



THE BEACON

Unitarian Church
of Lincoln

Program Council

New leaders to have first meeting in July

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Auction Results

Total achieved exceeds expectations!

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Meet Your New Board President Kristi Wamstad-Evans

Offered by Jean Helms and Dorothy Ramsey

Kristi Wamstad-Evans has lead an interesting life. For over three years she has been the Technical Director at STAR Communities, a national non-profit that administers the STAR Community Rating System on over 500 performance measures. STAR Communities certifies U.S. cities and counties. Prior to working with STAR, she was Sustainability Director for the City of Omaha and Sustainable Solutions Program Coordinator for HDR, Inc. While in graduate school, she interned with the City of Lincoln's Recycling Office.

Her most recent personal accomplishment was working with her family to deliver a heartfelt memorial service for her grandfather, Edward Malmstrom, that acknowledged all the wonderful things he contributed to their lives.

Kristi says her family moved a lot due to her dad's job. She was born in Oregon, but moved four times before graduating high school. She studied biology and environmental studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. In her adult life, she has lived in Colorado, Massachusetts, Wyoming, Oregon, and Nebraska. Her husband Brendan's family has lived in Lincoln for over three generations.



She jokes that her main "hobby" is managing a busy household with 4 kids and 5 pets. She also enjoys camping and making jewelry. She recently started making chainmaille jewelry which satisfies the structural/design side of her brain.

The Unitarian Church of Lincoln is lucky to have Kristi as Board President for the next year. Kristi says, "My life, both professionally and personally, has prepared me to be a strong manager of change. I am excited to serve this church at a time when our momentum is swinging toward uplifting our principles in our congregation and in our community. I am excited to offer my skills and talents toward reaching for the next plateau. Change will be our biggest challenge in the next year. Change is hard, but we must all work to embrace it and flow with it. This does not mean

ignoring or disregarding the past, but rather evolving it to align with the present while keeping an imaginative eye toward our future."

Ghandi said, "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. We need not wait to see what others do." Kristi agrees. She participates in this church because she believes that by engaging with others who believe in the Unitarian Universalist principles, we will strongly impact our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

WORSHIP

A Month of Sundays

Sunday, July 2

"The Danger of a Single Story"

To quote Chimamande Ngozi Adichie, "The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete; they make one story become the only story."

We will consider Adichie's statement and what it asks of us moving forward together.

Worship Leader: Christine Starr Davis

Worship Associate: KK Munson

Music: Julie Cross and Michele Dobszewicz

Sunday, July 9

"League of Human Dignity Service"

Worship Leader: TBD

Worship Associate: Sändra Washington

Music: Bill Carpenter

Share the Care: Religious Growth & Learning Committee

Sunday, July 16

"Meditative Service"

Worship Leader: Jesse Metcalf

Worship Associate: LauraLee Woodruff

Music: Bill Carpenter

Share the Plate: Clinic with a Heart

Sunday, July 23

"Help & Hope: People are Good, Giving & Generous"

The Beatles Service, with a little help from our friends.

