

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 8

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

NOVEMBER 10, 2014



Jazz Vespers happens each Sunday at 7:30 pm through December 21st.

Doors open at 7 pm.
Please join us!

Nov. 9 Tribute to Bill Withers
Nov. 16 The Original Music of the Jazz Vespers Quartet
Nov. 23 Tribute to Aretha Franklin
Nov. 30 Tribute to The Band
Dec. 7 Tribute to Sam Cooke
Dec. 14 Tribute to U2
Dec. 21 Christmas Kool

2014 VESPERS

Halloween Carnival (October 28, 2014). More photos on page 5.



Green Sanctuary Kickoff

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory
Co-coordinator, Environmental Ministry

Green Sanctuary Kickoff – Potluck, Music and Action Teams
Friday, November 21, 2014, 6:30-9:30PM,
Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church

The Green Sanctuary Program provides a path for congregational study, reflection, and action to address climate change and environmental injustice and a structure for congregations to examine their current environmental and climate impacts and move towards more sustainable practices in ways grounded in Unitarian Universalism.

Join us for an Environmental Ministry potluck with music by a local singer/songwriter. After dinner we will review the Unitarian Universalist Association Green Sanctuary criteria and then get to work on our Green Sanctuary actions which focus on: Environmental/Climate Justice, Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, and Sustainable Living. For a sneak preview, check out: <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary/index.shtml>



More Environmental Ministry News on page 6

The Torch

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

November 24, 2014

Submission Deadline

November 17, 2014 (Mon.)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after November 25th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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

Congregational Briefs

Refugee Resettlement Committee

To be or not to be—that is the question.

Whether 'tis nobler to grunt and sweat under a weary life
Of R.C. Willey furniture from Walter Cronkite's day,
Or to banish the heartache and thousand natural shocks
Inflicted by faded sofa, worn wingback or naugahyde chair,
And grant to them a second life—

A boon to refugees whose need is urgent,
A boon to landfills whose seams are bulging,
A boon to donors whose sea of trouble is instantly calmed—
'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Bestir the native hue of resolution,
Call Ron "Polonius" Anderson (801) 671-8968 or
Joe "Hamlet" DuBray (801) 930-9640 to recycle tired furniture.
The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail.

UU Jam November 10th

Unitarian sing-a-long and acoustic music jam will be Monday November 10 from 7pm to 9pm in The Sanctuary. Everyone is invited and all levels and abilities are welcomed. Bring 6 copies of songs with chords in large print to share or just show up and sing/play what others have brought. (The next few jams are scheduled for Dec 2, Jan 12 and Feb 9.) If you have any questions please contact Bill Stay at 801 360-5891 or Lori Shields at 801 440-6157.

Open Minds Book Group

The next meeting of the Open Minds Book Group will be at 7:00 on November 25th in the Haven room at the church. The book is "Under the Wide and Starry Sky" by Nancy Horan. All are welcome.

Singing Circle: International Folksongs

Due to the upcoming holiday conflicts with the 4th Thursday, we'll be postponing the Singing Circle until January 22nd. For more information, please contact: Stacey at voicecoachSLC@gmail.com.

Dinner and Dialogue

Make new UU friends while enjoying good food and stimulating conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Table to HOST a dinner in your home. You set the date and the menu, and decide how many guests you can accommodate. Guests sign up to ATTEND and contribute by bringing a dish to share. What could be simpler? Questions, please get in touch with Jan Crane, 801 870-1222 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 Carol Shaughnessy at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- November 9th: Wild Grape Bistro (481 E. South Temple)
- November 16th: Red Moose Coffee Company (1693 South 900 East)
- November 23rd: Sage's Cafe (234 West 900 South)
- November 30th: Corner Bakery Cafe (610 Foothill Blvd.)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



Not long ago when a band of more than a dozen interfaith clergy met in the aftermath of another surprise ICE raid on a community of undocumented immigrants, my call to revive the sanctuary movement or take some action to express our religious

indignation was dismissed with a stunning pronouncement. I was informed: "Our congregations aren't political." It seemed to me that all these distinguished members of the clergy must have been absent from class when Jesus was discussed. Religion draped solely in piety robs it of its very power and mission to safeguard society from any and all moral violations against those who are powerless.

More recently, you may have read an opinion piece by Evan Mandery, professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, who severely critiqued the mindset of universities throughout the country for failing to divest the Endowment Funds from fossil fuel industries. University presidents justify their respective institutions from being exempt from "political causes" because the endowment is a resource for educational enhancement. It is as though the struggle to raise the bar for society's moral standard, lies as a separate issue among academicians doing research in the ivory towers of prestigious centers of higher learning.

University presidents can't even argue that the return on their investments is used for social good like financial aid programs. No, the elite private colleges remain bastions of privilege. So if our universities and our houses of worship renege on any commitment to a just world and a sustainable planet, are we surprised that hope lies beyond our reach? Given that religious and educational

institutions are not necessarily comprised of like-minded people, could there be a more important and instructive venue for the discussion of moral direction in our nation? For churches and colleges to shirk their responsibility as fountains for soul searching, selfless reflection, and influencing policy, is like the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand.

That said, does our congregation need a reminder of why I am so inordinately proud to serve you? We were the first UU church in the nation to divest our funds at a congregational meeting, and did so unanimously. We were the second UU congregation in the nation to sign onto the New Sanctuary Movement. We don't compartmentalize much. We don't place moral struggles beyond our mission. We look honestly at the world and recognize that pleasant or not, politics and morality are intertwined. Jesus knew that; Gandhi knew that; Dr. King knew that.

