Winter Lecture Series 2019

The theme of the 2019 Winter Lecture Series will be “The Korean Peninsula: Past, Present, and Future.” As always, the series will be free and open to the public. All lectures will be on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00PM.

2/10/19 - Our first lecture by Professor Parks Coble will focus on the early history of the Koreas through around 1945.

2/17/19 - Professor Thomas Berg will focus on how the international agreements and disagreements that followed WWII led to the Korean war and the political and economic fallout from that Korean war.

2/24/19 - In the 1990’s Ambassador Christopher Hill negotiated de-nuclearization agreements with North Korea that are extraordinarily like those currently proposed; they failed. Professor Hill provides an unmatched insider’s perspective.

3/3/19 - Professor Nan Kim of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will emphasize how memories of the Korean war influenced the cultures of the two Korean states and affected families divided by the war and its aftermath.

3/10/19 - Professor Steven Wills of Nebraska Wesleyan University will consider Japanese-Korean relationships.

3/17/19 - Professor Bruce Cumings of the University of Chicago is the “dean” of Korea scholars. He will emphasize how economic and military alliances affect current and future relationships with the Koreas and their Asian neighbors.

Community Town Hall

Tuesday, January 29 • 6:00PM • Auditorium

Last October, the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh shocked us, brought attention to the rise of hate crimes generally, and antisemitism specifically. Many of our members and friends joined with the Lincoln community for a vigil at the State Capital to be in solidarity with Tree of Life and other victims of hatred.

Join us on January 29 for a town hall with Rabbi Teri Appleby of South Street Temple and Mary-Beth Mushkin from the Nebraska Anti-Defamation League to discuss what has come out of the events this fall and what our community's next steps could be.
10AM Sunday, January 6 -
“Dawn Breaks”
Sorrow endures for the night, the psalmist writes, but joy comes with the morning. As we look to the east at the dawn of a new year, what awaits us?
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: Christine Davis

10AM Sunday, January 13 -
“The Next Unitarian Universalism”
Unitarian Universalism has evolved over the decades, and each generation has put their unique mark on it. Building on the work of General Assembly last summer, we’ll speak of a Unitarian Universalism of possibility, a faith we are still building.
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: LauraLee Woodruff

7PM Thursday, January 17 - Third Thursday -
“I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For”
On the third Thursday of the month, join us for a service of music and spoken word exploring our monthly theme of possibility.
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair

10AM Sunday, January 20 -
“Martin Luther King, Jr.”
Worship Leader: Bob Fuson
Worship Associate: Jamie Radcliffe

10AM Sunday, January 27 -
“Crossing the Cusp”
What could we create of ourselves if we explored beyond what we already know?
Worship Leader: Sändra Washington
Worship Associate: Mary Kay Stillwell
Possibility

…it starts when you care to act, it starts when you do it again after they said no, it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

-from Marge Piercy, “The Low Road”

A drop of water, one of our hymns goes, is nothing by itself. But together, thousands of drops of water turn a mill, turning wheat into flour. Reinhold Neibuhr puts it this way: “Nothing that is worth doing can be accomplished alone, therefore we must be saved by love.” This month we will explore the theme of possibility, and the energy of people gathered together in shared purpose is a potent leaven for possibility.

What will we accomplish together in 2019? What are the possibilities for our church, our faith, and all of us as individuals?

The Board is gathering for a retreat in early February, to start to talk about what possibilities we see for the church and our ministry together. It’s a time for us to dream big, to set our aim high and think about what the Unitarian Church of Lincoln is and might yet be.

January is a time for possibility. Whether you are gathering as a member of the board, or thinking about some new project you would like to gather volunteers for, or if this year it feels possible to do something for yourself that has been out of reach before, I wish you energy and joy in the exploration.

Note: I will be out of state and not able to check my phone messages or email from January 19-27. In case of emergency, please contact the church office at 402.483.2213.

-Oscar

WORSHIP ARTS NEWS

Happy New Year!

This is my first contribution to the newsletter as Music Director of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. This is an entirely new position with a few traditional responsibilities alongside a whole new mandate for the future, and I am delighted to be the first to serve in this post. Some really exciting things are happening!

Something that is frequently on my mind, and was discussed heavily during the interview process for this position, is the future of music and arts at our church. What will it look like in the next year? The next five years? The next ten?

There are some fantastic ideas being tossed around, a few that make me downright giddy. What are your ideas for the future of music here? I would love to hear from you. No idea is too small or too large; it is my hope that we become a vibrant cultural center that serves a wide array of functions in our community. How that is achieved is a road with many turns, and if you have an idea that might help the journey please reach out!

