Meet Your New Minister

Oscar Lewis Sinclair

Offered by Jean Helms and Dorothy Ramsey

Oscar was born in East Lansing, Michigan. His parents live in upstate New York, where his sister and he went to high school. One younger sister (Gaylen) is a glaciologist finishing her dissertation at Oregon State. They are very close – aside from his wife, Gaylen is the smartest, kindest, and definitely coolest person he has ever met. He and Stacie both had dogs growing up, and are both very excited to “finally live in a place where [they] can get a puppy.”

He has travelled extensively outside of the US. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho, where he saw a good bit of Southern Africa. His dad worked in Ukraine and Poland when he was growing up, so he’s spent some time in Eastern Europe.

When asked how he met his wife, he said, “Stacie asked me for help with the homework for a class we were both in. I was leaving the Public Policy program to go to seminary as she was coming in. We found out later from the professor that she did better in the course than I did.”

Oscar also knows how to relax and enjoy his free time. He says that between working and commuting, they haven’t seen many movies recently. “Last summer’s Ghostbusters was just about the hardest I’ve laughed in a movie theater in a decade.” When asked about hobbies, he says, “I am looking forward to re-discovering what those are again. I picked up calligraphy while I was in the Peace Corps. When we can, Stacie and I enjoy canoeing: we went down the Betsy river in Michigan this summer.”

Anticipating the long drive, he downloaded the audiobook of Eddie Izzard’s autobiography. Logistically, Stacie will be staying in New York through September, so the congregation won’t see as much of her for awhile. Her organization wants her to stay on, so she’s taking some time to make sure the transition from working in the Harlem office to working from Nebraska goes smoothly.

As to beginning his ministry, he states “My life over the last decade has not been easy by any common definition, but it has been rich in experiences. Each experience has shaped me in some way, and each contributes to the ministry I am called to. My work in Baltimore gave me a clear understanding of the ‘fierce urgency of now,’ while the time I spent in Charlotte showed me the resilience and joy of children, even in the midst of suffering and fear. My time at Shelter Rock has given me many mentors, and an education in congregational systems and administration. I look forward to bringing all of who I am into my next role.”
WORSHIP

A Month of Sundays

Sunday, August 6 - "In the Valley of Cultural Exchange"

The valley is often referenced as a place of despair but can we rethink the valley as a place of growth and exchange? In this service, Starr, a young adult who grew up in our church, will reflect on the valley both as a physical location and a cultural meeting point through the lens of her time living in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Worship Leader: Allison Starr Davis
Worship Associate: Christine Starr Davis
Music: Bill Carpenter
Share the Plate: Center for Legal Immigration Assistance

Sunday, August 13 - “This I Believe”

The idea for this service is based on the radio essays of the same name, first produced by radio pioneer Edward R. Murrow in 1951. Listeners from all ages and backgrounds were asked to share their core beliefs. We will hear from members of our own church about what brings harmony to their understanding of the world.

Worship Leader: Sändra Washington
Worship Associate: Jamie Radcliffe
Music: Bill Carpenter
Share the Care: Membership Umbrella

Sunday, August 20 - Water Communion

This Sunday, we gather from the many places we have been, and join in ritual and community. Bring a bottle of water from summer adventures, or from a place where you feel at home, as we begin our congregational year together.

Worship Leader: Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: Barb Brant
Music: Bill Carpenter

Sunday, August 27 - “Introductions”

It is good to start any length of time together with introductions. Come hear stories about who Oscar Sinclair is, the hopes and beliefs I bring to ministry, and what the coming year might look like.

Worship Leader: Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: TBD
Music: Bill Carpenter
Greetings!

I hope that your summer is going as wonderfully as mine. I just got back from a rewarding week of intensive music-making at Lake Chelan Bach Festival in picturesque Central Washington state. This is my fifth year as festival alto soloist and my first year as the festival's choir director. I directed for two concerts and sang as soloist for four concerts in this whirlwind week. This festival renews my spirit!

Our staff is on summer hours, and the choir will return in early September. We will be flexible again, as we transition to the creation of heartfelt services with our new minister. Our worship arts associates are in the process of building service topics for early August so that this transition can be smooth for Oscar Sinclair. I look forward to our fabulous new future!

See you all on Sundays!

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart...Music will save the world." -- Pablo Casals

Julie

I am looking at a stack of boxes. Boxes that I have assembled, but not yet filled with our kitchen. In anthropology a liminal time is a time in which the subject is not what they were, and not yet what they will be. I am writing this column in a liminal moment: I finished my position at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock at the end of June, and begin at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln on August 1. There has been a lot of transition in the month of July, and I’ve been reflecting on the successes and challenges of ministry on Long Island, and looking forward to the possibilities in Lincoln.

