

The Torch

NOVEMBER 7, 2016

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 8

Upcoming Services

November 6th(Services at 9 and 11:00 am)

"Meeting the Future in 48 Hours" - Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

Nat "King" Cole

November 13th(Services at 9 and 11:00 am)

"Hillary" - This will be our first service following the election. Tom Goldsmith and the Worship Arts Council led by Kathleen Cahill will offer varying perspectives on (conceivably) the first woman president.

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

David Bowie

November 20th(Services at 9 and 11:00 am)

Thanksgiving Service

"Puritans and the Elite" - Rev. Tom Goldsmith, David Owens and the Chancel Choir will lead us in joyful thanksgiving.

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

Ella James

Reverently Yours (Rev. Tom Goldsmith)

It doesn't take a bona fide oracle (even of Greek vintage), to forebode an ominous future for our nation. Angst permeates the air, whispering in the wind an unraveling of both democracy and civility. The writing is certainly on the wall, clear as day, waiting for its prophecy to be fulfilled. And yet we seem paralyzed to thwart the pending doom despite advanced warning.

America's love affair with guns, flaunting and shooting them, appears ready to play a major role in the drama unfolding. The signs are ripe with pending significance. The acquittal of the Bundy brothers, whose armed take-over of an Oregon Wildlife refuge, needs to be placed in context of other highly disturbing violent proclivities. A precedent has now been established for future militants to use violence in their irrational grumble with the government. God seems to factor into this craziness as well, as though civil law does not apply when God is on your side. And the jury acquittal might even be interpreted as a divine sign: not guilty of possession of firearms despite the capture of 30 guns and 16,000 live rounds of ammunition. This is totally surreal. The astounding dismissal of clear evidence harks back to young black men being shot in the back by police officers, with no accountability. Camcorders be damned! Second amendment rights now leap to the fore, but don't let Black Lives Matter protesters carry as much as a toy pistol. The second amendment, apparently, applies only to whites.

The rise in crime against Muslim Americans has taken a page from the KKK. A "militia," aka vigilantes, from west Kansas has been the most recent display of terror unleashed in a minority community. And Trump supporters vow violence if their candidate is not elected. The sound rationale offered is that the election is rigged and stolen. But rigged only if their candidate loses. Reminds me of flipping a coin: heads I win; tails you lose.

My mind is scrambled trying to figure out what this all means and what lies ahead. Regardless how the election turns out, countrymen will turn against countrymen as violence gains new legitimacy. The mocking of a disabled reporter, the smears against immigrants, the extra policing in black neighborhoods, the shocking treatment of women,

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all advocated by a man with a real chance to become president, sanctions an aggressive and vicious tone in our nation's discourse. And when language uttered by civic leaders spews hate the center cannot hold.

I'd like to say, especially as we approach the holiday, that the light of hope will see us through the darkness. But the strong winds howling nearby threaten the light that yearns to pursue the welfare of all beings. My spirit is grateful for our church community, which offers shelter through its caring, and also never wavers in its commitment to make the world better. I believe that in the weeks and months ahead, other concerned people who feel lost in this maelstrom of violence and injustice, will come seeking shelter in our community. Let us welcome them, build a larger and stronger community, affecting change throughout our nation. TRG

In the Life (Rev. Matthew Cockrum)

On the cusp of the national presidential election I have two quotes to offer you, Friends. The first comes from the pop 80's band, REM:

"It's the end of the world as we know it...and I feel fine."

The second comes from the 14th century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich:

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

There's an innocent, obnoxious and possibly infectious optimism in both of these sentiments. And it is that optimism I hope to impart to you. Perhaps it's naive, but I continue to trust and believe in the evolutionary processes of which we are a part. They've gotten us this far, haven't they? And though there's plenty wanting in the way things are, there's a lot to be grateful for - even in our awareness of injustice, inequality, oppression and privilege.

