

Midtown Monitor

Serving Midtown Neighborhoods

March 2015



You can help save the
Monarch butterfly

Inside this issue:

- Save the Monarch
- Create a Butterfly Garden
- Plastic Bag Ban in Omaha?
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Are LED Bulbs Worth Cost?
- and much more...



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slessmann1107@gmail.com

LED Bulbs - Creighton Blue



First Presbyterian Church
-Keeping Christ Central-



March 29 - Palm Sunday

10:30 a.m. Celebrating the Triumphal Entry of our Lord

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Communion Worship Service

April 3 - Good Friday

6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

"The Seven Last Words of Christ"

April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. Location: First Presbyterian Church

April 5 - Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. Celebrating the Triumph of our

Lord, Jesus Christ

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You Can Help Save the Monarch Butterfly

As you may have heard, the majestic monarch butterfly is in danger. The once common sight of these beautiful orange and black butterflies flitting around our backyards is now alarmingly rare. Think back, in the last 10 years how many have you seen? Compare that, if you are over 30 years old, to the number you saw during your childhood. Their numbers have been severely diminished according to several sources down over 80% since 1992, the year that, according to the United States Geological Survey, the use of glyphosate surged from less than 11,000 tons to more than 88,000 tons in 2007. No doubt the figure is much higher now. This chemical is so commonly used that it's now being detected in rainwater. These massive chemical applications have not only created hard-to-kill superweeds and contaminated the food supply but are also annihilating the milkweed plants that monarch caterpillars need to feed on to survive and lay their eggs.



Monarch butterfly is well known for its amazingly long migration to its overwintering grounds in Mexico. In addition to the demise of their primary food source along their migratory path, the forests where they winter in Mexico have been illegally overlogged.

According to Organic Magazine one way to help save the monarch's is to eat organic. As noted on their website: www.organicmagazine.com:

Farmers have turned to genetically engineered crops at an explosive rate. Today, 94 percent of the soy and 72 percent of the corn and cotton grown in the United States is genetically engineered to withstand heavy sprayings of herbicides, mainly glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup. Researchers at Iowa State University found that the heavy use of glyphosate has resulted in an 81 percent decrease in the monarch butterfly population. Traditionally, milkweed would rebound after farmers used cultivation to kill weeds, but it is being wiped out with chemical interventions. Organic agriculture bans the use of chemical pesticides, so every dollar you shift to organic helps save monarch butterflies.

So what can you do?

Plant Milkweed. But, wait a minute. It's not quite that simple. (Of course.) It is recommended that we are careful to plant locally grown milkweed varieties, and organic seeds that were not treated with chemicals. There are serious problems associated with planting of tropical milkweed. They can host a dangerous parasite, especially varieties that overwinter. I have found a couple sources of local seed. The Fragrant Path in Fort Calhoun www.fragrantpathseeds.com According to owner Edward Rasmussen, "We have dropped the annual one (*Asclepias curassavica*) as by its late growth and blooming it is thought to delay the migratory movement of the Monarchs in the fall to their detriment." Another local source is Stock Seed Farms, Murdock, NE. www.stockseed.com. They have several varieties and even sell in bulk.

Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed.

Not only is milkweed their primary food source, but a poisonous toxin in milkweed, though harmless to monarchs, makes the butterflies taste terrible to predators. This provides valuable protection from birds and other predators. There are even other butterflies who have mimicked the monarch colors and markings and enjoy some similar protection from predators. The Viceroy butterfly at first glance can be mistaken for a monarch. The Viceroy however does not migrate and lays their eggs and overwinters in place. So, in fact the few butterflies I've seen that I thought were Monarchs may have been the Viceroy butterfly.



Viceroy butterfly

There are several links to organizations working to save the monarch listed at www.midtownmonitor.com

Ellen Shurson

Create a Beautiful Butterfly/ Pollinator Garden

Plant a pollinator garden. Other pollinators are in trouble in addition to butterflies. According to the USDA website, Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects. - See more at:<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/#sthash.deqTgafs.dpuf>

In addition to planting the flowers they prefer, pollinators would appreciate a wall or fence to serve as a wind break and a shallow mud hole or pan of water with pea gravel that they can use to land on and rest while getting a drink.