Life for Stacie and me right now involves a lot of cardboard boxes. By the time you are reading this we will have packed up the apartment, driven a moving van to Nebraska, closed on a house, unpacked, and I hope started to settle in to Lincoln. For now though, there are empty boxes waiting to hold blenders and slow cookers.

Summers are so often liminal- we might be starting at a new school in the fall, contemplating retirement, or just taking a few days off to relax before the start of the coming year. My hope for you – and for myself – that we can take a breath in the midst of the inbetween times in our lives, and appreciate all the possibility they bring.

I'll see you in a few weeks,

Oscar
RELIGIOUS GROWTH & LEARNING

Reasons to teach or assist Sunday School at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln

10. Dirt, hula hoops, chalk, togas - find out what is going on back there!

9. Learn all you need to know about UUism but were too afraid to ask

8. Because it is more fun than a committee meeting

7. Because it takes a village to raise a child

6. Kids say the darndest things - you are guaranteed a smile

5. If you come to church and play with clay and paint by yourself people may look at you funny

4. The commitment is just 7-10 times per church year! That is less than an average of once per month!

3. In this political climate, in Lincoln, NE we need to help nurture our young liberals. We are counting on this next generation to be the movers and shakers.

2. Change the world. If you change one life you have made a difference.

1. Karma credit!

Teachers and assistants are provided with training. Teachers are given lesson plans and the assistants are an extra set of helping hands. Please SHOW UP for our children and youth. We need around 40 volunteers to run our program. Ask me if you have questions or are ready to commit.

Peace, Faith and Love,

Chelsea Krafka

NOW HIRING YOUTH IN ACTION LEADER - PAID POSITION!

Submitted by Chelsea Krafka

Youth In Action is a youth group at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. The group has typically consisted of middle and high school students. In the past it has met on Wednesday nights for an hour and a half. The group focuses on bonding as well as social justice activities. The group has done things such as: Easter Canned Food Hunt, Green Car Show, Chili Feed for the Church, Collecting Clothing and household goods to donate to worthy organizations, etc.

The leader of this group would need to pass a background check. They would be responsible for leading 25 YIA sessions (25 weeks) and work 4 hours per week (2 hours on Wednesday nights - 2 hours during the week for planning or attending other events or activities).

Initial pay would be $12/hr with the opportunity for raises each year upon evaluation.

Youth In Action meets October through May.

For more information and to apply, please contact Chelsea Krafka - Director of Religious Education religiousgrowth@unitarianlincoln.org. Applications are due by August 31.
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LGBTQA History Month Dinner

Get your ticket now

LGBTQA History Month Dinner is coming up on October 19 at 6:00PM. Once again, the LGBTQA Welcoming Committee is organizing the purchase of tables and an ad in the program. This year’s program includes the River City Mixed Chorus and Ryan Sallans (Omaha-based, nationally recognized speaker on transgender issues). State Senators Adam Morfeld and Patty Pansing Brooks and Cornhusker PFLAG will receive awards. Plus there is always the raffle!

Seats for the dinner are $40 each (payable to the church - give to Jean in the office). Please buy tickets early as we are hoping to fill 3 tables this year (24 seats). Can’t attend yourself? Please consider buying a ticket or two for a full or partial scholarship for someone else to attend. This is an expensive event that is not in the budget for many people who would very much like to go. If you want to go and need a full or partial scholarship, we will find a way to make it work. BJ Wheeler is keeping the list of attendees, scholarship info (confidential, of course), and food preferences (chicken or vegetarian/gluten free). Let her know how many seats you want then get the payment to the church office. BJ’s e-mail is thequest8@gmail.com or catch her at church.

The event is at the Cornhusker Hotel. More info, including menu details, at http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa-history-month).

August Art Gallery:

Artworks created by Noyes Cooperative Gallery artists will be displayed in the Unitarian Church Art Gallery during the month of August. The Noyes Cooperative Gallery is located at 119 South 9th Street in the heart of the downtown Lincoln art district. The Gallery features approximately 60 artist members who show their work and volunteer their time to help operate the business. Artists whose work is featured in the 2017 Noyes Outreach Travel Show have used a variety of artistic techniques to create their images, including watercolor, acrylic, photography, and mixed media.