All the best,

Bob Fuson, DMA
Music Director

“How is it that music can, without words, evoke our laughter, our fears, our highest aspirations?”

— Jane Swan
Sabbatical Leave

I am so incredibly grateful to this church community. Beginning Jan 1 through mid June, I will be away on Sabbatical leave. During this time I plan on working towards completion of a Masters Thesis Project. I have been assigned an advisor who happens to have grown up as a Unitarian Universalist. We have drafted a plan for me to create a project outlining a curriculum based on Peace and Justice for a Unitarian Universalist Church.

What is a Sabbatical, you ask? The Liberal Religious Educators network (LREDA) has a website, lreda.org, which states, “A sabbatical is a period of special leave granted for professional development in a manner not possible during the press of activity in a typical work year. Sabbaticals are not vacations, but pathways to viewing vocations in new ways, through fresh eyes. Many people travel, experience different cultures, learn new skills. The goal of this activity is to return to the congregation renewed, refreshed.” In addition to completing the Thesis Project, I also intend on practicing more yoga and participating in a few UUA online workshops. Oh, and I will be having a baby who is due in March. I’ll be keeping busy for sure.

I started as a Director of Religious Education back in 2008 at the Second Unitarian Church in Omaha. I then came to the Unitarian Church of Lincoln in 2010. That makes ten years that I have been blessed to do this work. I absolutely love my career here and consider it both a passion and a calling. Many of you already know, but I grew up in this church with my mother serving as Director of Religious Education for ten years. Since that time, I have worked alongside seven different ministers (between both churches)! Every year I learn something new and continue to grow in my profession. I have attended numerous conferences, workshops, webinars, and Renaissance Modules sponsored by either LREDA or the UUA. Now, I have the opportunity to pursue something which I am not only passionate about but will help me solidify the degree I have been working so hard to complete for many years now. I am so appreciative to have this opportunity.

The Sunday School program is being left in the incredibly capable hands of our Religious Growth and Learning Committee. Additionally, Kim Ziemann has been hired as a part-time ‘Acting Religious Growth and Learning Director’ while I am away. She can be reached by email at: kziemann402@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing how our volunteers are empowered and our community renewed in the New Year.

Peace, Faith and Love, Chelsea Krafka

Announcement

We are sad to say goodbye to Lindsay Bartlett in the position of Preschool Lead Teacher and Childcare Coordinator but we are grateful to be welcoming Ashleigh Fuson in this role. Please contact Ashleigh if you have childcare needs two weeks in advance of the event: ashleigh.fuson@gmail.com

JANUARY RGL CALENDAR

Preschool Class and Nursery Care are available every Sunday for younger Pre-K children in the Preschool Room.

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<tr>
<th>January 6</th>
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<td>January 13</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Regular Classes</td>
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UU Pen Pal Time is Here

It is time to sign up for the UU Pen Pals program (formerly called Secret Friends). This fun activity pairs adults and youth with a mystery code name to exchange notes for four weeks before they meet at a luncheon in mid-February. Sign up in the gallery or email Emily Kazyak or Kim Ziemann to find out more. Emily: emilykazyak@gmail.com Kim: kziemann@yahoo.com

UU Pen Pals Timeline
- Sign up for a UU Pen Pal on Sundays December 30 and January 6
- Give out Pen Pal assignments Sunday, January 13
- Four Sundays for exchanging notes: January 20, January 27, February 3, and February 10
- UU Pen Pals Luncheon Sunday, February 17

Call for Adult RGL Course Proposals

From Duncan Case

The Adult RGL Committee is issuing a call for course proposals to be offered this Winter.

Requests for the following courses have come from congregation members. Are you or someone you know willing to turn them into classes?

• Developing the Spiritual Self
• Caring for Aging Parents
• OWL Education for Adults
• When your child declares THEY are Trans
• Spirituality through Bread Making

Pick up an application at the Adult RGL Table after church January 7 and 13, in the church office, or by emailing Duncan Case, frankcase4346@gmail. Committee due date is January 20. New courses will be announced for the Winter Session on February 4.

Adult RGL Class - The Christians

Judy Hart is offering a two part "play reading and discussion" adult RGL class. The reason for this class is the play The Christians by Lucas Hnath. The class will meet two times - Sunday, January 27 from 6:00PM to 8:30PM and Monday, January 28 from 6:00PM to 8:30PM. Pizza will be provided on both evenings. Bring a side dish to share.

On Sunday we'll start promptly with the potluck and play reading. Scripts will be provided ahead of time for those registered for the class. On Monday we'll start promptly with another potluck and discussion of research into the playwright, past productions and Rev. Oscar Sinclair will join us for the discussion.

