

Midtown Monitor

Serving Midtown Neighborhoods

February 2015



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Inside this issue:

- Restore Omaha Conference
- Landscaping at the Joslyn
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Angela Davis at Holland Lecture
- and much more...

Restore Omaha Conference February 27 -28th

Join old-home owners, restoration experts and amateurs, and preservation lovers alike for an opportunity to spend the day networking and gathering ideas, solutions and inspiration for restoring older properties.

The 10th annual Restore Omaha Conference is Saturday, February 28, at Metropolitan Community College's South Campus, 27th and Q Streets. The conference opens with a reception on Friday, Feb. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Pella, a new event facility inside the former Pella Lutheran Church at 41st and Harney Streets. Saturday's conference runs from 8 to 5 p.m. Keynote speaker is 2014 National Trust for Historic Preservation Award winner Bernice Radle and her husband Jason Wilson stars of a new HGTV series premiering this Spring. Through Buffalove Development, the couple works to create cool urban spaces in an affordable, sustainable and high-design way. Their organization is bringing new life to properties that were either foreclosed upon or on the brink of demolition in Buffalo, NY.



Fifteen breakout sessions have something for everyone whether you are a developer, architect, owner of an old home or a neighborhood community leader. Topics range from case studies on successful home and building restorations, how to finish older basements, how to use real estate tools to save historic properties and information on the new state historic tax credits and city code enforcement policy. Breaks provide opportunities to visit with vendors and local craftsmen. It all ends with the Restore Jam, where attendees are invited to share before-and-after photos of their own restoration project.

Cost to attend both the reception and conference is \$70 (\$50 for conference only, \$25 reception only). Restoration Exchange members receive a discount. For more information and to register visit www.restoreomaha.org or call (402) 679-5854. To see a short video from a past conference visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYHuAyt31A>. See ad on back cover.

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FREE Holland Lecture Series

ANGELA DAVIS

Prison Reform: Real or Imagined?



Prison reform became a front and center issue for Nebraskans last year. For **Angela Davis** it has been a life-long cause. She envisions a future without prisons and advocates for dissolving the "prison industrial complex."

A leader in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, a member of the Black Panthers, and a leader in the Communist Party, she has been a controversial figure. In 1970, Ms. Davis was suspected of being a part of an escape attempt made during the trial of one of the "Soledad Brothers." After spending 18 months in prison, she was acquitted. Today, she is Professor Emerita in the History of Consciousness and the

Feminist Studies departments of the University of California Santa Cruz, and is the author of nine books including *Women Race and Class* and *Are Prisons Obsolete*.



More information in the "learn" link at:
firstuomaha.org

LECTURE DATE:
**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 4**
7:30 PM

Holland Performing Arts Center
13th & Douglas Streets / Omaha

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Central City Solar Farm – A New Step for Nebraska in Energy Innovation

Speaker: Michael Shonka, Renewable Energy Expert, Instructor, and Business Owner - Solar Heat & Electric
When: February 12, 2015 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: UNO's Community Engagement Center, 64th & Dodge, Room 201

Michael recently completed Nebraska's first solar farm, a 100-panel system installed in an industrial park next to an existing solar system owned by Mesner Development Company of Central City. Residents and businesses of Central City, which has a population of 2,900, will be able to purchase shares of the energy generated by the system in the future. Other names for solar farms include: "shared renewables," "community solar" and "solar gardens."

In this presentation, Michael will discuss the Central City Solar Farm project in detail and will outline the required steps for other interested Nebraska communities to develop solar farms. He will also discuss several of his other just-completed or future solar projects in our state, including rooftop solar. Time will be allotted for Q&As.

Michael Shonka, owner of Solar Heat and Electric, has been designing, installing, and maintaining solar and wind energy systems since 1983. In collaboration with colleagues in the renewable energy industry and many other renewable energy advocates in our state, he promotes adoption of renewable energy by the general public and government, and is involved on updating city code and legislation to facilitate greater renewable energy development in Nebraska. He has helped to pass a state tax credit for renewable energy and to implement the new net metering law. He is also involved with teaching of solar, wind, sustainability and energy conservation classes statewide.