August 6
Summer Classes

August 13
Summer Classes

August 20
All Ages Service

August 28
Summer Classes

September Preview:
Calling All UU Artists

This is an exciting opportunity! Come One. Come All! UU Artists are invited to display their work in a joint showing of “UU Artists On Display” in the UU Gallery during the month of September.

As soon as possible, anyone interested in participating and displaying their personal artwork in the UU Gallery in September should contact Jo Brown (402) 483-0054 or Bob Egan (402) 890-4512.
Welcome Bridget Cannon

Submitted by Judy Hart

Welcome new member Bridget Cannon who enjoys spending time with her family, enjoying friends near and far and volunteering as a docent at Sheldon Art Museum. Bridget lived in Lincoln for 23 years before her job moved her to MN in 2000. After retirement, she decided to re-locate back to Lincoln, where she had been a member of UU Lincoln before her move. Bridget has two adult children: Shanna Nifoussi and her family live in Lebanon, NH. Ian Nifoussi lives in Chicago, IL. "I've re-joined the UU Lincoln Church to re-affirm my beliefs of living, to share with like minded members and enjoy the warm community UU Lincoln offers."

August Share the Plate -
Center for Legal Immigration Assistance

Submitted by Lee Manns

Our August 6 Share the Care recipient will be the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance. Executive Director Max Graves has provided the following information.

CLIA has been providing legal assistance to immigrants and refugees in the Lincoln area, and to a lesser extent greater Nebraska, since 2001. CLIA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is the primary provider of direct legal assistance on immigration matters in the Lincoln/Lancaster County area. Among the types of matters in which CLIA provides assistance are permanent resident alien status ("green cards"), citizenship (naturalization) applications, victims of abuse and many other proceedings. In short, CLIA helps immigrants and refugees to become fully documented and in compliance with the law. Last year CLIA assisted over 350 clients. CLIA charges reduces fees on a sliding fee basis depending upon the ability of the client to pay.

There is a significant waiting line for CLIA’s services because CLIA has limited professional staff (two full time lawyers and one Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited staff member) and its limited financial resources. The need for CLIA’s services has recently become even greater with the increased deportation activity by the federal government and the uncertain political climate. Therefore, CLIA is making a major effort to increase its funding from all possible sources and to recruit volunteers where practical in order to meet this greater need for its services. CLIA needs the help of churches, businesses and individuals in the community in order to fulfill its important mission.

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (CLIA)
Two Way Station Concerts in August!

Sharon Knight & Winter

Saturday, August 12 • 7:30PM • Doors open 7:00PM
Suggested Donation: Adults $15, Students $10, Under 10 Free

“Last Midwest Show For Now”

San Francisco songstress Sharon Knight is a Celtic folk singer in leather armbands. She plays octave mandolin as if it were an electric guitar and sings as though she means to summon a storm. Accompanied by longtime collaborator Winter, they craft a sound both ethereal and fierce, combining gutsy bravado with delicate beauty, adding a hearty dose of fantastical lyrics and an obvious love of storytelling.

“I create music in a Celtic rock/pagan folk style, which I call Neofolk Romantique. Each song is inspired by myth, folklore, and the secret life of the natural world. In these songs is reflected a deep-seated conviction that there is much more going on in this world than meets the eye. In the world of Neofolk Romantique, stones share their dreams, trees tell us tales, and the sea reveals its soul. Every being in nature has its own imaginal world, just like us humans. If we listen with stillness and reverence, we will be allowed into these worlds, interlaced with strange spirits, great palaces, and wondrous journeys. When we ask nature to reveal her soul, portals open into the fantastical, and we are reminded that this world is deeply enchanted, if only we can learn to see it.”

SJ Tucker

Sunday, August 20 • 7:00 PM • Doors open 6:30PM
Suggested Donations: Adults $15, Students $10, Under 10 Free

Named a vanguard of the Mythpunk movement and even the face of neo-tribal Paganism by Witches & Pagans Magazine, Tucker is the voice of lore at the campfire and the sharp laughter of modern myth. With one hand anchored in her art and the other held out to you, she is songs and stories, community and wit.

In 2014, S. J. celebrated ten solid and joyful years of touring and performing. Last year, she released a new album called Stolen Season, which explores her Mississippi Delta jazz and blues roots more than ever before.
GREEN CORNER

Help Stop Keystone XL Pipeline
Submitted by Curt Donaldson

Saturday, August 5, a busload of 50 volunteers recruited by the Sierra Club of Minneapolis will arrive at our church. They will be camping out overnight. They are one of many groups coming to Lincoln for a major demonstration Sunday, August 6 to try to stop construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The action, sponsored by Bold Nebraska, 350.org, and the Sierra Club, is to dramatize the importance of public hearings before the Nebraska Public Service Commission. The Nebraska PSC is about the only thing holding up construction of the pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, carrying diluted tar for refining, export and enhanced global warming.