THE STORY: Twenty years ago, Pastor Paul’s church was nothing more than a modest storefront. Now he presides over a congregation of thousands, with classrooms for Sunday School, a coffee shop in the lobby, and a baptismal font as big as a swimming pool. Today should be a day of celebration. But Paul is about to preach a sermon that will shake the foundations of his church’s belief. A big-little play about faith in America—and the trouble with changing your mind.

Sign up on Sundays at the Welcome Table in the front lobby or reach out to Judy at judithkhart@gmail.com or 402.805.7866.
Showing Up for Social Justice

This month: We bought a banner! All church groups are welcome to use the banner for events that are in line with the church’s mission and UU values. It can be checked out through Jean and must be returned within a week of the event.

Upcoming events:

Monthly Meeting • January 8 • 7:00PM
The business meeting will be first this month, followed by the Forum: Offering Radical Hospitality — What is Sanctuary? are we able, willing, and ready to become a Sanctuary? What is required? How will we know?

Jackie Egan, Wendy Hines, and Fritz Hudson will present information to address these questions. All are welcome to join us for this presentation.

Lincoln Policy Summit • January 4 • 9:00AM–2:00PM
Cost: $10; Location: UNL College of Law, 1875 N 42nd. Panels, trainings, and discussions related to the upcoming legislative session.

Women’s March • January 20 • 3:00PM
Gather around the banner at the UNL Union (1400 R St) and walk to the Capitol where there will be speakers. Let’s show Lincoln that we are people who show up as a group!

Netflix Suggestion: “Reversing Roe” - This documentary summarizes the social and political history of the abortion issue including interviews with people on both sides.

HARVEST THE POWER LEADERSHIP CLASSES

From Kathy Disney

"Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to accept a position of leadership as a lay worship leader, a leader of children or youth or a member of a task force, committee or governing board. Harvest the Power provides leadership skill development that goes hand-in-hand with faith development. The program helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders. Harvest the Power addresses the reality that today’s leaders operate at a time of rapid cultural change. The program’s 12 workshops offer opportunities for both new and experienced leaders to enrich the skills they bring to their leadership and to experience their leadership journey as a Unitarian Universalist faith journey." (Source: UUA website)

The Leadership Development Committee will offer three workshops this spring; more will follow in the future. The first workshop is at the church on January 21, followed by February 18 and March 18 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Child care is available if requested in advance. Sign up by January 13 at the table in the Gallery on Sunday mornings in January or send an email to Kathy Disney at kedishy62@gmail.com.

Sponsored by the Leadership Development Committee

Mark Your Calendars!

Movie: Imprisoning a Generation
February 3 • 7:00PM • Auditorium
Join us to learn more about the oppression of Palestinians as we watch this documentary that follows the stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned under the Israeli military and political systems.
I grew up in Wilber, Nebraska and received an art degree from Doane College in Crete. My work has been displayed in numerous shows in the Lincoln area and has received several awards.

I’ve always been the imaginative character, an explorer of the mind, curious, seeking beauty. My art reflects this through a combination of intricacy, shape, and color. My paintings require patience and the right combinations of color - a variety of colors matched to perfection. I have experimented with various media including printmaking, pastels, acrylics, epoxy, and most recently a technique called ‘dirty pour.’ I find inspiration in the details of nature and in found objects, those random items lying around the house, hidden in attics or tossed in the garage.

I like to layer different techniques upon one another, such as printmaking with various objects, which adds visual depth and perception.

The search for that spark of creativity is as fulfilling as the work itself. I usually have a vague idea of what I want to paint. But in the end, the painting itself guides me to its final stroke.
Green Sanctuary Movie

Saturday, January 26 • 7:00PM

A community showing of the documentary “The Reluctant Radical” will be held at church on Saturday, January 26 at 7:00PM. The film tells the story of activist Ken Ward “as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change.” There will be Q & A with Ken (via Zoom) after the showing.

Lincoln joins Madison (WI), Milan (Italy), Nevada City (CA), Spokane (WA), and Queensland (Australia) in showing this film during January. “The Reluctant Radical” is the most striking environmental documentary I’ve seen to date. It is an absolute must see.” (D. Schwartz, The Marin Post)

UCL is Cool!

Our church is certified as an Interfaith Power & Light Cool Congregation. IPL took part in the Global Climate Action Summit last September. At the opening service, IPL presented a scroll of 12,000 congregations, faith communities, and households who have committed to reduce their carbon footprint. UCL was listed at the top of the scroll as being a climate leader! The Green Sanctuary Committee thanks Becky Seth, Sharad Seth, and Kristi Wamstad for applying for this recognition of our work. We are living our values!