Worship Leader: Michele Dobszewicz

Worship Associate: KK Munson

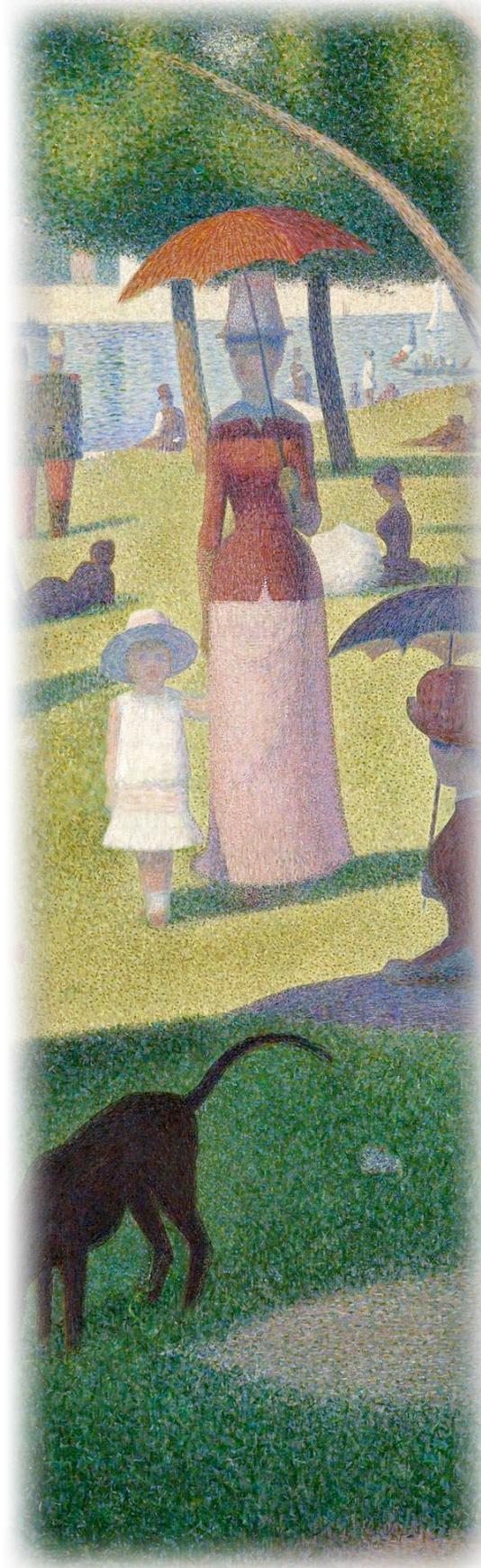
Music: A Street Band, Louis Helms, Anna Little, Georgia Maly & YOU!

Sunday, July 30

"New Games - Cooperation"

Worship Leader & Associate: TBD

Music: Bill Carpenter



WORSHIP

WORSHIP ARTS NEWS

Hello all,

It has been an eventful year at UCL. I feel so fortunate to have worked with Gretchen Woods, who has been a musician as well as a minister and was a great asset to our community. Thank you, Gretchen!

Thank you to our choir, who has worked hard to present many lovely songs during this year. Choir rehearsals are done until early September. Our first rehearsal will probably be the Wednesday after Labor Day, but stay tuned. Our new minister might have other plans up his sleeve!

July 23 will be an all-Beatles service, presented by Michele Dobszewicz and the A Street Band. What fun!

Finally, thank you to Bill Carpenter who will be playing piano for us on Sundays through July and August.

Blessed Summer to all!

Peace, Julie



Gretchen's Final Hurrah Recital

Offered by Jean Helms

The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods was in our pulpit for the last time on Sunday, June 18. We honored volunteers and dedicated Daxlin Hill. It was an emotional day of firsts and lasts.

Gretchen graced us with a "Final Hurrah" recital in the afternoon with a wonderful selection of music which ranged from classical to contemporary. She was joined by cellist Korynne Bolt, and vocalists Sandra Washington and Julie Cross. A personal favorite was "The Christmas Wish" which had also been sung by Kermit the Frog. Gretchen shared that she feels that this song explains her concept of Unitarian Christmas very well. She also sang "On Your Way Home" by L. Schutz, which describes her mystical, nature-based spirituality. The Transition Team put together a wonderful reception with cake and other finger foods after the recital. Thank you Gretchen for sharing your talents!



Gretchen Woods



RELIGIOUS GROWTH & LEARNING

Bridging

On June 11, we held a Bridging ceremony for our High School Seniors. This ritual symbolizes their transition from childhood into young adulthood. The four women who participated were Julia Haack, Meredith Enersen, Chloe Nore and Tiana Dorsey. Jasmine Thomas also graduated this year but did not attend this service. We wish them all the best!

During the ritual, I asked the students if they had a favorite memory of the church, or if there was something which they would like to share with regards to something they will carry with them from their time spent growing up in this community. To the best of my transcribing abilities (typed from listening back on the audio from that day) these were their responses. I think you will get the heart of it from reading the following:

“I always just go back to the Christmas Eve service here where we get candles and we stand in a circle and sing Silent Night. That is like, I dunno, the epitome of happy memories at the church for me. That’s just one of the best memories that I’ll have of this church.”

“It’s cool that I can come to this place and wear my equality shirt. And that’s all I’m going to say or I’m going to start crying.”

“I learned that you can always have a community to support you with very diverse interests with various resources and help you become interested in things you may not have been interested in and become more interested in things that you ask about. “Like crocheting and crafting and stuff is what I’m interested in and I found a community to support that.”

