

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

THE TORCH



Church Camping Trip - July 2017

Photos submitted by Rick Gregory



Looking Ahead

Summer Forum continues each Sunday at 10 am through August 20, 2017. Meditation group meets 15 minutes after the service in the parlor.

August 27th & Sept. 3rd: Worship services resume with one service only at 10 am. Childcare will be provided. (see page 5 for sermon titles).

September 10th: Ingathering Sunday; regular worship service schedule resumes with services at 9:00 and 11:00 am; Religious Education classes for children and youth resume at the 11:00 am service only. Childcare for little ones offered during both services.

September 17th: Our annual Activities Fair happens after each service - a great way to find out how to be more involved and connected at First Unitarian Church.



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Announcements

UU Lunch Bunch (through August 27th)

UU Lunch Bunch is 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 following coffee hour. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org

- August 6: No Lunch Bunch
- August 13: The Dodo Restaurant (1355 East 2100 South)
- August 20: Hog Wallow Pub (3200 East Big Cottonwood Canyon Dr.)
- August 27: Indochine (230 South 1300 East)

Mindfulness Group

Meets Sundays following Summer Forum in the Parlor.

Refugee Resettlement Committee: The Pedal Project

The Pedal Project is a collaboration between First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City Refugee Resettlement Committee and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The purpose of the Pedal Project is to provide free, gently used bicycles, new helmets, lights and bicycle locks to newly arriving refugee families in Salt Lake City. Donated bicycles are picked up by members of the Refugee Resettlement Committee who will provide a tax donation receipt. Contact Andrea Globokar, Project Coordinator at 801-518-7461 or anglobe@comcast.net to donate or for more information.

Congrats Rev. Monica!

The Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2017 UUHHS Seminarian Essay Prize is Monica Dobbins of Meadville Lombard Theological School, for her essay, "Rogers, Shinn, and Garner: A History of Universalism in Alabama in Three Vignettes." This essay reveals the rich history of Universalism in Alabama from the antebellum period to the eve of consolidation, with careful attention to matters of racial inclusion, theological diversity, and the ways in which Alabama Universalism both mirrored and disrupted the surrounding culture.

Our judges were impressed with the entire set of entries, which explore important issues in Unitarian, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism from the founding decades through the end of the twentieth century. We are thrilled that so many of our future leaders are taking the time, during their academic studies, to develop the skills needed to tell our history with honesty, clarity, and grace. We thank everyone who participated in this contest for their dedication to our movement and its history.

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First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Rev. Monica Dobbins
Assistant Minister

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education

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The Torch is published approximately 12 times per year (once per month).

Next Paper Torch Publication Date

September 4, 2017

Submission Deadline

August 28, 2017 (Monday)
by 9:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 5th to ensure timeliness. Events occurring earlier will be included in the online Torch Supplement.

Editor

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THE TORCH

Assistant Minister's Corner

Rev. Monica Dobbins

Last Friday morning, I awoke to the news that the US Senate had failed to pass the “skinny repeal” of the Affordable Care Act, with a decisive and unexpected vote from Arizona Senator John McCain. Although I rarely find myself politically aligned with McCain, I took to Facebook to thank him for casting that no vote. Soon after, I realized that many of my friends were posting outrage that the male senator was getting all the credit, while the two women who’ve been siding with Democrats for months (Senators Murkowski and Collins) were being ignored. Was I not also outraged about this blatant display of sexism?

There’s definitely truth to that. I am only one of millions of women who has had the experience of seeing a man get all the credit for something I’ve been doing for months. I’ve had my great ideas stolen by men, right before my eyes. I’ve felt the humiliation of not realizing what was happening until it was too late to advocate for myself. Sexism is real – it is not behind us, not by a long shot – and it hurts.

And I’m angry with McCain for the way he did this: setting himself up as the savior of the Senate, inviting journalists to “watch the show” rather than answer their questions. Watch the “show” – is it just a show to you, Senator? As if millions of lives didn’t depend on this decision?

And yet: this vote *was* a victory. One person joined with two other people, one person picked up their courage, to do the right thing. It was a victory! I choose to celebrate that.