**For more information visit
www.midtownmonitor.com**

Pollinator Preferred Perennials & Annuals

Ageratum houstonianum (ageratum)
Alcea rosea (hollyhock)
Asclepias spp. (milkweeds, butterfly weed)
Aster spp. (asters)
Coreopsis spp. (coreopsis)
Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)
Erigeron spp. (fleabanes)
Eupatorium spp. (bonesets, Joe-Pye weeds)
Helianthus spp. (sunflowers)
Heliotropium arborescens (common heliotrope)
Hemerocallis spp. (daylilies)
Lavandula spp. (lavenders)
Leucanthemum maximum (Shasta daisy)
Leucanthemum vulgare (oxeye daisy)
Lobularia maritima (sweet alyssum)
Mentha spp. (mints)
Monarda spp. (bee balms)
Phlox spp. (phlox)
Rudbeckia spp. (coneflowers)
Salvia spp. (sages)
Sedum spectabile (showy stonecrop)
Solidago spp. (goldenrods)
Tagetes patula (French marigold)
Thymus spp. (thymes)
Verbena spp. (verbenas)
Zinnia spp. (zinnias)

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.

To schedule a complimentary portfolio review, call or visit your local financial advisor today.

<p>Chris Kilroy, AAMS® Financial Advisor 5139 Leavenworth Street Omaha, NE 68106 402-558-2111</p>	<p>Nick Shannon Financial Advisor 5028 Underwood Ave Omaha, NE 68132 402-558-0168</p>
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Music in Midtown:

"Back 2 Back" Bacharach,"
Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM,
1st Central Congregational Church.

Omaha's Master Singers are a choral group who specialize in jazz choral music and "jazzed up" versions of pop music. Under the direction of Dr. D. Laureen Pickle, they present three concerts each year: "Jazz to the World" in December, a "themed" concert in March or April, and "Hot Fun in the Summertime" in June.

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons at 1st Central Congregational Church, 36th and Harney. They specialize in singing unaccompanied music, with some tunes accompanied by the talented Victory Sedlacek. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/seniors. They are available at the door or at their website: www.mastersingersomaha.org. Children 12 and under are free.

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Sierra Club Program

Plastic Bag Proliferation: Should Omaha Have a Plastic Bag Ban? with Dr. David Corbin
Thurs. March 26, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. (enter north door “education” wing)

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment—pretty much every purchase we make, we’re offered a plastic bag. We know the concerns about plastic bags: they choke wildlife, they don’t break down easily in landfills or in oceans, they are made from fossil fuels, and they are not easy to recycle, which is why 90% of plastic bags in the US are not recycled.

Around the country and around the world, cities (and even one state) have enacted bans on single-use plastic bags. Some Omaha city council members have expressed an interest in a possible plastic bag ban for the city of Omaha.

Dr. David Corbin, emeritus professor of health education & public health at UNO, will give a presentation on the problems with plastic bags, and will update us on laws and ordinances that have been passed in other cities and countries to ban or tax plastic bags. Corbin will show video clips from the movie “Bag It” along with video clips showing the problem here in Omaha.

For this presentation, bring any single-use plastic bags that you might have stashed away in your house or apartment, and we will create our own bag display. Who knows? Maybe the Bag Monster will appear. Bring your bags, bring your creativity, and bring your advocacy ideas. This presentation is suitable for all ages. FREE. More information at sierranebraska.org

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Womens History Month

To celebrate National Women’s History Month, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Omaha Public Library will host a reception Sunday afternoon, March 15, at the W. Dale Clark Library, 215 South 15th Street.

Twyla Hansen, Nebraska’s first woman Poet Laureate, will talk about her poetry experiences and read some of her poetry.

Selected poets from “Celebrate XIX,” a publication by and about local women, will present their work. A volunteer effort, “Celebrate,” this UNO-sponsored poetry book has published its nineteenth edition.

The 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. event is free and open to the public. The afternoon will also include live music and refreshments. Jane Meehan (402-556-9452)



Midtown Business Owners

You’re invited to the

MBA Meeting March 25th, 2015

David Holtzclaw, President,
Transduction Technologies

Planning your Business’s Energy Present & Future
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

Are LED bulbs worth the price?

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

Few home improvement recommendations I make to homeowners cause more grief than when I recommend installing LED lighting to replace incandescent or CFL (compact fluorescent lighting) bulbs. I think most midtown homeowners would be happier if I tell them they can only run their air conditioner during the month of October. LED light bulbs have gone over as well as spam for Thanksgiving dinner. However, LEDs are well worth the switch.

that are capable of producing incandescent “soft white light” at LED specifications.