The workshop is free & open to the public, so please join us and bring a friend! Refreshments provided. We will also have information tables available for green groups & renewable energy / energy efficiency businesses to share your materials with attendees.

Free parking is available in the reserved lot to the north of the Community Engagement Center, near the Durham Bell Tower, plus adjacent lots. Let the lot attendant know you're there for the Nebraskans for Solar workshop in Room 201. Questions? Suggestions? Please email Events Coordinator, Helen Deffenbacher at the following address: nebraskansforsolar@gmail.com.

www.edwardjones.com

Life Doesn't Stand Still

and Neither Should Your Investments.

Time can affect you as much as your investments. While you can't stop change, you can help ensure your investments match your current circumstances and goals.

Fortunately, doing that may be as easy as meeting with your financial advisor. A complimentary portfolio review from Edward Jones can help identify where your investments stand in relation to your goals and how to get them moving in the same direction.

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COMMON CORE – THE PROS AND CONS
February 19, 2015

Common Core, or the Common Core State Standards Initiative, is an American education initiative that outlines quantifiable benchmarks in English-language arts and mathematics at each grade level from kindergarten through high school.

These benchmarks were developed by a working group assembled by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers from 2008 through 2009. Since then, the Common Core standards have drawn attention among groups concerned about several different elements included in the reforms, such as the impact of standardized testing on academic achievement. Two educational professionals are joining us to discuss the pros and cons of this issue. Dr. John Crook and Dr. Cherie Larson

12:00 Noon to 1 o'clock \$15.00 per person includes lunch
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Publisher

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Gary Rosenberg

Staff Writer, Community Affairs

David Holtzclaw,

Transduction Technologies

Contributing Writer

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Sierra Club Presents: “Sustainable Landscaping at the Joslyn” with Kyle Johnson

Thurs. Feb. 26, 2015 at 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street, Room 112 (Enter north side “education” wing)

Join the Sierra Club to learn about the organic and sustainable landscaping practices used by the Joslyn Art Museum’s landscape maintenance technician, Kyle Johnson.

Kyle has recently shifted the maintenance of the grounds to a program using predominantly organic methods and products. He will discuss the importance of looking at the landscape holistically, and focusing on the fact that, although there are many different facets to any given landscape, every plant in the landscape is connected because shares the same soil. Each landscape is its own ecosystem, which is in turn part of a larger ecosystem.

Kyle’s discussion will include subjects such organic lawn care, composting, strategies for reducing maintenance, and making a landscape friendly to wildlife. Kyle will also touch on two new projects: a planned rain garden to catch and process storm water runoff, which would utilize Nebraska-native perennials in a native, wet-mesic wetland setting; and a Nebraska-native milkweed collection that will be in the Discovery Garden. There are 17 milkweed species that are native to Nebraska, and Kyle’s goal is to eventually have specimens of all 17, in order to display uncommon or rare native plants, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of caring for monarch butterflies, bees, and other native pollinators.

Please join us for this exciting presentation on organic and sustainable landscaping. Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public, and refreshments are provided. Bring a friend! More information at sierranebraska.org

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The Eclectic Book Review Club

The 65-year-old Eclectic Book Review Club continues its 2014-2015 season on February 17 at the Omaha Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Avenue. A noon lunch will be followed by the 12:30 review:

February 17 Omaha Librarian Judy Shannon will review “Unbroken” by Laura Hillenbrand

March 17 UNL Fine Arts Professor Karen Shoemaker will review her book

“The Meaning of Names,” OMAHA READS selection for 2014

April 21 Eclectic Club Member Ann Van Hoff will review “Mrs. Queen Takes the Train” by William Kuhn

May 19 UNL English Professor Timothy Schaffert will review his book “The Swan Gondola.”

To reserve your seat, call Rita at 402-553-3147.