Wachiska Audubon Events

Thursday, January 10 • 7:00PM

Program - “The Beauty and Diversity of One Square Meter of Prairie” by Chris Helzer, Ecologist and Land Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Chris Helzer has spent much of his career with The Nature Conservancy trying to convince people that prairies are interesting. An ecologist and land manager, Chris recently embarked on a year-long effort to photograph all the beauty and diversity he could find within a single square meter of prairie.

Field Trip - “Winter Raptors” by John Carlini

Saturday, January 19 • 1:30PM

The frozen silent Nebraska landscape often appears unoccupied in the winter but stealthy avian hunters can be lurking in the marshlands as they seek out a winter supply of voles and mice. January’s field trip will be an auto tour at the edge of the Rainwater Basin west of Lincoln. We will be using our vehicles as blinds and little to no walking will be required.

We’ll meet on the south side of the State Capitol across from the governor’s mansion. Participants can caravan or carpool for the 40-mile drive. Winter weather won’t affect our plans unless roads are slick or impassable. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402.475.7275.

The Linden Leaves

A reminder that the linden tree will have been taken down by the time of publication. It has been in decline ever since the building renovation and does not appear able to recover. It will be ground into mulch for our playgrounds and flower beds, and will thus remain with us a while longer and eventually return to the earth.
Friendly Faces Go Two Ways

From Shirley Maly

"Oh! Another cold day, what shall I do? My legs ache. I'm not going out. I don't need anything. I should do my exercises. I'm tired of television and don't dare make more cookies. I just eat them. Shall I make breakfast, sit down and figure what I want to do? Well, I could go through that old album and see if I can get it in shape for one of the kids. Or the closet - I don't need all those clothes anymore. This place needs to be down-sized. I wish I had somebody to talk to. I just feel lonely."

When you're over 85 or feel like you're up there in age, it's harder to just pop out of bed, get ready for the day and do something. For one thing, you usually don't have the energy to 'pop.' It often takes twice as much time to shower, dress, make your bed and greet the day. Even if you do an exercise routine to get your body moving, you often wonder, "What do I want to do with my life?" It's usually not money you lack, but it's often a 'friendly face.' I don't want constant chatter, but it's sure heart warming to sit down and just 'shoot the breeze' with someone who has just as friendly a face as you do. You can do it in a mirror, but you already know the breeze. That's where the Friendly Faces program comes in. It gives older live-alones who occasionally want to converse with someone with different ideas, but someone you've possibly 'seen around', a chance to share their wisdom, their stories, their dreams so they feel like they are a part of this century.

Friendly Faces has about 17 persons who want to 'visit' and about 15 who've expressed they'd occasionally enjoy company just for the fun of meeting a fellow UU or share what their life was like growing up or finding new books or movies to explore. This isn't a program where you need to wait on someone or even entertain them. It's just a social call to hopefully learn a bit more about someone and give both of you a brief hour of communicating in person. Face to face, writing letters or notes if you prefer, brief phone calls and other communications.

You may learn more than you bargained for. "We covenant to treat one another as we would wish to be treated," we say in our Lincoln UUA Covenant of Right Relations. Winter season can be a challenge even more if you live independently. If you want to give it a try.... as a visitor or an individual who'd like to have a visitor once in a while .... Call Jackie Egan, director; or Shirley Maly, founder. Tell us your interests and we'll see if a friendly face is about.

Member Loan Repayment Progress

From Mary Sommermeyer

In December, the church paid $105,000 in principal on four member loans, interest of $3,060 on those loans, and annual interest of $1,500 on the other four outstanding loans, a total of $109,560.

This means we are down to $50,000 in outstanding loans (from the original total of $430,000)! The remaining loans are due in 2019 and 2020, and the interest that will be due comes to $1,532.

Thanks to Judy Cole who left money to the church, some of which is being used to pay principal on loans, and thanks to all the people who have made payments on their Cole match pledges and who have made unpledged contributions to reducing the church's debt.