At 8:00PM Saturday evening, the A Street Band and Friends will start in. All are invited to join us. The demonstration will be Sunday, August 6 from 3:00 to 5:30PM. This overnighter is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Linda Brown is coordinating food - dinner for 50 at 6:00PM, and continental breakfast Sunday morning at 7:30AM. Anyone who can provide a side salad, dessert, etc., please contact Linda at lindar1brown@gmail.com.

What is the Anniversary Fund?
Submitted by Susan Hubbard

The Lincoln Unitarian Foundation believes everyone can contribute to the church in their own way. To make it easier, we have started the Anniversary Fund! The Anniversary Fund is a way for church members to make a difference in the church by funding small projects.

Why?
Some of these projects could include groundskeeping needs, plumbing or electrical work, replacement of furnishings, or removal of dying trees. Many of them are items that have been neglected for a while. Some will be completely new projects yet undreamed of.

How does it work?
Every year on the Anniversary of your membership we will send you a card in recognition of all you have done for the church over the years. We will also send an envelope so that if you wish to help fund these small projects, you can send a small donation.

How do I participate?
Suggested donation is a dollar for every year you have been a member, your age, or any amount you would like to give. Contact a Foundation Committee member for more information.

34th Annual Lantern Float

HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI: PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE OF NUKEs
Sunday, August 6, 7:00, Northeast side, Holmes Lake

We need YOU to SHOW UP and help with the set up and the assembling of lanterns. Just tell them that you are from the Unitarian Church and ask how you may be of assistance.

• 7:00-7:30PM: Assembling of lanterns near jetty, northeast side, Holmes lake;
• 7:45-8:15PM: Past: survivor poems, read by Nobuko Tsukui, Japanese scholar;
• 8:15-8:35PM: Present: current state of nuclear weapons by Dan Schlitt, physicist, peacemaker;
• 8:35-9:00PM: Future: Egger players, tableau of future hope;
• 9:00- 9:30PM: Floating of the lanterns at dusk

The United Nations passed a ban on nuclear weapons, making their possession and use a violation of international law. The U.S. and other nuclear-armed nations rejected this ban. We are asking Nebraskans who care for peace and the future of the human race to come together to contemplate the past, present and future of nukes -- to say: “We reject this lawlessness. We reject total destruction.”

Co-sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln.
Program Council Update

Submitted by Charles Coley

Several months ago, our congregation took the innovative step of becoming a program model church in principle for the next year. Following the conclusion of the 2017-2018 year, we will be asked to formally adopt the program model (thereby making it an official aspect of our church’s governance).

A key aspect of this model is the newly created Program Council, which aims to streamline our organizational structure and decision-making. Committees and interest groups are now represented by clusters, each of which is led by an elected team leader. The clusters we have collectively created are as follows:

- Facilities
- Outreach
- Social Events
- Sunday Services
- Adult Programs
- Youth Programs
- Membership Programs

These clusters will lead and coordinate our shared work in the next year as we implement the program model of church governance.

In the coming months, you will learn more from each of these clusters regarding planned initiatives and meetings. Those of us comprising the Program Council thank you for your partnership, and we thank you for joining with us in this exciting journey.

Summer UU Camp for All Ages

Submitted by Dorothy Ramsey

I’ve just returned from my 18th year of attending Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, fondly called MUUSA (mooooosa) by attendees. This summer camp is so dear to the hearts of campers, we can’t bear to think it will be 51 more weeks until we are together again, and we routinely say “See you next week” as our way of saying we’ll be together again in no time. This intergenerational camp has robust programming for children, youth, Young Adults, and all the other adults! Located at the YMCA Trout Lodge just outside Potosi, Missouri (90 miles southwest of St. Louis), it is on beautiful Lake Sunnen, and offers traditional YMCA activities (water sports, hiking, archery, horseback riding, etc.) as well as a robust selection of workshops and activities. Having served on the Planning Council for 9 years, I am extremely proud of the safety, beauty, friendships, opportunities and just plain fun this camp offers.

Held on the week of July 4 allows most people to only use 4 vacation days. We may be among the first to use the facility exclusively for a full week, and have gained the trust of the YMCA leadership who even accommodated our request for gender-neutral rest rooms! We are pushing the envelope, and touching hearts with our service projects, inclusive practices, and amazing learning opportunities for all ages.