The oft-cited quote of early Unitarian Theodore Parker (later cited by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," is just as often followed up with the reminder that we must take an active role in doing the bending. I see that happening all around me - on-line, in person, at bus stops, signs in windows and front yards, bumper stickers. Even in

the difficult, frustrating, seemingly pointless conversations between opposing parties.

There is a continued engagement.

There is an unwillingness to just let things go and continue as they are.

There is an impatience.

There is a deep desire...a hunger for justice, change, improvement.

It's been said that our tradition is part of a version of liberal idealism that may have outlived its usefulness. I disagree. We are an embodiment of determined creativity. We cannot always know or predict how that creativity will take shape. But we can choose to collaborate with it.

Here's to The Work, Friends...of optimism, creativity and the infinite possibilities of love.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

More from Matthew

High School OWL - Save the Dates

Make sure your youth benefit from accurate, comprehensive and faith-inclusive sexuality education by participating in Our Whole Lives.

- 2 Overnight Weekends - attendance at both
 - Friday, February 3 5:30 p.m. to Saturday, February 4 9:00 p.m.
 - Friday, February 17 5:30 p.m. to Saturday, February 18 9:00 p.m.
- Cost - \$40
- Ages - grades 10, 11 and 12
- Parent Orientations - must attend one or clear with Rev. Matthew Cockrum
 - Sunday, January 22 - 3:00-5:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, January 26 - 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Additional Needs
 - Snacks
 - meal organization and delivery - breakfast, lunch, 2 dinners
 - Overnight chaperones - background checks required, previous experience preferred

For more questions contact Minister for Congregational Life, Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687 ext. 205

Room Switches - to accommodate group sizes, the 10th-12th and 8th-9th grades will be switching rooms. Effective November 6:

- High School (10th-12th grades) - will meet in room 218 - still 10:45-12:45
- Jr. High (8th & 9th grades) - will meet in the Haven (room 214) - still 10:45-12:15

Religious Education

Julie Miller, Director, Religious Education

Religious Education Corner (RE) Julie Miller, Director of Religious Education

Do you dread it or embrace it? There's no escaping the fact that from October through January, our church routines are chock-a-block full of events and celebrations. Last week, our families with younger children attended our annual Halloween Party in Eliot Hall. We hosted nearly 100 people who truly enjoyed an evening of food, crafts, music and, of course, some very inventive costumes. Money raised during this event goes to the lower and upper divisions of the RE program, either for Sandwich Sunday supplies (lower) or the service trip (high school youth). The evening culminated with a group sing-a-long at Friendship Manor led by David Owens and our Junior Choir.

The next two events we're heavily involved with are the Christmas Pageant followed by the Winter Solstice service. This year, the Pageant is based on a children's book ***The Last Straw*** by Frederick Thury. The Pageant is set for Sunday, December 18th at the 11am service only. We need gifts or trinkets for our camel to carry to the Baby King plus any costumes that reflect the early Christian era—think desert inhabitants. Please bring your donations for our Pageant play to the RE office or to a box marked PAGEANT in the Little Chapel.

The beauty—perhaps it's a curse!—of doing these pageants is that there are very few rehearsals. This year, the most likely rehearsal dates are December 10 and 17—Saturdays 9:30am to noon. We're encouraging children and youth to participate this year. You can sign up online or the old-fashioned way by paper and pencil in the classrooms or at the RE Welcome Table.

Soon after the Pageant, we hold our annual Winter Solstice Service on Wednesday December 21st. The service begins in the Sanctuary at 6pm followed by another excellent communal meal served in Eliot Hall and hosted by our high school youth. Plan to celebrate with your immediate clan

and extended family as we gather to embrace the season of returning light. This ancient cultural phenomenon is a multi-generational event that incorporates music, dance, poetry, reflection, food and drink, and is appropriate for all ages.