In January, a status letter will be sent to the people who pledged to the Cole Match pledge drive showing how much they pledged, how much they have paid to date, and the amount that still remains. These letters will be mailed with the final 2018 statements.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Sommermeyer, Special Vice Treasurer for Member Loans, 402.489.8213 or mesommer13@gmail.com.
Bridge Groups

**Tuesday group:**
Every Tuesday • 2:00PM
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* • January 25 • 7:00PM • 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* • January 14 6:30PM • Gallery

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

Newcomer Chat

*First Sunday* • January 6 • 11:15AM • Library

Meet with visitors and friends in the Library to watch and discuss a 5-minute film. Contact Shelly Fowler seeshells@mac.com

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

4th Tuesday • January 22
6:30PM • Gallery

The LGBTQA Welcoming Committee sponsors PFLAG which meets at our church. Confidentiality at each meeting is very important. Please join us! www.pflagcornhusker.org

Tai Chi

*Every Wednesday* • 6:00PM
Gallery

All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary.

Contact Reed Maly 402.570.3841

UMDOC “Unitarian Men Discussing Over Coffee”

*Second Tuesday* • January 8
10:00AM • BRAEDA (33rd & Pioneer)

New participants are welcome any time. Discussion topics vary. Visit us for more details or contact Duane Polzien duaneep2000@yahoo.com

UU Women Gathering

*1st Saturday* • January 5
2:00-3:30PM

Topic: Ten Ways to Fight Hate Leaders: Denise DeBose, Carol Kendrick.

For info or location: Contact Marilyn 402.730.9483 Revdiva1@hotmail.com

Women’s Book Group

Every three weeks • 10:00AM
Gallery

For more information, contact Diane Richards dianemn2@gmail.com

January 5 - Nebraska Presence ed. Greg Kosmicki and Mary Kay Stillwell

January 26 - Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Young Adults Gathering

*2nd Sunday* • January 13
7:00PM • Gallery

Informal social gatherings for Young Adults (age 18-40) Activities/discussion topics vary. Attendees need not be members or regular visitors. Contact Morissa Raymond at 402.840.1178 or morissaraymond99@gmail.com

Zen Meditation

*Every Thursday* • 7:00PM
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 nsimon1@neb.rr.com
BOUQUETS OF THANKS

Thanks to all who attended the Winter Congregational Meeting and supported the proposed budget. We’re off to another wonderful year. - Dorothy Ramsey, Treasurer

Thanks to all the marvelous volunteers who keep our church vibrant - those who work with children on Sunday, those who take care of the building (including the kitchen) and grounds, water the tree, those who keep the bookstore fresh and inviting, Office Dazzlers, and all the volunteers listed below who contribute to the consistently wonderful Sunday mornings.

### Sunday Service Volunteers

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<td><strong>Pulpit Decoration</strong></td>
<td>Linda Ager</td>
<td>Leona Braziel</td>
<td>LaVonne Hanlon</td>
<td>Carol Kendrick</td>
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<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Jackie Kehl</td>
<td>Shelly Fowler</td>
<td>Mary Sommermeyer</td>
<td>Carrie Holloway</td>
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<td>Amy Birky</td>
<td>Amy Birky</td>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td>Dorothy Ramsey</td>
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<td>Judy Hart</td>
<td>Judy Hart</td>
<td>Jan Buffum</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee Hosts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Trustees</strong></td>
<td>Kay Hoff</td>
<td>Kay Hoff</td>
<td>Colleen Kadleck</td>
<td>Dan Payzant</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Megan McGuffey</td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Al Pearson</td>
<td>Amy Birky</td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Al Pearson</td>
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<td>Rachael Herpel</td>
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<td>Earl Kramer</td>
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<td><strong>Audio-Visual</strong></td>
<td>Don Pinkley</td>
<td>Linda Brown</td>
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<td>Larry Gregg</td>
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Milestones, Millstones and Stepping Stones

Elsie Haack passed away on December 5, 2018; she was 97. Elsie joined our church in 1956 and was active for many years. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Memorials may be given to the Food Bank of Lincoln 840 Doris Bair Cir #A, Lincoln, NE 68504 or to Planned Parenthood, 5631 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

Lynn Darling died on Dec. 13, 2018, at the age of 85. She was a member or friend of our church for many years. Her ashes have been scattered on her two acres outside of town. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Memorials may be given to Wachiska Audubon, 4547 Calvert, Ste. 10, Lincoln, NE 68506-5643.

The Beacon is published monthly. Newsletter deadline for submissions is the 18th of each month to news@unitarianlincoln.org. The Beacon is available online at www.unitarianlincoln.org/newsletter.

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Church Office

6300 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Regular Office Hours
August 15 - June 14:
Sunday: 9:00AM—1:00PM
Tues - Fri: 9:00AM—3:00PM
Closed Monday & Saturday

Phone: 402.483.2213
Email: admin@unitarianlincoln.org
Website: www.unitarianlincoln.org

The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM in the Gathering Place. Any member or friend of the church is welcome to attend these meetings.