

*Elevating courageous voices.
Building courageous people.
Celebrating courageous leaders.*



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



[1.29.2025 - Omaha Table Talk | An Honest Conversation About the Sex Offender Registry](#)

[2.19.2025 - Omaha Table Talk | Open Paths: The Roads to Reproductive Justice](#)

[3.19.2025 - QTT El Corazón de la Familia: Analizando la Intersección de las Vidas LGBTQ+ y las Familias Latinas \(Heart of the Family: Discussing the Intersection of LGBTQ+ Lives and Latine Families\)](#)

Together We Belong: Transforming Our Communities



A sense of belonging starts with US.

It's not something you can touch or measure, but it's something you can feel deeply. Belonging is something you can create, nurture, and most importantly, protect.

But how do we create a sense of belonging? What does it really mean?

For a young person struggling to navigate their identity, it might mean seeing themselves reflected in the stories of others who understand their journey.

For a family new to this country, it might mean discovering a community that celebrates their culture and helps them build a new future. For someone who has faced exclusion, it might mean being told: *"You are welcome here. You belong."*

At Inclusive Communities, belonging is at the heart of the culture change we strive to create. It's the foundation of a world where dignity, kindness, and hope guide us forward.

This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to join us in transforming lives and communities through belonging. Together, we can:

- Drive culture change through meaningful conversations that challenge old norms and inspire new understanding.
- Equip individuals and organizations to foster inclusive environments for lasting impact.
- Empower people to lead with empathy, creating stronger and more connected communities.

For over 85 years, Inclusive Communities has worked to bridge divides, foster mutual respect, and build spaces where everyone can thrive. But there's so much more to be done, and we can't do it without your support.

Let's create a world where everyone belongs. Your Giving Tuesday contribution can make it possible.



With gratitude,

Cammy
Executive Director



Jane H. & Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks

CONVERSATIONS FOR CHANGE

SERIES

A Conversation with Storm Reid, hosted by Inclusive Communities

March 25, 2025, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Holland Performing Arts Center

SAVE THE DATE for the third installment of the **Jane H. & Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Conversations for Change**, featuring Emmy Award-winning actress and producer Storm Reid, best known for her roles in *Euphoria*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Last of Us*, and *Missing*.

The Jane H. & Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Conversations for Change Series brings thought leaders from around the world to Omaha to share their experiences around confronting prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination to build and strengthen the bridges between differing communities.

Jane H. and Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks dedicated their lives to advocacy and service, significantly impacting the Jewish and Omaha communities through their commitment to social justice, interfaith dialogue, and civil rights. Jane championed mental health, housing, education, and civil rights, while Rabbi Sidney, as Temple Israel's leader for 33 years, promoted interfaith understanding and was honored for his contributions to diversity and inclusion.

[Click to learn more about Conversations for Change and our sponsorship opportunities!](#)

Omaha Table Talk

**An Honest Conversation about the
Sex Offender Registry**

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



[REGISTER HERE](#)

In the Community



**click on each image for more information and/or registration links.*



Listen. Everybody's made a journey.

An Omaha AVP Transforming Power Service

With gratitude to the First Unitarian Church of Omaha's congregation for generously sharing their beautiful building and as an opportunity to introduce members of the Omaha AVP family, AVP offers a Transforming Power* service on Sunday, December 1, 2024.

This year's theme is AVP's Transforming Power Guide #3: Listen. Everybody's made a journey. Try to understand where the other person is coming from before you make up your mind.

By sharing their personal stories and journeys, AVP members offer opportunities for finding common ground with and empathy for one another.

December 1, 2024 10:30am with coffee and conversation to follow.

First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68131

Virtual attendance: First Unitarian Church of Omaha's Youtube channel

Info/Contact: Soulful Suzanne King omahaavp@gmail.com
Grateful Jerrold McLeod 402.915.2303

*It is through our shared humanity that we find
we are all more alike than different.*

*Transforming Power is at the heart of AVP. It's the belief that within every person lies the power to find a construction solution in times of conflict, that there is always a choice or an alternative.



OMAHA ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT

Omaha AVP is a wholly volunteer-led, IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
Omahaavp.wixsite.com/oavp

I BE  BLACK GIRL

Lived Experience

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

Join us to create positive birth outcomes for Black mamas, babies and families.

