

The Torch

DECEMBER 5, 2016

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Upcoming Services

December 4th (Services at 9 and 11:00 am)

"Bob Dylan: Words and Music"

- Rev. Tom Goldsmith and Jim Thornburg

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

Prince

December 11th (Services at 9 and 11:00 am)

Lessons and Carols

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

Tina Turner

December 18th

9 am: **"Come All Ye Faithful"** - a homily by Rev. Tom Goldsmith

11 am: **Christmas Pageant** - Religious Education

Jazz Vespers (7:30 pm)

Christmas Kool

December 24th (Services at 5:30 and 7 pm)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Music, words, candles, and hope

December 25th (One service only at 11:00 am)

"Extraordinary"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith and David Owens

Music and homily for a Christmas morning

Reverently Yours (Rev. Tom Goldsmith)

A powerful film called "Loving" was released November 4th and I finally got a chance to see it last weekend. The story traces the struggle to legalize interracial marriage. Richard Loving (a white man) and his wife Mildred (a black woman) were married in 1958 in Washington, D.C. Since they lived in Virginia they anticipated correctly that there would be fewer obstacles to legalizing

their marriage if performed in the nation's capital, but they were shortsighted in anticipating the wrath heaped upon them by law enforcement once they returned home. Contacted by the ACLU after Mildred wrote a personal letter to Attorney General Robert Kennedy asking for their civil rights to be restored, The Supreme Court finally took the case in 1967 (Loving v. Virginia), and ended the anti-miscegenation statute, which would apply throughout the whole country.

With some incredulity I took note of this being (from my perspective) recent history. Recent enough to make me realize following Trump's victory, that despite newly imposed laws that uphold the civil rights of a diverse America, people's view of race outside metropolitan areas, remains just as ugly as what the Lovings experienced in rural white America 50 years ago. The slogan pertaining to make America great again sends chills down my spine. I would guess that America was "great" when laws sanctioning white supremacy were congruent with how white America was feeling emotionally about such issues. Today, just a few weeks shy of a Trump inauguration, we worry (legitimately) about the repeal of civil rights laws, especially with a conservative Supreme Court carefully designed to enforce white identity over and against a multicultural society.

Four years ago I walked into a court in Virginia and performed the wedding of my daughter to her husband, a Muslim whom she met while working in Bangladesh. He's a very witty guy, who knows The Godfather by heart and can run through Italian accents better than Al Pacino. You would hardly expect such a performance from a Bangladeshi, but what is one supposed to expect? Once we transcend stereotypical profiles of people from all races and ethnicities, it's a beautiful world.

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All Torch articles are also published as separate news items in the "Latest News" section on the front page of our website.

After my daughter encountered too many ISIS operatives in her work, the two of them quickly abandoned Bangladesh and settled in Chicago a few months ago. You would think all would be fine now: Happy ending/new beginning. But the anxiety produced by a Trump presidency has quickly dissolved any feelings of newfound security. Obtaining a Green Card, never an easy enterprise, may easily prove prohibitive when Trump takes office. All paperwork has been filed and payments made. It now feels like a race against the clock to get the bureaucracy to move swiftly enough to secure papers necessary for working and immigration before a Trump presidency will play the xenophobic card. In supporting the blue collar yearning for a white America to prevail, lives will be made unbearable for Muslims. After seeing the film, *Loving*, I can't help but be concerned about old feelings against interracial couples being revived. The raft of recent violence, given license by the bold impression that laws protecting all people were merely attempts at political correctness, signal a brutal reversal of what liberals like me had conceived as social progress. The Trump victory indicates that human relations remain as fragile as ever, and that identity politics triumphs across this land where we imagine times were better when laws kept white populations in control.

I married an interracial couple some years ago in the state of Virginia. I am concerned whether or not I could do so in the future. TRG

In the Life (Rev. Matthew Cockrum)

As we edge toward darker winter days and longer winter nights it's important to look for sources of hope and warmth. Join us for:

- **Solstice Celebration** - Wednesday, December 21 - Dancers & Pipers & Drumming, Oh My! Come for the Celtic-inspired worship service at 6 and stay for the chili dinner afterward! Dinner tickets available on-line and in Eliot Hall on Sunday mornings. Proceeds benefit the high school service trip.
- **Seeking the Sources** - Monday, December 19 6:45-8:45 p.m. - This monthly drop-in session will be a week early due to the Christmas holiday. Join me and others in embodied explorations of the sources of our living tradition. Dress for movement and

bring your favorite yoga and meditation supplies!

Strength, Courage & Wisdom to you in these wintery times.

Here's to The Work!

Matthew

Religious Education Announcements

Religious Education Winter Holiday Party will be Saturday, Dec. 10, 2:00 to 4:00pm.

Pageant Practice will be held Monday evening, Dec. 5, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Please make sure children eat before coming. Pageant Dress Rehearsal will be held, Sat. Dec. 17, 9:30 to noon.

