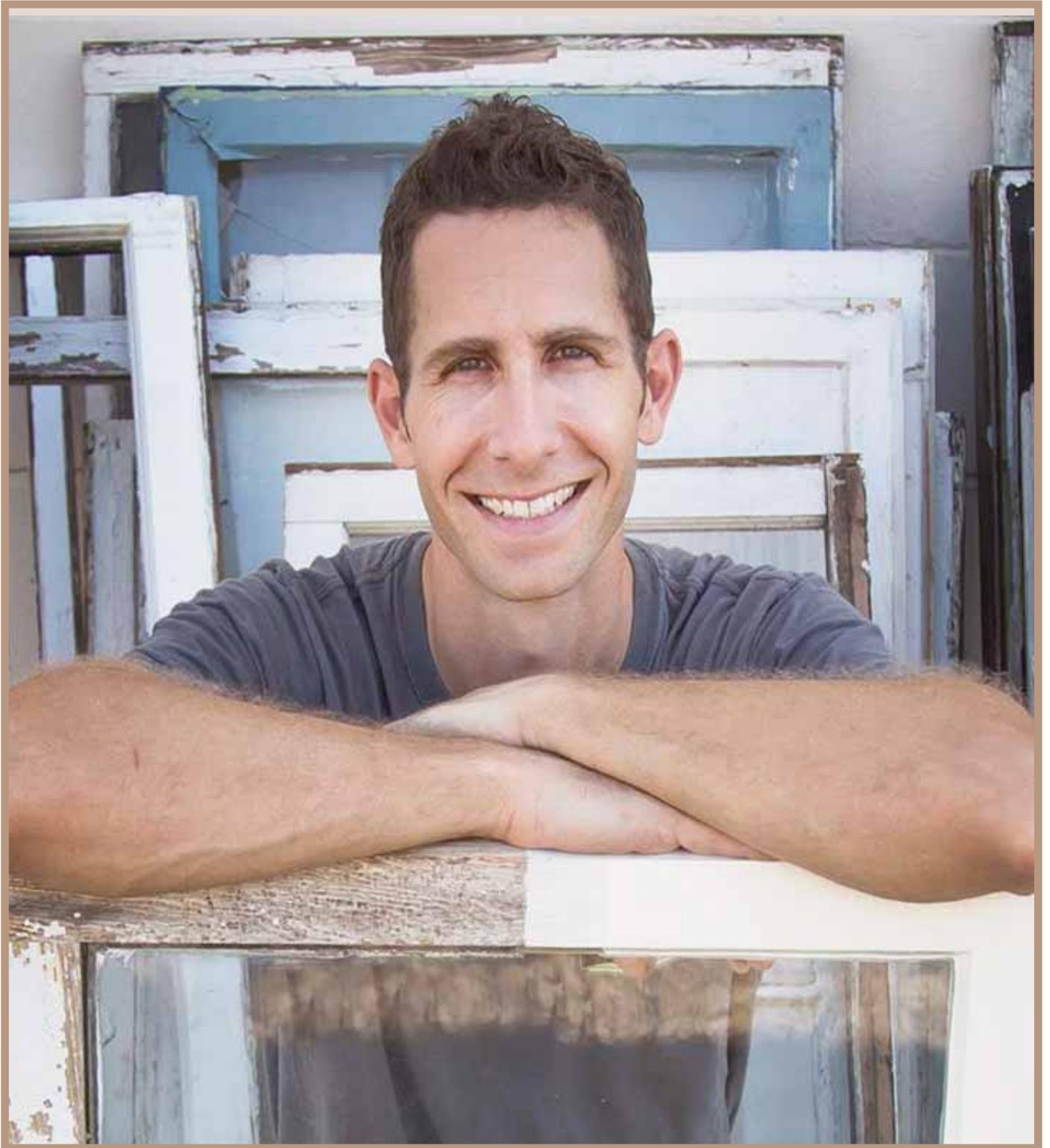


Midtown Monitor

February 2016



Restore Omaha Conference & Exhibition March 4 & 5th

Photos from 2015 Restore Omaha Conference



Photos by John Ficenc



2016 RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION Saturday, March 5, 2016 | 8 to 5 p.m.

NEW VENUE FOR 2016!

Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus
Institute for the Culinary Arts Building and the Mule Barn
32nd and Sorensen Parkway | Omaha, Nebraska

Attention owners of older homes,
neighborhood community leaders,
developers and architects – Restore
Omaha has something for you:



- **FRIDAY PRE-SESSION:** Learn more about Federal and State Funding Tools available to help restore historic buildings.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT:** Enjoy a guided tour of North 24th Street, followed by a reception in the historic Blue Lion building at 24th and Lake Streets.
- **KEYNOTE BY CRAFTSMAN SCOTT SIDLER:** Hear from the writer of The Craftsman Blog and owner of Austin Home Restorations in Orlando, FL.
- **CHOOSE FROM 15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Topics range from maintaining old windows, infill design guidelines, and the latest on the restored Burlington Station.
- **RESTORE JAM:** Share the before-and-after photos of your own restoration project.
- And, plenty of opportunities to visit with vendors, local craftsmen and other attendees to **GATHER IDEAS, CONTACTS AND SOLUTIONS.**

For more information and to register, visit

WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG

Pre-register by February 25 for a chance to receive a free old-home consultation with Scott Sidler the morning of March 4.



MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

AIA Omaha | Dundee Bank | The Architectural Offices
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2016 Restore Omaha Conference

By Gary Rosenberg

In 2016 the Restore Omaha Conference heads north—to the Fort Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College. Owners of old homes, neighborhood leaders, developers and architects will have a full day on March 5 to gather ideas, find solutions and draw inspiration to restore and preserve older properties.

Aside from the venue change, another new feature is the pre-session on federal and state funding tools for restoring historic buildings, set for the afternoon of Friday, March 4. Scott Sidler, author of the bestselling book *Living in the Past*, will deliver the keynote speech on Saturday.

Conference chairman Nicole Malone said moving the conference to the Fort Omaha campus was part of a continued partnership and in line with Metropolitan Community College's interest in the trades. "We want to fully support their efforts," Malone said. The conference was held for the last several years at Metro's South Omaha campus. The Fort Omaha Campus currently has two buildings under construction that will be dedicated to trade skills, such as construction technology, plumbing and welding. The Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology and the Construction Education Center and are under construction east of the Culinary Arts building, along with the Academic Skills Center.

Restore Omaha will spotlight North Omaha on March 4 as it offers the North 24th Street Walking Tour and the conference reception in the 1918 Blue Lion buildings, located at the historic 24th and Lake Streets intersection. "REO has focused its efforts in North Omaha over the last few years," Malone said. "Our North 24th Street Walking Tour has been a highlight on the first Friday of the warm-weather months." The 11th Restore Omaha Conference will feature 15 break-out sessions with topics ranging from researching the history of your home, maintaining historic landscapes, adhering to infill design guidelines, maintaining wood floors and old windows, as well as the latest on the restored Burlington Station. About 30 exhibitors, including craftsmen, history organizations and business and community groups, will be on hand to answer questions and share information. The conference will conclude with the popular Restore Jam, in which attendees are invited to share before-and-after photos of their own restoration projects.

Malone said keynote speaker Sidler will be a good fit for Restore Omaha. "The Restore Omaha Conference originated from the question of 'How can we help people restore, renovate and preserve their older properties.' We could not have landed a better keynote for our 11th conference." Sidler comes highly recommended by well-loved past REO keynote speakers John Leeke and Bob Yapp, Malone noted. In addition to authoring two books on restoration, Sidler shares practical tips for owners of old homes on his TheCraftsmanBlog.com.

Sidler's keynote will focus on the need for ordinary homeowners to "step up to the plate and save not only their own homes, but their local landmarks as well," he said. "Together we can save our history, and it's not as tough as it may seem."

Those wishing to attend any or all sessions of the conference may register online at www.restoreomaha.org or call (402) 679-5854. Discounts are available for members of Restoration Exchange Omaha.

2016 Restore Omaha Conference Friday, March 4 1 - 5 p.m.

Pre-session on Federal and State Funding Tools for Historic Restoration

Institute for the Culinary Arts 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

North 24th Street Walking Tour (starts at Dreamland Park, 24th and Lizzie Robinson Drive)

7 – 10 p.m. Conference Reception at Blue Lion Center, 24th and Lake Streets

Saturday, March 5 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Conference Sessions, Exhibitors, Hands-on Demonstrations, Keynote Address, Restore Jam

Institute for the Culinary Arts and the adjacent Mule Barn

Fort Omaha Campus of Metropolitan Community College

32nd and Sorensen Parkway, Omaha, NE

Pricing: Friday Pre-Session - \$50. Friday Reception - \$25/\$20 REO Members

Saturday Conference - \$50/\$40 REO Members

Friday Reception and Saturday Conference \$70/\$50 REO Members

Total with Friday Pre-Session \$120/\$100 REO Members

Major support provided by:

AIA Omaha, Dundee Bank, Eyman Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Co. and The Architectural Offices

Sierra Club Program Thurs. Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street

“Native Plants for Landscaping” with Dr. Richard Sutton, UNL

February is the ideal time to begin making spring garden plans, and we’ve got the perfect person to get you headed in the right direction.