Reservation deadline Monday morning prior to the Tuesday meeting. Lunches are \$13.00.

Jane Meehan, Program Chairman

E mail: 0422.J@cox.net



Midtown Business Owners

**You’re invited to the
MBA Meeting**

The next MBA meeting will be
Feb 25th, 2015

Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.
Must make reservations by Friday prior to meeting.

E-mail contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org
or Peggy Case at pcase@snbomaha.com

402-449-0920

The HVAC SAVE Program will save You Money

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

The HVAC SAVE (System Adjustment & Verified Efficiency) is a regional HVAC Program developed by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA). It was designed for midwest utilities, mostly in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, that offered rebates to homeowners who purchased and installed high efficiency furnaces, heat pumps, and air conditioners. These utilities discovered that often the higher efficiency equipment was underperforming because of poor installations by local HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning) contractors. So, the HVAC SAVE Program was created to ensure peak operating performance of heating and cooling equipment. HVAC SAVE Program trains HVAC contractors and equips them with a software diagnostic tool that allows them to measure efficiency in real time. This allows the contractor to make adjustments and fine tune the equipment in real time until peak performance is realized. This process, called commissioning, is rarely performed in the residential market (see our June 2013 Midtown Monitor article, <http://www.transductiontechnologies.com/article-4-home-performance-guild-of-nebraska.html>).

In Iowa in 2013, where the HVAC SAVE program was implemented by local utilities, data obtained by the utilities and MEEA showed that the average air conditioner

installed was performing at 70% of the rated capacity. So a 5-ton installed air conditioner was performing as if it was a 3.5 ton air conditioner. But the homeowner still paid for the 5-ton air conditioner! However, the average air conditioners installed under the HVAC SAVE Program was performing at 96% rated capacity.

Furthermore, the HVAC SAVE Program actually measures delivered performance both at the equipment (furnace or air conditioner) and the registers or grille in at least 3 rooms. This enables you to isolate deficiencies between equipment and the duct work. This test can be run before and after tune-ups, service calls, or equipment replacements so you will know if the service call or replacement actually improved system performance or not.

Although Nebraska utilities have not yet implemented the HVAC SAVE Program, many Nebraskan HVAC contractors have already gone through the HVAC SAVE training. To find a HVAC SAVE contractor, click here: <http://www.hvacsave.com/homeowners/find-contractor> and request a HVAC SAVE Performance Tune-Up. To see an example of a HVAC performance test result, visit our website, www.transductiontechnologies.com.

New Restaurant Opens in Dundee

Dugger's Cafe has opened at 4959 Dodge Street in the former Noodle Zoo location. While this is a new location for the restaurant, the proprietors are not new to the restaurant business and their commitment to serving fresh, wholesome home cooked food continues.

Duggers Café, owners Jeanette Laitner and her son, Chef Randy and his wife Rhonda Dugger bring a wealth of experience to this venture.

Jeanette Laitner and her former husband opened Duggers Coffee Shop in November, 1965 at 84th and Center. After 10 years, they moved to 80th and Center (a newer and larger restaurant) for another 10 years and then sold the business.

The four sons grew up in the restaurant business. Randy Dugger, stayed in the business and graduated from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, and has worked as a Chef for 30 years at The Marriott, Garden Cafe. He opened the Farmhouse restaurant and worked there 8 years. The last 5 years he has worked at Patricia Catering in Bellevue.

They offer some of the former Duggers' recipes and many new items such as lemon pancakes with raspberry sauce. Randy makes his own syrups and salad dressings, as well as other foods, from scratch.

I went to the restaurant on a Sunday in early January. I thoroughly enjoyed the hot beef, with real mashed potatoes and very good gravy. One of my lunch companions enjoyed a large chef salad, the other a French dip sandwich. I only wish I hadn't been too full to sample at least one of the desserts. The cheesecake looks amazing.

In addition to a menu full of home cooked food they offer catering for parties or meetings, baking, take-out and delivery, and evening parties.