Further, the Solstice Service lets us recognize our role in the Web of Life, affirm our earth-centered values and revel in the beauty of the coming light. This is also a fundraiser for our high school youth trip in 2017. Ticket sales start soon and a word to the wise: buy early as this event is sold out every year!

Just Around the Corner

Remember our clothing drive. Donate gently-worn clothing items for infants through teen years. Donation boxes will be located in the Little Chapel or bring your items on Monday November 7 for Family Fun Night.

Sanctuary Sunday, November 6th: Family Chalice Lighting shared by Megan Anderson, Steve Boyer and the children Jaxon and Asher.

Family Fun Night, Monday November 7, Eliot Hall, 6pm. Service Project hosted by Lissa Lander Play rehearsal runs concurrently with the family event.

Remember: Daylight Savings ends on Sunday November 6

Seeking the Sources Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum in an exploration of the Sources and Principles of Unitarian Universalism. This is a monthly drop-in class. Come to one, a few or all! Each session will include movement, meditation and conversation. If you've got a favorite yoga mat or meditation cushion bring it along...or just come as you are! Sessions will be the last Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, in which case it will be on the prior Monday. Time: 6:45-8:45; Location: Little Chapel; Next session: November 28th.

Keith Trickett Musical Fundraiser for our Homeless Youth Meal Effort

-submitted by David Owens

The Music Department at First Church is pleased to host an evening recital of British Humorous Music on November 14th at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Longtime musical friend, Baritone Keith Trickett, will offer his musical musings at this benefit recital for The Homeless Youth Shelter. Keith's recitals are always a pleasure and this one is sure to be a special delight. Joined by accompanist Emily

Williams, this will be an entertaining and worthwhile evening. Please come !!! A Suggested Donation of \$10 will gratefully be accepted at the door, and following the recital a full reception will be held in Eliot Hall. If you have questions, please feel free to contact David Owens 801-390-0488

Jazz Vespers 2016 Schedule

November 6th: Nat "King" Cole

November 13th: David Bowie

November 20th: Etta James

November 27th: Eagles

December 4th: Prince

December 11th: Tina Turner

December 18th: Christmas Cool

Each Fall Reverend Tom Goldsmith kicks off a new season of Jazz Vespers, a concert series featuring top-notch, local jazz musicians. Jazz Vespers has been running for over 25 years and always plays to a full house. Concert time is 7:30. Please arrive early for our very popular Jazz Vespers series to make sure you get a seat.

Call for Solstice Singers:

We need singers for the annual Winter Solstice service here at First Unitarian Church. Teens and adults from our congregation are encouraged--and needed!--to join with members of the Chancel Choir to sing at this special event. Four rehearsals are scheduled, each Tuesday beginning November 29, at 7:00 p.m. The Solstice celebration will be Wednesday December 21, at 6:00 p.m. (Note the different day of the week.) If you enjoy singing, can make it to most of the rehearsals--and the performance!--and would like to join this fun and rewarding experience, please email Holly at hollybstuart@gmail.com to get involved.

Congregational Briefs

Refugee Resettlement Committee "All dogs secretly speak the English language and subscribe to the morals and beliefs of the Unitarian Church." So asserts a character in Douglas Coupland's 1991 novel, *Generation X*. English-speaking, Unitarian dogs are if two minds when it comes to an aging sofa. One group favors retaining the old one for naps. Another advocates recycling it to benefit refugees. Call dog whisperer Joe Dubray at (904) 527-9773 to consult about furniture donations.

The **Open Minds Book Group's** next meeting will be on December 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the Church. The book is "I Am Pilgrim" by Terry Hayes. All are welcome.

Dinner and Dialogue **Dinner and Dialogue** is going strong! There have already been several dinners, and we have many more in the works clear through May. Feel free to sign up in the white binder in Eliot Hall at the Congregational Life Table to host or attend a dinner in order to connect with people in our congregation. If you have any questions, please call Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or send me an email to suppers@slcuu.org.

Mindfulness Group **Sundays** Following the end of the first service, in the Parlor.