LGBTQ Book Drive

"To see a face or body that looks like your own is powerful in its effect to simply validate you as a worthy human being"

-Eric Anthony Grollman, PH.D.

YRUU is sponsoring an LGBTQ book drive for the Salt Lake County Youth Services group homes. Please bring either book donations or cash donations to the Religious Education table through December 17th. Most sought after titles are listed below.

- *AJ and Magnus: Night of the Roach*, Bryan Steel (Author) Simon Steel (Illustrator)
- *Red: A Crayon's Story*, Michael Hall
- *I'll Give You the Sun*, Jandy Nelson
- *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, Susan Kuklin
- *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*, Kristin Cronn-Mills
- *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, Emily M. Danforth
- *Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen*, Arin Andrews
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, Benjamin Alire Saenz
- *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, John Green, David Levithan
- *Me being Me Is Exactly as Insane as You Being You*, Todd Hasak-Lowy
- *Her Name in the Sky*, Kelly Quindlen
- *Fat Angie* E.E. Charlton-Trujillo

Environmental Ministry News

5th Grader to Petition Salt Lake City Council to Ban Plastic Bags; Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 7PM, Salt Lake City & County Building, 451 S. State Street, SLC -submitted by Julie Miller, Director of Religious Education and Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

When our children stand up and take action, it's important for us to support them, right? Well now's our chance!

Liam, a fifth grader at Uintah Elementary School and a member of the First Unitarian Church, started a petition last Spring to ban the use of plastic bags by retail stores in Salt Lake City. He was inspired to do this after writing an essay in his class about the environmental dangers of plastic bags and how other cities and countries have banned their use. He now has over 200 names on the petition – one of those signatures is likely yours if you have stopped by the Environmental Ministry table within the last few months.

Liam will be attending the Salt Lake City Council Meeting on 12/6/16 with a group of kids from Uintah Elementary and First Unitarian Church who also support this project. He will present his petition to the Council and ask that they pass an ordinance to ban the use of plastic bags by retail stores in Salt Lake City.

We invite you to attend the Salt Lake City Council Meeting on Tuesday, 12/6/16 starting at 7:00PM at the Salt Lake City & County Building on 451 S. State Street to support this project. You can park in the underground parking at the Downtown Salt Lake Library and receive parking validations at the meeting.

Environmental Ministry will screen **"Before the Flood"** on Fri, Dec 2nd, 7PM, Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church. *"Before the Flood"* presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes now occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as the actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

Jazz Vespers 2016 Schedule

December 4th: Prince
December 11th: Tina Turner
December 18th: Christmas Cool

Just few weeks left to catch Jazz Vespers! 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.

Congregational Brief

YRUU Recycling Fundraiser YRUU is still collecting e-waste for recycling each Sunday at the Environmental Ministry table. Please donate your used printer cartridges, old phones and ipods. They do not take any cables, large electronics, or batteries. See planetgreenrecycle.org/slucuyruu for details. Thank you!

Refugee Resettlement Committee We find ourselves in an age of ill-mannered "mansplaining" and "mansprawling." (Dude, it's rude!) Neither of the newly minted words cast men in a favorable light. But if your sofa sags from years of manspawl and no amount of mansplaining can dissuade you from an upgrade, call the Refugee Resettlement Committee to intervene. Rid yourself of man-worn chairs, tables, lamps—everything but his old clothes. Chill, dude, refugees will be grateful. Call Joe Dubray at (904) 527-9773 to recycle furniture. No mansplaining. Guaranteed.

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.

- 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" . . . Susie Martin

-submitted by Jan Crane

Susie has been attending First Church for about six years and only recently decided to sign the book. She was surprised to learn there was a way to show you are officially a member and once she heard that, she decided, "Why not?" Tom's sermons are very meaningful to her, always something interesting and thought-provoking to consider. She has also enjoyed the contributions from our consulting minister, Matthew Cockrum. Taking things a step further, Susie has made a commitment to herself to start pledging to support the church she loves.

Born and raised in Salt Lake, Susie was a life-long Mormon until one Sunday when she stopped into our church to see what it was all about. It was just happenstance, but she was smitten, and has called First Church home since then. "What have I been missing?!" was the thought that came to her. Susie studied to become a teacher and gave it her best shot for two years, teaching 1st and 4th grade, but decided she was not cut out for it and wanted to be a homemaker and mother. . . so that's what she did, raising three children, two sons and a daughter (and now six grandchildren.) Two family members share her home, her oldest son in an upstairs apartment and a grandson in the basement. Divorced from her first husband, she had a longtime friendship with a colorful Salt Lake businessman, Joe Shool, who has since passed away.

Susie enjoys working in her yard when the weather is nice, and at 75, she has a goal to read more. She participates in Small Group Ministry and enjoys the lively discussions. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," are words that ring true to Susie and she has tried to live her life that way.