Duggers Café opened December 22,, 2014 at 4950 Dodge Street.

Duggers Café' is open from 6 – 3:00 PM Monday - Friday and 6:30 – 3:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. Serving breakfast all day and lunch. 402-502-9156

Ellen Shurson

Midtown Galleries & Theaters

Modern Artists Midtown (MAM)

3615 Dodge St. 402-520-8737

www.modernartsmidtown.com

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

January 9 to February 28

The Abstract Show

Featuring works by Graceann Warn, Robert Spellman, Steve Mueller, Larry Roots, Thomas Jewell-Vitale, Rick Johns, Cathy Palmer, Teresa Schmidt, and Mike Baur.

Cathedral Arts Project, Sunderland Gallery

3900 Webster St. 402-551-4888

www.cathedralartsproject.org

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., third Sunday of each month

February 15 to March 27

Cathedral Arts Invitational

Opening reception, Sunday, February 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

Connect Gallery

3901 Leavenworth St.

402-991-8234 www.connectgallery.net

Gallery hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Works include those of Al Rhea, Jean Sitzman, Jim Scholz, JK Thorsen, and Robert Wigton.

Anderson O'Brien Fine Art Old Market

1108 Jackson Street 402-884-0911

www.aobfineart.com

Gallery hours: Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:30

p.m., Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 12

p.m. to 4 p.m.

New works include oils by Christina Narwicz and Stephen Dinsmore, jewelry by Linda Blumel, and acrylics by Rein Vanderhill.

Michael Phipps Gallery at the Omaha Public Library's Main Library, 215 S. 15th St., 1st Floor, from January 5 through February 21, 2015.

Alicia Armentrout's exhibit, *Motivating to Grandeur*, of photos taken at the Allwine Prairie and Glacier Creek Preserve in Bennington, NE will be on display.

Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St.

402-553-0800

www.omahaplayhouse.com

Hawks Mainstage Theater

Little Women—January 23 to February 22

This production brings Louisa May Alcott's classic novel to life as four very different sisters, guided by their beloved Marmee, find strength in themselves and each other to endure heartache and loss and celebrate joys and accomplishments.

Howard Drew Theater

Hands on a Hardbody—February 13 to March 22

When a local dealership offers a free Nissan Hardbody to the last person standing in a competition of mental and physical endurance, only the strong survive. The rules are simple: don't take your hand off the truck. Only one winner can drive away with the American Dream. As hours turn into days, the American spirit shines in this inspiring and humorous musical based on a true story.

Shelterbelt Theatre

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.shelterbelt.org

The Other Sewing Circle—January 23 to February 15

The newest member of the Edgewood Sewing Circle has no idea what she's gotten herself into when she first enters the world of a feisty group of quilting fanatics. This new female ensemble play delves into the unique stories of women faced with the repercussions of the HIV and AIDS epidemic at the dawn of the millennium.

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.snapproductions.com

Next production in March.

Blue Barn Theatre

614 S. 11th St.

402-345-1576 www.bluebarn.org

Bad Jews—February 19 to March 14

Described as a comedy about the holy and the holier-than-thou, *Bad Jews* is the story of Daphna Feygenbaum, a "Real Jew" with an Israeli boyfriend she met on a birthright tour. When Daphna's cousin Liam brings home his shiksa girlfriend Melody, a vicious and hilarious brawl over family, faith, and legacy ensues.

Making a World of Difference

Haiti, Romania, Paraguay, Macedonia, Nepal and South Africa are all a long way from Nebraska, yet families in every one of these countries have a special bond with Omaha families through Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program. Most people are familiar with Habitat for Humanity and its mission of building "simple, decent and affordable housing" for people who otherwise would not be able to afford a home of their own. Through the Global Village program, Habitat extends its mission around the world. Since 2011 Habitat Omaha has been organizing and facilitating local teams to travel overseas to build homes, to work alongside host families and to make a real difference.