There’s a story about a son who loses his way, takes all his money and runs off to waste it in wild living. When the money runs out, he crawls back home and asks his father to take him back. The father is overjoyed at the return of his precious child, and wines and dines the foolish young man. Meanwhile, the guy’s older brother seethes with resentment: I’ve been here the whole time, doing what I was supposed to do. I’ve never failed you; why is he getting all the credit?

The father replies: “My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be

glad, because this lost one has been found.”

I believe that, in that moment, the young man’s father made a decision, not so much about justice for the son, but about what kind of life he wanted for himself. He decided he didn’t want to live a life of bitterness and anger. He chose joy, at the cost of the satisfaction of retribution.



No justice movement can survive in the long run fueled only by fury. The bitter herb of outrage must be followed by the sweet honey of celebration and gratitude. Otherwise, our hearts become corroded and hope trickles away through the rust-holes. We must cultivate gratitude, even when its recipient’s motives are cheap; not because the person always deserves our gratitude but because we deserve to live lives of gratitude. We deserve to live in gardens that grow wild with the fragrance of gratitude, tending even the smallest and roughest of blooms – believing, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that people can change, that they can do the right thing. Like forgiveness, gratitude is not just a gift I give to others – it is a gift I give to myself.

I’m not ignoring the sexism of the praise of John McCain in that moment. But as a former recipient of ACA health coverage, coverage that protected my family during a risky time in our lives, I’m choosing to celebrate and give thanks. It’s neither simple nor easy, but it’s what feels right for me. I have faith that the celebration will sustain me longer, for all the fights to come.

So: thank you, Senator McCain, for doing the right thing. Thank you, Senators Murkowski and Collins, for being steady in the face of sexist threats. Thank you, Democrats, for holding the position. Thank you, protesters, for sacrificing your time and resources to show up for justice. Thank you, thank you, thank you all.



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Environmental Ministry Highlights

Submitted by Joan Gregory

Environmental Ministry thought you would want to know about the following recent publications and upcoming events/hearings/actions:

The Uninhabitable Earth - Annotated Edition. [David Wallace-Wells] July 14, 2017 *NY Magazine* [<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans-annotated.html>]

This is one of the most widely read articles ever written on the climate crisis, and one that has stirred conversation and debate across the US. There have been dozens of responses to the article, many from leading climate scientists and bloggers. One from Dave Roberts (Vox) is: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/7/11/15950966/climate-change-doom-journalism>. Check out the Wikipedia page that is tracking the discussion: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Uninhabitable_Earth. Plan to take part in an Environmental Ministry/Association for the Tree of Life series of discussions focused on this and related material this fall.

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power [Al Gore, 2017]

Century 16 Cinema, 125 E 3300 S, Salt Lake City (August 3rd, 7:00pm and 9:40pm; August 4th, 7:20pm; August 5th, 7:20pm; August 6th, 7:20pm)

According to the Internet Movie Database: "A decade after *An Inconvenient Truth* brought climate change into the heart of popular

culture comes the follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution." [<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6322922/>]

Some reviewers praise *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* saying "it takes viewers to climate change's front lines" [<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/al-gore-returns-with-an-ever-more-inconvenient-truth/>]. Others say "it is a strange artifact of a post-truth year" pointing out that "its first press screening was on January 19, the evening before Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States." [<https://www.vox.com/culture/2017/7/28/16035852/an-inconvenient-sequel-review-post-truth>]. Read the *New York Magazine* article linked above, check out *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, and then stop by the Environmental Ministry table to share your thoughts!

Rooftop Solar Public Hearing

Weds, Aug 9th, 2:00-6:30 pm *
Heber M. Wells Building 160 East 300
South Salt Lake City, UT 84111.
Fourth Floor
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/RooftopSolarPublicHearing>

* **Note time change** – previous announcements indicated an earlier start time. Also note that As long as you arrive at the hearing room by 6:30 pm that day, you will be guaranteed a spot to speak.