Dr. Richard Sutton will discuss landscaping with native plants. Using native plants is a key to sustainable landscaping, as natives tend to be low maintenance, requiring less water, herbicides and pesticides than non-native plants. Furthermore, native plants support native wildlife including butterflies, birds, beneficial insects, and pollinators. Most native plants are self-sustaining perennials that are hardy and drought-tolerant.

Dr. Sutton will talk not only about his top individual species, but will also discuss different approaches for using natives in groups and communities, the way they are found in nature. His talk will describe using natives both in the home setting, and also along streets, in parks and on school grounds, where they add a sense of place and biodiversity while capturing and cleansing dirty stormwater.

Dr. Richard Sutton is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a Professional Landscape Architect in Nebraska, and a certified Green Roof Professional. He teaches landscape architecture and landscape design at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Please join us for this very interesting and informative evening! Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. More information at www.sierraclub.org/nebraska

Celebrate the Chinese New Year at Omaha Public Library

New Year’s Day seems like a distant memory, but you can celebrate the New Year again at Omaha Public Library (OPL) – the Chinese New Year! Chinese New Year Day is on February 8, but the celebration lasts all month at OPL. Join us to welcome the Year of the Monkey at a variety of events happening at OPL locations throughout the city. All events are free and open to the public. Visit omahalibrary.org or contact the hosting location for more details and registration information.

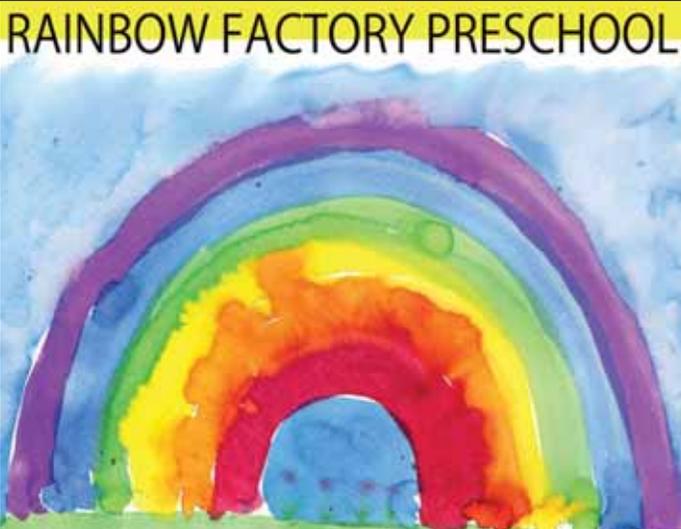
Friday, February 5 & Saturday, February 6, 10:30 a.m.: Family storytime at W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 W. Dodge Rd., 402-444-4852, will integrate stories and songs about the Chinese New Year into their weekend storytime programs.

Saturday, February 6, 11 a.m.: W. Clarke Swanson Branch will offer a family craft for all ages.

Wednesday, February 24, 10:30 a.m.: Toddler storytime at A.V. Sorensen Branch, 4808 Cass St., 402-444-5274, is recommended for children ages 15 months to 3 years old. In addition to stories about the Chinese New Year, participants will enjoy simple songs, movement and more.

Saturday, February 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Millard Branch, 13214 Westwood Ln., 402-444-4848, will host a Chinese New Year celebration featuring a showcase of Chinese traditions including Chinese folk dancing; Kung Fu, Tai Chi and fan demonstrations; opportunities to taste test Chinese fare; and crafts that are often found in Chinese culture.

Visit omahalibrary.org for information about additional programs offered at Omaha Public Library’s 12 metro locations.



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Eclectic Book Review Club Announces Spring Schedule

The Eclectic Book Review Club, which began its series of continuous reviews in 1949, announces its spring schedule:

February 16 – Creighton Law Professor Stephen Sieberson reviews his book “The Naked Mountaineer: Misadventures of an Alpine Traveler.”