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 noon during the summer. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- November 6: Red Moose Coffee (1693 South 900 East)
- November 13: Finn's (1624 South 1100 East)
- November 20: Manoli's Greek (402 East Harvey Milk Blvd. [900 South])
- November 27: Lokal Kitchen (1429 South 1100 East)
- December 4: Mellow Mushroom (1080 East 2100 South)
- December 11: Pho Thin (2121 McClelland)
- December 18: Current Fish & Oyster (279 East 300 South)
- December 25: No lunch bunch
- January 1: No lunch bunch

"In the Spotlight". . . Meet Owen Edwards

-submitted by Jan Crane

So forty-four years ago my Mother named me Owen D. Edwards, I was the second child of four. I grew up here in Salt Lake City but have also lived in Atlanta Georgia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Guerneville, CA.

For the bulk of my adult life I worked as an Esthetician and Massage Therapist but retired from

such work a couple of years ago when I decided to head back to college. Just a bit over a year ago I moved back to Salt Lake City to study at the University of Utah. The main reason I chose the U of U was the fact that they offer Coptic as a language at the undergraduate level. Currently I am working towards a dual BA in Religious Study and Gender Studies.

I am the only member of my family who is not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I resigned from the LDS faith in 2001, triggered by the LDS Church supporting Prop 8 (a change to the California family law that banned same sex marriage.)

Beyond school, I work with a charitable organization, The Zion Curtain Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (www.thesisters.org). The quote I try and use as my personal mantra is "Life is a mirror

and will reflect back to the thinker what he thinks into it" -Ernest Holmes.

When I lived in Atlanta I was a member of the First Existential Church of Atlanta, a UUA Congregation. When I moved to Salt Lake, it was a logical for me to join our Congregation. I don't have a good answer to how I participate in the Church; I am still getting my feet under me from the move and school. I hope to grow into a more active role, but at the moment I have yet to make that happen. I felt the call to sign the book, because the UUA is where my spiritual heart is. In a similar thought as to why I'm not more active in the Church is why I am not currently pledged with the Church. As a student, I don't have the ability right now to give to the Church, but starting next semester, I will be paying resident tuition, so I expect at that point to be able to give a regular tithe.

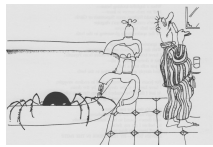
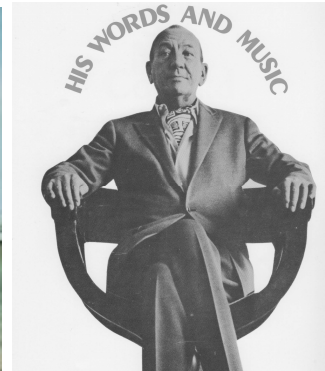
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The Election will be over
No need for fact checking - this event is
guaranteed to be

An Evening of English Nonsense

*Songs, Verse, Limericks and Fun from Flanders and Swan,
Noel Coward, Gilbert and Sullivan, Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll*



Keith Trickett, Bass Emily Williams, Piano

Flanders and Swan - Gnu, Warthog, Hippotamus, Mopy Dick, Sloth, Wopom, Elephant, Spider, Wild Boar etc.
Noel Coward - Mrs. Worthington, Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Uncle Harry, Bar on the Piccola Marina
Gilbert and Sullivan - Modern Major General, Lying Awake with a Dismal Headache.

Monday, November 14 2016 at 7:30

First Unitarian Church 569S 1300E, Salt Lake City

"Singing for their Suppers"

This is a Charity event. First Unitarian Church, in partnership with Volunteers of America, has committed to provide meals each month to 40 homeless teens. Your assistance will enable the Unitarian Church to purchase the necessary supplies. Thank you for your Donation.

STOP PRESS!!! WORLD PREMIER

The program will also include a new setting of AA Milne's "The Alchemist" By John Paul Hayward