For those who love to travel, but want to be much more than just a tourist, a Habitat for Humanity of Omaha's Global Village (GV) trip offers a unique and adventurous experience. GV volunteers get to immerse themselves in another country and another culture while helping deserving families in a meaningful way. The GV experience is both deep and personal. The words most GV volunteers use to describe the experience are "life-changing".

Amanda Brewer, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, says we "began organizing Global Village trips so that our Omaha community could make a difference together. Global Village helps break down barriers, educate people about poverty housing needs, and builds relationships. We felt it was a tremendous opportunity to build life-long relationships among our own community members who experience this life-changing Global Village together."

Who can be a GV volunteer? Any man or woman with a positive attitude, an interest in helping others (and a sense of humor doesn't hurt, either). Construction experience is not required. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, but teens 16 years old and up can join a team if accompanied by a parent. (Several of our volunteers have discovered that a GV trip can be a wonderful bonding experience with their teen.) There is no upper age limit, but because the trips involve manual labor, participants should be in good health. It is always Habitat's goal that as many resources as possible go into building more houses. GV volunteers pay their own way, but Habitat for Humanity of Omaha assists team members, if they wish, in fundraising to defray all or part of the trip costs.

Are you ready to build something? Are you ready to build enduring friendships with teammates from Nebraska? Are you ready to build lifetime memories? If so, a Global Village trip is for you. Currently, Habitat Omaha is recruiting team members for a GV trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina October 2-11. For more information about this and other GV trips visit the GV page on Habitat for Humanity of Omaha website: habitatomaha.org/volunteer/global-village/ or call 402.457.5657.



Holland Lecture Wednesday March 4th, 2015

Holland Performing Arts Center Free Lecture

Topic: Prison Reform: Real or Imagined Speaker: Angela Davis

Angela Davis, is a writer, activist and scholar and comes to Omaha to share her unique perspectives on prison reform, a topic front and center in current state as well as national debates. She envisions a future without prisons and advocates for dissolving what she coined the "prison industrial complex." Ms. Davis grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, giving her a front row seat to the Civil Rights Movement. In the 1960s, her social activism, involvement in the Communist Party and "alleged" association with the Soledad Brothers attempted courtroom escape made her a controversial figure. The latter led to an intense police search that ended with her arrest, trial and eventual acquittal of the charges. Ms. Davis has written nine books and is Professor Emerita in the

History of Consciousness and the Feminist Studies departments at the University of California Santa Cruz.

<http://www.firstuomaha.org/#!holland-lecture-series/c1jv2>

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\$107,000	6457 Pierce Street	2	1	1	Ranch	1,026
\$110,000	6031 Parker St	3	2	2	Ranch	1,579
\$125,000	5039 Poppleton	3	3	3	1.5 Story	1,619
\$143,000	6839 Leavenworth	4	3	2	Ranch	2,020
\$145,000	2622 N 56 St	3	3	1	Bungalow	1,524
\$194,500	4814 Farnam	4	2	2	2.5 Story	2,120
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2015 RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Saturday, February 28, 2015
8 to 5 p.m.

Metropolitan Community College
South Campus

27th & Q Streets – Omaha, NE



Whether you are a developer, architect, owner of an old home, or a neighborhood community leader, Restore Omaha has something for you.

- A Friday night reception at **The Pella**, a new event facility inside the former Pella Lutheran Church.
- Keynote by Buffalo, NY developers **Bernice Radle** and **Jason White** who are taking properties on the brink of demolition and creating cool urban spaces in an affordable, sustainable and high-design way.
- **15 breakout sessions** with topics ranging from case studies on successful home and building restorations, how to finish older basements, how to use real estate tools to save historic properties and information on the new state historic tax credits and city code enforcement policy.
- **Restore Jam**, where attendees are invited to share before-and-after photos of their own restoration project.
- Plus plenty of opportunities to visit with **vendors, local craftsmen** and other attendees to gather ideas, contacts and solutions.



MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:
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For more information and to register visit
WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG