



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**FEBRUARY 7, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“The Year of Our
Founding”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“The Silly and Serious
Sides of Love
-Revs. Tom Goldsmith &
Matthew Cockrum
w/ special music**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“Do You Know the Story
About”**

In celebrating the church's 125 anniversary, the present congregation needs to know some of our church's stories from the past decades.

Story-tellers: Hugh Gillilan, Alan Coombs, Tim Chambless, Barbara Kreek, Tom Goldsmith



125th Anniversary Celebration Sunday! February 28, 2016

Marriott Center for Dance
on the University of Utah Campus

Historical Slideshow at 10:10 a.m.
Service at 10:30 a.m.

Special guest speaker:
Rosemary Bray McNatt

A big thank you to the Special Collections Department at the Marriott Library for these images of some of our founding members.

Our 2015 Auction

-submitted by Julia Rossi, Auction Committee

The 2015 Church auction was a real success. I apologize that it has taken me so long to offer a summary of the event. Although we work extremely hard prior to the auction, a large part of our work is after the auction. Between my broken ankle and the slide into the holidays, the post-auction workload was substantial. I'd like to share my thoughts about this year's event and thank all of you who participated.

Whenever we select our Fairly Free Thinker Awardee, we are uncertain as to how they will engage with our audience. Will they be overly serious? Will they not say enough or, worse, say too much? And, when we have a new auctioneer, we generally have no idea how it will fly. In both cases we do our best to prepare them for the evening. Robert Fulghum, author and winner of our Fairly Free Thinker Award, was delightful; a

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First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

Next Publication Date

February 22, 2016

Submission Deadline

February 16, 2016 (Tuesday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after February 23rd to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 202 or torch@slcuu.org

Congregational Briefs

First Church Info Sessions - Interested in learning more about First Church and Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet other newcomers? Check out our twice-monthly First Church Information Sessions. Generally held the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month, this month's sessions are:

- February 7 - 10:00-10:45 and 12:00-12:45 - meet Rev. Matthew at the piano after service and he'll lead you to the Parlor, no RSVP needed, or
- February 18 - 7:00-9:00 p.m. - meet Revs. Tom and Matthew in room 208. Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP to Rev. Matthew at clminister@slcuu.org

Friendly People Needed - The Hospitality Team is in need of Ushers and Welcome Table volunteers. Sign up for monthly or less-frequent shifts. Easy-in, easy-out - just two hours a month or less! Interested? Stop at the Welcome Table for more info or contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687.

Adult Religious Education

In keeping with our purpose statement, "Adult Religious education supports and provides programming that furthers the spiritual and intellectual journeys of our multigenerational UU community," we are pleased to announce courses for winter/spring 2016. Class descriptions and sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Table and online at slcuu.org. Registration can be done online or by filling out the form on the sheet.

Arts and Crafts Fair 2016

The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on March 19th from 5 to 10 pm. Artists: Please register using the online form (<http://www.slcuu.org/news/latest-news/item/223-annual-arts-fair-march19th>). This is a fun family event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any questions please contact Bill Reed at artfair@slcuu.org

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the church. The book for February 23 is "Room" by Emma Donoghue. The book for March 22 is "The Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner. All are welcome.

Dinner and Dialogue For February

Please sign up to host or attend a dinner and dialogue in February. The theme will be "Spiritual Journeys," and we will share stories of our experiences learning from another culture or from another religion or

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Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

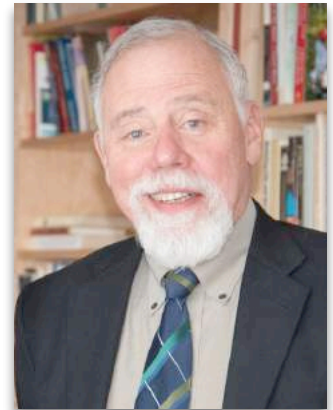
There's an oft-told story, undoubtedly apocryphal, where a pastor asks one of his elderly parishioners why she was so insistent on using the King James Bible exclusively when so many newer translations were available. Her answer was short and to the point: "If the King James Bible was good enough for Jesus, why then it's good enough for me."