March 15 – Omaha author Connie Spittler will review her latest novel, “The Erotica Book Club for Nice Ladies.”

April 19 – Holocaust survivor Milton Kleinberg will review his memoir as a teenage in WWII: “Bread or Death.”

May 17 – Local author Rebecca Rotert will review her book, “Last Night at the Blue Angel.”

Monthly meetings, which include lunch and a review, are held at 12 noon at the Omaha Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Avenue. The cost is \$13.00 per person.

For reservations, call Rita at 402-553-3147.

Jane Meehan, program chairman 402-556-9452 (0422.J@cox.net)



Drug Expiration Dates — Do They Mean Anything?

The Family Health Guide

With a splitting headache you reach into your medicine cabinet for some aspirin only to find the stamped expiration date on the bottle has passed - two years ago. So, do you take it or don't you? If you decide to take the aspirin will it be a fatal mistake or will you simply continue to suffer from the headache?

This is a dilemma many people face in some way or another. A column published in *Psychopharmacology Today* offers some advice.

It turns out that the expiration date on a drug does stand for something, but probably not what you think it does. Since a law was passed in 1979, drug manufacturers are required to stamp an expiration date on their products. This is the date at which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full potency and safety of the drug.

Most of what is known about drug expiration dates comes from a study conducted by the Food and Drug Administration at the request of the military. With a large and expensive stockpile of drugs, the military faced tossing out and replacing its drugs every few years. What they found from the study is 90% of more than 100 drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter, were perfectly good to use even 15 years after the expiration date.

So the expiration date doesn't really indicate a point at which the medication is no longer effective or has become unsafe to use. Medical authorities state expired drugs are safe to take, even those that expired years ago. A rare exception to this may be tetracycline, but the report on this is controversial among researchers. It's true the effectiveness of a drug may decrease over time, but much of the original potency still remains even a decade after the expiration date. Excluding nitroglycerin, insulin, and liquid antibiotics, most medications are as long-lasting as the ones tested by the military. Placing a medication in a cool place, such as a refrigerator, will help a drug remain potent for many years.

Is the expiration date a marketing ploy by drug manufacturers, to keep you restocking your medicine cabinet and their pockets regularly? You can look at it that way. Or you can also look at it this way: The expiration dates are very conservative to ensure you get everything you paid for. And, really, if a drug manufacturer had to do expiration-date testing for longer periods it would slow their ability to bring you new and improved formulations.

The next time you face the drug expiration date dilemma, consider what you've learned here. If the expiration date passed a few years ago and it's important that your drug is absolutely 100% effective, you might want to consider buying a new bottle. And if you have any questions about the safety or effectiveness of any drug, ask your pharmacist. He or she is a great resource when it comes to getting more information about your medications.

From Harvard Health Publications - Harvard Medical School

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www.midtownmonitor.com

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"\$65,000 "	951 S 48th St	3	1	1	Ranch	967
"\$76,000 "	5529 Pine St	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,504"
"\$108,000 "	770 S 68th Ave	3	1	1	Ranch	"1,152"
"\$115,000 "	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,932"
"\$128,500 "	6502 Lafayette	3	2	2	R Ranch	"1,360"
"\$141,000 "	1103 S 51st St	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,230"
"\$147,000 "	1523 N 52 St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,683"
"\$150,000 "	6215 Pacific St	4	2	1	1.5 Story	"2,609"
"\$179,000 "	6012 Walnut St	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,526"
"\$199,250 "	6020 Pine Street	3	2	3	1.5 Story	"2,079"
"\$210,000 "	5719 Pacific St	4	2	2	1.5 Story	"2,426"
"\$255,500 "	826 S 52nd St	5	3	2	1.5 Story	"2,308"
"\$290,000 "	307 S 51st Ave	4	3	1	2 Story	"2,770"
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Our thanks to Raquel Ahlvers, The Ahlvers Group, CBSHOME Real Estate for providing this information.