The biggest chance yet for the public to participate in the rooftop solar

fight is coming up on August 9th. Rocky Mountain Power is trying to raise rates on new rooftop solar customers. Read more about it in this *Salt Lake Tribune* article - <http://tinyurl.com/RMPnewSolarRateCalculationProp>

Over the last few months you have had a chance to submit written comments through HEAL's action alert: <http://tinyurl.com/HEALUtahActionAlert> (you still can!) And guess what? Thousands of comments have been submitted!! However, nothing makes as big of a difference as in-person public testimony. Between the hours of 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm on Wed. August 9, the public will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Public Service Commission (the state body which will make the final decision on the utility's application). Face-to-face you can tell the Commission how important rooftop solar is to you. More information: <http://www.healutah.org>

Last Chance Tour & Rocking Chair Blockade

10AM Mon, Sept 25 – 1PM Tues, Sept 26, 2017
Salt Lake City to Vernal to PR Springs
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/RockingChairBlockade>

Hosted by Elders Rising for Intergenerational Justice - <https://www.facebook.com/eldersrisingforintergenerationaljustice/>

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Updated Summer Forum Schedule

All Summer Forum presentations begin at 10 a.m. Summer happens through August 20th. Childcare is available for young children.

A few changes have been made to the Summer Forum schedule since *The Torch* was last published. Here's the latest:

August 6 – Elliot Francis and William McMahon, M.D. :
 “Adults on the Autism Spectrum: Accepting Neurodiversity”

An autist and a UofU psychiatrist discuss self-help and support strategies for adults on the spectrum.

August 13 – Rep. Patrice Arent and Rep. Dan McCay:
 “Ideology and Lawmaking: How Policymaking Gets Done”
A dialogue between elected members of the Utah State Legislature with contrasting views.

August 20 – Pat Shea: “Religious Liberty”
First Amendment Attorney, past candidate for U.S. Congress and Governor in Utah

Upcoming Torch Publication Dates

- **September 4, 2017 issue** Submission deadline Monday, August 28th by 9 am
- **October 2, 2017 issue** Submission deadline Monday, September 25th by 9 am

Order of Service and Torch Online Supplemental submissions will be due each Thursday (with some exceptions) beginning **August 24th** at 9 am.

For more information regarding publication submission deadlines, please go to <http://www.slccu.org/news/the-torch> and click on the Submission deadlines document link in the right hand column on the page. You may also pick up a publication schedule in the office or request a publication schedule via email by emailing your request to: torch@slccu.org.

Upcoming Services

Worship Services Resume!

Sunday, August 27th
 One 10:00 a.m. service only
“Hope is Just the Beginning”
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith with
 Rev. Monica Dobbins

Sunday, September 3rd
 One 10:00 a.m. service only
“Seeking Justice”
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith with
 Rev. Monica Dobbins

We will return to our regular 2 service schedule on September 10, 2017. Services beginning that date will be at 9:00 and 11:00 am with Religious Education classes happening during the 11:00 am services only.



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Environmental Ministry Highlights *(continued from page 4)*

Elders Rising invites you to join us for a tour of PR Springs and a Rocking Chair Blockade at the tar sands mine. For the last five years a dedicated set of groups led by Utah Tar Sands Resistance has maintained a vigil at the site of a tar sands mining operation in the Book Cliffs. The mine owner, United States Oil Sands, (USOS), a Canadian company, has destroyed acres of habitat and risked pollution of water and air. The State built a \$3M road to facilitate the extraction. Other groups that have supported the vigil include Canyon Country Rising Tide, Seeds of Peace, Wasatch Rising Tide, Environmental Ministry, and Peaceful Uprising. The

vigil has included family campouts, action camps, and documentation of the destruction.

We plan to depart SLC around 10AM on Monday, September 25, and arrive in Vernal by around 4PM. Depending on our numbers, we will travel together in a bus, van, or private cars. We will stay in a hotel and in the morning we will proceed to the mine site near PR Spring. We will tour the area and plan to leave for SLC at around 1PM.

Besides our commitment to work for climate justice, Elders Rising is a fun-loving and easy-going group. We

welcome all who are interested in seeing the area. The cost could be around \$100 per person including room and transportation. We have a few folding rocking chairs and a plan that will keep us safe and comfortable.

This trip involves LOTS of PLANNING-- we need to know as soon as possible if you are planning to join us or have any questions. PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY AND RSVP to eldersrisingslc@gmail.com or to Kathy Albury at kfa44@yahoo.com.

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First Unitarian Church
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