The King James Bible sprung into circulation around 1611, or something like 16 centuries following the death of Jesus. But facts are frequently a nuisance to people of faith who insist their source of information runs far superior to anything that might hint of logic.

I was reminded of this peculiar phenomenon where religious certainty, steeped in ignorance, becomes a rallying cry for those who must alter reality in order to fit their eccentric views of history. Betsy Gaines Quammen, whose doctoral dissertation on the history of Mormon Culture and the use of public land, took her to Cliven Bundy's Nevada ranch last year. His two sons have grabbed headlines through their irrational behavior in an armed-siege of a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon. In Ms. Quammen's effort to understand Cliven Bundy's assertion that ties grazing cattle on public land to the U.S. Constitution, she quotes his understanding of how divinity actually works: "Jesus Christ is basically the author of the Bible, and if the U.S. Constitution is inspired, then Jesus would be the author."

Would anyone care to argue with Mr. Bundy and explain the Bible's origins going back roughly seven centuries before the birth of Jesus? I don't think so, nor would anyone want to point out to him that the writers and signers of the U.S. Constitution were mainly Deists, Unitarians, and Universalist, hardly candidates for receiving divine intervention. In a complex world, it seems simplicity offers the best alternative, regardless if it makes sense or not.

But the point of all this is to recognize our church's 125 anniversary, and to honor our first minister, David Utter, who tried to introduce a voice of reason in Salt Lake City in 1891, when it was still a wild west town and predominantly



Mormon. From our pulpit, Utter introduced "biblical criticism," a relatively new discipline developed by German theologians about twenty years prior. Utter offered a means to interpret the Bible through critical analysis, which accepted varying cultural contexts in which scripture was written. Biblical criticism bent literalism in half, digging deep to find the original meaning of passages and stories which the writer, not God, tried to convey.

Our church began its history in controversy, upsetting the status quo, and challenging a convenient plan of the universe espoused by conservative church leaders and adopted by their massive followers. To a large extent, our church still fills very much the same purpose today that launched it 125 years ago: the world is far more complex than lazy minds want to accept; rational thought need not be antagonistic to religion; what will ultimately save humanity is critical thinking.

Happy anniversary to us! See you at the celebration: February 28th at 10:30am, Marriott Dance Theater on the University of Utah campus. TRG

In the Life

It's not usually one of the holidays I give a lot of attention, which doesn't tend to be that big of a deal. Nobody looks at me askance for not sending a card, asks if I have any special plans for it, or even tries to market to me...too much.

Valentine's Day? Are you kidding? Where have you been? I'm talking about President's Day!

I'm what I'd call a lazy patriot at best. I'm predictably liberal in my critiques of most of mainstream U.S. culture. But this February, the last in which Barack Obama is sitting as President, I have the impulse to find some way to be more intentional in commemorating President's Day, the third Monday in February, this year on February 15.

I'll go ahead and say that I'd guess being President is a stressful job. We always see the before and after pictures. Not that there aren't perks, that it's not a privileged position. But it takes work, right?

What's more obvious to me than ever is how the President serves as a lightning rod. Everything they say and do becomes symbolic. In some ways it's as though they're no longer their own person. Rather, they're the screen upon which we project oh so very much about power, authority, values, responsibility, you name it...the list goes on and on.

The reason I'm feeling moved to mark President's Day in some way this year is that I

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

believe President Obama's terms of office have been a part of the healing of this nation...by reminding us of how very much work we have to do around this country's initial wounds of racism, slavery, violence, inequity and fear. It may be naive of me, but I'm deeply suspicious that the Black Lives Matter movement has in large part taken wing and gained energy because a Black man is President. Just his face in the media is a daily reminder of race - a reminder that many in power and privilege have been able to avoid or dismiss until now.



I wondered aloud recently whether issues of racial justice will lose some momentum once Obama's out of office. I am certain they will never disappear completely from our nation's conscience, nor should they. But I'll be curious to see what happens around these issues throughout this election cycle and into the next presidency - whoever's in office.

May we continue to attend to the wounds and the wounded of our nation - even, and maybe especially when it gets messy and scary.

Here's to The Work, Friends!
Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

Join us for "Soul Food and Jazz" February 20th 6 p.m.

We'll be having BBQ chicken (plus a vegan option), salad, cornbread, and rice & beans plus dessert. Wine and Beer will be available.

A local jazz band will be playing to entertain you! Tickets are \$25 and will be sold after service the next few weeks!

This is a fundraiser for the Boston Heritage Trip for our Coming of Age class in June. Thank for your support!



Theatre Group News

-submitted by Helen Stanhope

Theater group's January activities:

- Saturday, January 16 at 7:30, we will see "Beau Jest" at Hale theater. This is a comedy about a Jewish woman hiring an actor to portray her boyfriend so her parents don't know she has fallen in love with a non-Jew. Tickets are \$29. Dinner will be at Pho Green Papaya.
- Wednesday, January 27 at 7:30 we will see "Two Dollar Bill" at Pioneer Memorial Theater. This play is a world - premiere about academic awards and their worth. The theater's brochure indicates this will promote lengthy philosophical discussions so it is perfect for Unitarian Universalists. Ticket prices range from \$23 - \$34 with Helen's discount plus \$3 service charge per ticket. Dinner will be at Porcupine Grill.
- Our next play will be "Based On A True Story" by Elaine Jarvik. When: Saturday, March 5 at



8:00. Where Plan B Theater inside Rose Wagner theater 138 West 300 South. Price \$17.50 while supplies last. Other weekend performances are mostly sold out. Dinner: unknown for now.

Contact Helen Stanhope at theatre@slcuu.org or 801-355-5090 to reserve your seats.

Mark Your Calendars:

Cedar City Shakespeare Festival will be between August 9 -14 (most people come over the weekend) and for true addicts September 30 - October 2. Please go to bard.org for information, prices, dates, discounts etc. Plays include "Much Ado About Nothing" "The Three Muskateers", "Henry V" "Julius Caesar," "The Cocoanuts", "Mary Poppins", "Murder For Two."

We have discounted rooms at the Stratford Inn about 2 blocks from the theaters.

Women's Sacred Circle Update

-submitted by Carol Romagosa

The Women's Sacred Circle was created about 4 years ago. Throughout the year, we enjoy several activities. Each month, we meet on the 2nd Tuesday to explore our spiritual journeys. Topics are based on readings found in the back of our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*. On the full moon, we meet at someone's home. This year we are studying rocks and minerals, their beauty and the essence of their healing properties. In addition, twice a year we schedule a retreat to Southern Utah to replenish and recreate our souls.

This year, as an extension of our activities, we created feminine hygiene bags for various agencies helping those in need. With the donations from several members and friends,

we were able to create 40 bags for the Christmas Box House Teen Program (this is designed to help teens transitioning out of the foster care system into independent living). The Road Home received 50 bags and 4 large boxes of supplies for the Women's Unit. In addition, we donated hats and gloves to the Pride Center and much needed items to the Inn Between.

We will continue with outreach projects throughout the year. We would love for you to join our efforts in lending support to each other and to concentrating on other women's needs beyond our church community. For more information feel free to contact Adrienne Splinter at a.splinter@utah.edu or Carol Romagosa at cjromagosa@aol.com

Auction (continued from pg. 1)

man of perfect timing, humor and wit. Despite all we knew about his accomplishments, we never dreamt he would be such an amazing speaker. I hope all of you were able to attend his church service the next day; it was outstanding. Our first time auctioneer, Jim Dukakis, showed up without the script we had painfully assembled for him and, without an available printer, he was going to have to wing it. It was clear that he hadn't looked at the slides and had no clue what we were auctioning off. Prior to the event, we had attempted to correspond with him through email and phone calls to no avail. We were a bit worried he would forget the event entirely. Sandi Greene and I were fraught with anxiety. Well, he gets up on the podium and takes off. He is funny, spontaneous and whips through the offerings with flair. We are flabbergasted. Not only that, he donated a beautiful impressionist painting that sold for \$1,000 and he would accept no gift we offered (a very nice bottle of wine) because of his political position.