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Energy Tax Incentives

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

December 2015 was a boom to the energy efficient sector thanks to Congress extending several energy efficient tax incentives. In 2005, President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) of 2005. Section 45L of this law provides \$2,000 tax credit to builders of residential dwelling units (single family homes, condominiums, apartments, or manufactured homes) whose energy efficiency are projected to save at least 50% of heating and cooling energy consumption compared to the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (2006 IECC). “Builders” are defined as eligible contractors, developers, or builders who have a say in how the dwelling is constructed. The “builder” can be a partnership, corporations, estates, association, & trusts. So for a multi-family apartment building with ten qualified apartments, that’s $\$2,000 \times 10 = \$20,000$. You are probably wondering why you never heard of this. EPAAct originally expired in 2011, but has been extended every year retroactively, i.e. in December 2012, Congress retroactively extended EPAAct from January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012, making it very hard for builders to qualify and document the 50% heating and cooling energy savings on residential dwellings already built. Congress finally got smart, and in December 2015 extended it from December 31, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

Likewise, section 25C of EPAAct was also extended through 2016. This is a 10% tax credit subject to a \$500 lifetime cap for existing home owners who install

qualified energy efficient upgrades like additional insulation, certain windows and doors, and more efficient appliances and equipment.

Similarly, for commercial property owners, section 179D of EPAAct provides tax deductions (not credits) of up to \$1.80/ft² for energy efficient upgrades to new or existing commercial buildings. These upgrades can include more energy efficient lighting systems, building shell improvements, or energy efficient HVAC and/or hot water systems. Furthermore, for municipally owned buildings, these tax deductions can be transferred to the design team or contractor(s).

Finally, the solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) provides a 30% tax credit for the installation of solar systems on residential and commercial properties. The solar ITC was set to expire at the end of 2016, but Congress extended it through 2022, decreasing the tax credit from 30% to 26% in 2020 and to 22% in 2021, then down to 10% in 2022. Similarly, the wind production tax credit (PTC) of \$0.023/kWh was also extended through 2016, then decreases by 20% per year until being phased out in 2020. Geothermal, landfill gas, marine energy, and hydro each saw a one year extension of their production tax credit. These technologies will also qualify for a 30% ITC. As always, consult a tax professional before pursuing these tax incentives. Feel free to contact us for more information.



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For updates on events and other information

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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.
Featuring new works by Stephen Dinsmore, Justin Meyers,
James Freeman, Teresa Schmidt, John Spence and Brian
Gennardo

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 21 to April 8
Phil Hawkins — Installations
Opening reception, February 21, 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.
February 3 to 27

JK Thorsen — New Works

Artist Reception, February 12, 5 to 8 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
a.m. to 3 p.m.

New works include acrylics by Gib Neal, glass by Judith
Andre, porcelain by Jesse Ross

Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St. 402-553-0800 www.omahaplayhouse.com

Hawks Mainstage Theater

Love, Loss and What I Wore— January 22 to February 14
An endearing and witty collection of stories shared by a cast
of women sitting side by side, accompanied by illustrations
from the original work. The fabric of their tales of life's
struggles and celebrations is woven with the common thread
of the all-important outfits they wore for each occasion.
This production contains strong language.

Howard Drew Theater

Caroline, or Change—February 12 to March 20

Caroline, or Change is a musical set in Lake Charles,
Louisiana, during the American civil rights movement. As
large-scale social changes in the country take hold, her
teenage daughter shows her that change can set her free.

Shelterbelt Theatre

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.shelterbelt.org

Untitled Series #7—A Comedy January 22 to February 14
Art, divorce, failure, dating, and the internet try to paint a
picture of hell when a white lie sets off a Rube Goldberg
machine of events in this romantic comedy set in Chicago's
contemporary art scene. The play was written by Omaha
playwright Ellen Struve.

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.snapproductions.com

Next production in March.

Blue Barn Theatre

1106 S. 10th St. (New Location)

402-345-1576 www.bluebarn.org

Frost/Nixon—February 4 to 28

Richard Nixon has just resigned the United States presiden-
cy following the Watergate scandal. British talk-show host
David Frost has become a lowbrow laughing-stock.
Determined to resurrect his career, Frost risks everything on
a series of in-depth interviews in order to extract an apology
from Nixon. The former president is equally bent on
redeeming himself in his nation's eyes. In the television age,
image is king, and both men are desperate to outtalk and
upstage each other as the cameras roll. The result is the
interview that sealed a president's legacy.



Abandon Ship by James Freeman



**11am – 6pm, 16 Apr, 2016
at Elmwood Park**

for more info visit earthdayomaha.org

“The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.”