Deadline to apply Dec. 6



14TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAG^E

at 24th and Lake

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
NOON-5 PM**

24TH & OHIO TO 24TH & BURDETTE

For more information, call (402) 502-5153 or
email us at info@empoweromaha.com



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The Namibian Experience

Wednesday
December 11th
6:00 PM-7:00 PM



**FREE VIA ZOOM &
FACEBOOK LIVE**



Anneline Hatutale
Organizer for the Namibia
Community of the Americans
(NCA)



www.moreomaha.org to sign up free!

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MORE

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 18TH
1:00 PM - 2:00PM**

HOSTED BY
A'JAMAL BYNDON
MORE Chair of The Board

FREE VIA ZOOM & FACEBOOK LIVE

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JENNIFER DANG
PROGRAM PARTNER
INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITIES

**Jane H. & Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks 2nd Annual
Conversations for Change**

**Featuring Multi-Hyphenate Entertainer & Activist Bob
the Drag Queen**



inclu**think**

Support and Community

by Dominic Green

Funny enough, the last time I wrote for our IncluThink blog was also around the time of a major presidential election—clearly, I need to work on my timing! 😊

That said, I've spent the past month thinking, processing, and listening to others. Two words that have consistently surfaced in these conversations are *support* and *community*.

Let me start with this: **“What kind of world do we want, and what will we do to achieve it?”**

This quote from the movie *Cabrini*, depicting the life of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, struck me deeply. I was sitting with my mom and several others in the St. Frances Cabrini Community Center in Omaha, watching the film on the evening of Wednesday, November 6th—the day after the elections. I wasn't really in the mood. I felt numb. But I had promised a friend I would be there, and I knew she'd be looking for me. I had also promised my mom that we'd see this movie together. It was important to her because, later in her life, Mother Cabrini lived in Denver, Colorado, where she regularly visited my Italian relatives.

As I watched the movie—based on true events that launched Mother Cabrini’s global mission—I was struck by how relevant its themes are today. It reminded me that the fight for a just and inclusive community, where all people are treated with dignity and respect, is not new. And it reaffirmed that we cannot give up.

It’s true: this is not a new fight. And yes, that can sometimes deepen feelings of despair. But what if we chose to lean into that history instead? What if, as a community, we decided that now is not the time to give up? What if we supported “the work” with our time, money, and resources?

What if we took it even further? What if we actively supported local organizations that have long been leading these efforts—those fostering conversations, building relationships, and strengthening our communities?

By doing this, we might begin to answer the broader question of community. We live in a society that prioritizes individualism, yet we are facing an epidemic of loneliness. Research shows this loneliness is often worse for men. Clearly, we need community—a space where people can lean on one another, feel supported, and celebrate both small and large victories together.

Through conversations with others and in my own reflections, I’ve sensed fear about what comes next. What will the next iteration of this work and this fight look like? But alongside that fear, there has been a persistent question: How do we continue to support the communities around us? How do we sustain our neighbors, organizations, and workplace teams who have been courageously doing this work?

I’ll be honest with you: I don’t have the answers. I don’t think any of us truly knows what will happen next. But I do know this: I am choosing to hold space for those who need it and to continue working toward the mission of confronting prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination. That work looks different for everyone, and that’s okay.

Now is not the time to back down. Now is the time to lean into discomfort—safely and thoughtfully—and to support one another in whatever way that means to you. Find ways to connect with people and organizations that might be struggling. Support not just those at the forefront, but also those doing equally important work behind the scenes. Change requires all of us. And above all, we must remember why this work matters. In the movie *Cabrini*, she asks, “*What did we do for the poor, the sick, the homeless, those who are stripped of dignity?*” I ask myself this question constantly. What can I do? What can we do for our neighbors, family, friends, and fellow community members who are at risk of losing their dignity?

A gesture that seems small to you might be a beacon of hope to someone who feels forgotten in a scary time. Be that beacon when you can. But also, take care of yourself. Fill your own bucket so you can show up fully.

So I leave you with this: **What will you do for the poor, the sick, the homeless, and those who are excluded and stripped of their human dignity?**



Follow us for more updates



Our mailing address is:

1941 S 42nd St, STE 380, Omaha, NE 68105

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