If you’re even mildly curious, I’d encourage you to visit muusa.org, or ask me anything about the camp dorothyramsey@gmail.com. I’d love to “see you next week” at MUUSA.

Wachiska Audubon

Thursday, August 10 • 7:00PM • Auditorium

Welcome to the Dark Side: August 21, the Eclipse of a Lifetime!

Speaker Dan Claes is chair of UNL’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. He came to UNL in 1996 and now searches for new, theoretically predicted particles at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, where the 2012 announcement of the Higgs boson was made.

Refreshments and conversation will be enjoyed after the talk. The public is invited to this free presentation.

Contact Arlys in the Wachiska office if you have questions—office@wachiskaaudubon.org; 402-486-4846.
**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

The fellowship activities and discussion groups listed below happen on a regular basis and are open to new participants at any time. Please contact the group’s organizer if you have any questions!

**Adult Game Night**

Adult Game Night is on hiatus for the summer. Stay tuned for new start up time. Adult Game Night is seeking new leadership, talk to the church office if you are interested.

**Bridge Groups**

**Intermediate Group**

Every Tuesday • 2:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery

**Advanced Group**

Every Wednesday • 1:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery

Want to join us? Contact Coordinator Corine Simon
simondp@neb.rr.com
402.435.0225

**Coffeehouse**

4th Friday • August 25 • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery

Board games for adults and kids. Open to all individuals. Preceded by PFLAG/uu Potluck at 6:00PM. Contact Deb Hope debra.a.hope@gmail.com

**Men’s Potluck**

2nd Monday • August 14 • 6:30PM 6300 A Street • Gathering Place

All men are invited to attend to enjoy good food and conversation. Table service will be provided. Contact Bruce Raymer 402.475.7875 bruce.raymer@gmail.com

**Newcomers First Sunday Chat**

Sunday, August 6 • 11:15AM
6300 A Street • Library

Meet with visitors and friends in the Library to watch and discuss a 10-minute film. Contact Shelly Fowler seesbells@mac.com

**PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)**

4th Tuesday • August 22 • 6:30PM
6300 A Street • Gallery

The LGBTa Welcoming Committee sponsors PFLAG which meets at our church. Confidentiality at each meeting is very important. Please join us or visit us at: www.pflagcornhusker.org

**Tai Chi**

Every Wednesday • 6300 A Street
Gallery • All levels 6:00 - 7:30PM

All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary. Contact Reed Maly 402.570.3841

**UMDOC “Unitarian Men Discussing Over Coffee”**

(Previously known as Men’s Discussion Group)

2nd Tuesday • August 15 • 10:00AM
BRAEDA (33rd & Pioneer)

New participants are welcome any time. Discussion topics vary. All men are welcome - just show up! Visit us for more details or contact Duane Polzien duaneep2000@yahoo.com

**UU Meditation Sangha**

2nd & 4th Wednesday • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Music Room

We gather at 7:00PM and begin a short meditation promptly at 7:15PM. Then discussion time is followed by a longer meditation period. Contact LauraLee Woodruff holybear47@gmail.com

**UU Women’s Gathering**

1st Saturday • August 5 • 2:00PM
RSVP for location

Topics: Card Making and Two Years of Gathering
Brainstorming Session
Leaders: Joanna Fink/Dorothy Ramsey. Location: UCoL Gallery. For info: Contact Marilyn 402.730.9483
Revdiva1@hotmail.com

**Women’s Book Group**

Every three weeks • 10:00AM 6300 A Street • Gallery

For more information, contact Diane Richards dianemnn2@gmail.com

August 5 - Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
August 26 - Failure of Justice: A brutal murder, an obsessed cop, six wrongful convictions by John Ferak

**Zen Meditation**

Every Thursday • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Music Room

We are a small group of UUs who meditate at church each week in the Music Room. Contact Norm Simon 402.435.0225
**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Harry Potter Camp**

Thank you to everyone who attended and assisted with Harry Potter Camp at the end of July. This camp is for Elementary and Middle School age children. Special Thanks to Linda Brown who lead many of the activities and Christina Strong who was the Head Mistress for Chalice of Fire Camp again this year! Shout out to our four Prefects Keijuan Dorsey, Louis Helms, Nathaniel Herpel, and Tina Strong.

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**SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**

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The Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Church. Any member or friend of the church is welcome to attend these meetings.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Dorothy Ramsey and Jean Helms