— Richard Rogers

Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western

8:45 Traditional Worship and 11am The Spirit Alive Worship
10 am Christain Education for all ages
<http://lmlchurch.org> 402- 551-4488

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

3114 Harney Street All are welcome
For more info visit. www.firstuomaha.org

People's Film Festival

Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7pm in the Common Room. All are welcome to this showing of "The Lemon Tree". A 2008 film about a Palestinian widow who seeks to stop Israel from destroying the lemon trees in her family farm. Undoubtedly will lead to a broader discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature: Black Voices With Ron Knapp

Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7pm in the Common Room. Sources include, among others, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Frederick Douglas, W. E. B. Dubois, Maya Angelou, Eldridge Cleaver, and Lucile Clifton. Dave Rosser is also going to sing what is often called "The Negro National Anthem." More Than 25+ people have been gathering each month to have fun exploring literature in a coffee house atmosphere. We would love to have you join us!

The Palestine and Israel Conflict Study Group

Tuesdays: Feb 2, 9, 16, 23,
in the Merritt Lounge from 7-9 pm.
Facilitators: Sharon Conlon, Nadine Keith, Elaine Wells
You can read more about the UU groundwork and Study Guide at <http://uujme.org/home/Take-Action/Learn-and-Reflect>
Contact Sharon Conlon at sharonconlon@msn.com for further information or to RSVP.

Course in Miracles

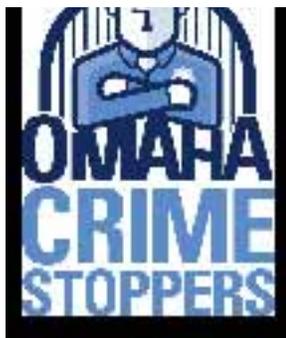
Thursdays: January 7, January 21, February 4, February 11, February 18, February 25 at 6:30pm in the Common Room.
Reserve your spot by emailing admin@firstuomaha.org.

St Patrick's Day Concert, March 17th "Ayreheart"
7 PM in Sanctuary, \$25.

for more info on all these visit firstuomaha.org

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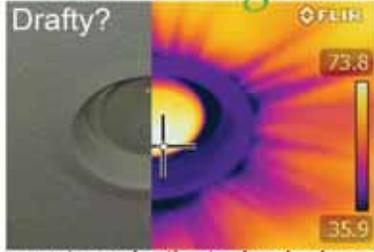
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Former 'Star Trek' Actor, LeVar Burton, to Headline 2016 Nebraska Science Festival

Emmy-award winning actor LeVar Burton, former "Star Trek" actor and "Reading Rainbow" producer will share the impact mentors, technology, storytelling and science fiction have had on his life, when he headlines the 2016 Nebraska Science Festival scheduled for April 15-23 which will feature an array of science- and technology-related activities in communities across the state with the goal of making science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for all ages.

On April 22, Burton will present "Technology & Storytelling: Making a Difference in the Digital Age" at Joslyn Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall in Omaha. His 7:30 p.m. presentation is free to the public (but requires a reserved ticket) and is suitable for all ages.

Tickets for the general admission seating to Burton's presentation will be released one month prior to the event, on March 22, on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be released online at Event Brite. Please check nescifest.com for more information. Although the presentation is free, tickets are required for admittance when doors open April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Burton launched his acting career while still a student at the University of Southern California. Cast in the groundbreaking role of Kunta Kinte in the landmark television series "Roots," he found himself on the cover of Time Magazine at age 19.

A seemingly impossible act to follow, Burton managed to do so in dramatic fashion, achieving further global acclaim as Chief Engineer Geordi La Forge in the iconic "Star Trek: The Next Generation" television series and feature films.

But it has been his role as host and executive producer of the beloved PBS children's series "Reading Rainbow," of which he is most proud. Airing from 1983 to 2009, "Reading Rainbow" was one of the longest-running children's television shows in history, and one of the most acclaimed, earning more than 200 awards including multiple Emmys and a Peabody.

Presented by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Science Festival is a collaboration of organizations and individuals interested in the advancement of science literacy.

In addition to NeSciFest.com, you will find SciFest updates and information on Twitter (@NESciFest) and Facebook (NE SciFest).

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
Please Join Us for Services at 9:30am & 11:15am

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANY OF THESE EVENTS!

Learn about Unitarian Universalism: UU&You Class
2/10 7pm-8:30pm

People's Film Festival:
2/16 7pm-8pm

A Course in Miracles:
A Complete Self-Study Spiritual Thought System
2/11, 2/18, 2/25 6:30pm-8pm



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