Although CFL light bulbs are comparable to LED’s in terms of energy consumption, CFL have several disadvantages: 1) CFL’s contain toxic mercury, which complicates their disposal; 2) CFLs lifespan is significantly shorten if it is turned on and off frequently; 3) CFLs get dimmer over their lifespan starting as early as 40% of their rated service life; 4) CFLs are not meant for outside light fixtures or cold temperatures (i.e. refrigera-

Lighting Bulb	Energy (Watts)	Brightness (Lumens)	Lifetime (Burn hours)	Color Index (0-100)	Purchase cost (\$)	Annual energy cost (\$/yr)	Total Life time cost (\$/20 yr)
A-type incandescent	60	800	1,000	97	\$ 0.53	\$ 6.79	\$ 147.53
CFL (60W equivalent)	13	800	8,000	80	\$ 3.89	\$ 1.47	\$ 41.11
LED (60W equivalent)	9	900	25,000	85-93	\$ 8.95	\$ 1.02	\$ 29.33

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are semiconductors that produce visible light when an electrical current passes through them. As shown in the table above, LED’s are incredibly energy efficient, brighter (measured in light units called lumens), and current generation of LEDs can last 20+ years. Unfortunately, neither LEDs nor CFLs could match that “soft white light” emitted from incandescent bulbs that became the gold standard for “soft white light” over many decades simply because there were few other options in the residential market. However, recent advancements by the U.S. Department of Energy and LED manufacturers (Philips and Cree and many others) have led to the current generation of LED bulbs

tors or freezers); and 5) dimmable CFLs tend to dim nonlinearly making big jumps in light output.

There is one light source better than LED’s, and that is natural lighting, also termed daylighting. Most midtown homes have ample daylight, it’s just not being well used. I recommend speaking with a lighting expert or interior designer to determine how best to utilize your natural lighting.

KICK-OFF Party!

Relay For Life of Midtown Omaha

Join us for an 80’s themed 2015 Relay For Life of Midtown Omaha Kick-Off. We plan on ‘Hitting Cancer with our Best Shot’ – won’t you help us Finish the Fight against Cancer?

*Snacks & beverages will be provided

To Join or Sign-Up a Team:

www.RelayForLife.org/MidtownOmahaNE

When: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 | 4:30-6:30p

Where: Aksarben Cinema

2110 S. 67th St. | Omaha, NE

Contact: American Cancer Society: 402.393.5801

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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.

March 6 to 28

Keen Observations

Paintings by Merrill Peterson, with contributing artists Justin Meyers, Charles Novich, and Jane Pronko.

Opening reception, Friday, March 6, 6 to 8 p.m.

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.

March 4 to 28

Paintings and Drawings by Courtney Porto

Artist reception, Friday, March 20, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

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.

March 5 to 7 Wearable Art—Meiko Mintz

New works include chalk pastels by Joe Broghammer, oils by Christian Rothmann, acrylics by Judy Greff, and jewelry by Donna Burdic.

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

Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St. 402-553-0800

www.omahaplayhouse.com

Hawks Mainstage Theater

Jesus Christ Superstar—March 6 to April 4

This highly acclaimed rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice has stunned audiences for 40 years. Epic songs and a soaring rock score highlight this groundbreaking musical.

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. 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 Next production in April.

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.snapproductions.com

Harbor—March 5 to 29

When 15-year-old Lottie and her ne'er do-well mother Donna drop in unannounced on the beautiful Sag Harbor home of Donna's brother and his new husband, all hell breaks loose. The bonds between kith and kin are tested in this alternately biting and touching comedy about the constantly shifting nature of the meaning of family.

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.

The Rose Theater

Zen Ties Feb. 20 - Mar. 8, 2015. The show runs Feb. 20 - Mar. 8, 2015, with performances Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm.

The 2 pm performance on Saturday, Feb. 28 will be interpreted for the hearingimpaired.

**View Updates and Other
Community Affairs /Calendar Listings
Online at www.midtownmonitor.com**

Alive Inside

Film Streams and the Douglas County Health Center Foundation announce a special screening of a film about the connection between music and memory.