“One thing that I learned growing up in this church is that there is a community like for instance being in Nebraska it’s not very open to things like when I said I was gay in middle school I was laughed at and when I came out I was accepted here.”

All of these women hold a special place in my heart. No doubt they will go on to shake up and change our world. May they have safe passage on their way to their many adventures.

Peace, Faith and Love,

Chelsea



JULY RGL CALENDAR

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

July 2	Summer Classes
July 9	Summer Classes
July 16	Summer Classes
July 23	Summer Classes
July 30	Summer Classes

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Program Council Update

Offered by Charles Coley

With our church's recent adoption of a Program Council model in principle for the next year, every cluster group (each consisting of previously specified committees and groups) met following the Sunday, June 4 worship service to elect cluster team leaders. Those leaders (listed by cluster group) are as follows:

- Trevor Jones of Facilities
- Kate Hanley of Outreach
- Denise DeBose of Social Events
- Evelyn Weymouth of Sunday Services
- Larry Gregg of Adult Programs
- Kim Ziemann of Youth Programs
- Heather Fox of Membership.

Charles Coley was elected as Program Council Coordinator and he will therefore convene/facilitate the Council meetings. The Program Council model will transition our church to a more efficient and appropriate leadership model. The above named cluster team leaders will be pivotal to the success of this model, and they are each thanked for their willingness to lead and serve. Beginning in July, the Program Council will meet monthly. Charles Coley will serve as a liaison between the Council and the Board.

Ready, Set, Vote

Offered by Christine Starr Davis, Denominational Affairs

Does it seem to you that we have been doing a lot of voting lately? It is especially appreciated that seven of our members have agreed to step up to vote one more time. Their votes will help determine the new president of the UUA. Our church has seven delegate slots available and we filled them all!

These delegates are charged with considering all the candidates and participating in the election either in person or remotely during General Assembly. If you see them, don't hesitate to say, "thanks for showing up" and for giving the Unitarian Church of Lincoln full (and diverse) representation during this important election.

The assigned delegates (in alphabetical order):

- Lindsay Bartlett
- Wesley Botham
- Arden Hill
- Jesse Metcalf
- Christine Starr Davis
- Sändra Washington
- Nathan Woodruff



Each month (except Dec & Jan), we select one Sunday a month in which the offering is given to a local or UU organization. Members vote at the Annual General Meeting on these ten recipients.

Clinic with a Heart is our Share the Plate recipient for July on Sunday, July 16. Clinic with a Heart is a volunteer-driven, community-supported FREE health clinic. We serve our community by offering medical, dental, mental health, chiropractic, physical therapy, vision and hearing services to anyone in need.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Have a New Minister!

On Sunday, July 11 the congregation voted overwhelmingly to call Oscar Sinclair as our next Settled Minister. Oscar's first days in the pulpit will be in August, so look for more information in the next newsletter. Oscar and his wife Stacie are currently in New York tying up loose ends while simultaneously working on buying a house in Lincoln.

During Candidating Week, in early June, Linda Brown graciously hosted Oscar Sinclair's meeting and gatherings. We scheduled 26 different groups of Lincoln Unitarians to meet with Oscar during this joyous week. Ideas popped left and right. Linda took great notes on ideas and highlights from those meetings for the congregation to consider and remember in the coming months and years. She will share these notes with Oscar. Synergy flowed and we had fun together. In the words of Jackie Egan, "Oscar was sincere and darling, forthright and vulnerable."



We are prepared to embrace the ministry of Oscar Sinclair. The congregation seems open to experiencing new ways of worship. We discussed "Joys and Concerns", and the practice of clapping, pod-casting sermons. Oscar told us he attended a Methodist Seminary because he is interested in "interfaith" opportunities. He preached his candidating

sermon from Karla Cooper's pulpit at Quinn Chapel, the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Lincoln. Oscar gave a fine sermon pointing out the similarities and differences between the two faiths.

We talked about caravanning to General Assembly (GA) in Kansas City, June 20-24, 2018. This is the first time in decades that GA has been held within a three or four hour driving radius. Let's keep talking about it all year and encouraging people to attend.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

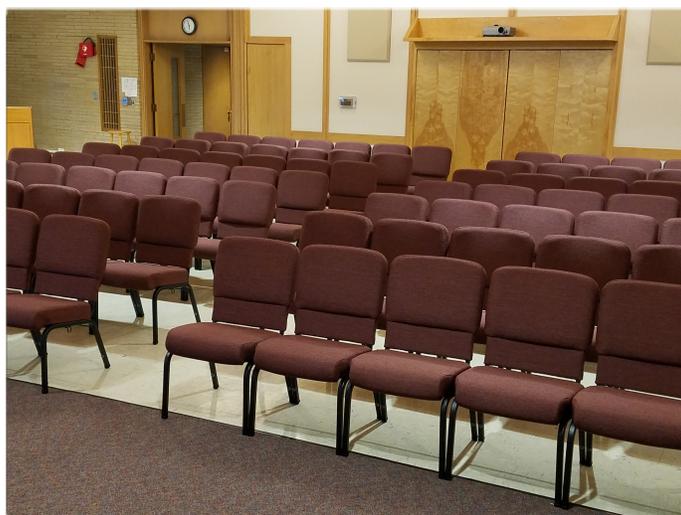
The Rest of the Story

Offered by Christine Starr Davis

Almost exactly one year ago, Jackie Zimmerman, the daughter of longtime members Barb and Ernst Kuhn, contacted the church. Barb had left a generous gift to the church. Jackie and her brothers wanted to know how it might be put to use in a special, tangible, lasting way.

Two significant additions to our lovely remodeled building were pending: new chairs and a new sign out front. The Kuhn children were enthusiastic about both ideas and Michael Straatmann, our brand new Property Coordinator agreed to research their cost.

It became clear that there were many considerations for a sign that would require broad input from the congregation. Likewise, the potential cost of a new sign varied a great deal depending on many of those considerations.



In March, I wrote to tell the Kuhn children what all of us were so pleased to learn:

"Michael's research is complete and a sample chair brought to the church is receiving many thumbs up! Soon, the hard, black chairs we've used for decades will be replaced with beautiful upholstered ones that stack. The way the seats connect also provides for bench-style continuity between chairs so that congregants of all sizes will be comfortable."

In short order, I heard back from John Kuhn:

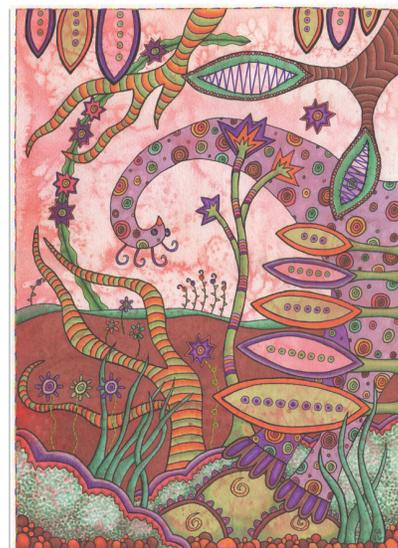
"It made me a little teary eyed thinking about the way you're putting her gift to use in such a wonderful way! Just wondering if the money was enough for all the chairs?"

I reassured him it was and he replied:

"How wonderful that it was enough for the whole project, with even a little left over for the foundation! Mom would be so happy!!!"

July Art Gallery: Carolyn Albracht

Carolyn Albracht will be exhibiting her artwork in the Unitarian Gallery during July. The title of her show is "Contemplations." She is an artist, educator, and gallery owner living in Wayne, Nebraska with her husband, Wayne, and two orange cats, Tangerine Six and Orange Crush. When she isn't teaching, drawing, painting, or occupied with her many duties as gallery owner, she enjoys baking and cooking, reading novels and magazines, taking walks with her husband, and doing a bit of yoga. She also enjoys traveling with her husband when they get the chance, but she also finds that the occasional "stay-cation" or "lazy Sunday" is every bit as enjoyable and restorative. When it comes to creating her mixed-media watercolor paintings, she is compelled toward fantastical creatures and whimsical scenes that make her smile. She hopes they make others smile too.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREEN CORNER**Alan Worth Finds More Savings**

As many of you know, Alan Worth came up with the idea of buying Virtual Solar Panels for the church. Lincoln Electric System has offered the community a way to buy into solar power. We pay \$685/panel and it is estimated that LES would more than pay off our investment with \$38/year reduction in our electric bills for each year for 20 years. Well, back to Alan: He reasoned that some of us might be in assisted living or worse, in 20 years. Therefore, he did some research. It turns out we can give our \$685 to the church. We get the tax deduction. The church gets the pay-back. The church is allowed to buy 20 shares. Five have been paid for so far. If we buy 20 shares this year, we will get about \$38/yr x 20 yrs x 20 shares = \$15,200 credited to the church electric bill over 20 years.

Now, Alan has discovered something else. It turns out some of us already contribute money to LES each month for solar energy. LES is offering to credit those contributions toward a \$685 share. Alan used his \$84 dollar credit toward buying the fifth share for the church. I know of two others who would offer their credits. Do you have credits you would like to offer? Email: lindarl1brown@gmail.com

Wachiska Audubon

Thursday, July 13 • 7:00PM • Auditorium

Dr. David Harwood, Professor in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at UNL, will speak on "Antarctic Penguins - Tales of fossil giants, mid-winter eggs, and adaptations to climate change."

**Star City Pride Family Picnic**

Friday, July 7 • 6:00–8:00PM • Gallery



Once again our church is co-sponsoring the Family Picnic for Star City Pride with PFLAG. We are one of the opening events of Pride and our event is advertised prominently in the official Pride Program.

We typically serve about 80 adults and children. We are able to purchase hot dogs (turkey and veggie) but need church members to bring salads and desserts. We also need help with set up and clean up. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be having some activities for children on the patio, especially a much anticipated water balloon battle.

We need members and friends to bring salads or desserts and drop them off at church by 5:30PM. We also need people to help set up at 4:00PM and clean up at 8:00PM.

Contact Heather Fox
heatherkfox@gmail.com,
 Sändra Washington swashing1@aol.com
 or Deb Hope debra.a.hope@gmail.com.

Co-sponsored with PFLAG - Cornhusker.

NEWS &

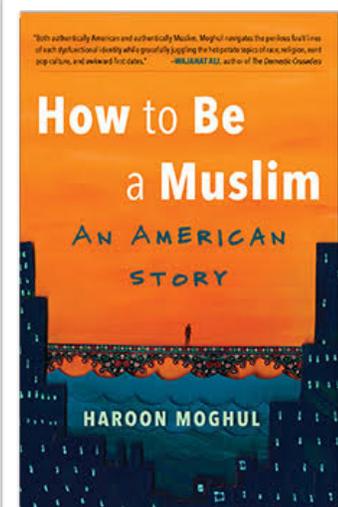
RUMMAGE SALE SUCCESS*Offered by Karen Heafer*

A big thank- you for everyone who helped make this year's rummage sale a success. We had a wide variety of items for sale, thanks to church members and friends who donated their treasures. There were great members who showed up everyday to either price and sort or be cashiers and sales people. A big thank you to Barbara Pearson who had saved the category signs from last year and helped us get organized. A special thanks to Carol Kendrick who was there every day and was great at convincing a customer to buy an item they were thinking about, and Deb Bevard who was also there each day, placed the ad in the paper, and was the contact person with Goodwill. For their efforts, the sale brought in \$2,200 for the church. Start saving your items for our next one! (The number that was cut off in the June newsletter, for the Church Auction in May, was \$13,411. So between the Auction and the Rummage Sale, we raised over \$15,000!)

**UU BOOK HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH**

Haroon Moghul was thrust into the spotlight after 9/11, becoming an undergraduate leader at New York University's Islamic Center forced into appearances everywhere: on TV, before interfaith audiences, in print.

Moghul was becoming a prominent voice for American Muslims even as he struggled with his relationship to Islam. In high school he was barely a believer and entirely convinced he was going to hell. He sometimes drank. He didn't pray regularly. All he wanted was a girlfriend.



But as he discovered, it wasn't so easy to leave religion behind.

To be true to himself, he needed to forge a unique American Muslim identity that reflected his beliefs and personality. *How to Be a Muslim* reveals a young man coping with the crushing pressure of a world that fears Muslims, struggling with his faith and searching for intellectual forebears, and suffering the onset of bipolar disorder. This is the story of the second-generation immigrant, of what it's like to lose yourself between cultures and how to pick up the pieces.

Available from Beacon Press in paperback for \$17.00 www.beacon.org

Angels Theatre company presents First Flight Festival 2017

July 19 - 29, 2017 in the UNL Studio Theatre located on the first floor of the Temple Building, 12th & R Streets in Lincoln.

All 23 short (under 20 minutes each) plays selected for Angels First Flight Festival are written by members of Angels Playwriting Collective.

Individual FLIGHT tickets are available for \$15.00

FESTIVAL passes are available for \$25.00 (A Festival pass pays your way into all 3 Flights.)

OLLI and student discount prices are available at \$10.00 for Individual Flights and \$19.00 for a FESTIVAL pass.

Stop in to see some familiar UU faces performing and directing.

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 • July 28 • 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 • July 10 • 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, June 2 • 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
seeshells@mac.com

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

4th Tuesday • July 25 • 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 • July 11 • 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

NOT MEETING IN JULY.

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 • July 1 • 2:00PM
RSVP for location

Topics: Adult Coloring/Women's Friendships, Facilitators: Connie Benjamin/Jean Helms. 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
dianemn2@gmail.com

July 15 - *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

August 5 - *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

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
nsimon1@neb.rr.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to all who helped

Thank you to Harry Heafer for the year-end slide show that was a part of the Service on June 18.

A million THANK YOUs to the Ministerial Search Committee for finding us a wonderful candidate!

The Transition Team put together an outstanding reception that was enjoyed after Gretchen's Final Hurrah Recital on Sunday, June 18.

Thank you to Jeanne Brooks and Brooke Downing who were the Reception Coordinators for the Memorial Service for Charles Stephen.

We have a Sanctuary full of new matching chairs. Thank you to Michael Straatmann, outgoing Property Coordinator, for doing the research and making the arrangements. Thank you to the half dozen or so volunteers who came and helped to unload the truck.

SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Pulpit Decoration	Molly Klocksin	TBD	Becky Seth	Karen Heafer	Cindy Maly
Greeters	Kay Hoff	Kathy Stastny	Susan Easton	Marj Willeke	Jerry & Ann Petr
Coffee Hosts	TBD	TBD	TBD	RGL Committee	TBD
Trustees	Mark Shiffler	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Al & Barbara Pearson	Les & Lee Manns	Brooke Downing & Bruce Raymer	Pamela Forster & Carol Kendrick	Larry & Peg Pelter
Audio-Visual	Michael Reinmiller & Larry Gregg	Michael Reinmiller & Roger Geery	TBD	Linda Brown	Don Pinkley & Linda Brown
Welcome Table	Carol Kendrick	Denise Debose	Deb Cirksena	Susan Easton	Meg Salley & Marissa Raymond

OUR COMMUNITY



MILESTONES, MILLSTONES, STEPPING STONES

We will keep Denise Dickeson in our thoughts as she recovers from knee surgery at the end of June.

Congratulations to Will & Simone Heafer who were married at the beginning of June.

Congratulations to Keith and Megan McGuffey who celebrated 6 years of marriage in June.

Congratulations to Jean Helms and Gail Raddatz who celebrate fifteen years of marriage in July.

Bon Voyage to Gretchen Woods and Judy Finholm as they transition to their new home in California.

Safe travels to Oscar and Stacie Sinclair as they pack up their home in New York to move to the slower pace of Lincoln, NE.

STAFF & LAY LEADERS

Staff

Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods, Interim Minister • revdocgwoods@gmail.com
 Fritz Hudson, Minister Emeritus • fhudson@uuma.org
 Chelsea Krafka, Religious Growth Dir. • religiousgrowth@unitarianlincoln.org
 Jean Helms, Administrative Director • admin@unitarianlincoln.org
 Julie Cross, Worship Arts Director • worshiparts@unitarianlincoln.org
 Judith Hart, Membership Associate • membership@unitarianlincoln.org
 Christina Strong, Administrative Associate • associate@unitarianlincoln.org

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 Jo Donohoe, Check Signer
 Mary Sommermeyer,
 Assistant Treasurer for Member
 Loans and Capital Funds
 Charles Coley, Program Council Chair

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

Church Office

6300 A Street
 Lincoln, NE 68510



Summer Hours

June 13 - August 13:

Sunday: 9:00AM–1:00PM

Tues - Fri: 9:00AM–1:00PM

Closed Monday & Saturday

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www.unitarianlincoln.org/newsletter