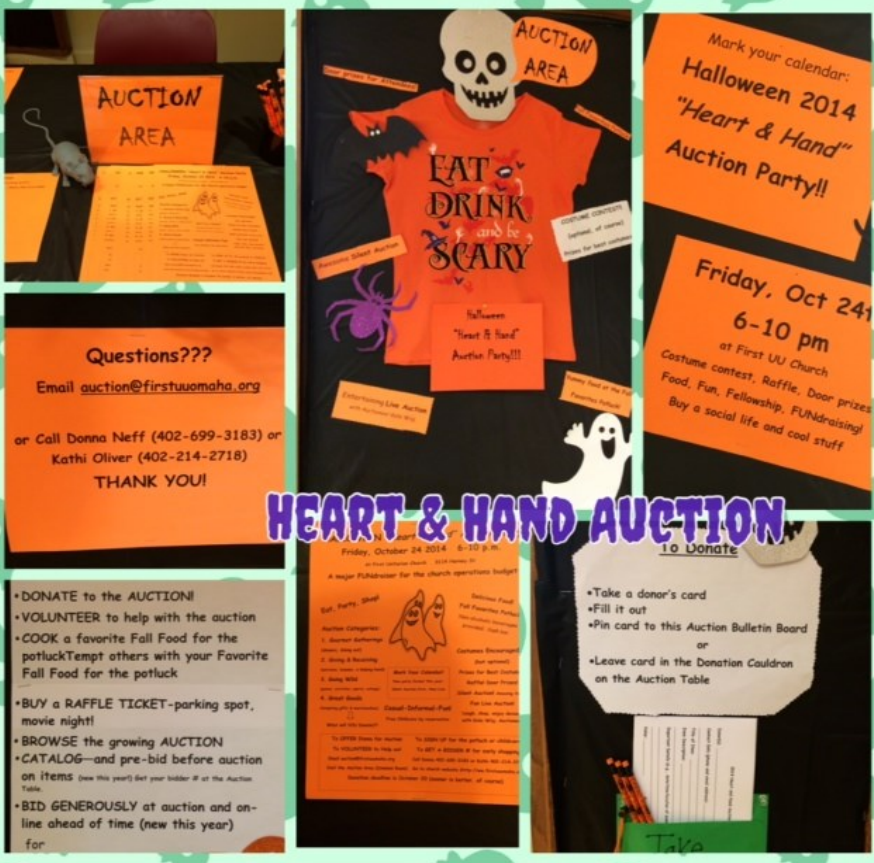
District 12-- Greg Hosch & Merve Riepe

District 20-- Matt Lathrop & John McCollister

For questions, contact OTOC at 402-344-4401 or email [omahatogether@otoc.org](mailto:omahatogether@otoc.org) or go to our website at [otoc.org](http://otoc.org).

# Heart & Hand Auction

Friday,  
October 24  
6–10 pm



First Unitarian Church of Omaha  
3114 Harney St.  
Omaha, NE 68131