On Tuesday, March 24, at 7 pm, Film Streams and the Douglas County Health Center Foundation will present a special screening of *Alive Inside* at the Ruth Sokolof Theater. A panel discussion will follow this one-time showing.

An uplifting cinematic exploration of music and the mind, *Alive Inside* won the Audience Award at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. This stirring documentary follows social worker Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, as he fights against a broken healthcare system to demonstrate music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it. Director Michael Rossato-Bennett visits family members who have witnessed the miraculous effects of personalized music on their loved ones, and offers illuminating interviews with experts including renowned neurologist Oliver Sacks and musician Bobby McFerrin.

Following this special screening at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, 1340 Mike Fahey St., will be a panel discussion with Sabra Mackey, Program Director of Music & Memory at Douglas County Health Center, a physician specializing in elder care, a family member of a resident participating in DCHC's Music & Memory program, moderated by Douglas County Health Center Foundation President Amy Chittenden.

Donations of used iPods for use in the Music & Memory program at the Douglas County Health Center will be accepted at the event. Tickets for this screening are \$9 general, \$7 for seniors, students, teachers, military, and those arriving by bicycle, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members. Advance tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/1Fnkzwp> or through the Film Streams Box Office in person or at 402-933-0259 x15.

The screening and discussion are part of Film Streams' Community Development Program, which facilitates partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-related events that speak to their missions and programming. Each quarter, Film Streams' Community Development Committee reviews proposals for special screenings and programs. Deadlines for proposals are January 2 (for April-June events), April 1 (for July-September), July 1 (for October-December) and October 1 (for January-March).

For more information, questions or requests, please contact Patrick Kinney at (402) 933-0259 x 11 or patrick@film-streams.org.



Omaha Creative Institute

March 2015 Workshops

March 7 | 10 a.m. | \$35

Mixed Media Collage with Sara Sumnik Wamsat
Omaha Creative Institute, 1516 Cuming St.

March 21 | 10 a.m. | \$50

Cold Wax and Oil Painting with Lori Elliott-Bartle
Omaha Creative Institute, 1516 Cuming St.

Event Info & Registration
visit www.omahacreativeinstitute.org

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:

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

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Submit your photo for possible publication in the Midtown Monitor and/or online. Could be just about anything that relates to Midtown. A great scene, historic house, garden, fun event.

Send only your two favorite photos for submission to midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com

Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western

Palm Sunday -8:45 & 11 AM service 2 PM Easter egg Hunt

Good Friday - 12 PM Service 6:30 PM Service

Easter Services : 6:30 AM Sunrise, 7:00 AM Breakfast

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM Services

<http://lmlchurch.org> 402- 551-4488

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Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Find them online www.midtownmonitor.com

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\$98,000	844 S 50 St	2	2	1	Ranch	1,237
\$115,000	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	Rd Ranch	1,932
\$122,000	6254 Pine Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,509
\$123,000	2324 N 60 Ave	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,818
\$150,000	2037 N 50th Ave	3	2	1	2 Story	2,028
\$166,500	1709 N 55 Street	3	2	1	Ranch	1,946
\$168,000	2010 Country Club	3	2	1	2 Story	2,034
\$169,500	5043 Charles St	3	3	2	1.5 Story	2,259
\$170,000	1017 N 63 St	2	2	2	Ranch	1,416
\$172,000	1724 N 51 St	4	3	2	2.5 Story	2,118
\$214,000	2339 N 50 Ave	3	3	1	1.5 Story	2,128
\$226,500	5623 Emile St	3	2	1	2.5 Story	2,482
\$275,000	714 Hackberry Rd	4	3	2	Ranch	2,603
\$321,500	316 S 51 Avenue	4	3	2	2.5 Story	2,460
\$339,000	678 N 58 Street	4	3	2	2.5 Story	2,515
\$852,500	651 Fairacres Road	4	5	3	2 Story	4,587

Our thanks to Raquel Ahlvers, The Ahlvers Group, CBSHOME Real Estate for providing this information.

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Master Singers ★

★ Featuring the
 ★ *Wilson Lion Singers*
 Under the direction of
 Dr. D. Lauren Pickle

2 back
BACHARACH

Sunday, March 29th, 4:00 PM
 First Central Congregational Church
 421 South 36th St., Omaha NE

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Outdoor Power Equipment
 Saturday March 28th

8:00 am
 to 2:00 pm

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 Service



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