I get a lot of praise for the auction but it is all because of my fabulous and experienced committee, past and present. Sometimes committee members have to drop out for whatever reason but their past contributions

are extremely important to future events. All the committee members work tirelessly and focus on a set goal. We understand the importance of raising the money but also the need to have a fun social event that brings us all together and reinforces our commitment to the church. I cannot say enough about Hal and Jenni who manage to slip our endless demands into their already busy schedules. There is the accounting, the notices, the website, etc. It is a lot of work. But most of all I want to thank all of you who donated, attended, brought friends and smiles.

The big question is always, what did we raise. It is not an exact science. I will be submitting a detailed report to the board. I am comfortable, at this point, in saying that we raised \$33,000. We believe that 215 persons attended and 52% signed up for an event or purchased a live auction item. In addition, we sold many raffle tickets that evening. By the way, we still have openings to attend the Madrigal Mystery Tour on May 21st, hosted by Nikki Blackburn and Marti Major. I'm signed up! If you are interested, please contact me, juliarossi@comcast.net.

Social Justice and Environmental Ministry News

Rally: Keep it in the Ground

Tuesday, February 16, 8:00 AM Salt Lake Salt Palace

-submitted by Kathy Albury

Last November, the Utah BLM postponed the auction for oil and gas extraction leases because the room was too small to accommodate public interest. It is rescheduled for the Salt Palace on Tuesday, February 16. Help us stop the leasing of 45,700 acres of Utah public lands to fossil fuel companies. We will gather at 8:00 AM outside the Salt Palace; at 8:45 AM you may go into Room 255 to witness the auction or remain outside to sing songs and

share stories. Bring friends! For updates, go to Facebook, "Elders Rising"

Upcoming Anti-Racism Book Discussion and Film Screening

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory

Book Discussion: An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Friday, February 12, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208
Co-sponsored by the Anti-Racism Committee with Roots of Injustice Seeds of Change, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples;

Environmental Ministry continued on page 7

February/March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1) First Church Info Session after each service (pg. 2)	8 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	9 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm Anti-Racism film 6:30 pm (pg. 7)	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	11	12 ARC & EM book discussion 6:30 pm (pg. 6)	13
14 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	15 President's Day - church offices closed	16 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Anti-Racism film 6:30 pm (pg. 7)	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	18 First Church Info Session 7 pm (pg.2)	19	20 Soul Food & Jazz event 6 pm (pg. 3)
21 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	22	23 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Celebration Sunday! 10 am Marriott Center for Dance (pg.1)	29 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	March 1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3	4	5

Social Justice (continued from pg. 6)

Environmental Ministry; and the Social Justice Council.

Spanning more than 400 years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

Film Screening: Race: The Power of An Illusion Tuesdays, February 9 & 16, 6:30-8:30PM, Eliot Hall Co-sponsored by the Anti-Racism Committee with the Social Justice Council.

This film challenges one of our most fundamental beliefs: that humans come

divided into a few distinct biological groups, telling an eye-opening tale of how what we assume to be normal, commonsense, even scientific, is actually shaped by our history, social institutions and cultural beliefs. Episode one explores how recent scientific discoveries have toppled the concept of biological race. Episode two questions the belief that race has always been with us. It traces the race concept to the European conquest of the Americas. Episode three focuses on how our institutions shape and create race. We will watch and discuss the film over the course of two Tuesday evenings: Feb 9 & 16.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service
Requested

Congregational Briefs (continued from pg. 2)

perhaps even a family member. As always, the host will set the date, decide the menu and number of guests they can accommodate. Guests contribute by bringing a dish to share. Sign up at the Welcome table. Questions? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or suppers@slcuu.org.

UU Lunch Bunch

A family-friendly group for anyone and everyone who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded people. Meet at the Restaurant on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- January 31: Squatters (147 W. Broadway)
- February 7: The Corner Bakery (610 Foothill Blvd)
- February 14: Cafe Med (420 East 3300 South)
- February 21: Boulevard Bistro (1414 S. Foothill Blvd)