If we are to advance society more equitably, I suggest that university presidents go back to school, and that the clergy return to seminary and pray with their eyes open. TRG

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

Have you ever wondered about the larger faith community of which our church is a part? It can sometimes feel like we are a small band of seekers, but actually we have many UU compatriots both here in the Salt Lake Valley and across a large Western region. From time to time, all these UUs gather together to build connections, learn from one another, and sustain ourselves on our religious journeys.

To that end, the Western Regional Cluster Conference of the Mountain Desert District will be held on Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society on Highland Drive right here in the Cottonwood Heights. Check out the worship service on Friday

night, and come back on Saturday for workshops around leadership, stewardship, grant-writing and creative fundraising, spiritual practice, and social action. The cost of this event is \$15, lunch included.

Adults who wish to sign up should send an email to admin@svuus.org.

You can also request more information, including a detailed schedule of events. High School aged youth who wish to participate and join the mini-CON overnight have already received info at YRUU and have a separate registration process. Please sign up through our YRUU advisor Jillian (jillianyruslc@gmail.com).

Best wishes to all who choose to explore our faith tradition beyond the walls of our own congregation!

In Service,
Mary

RE Newsbits

November Elementary Social Justice Project:
Food Insecurity

Please help our elementary students with their service project this November! We will be focusing on food insecurity by working with two different groups that address this need in our area. They will be making greeting cards for Meals on Wheels recipients and coordinating a canned food drive in to benefit the Utah Food Bank. We would be very grateful for the congregation's assistance in collecting the canned goods each Sunday until November 16th. Boxes for contributions will be available in Little Chapel. The most requested items are: canned meats (chicken, beef, tuna); peanut butter, dry beans, Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti's, spaghetti sauce, chili, cooking oil, flour, and rice. No glass containers, please.

[High School/YRUU Update](#)

Our youth group is planning to connect our summer Mission Trip with an opportunity to attend the UUA General Assembly Youth Caucus this coming June. Now is the time to get involved and indicate your interest! Please plan to attend a parent-youth informational meeting on Sunday, November 23 from 10:15-10:45 in the Junior High room. (9th graders may join us after OWL class is over, but please do send your parents to the meeting on time!).

Call for Solstice Singers

Each year, our Winter Solstice Service and Supper is greatly enhanced by musical selections performed by our Solstice Singers. While many participants in this group come from our Chancel Choir, we also warmly

Religious Education continued on next page

Religious Education (continued)

welcome participation from teens and adults in our congregation who wish to join us for this one time performance. This year, the event will be held on Tuesday Dec 16th at 6pm. We have scheduled four rehearsals - each Tuesday beginning November 18th from 7-8:30pm. There will also most likely be a dress rehearsal on Monday, Dec 15th. If you enjoy singing, can make it to most of the rehearsals, and would like to join this fun group, please email Mary at dre@slcuu.org to get involved.

Save the Dates!

I know that everyone (including me) hates holiday marketing before Thanksgiving, but

do mark your calendars for these fun Winter traditions at First Unitarian Church:

- Holiday Party, Saturday, December 6th, 3pm
 - Winter Solstice Service and Supper, Tuesday, Dec 16th, 6pm
 - Holiday Pageant, Sunday, Dec 21st, 9am
- These events will need lots of volunteer support. Please contact Mary at dre@slcuu.org if you would like to help create meaningful, non-commercial holiday activities for members and friends of our church.

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Religious Education Service Project: Food Insecurity

Please help our elementary students with their service project this November! We will be focusing on food insecurity by working with two different groups that address this need in our area. They will be making greeting cards for Meals on Wheels recipients and coordinating a canned food drive in to benefit the Utah Food Bank. We would be very grateful for the congregation's assistance in collecting the canned goods each Sunday until November 16th. Boxes for contributions will be available in Little Chapel. The most requested items are: canned meats (chicken, beef, tuna); peanut butter, dry beans, Mac & Cheese, Spaghettio's, spaghetti sauce, chili, cooking oil, flour, and rice. No glass containers, please.

If you are the crafty type that loves to make your own cards, please considering helping out with the card making activity! I'd love to have some help on Sunday November 16th, 9:00 or 11:00. Please contact me and I can get supplies if needed ahead of time (Nancy Moos, reassist@slcuu.org). Thanks for you help!

Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 1)

Interfaith Power & Light
Comedy Night at First
Unitarian Church Monday,
November 17, 2014



Join Utah Interfaith Power & Light for their First Annual "Night of Comedy" Fundraiser Stand Up for Climate: Comedy for A Cause Local Stand-up Comedians Fight Climate Change with Their Most Powerful Weapon: Laughter 7:00 to 9:00 pm Light Refreshments Served. Eliot Hall. Suggested Donation: \$20

Mountain Desert District Western Cluster
Ingathering

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society
November 14-16, 2014
6876 South Highland Drive \$15 per person
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
www.svuus.org

Saturday

Ingathering 9:30 am

Morning Workshops 10:15 - noon

1. Social Change that Matters - Joan Gregory. How does your work for justice invigorate and sustain you while changing the world?

2. Drumming - Keshav Sarin. Make a joyful noise as the rhythms of our hearts unite. Some drums will be provided but please bring your drum if you have one. Keshav is expert in African and Brazilian drumming.

3. Congregational Stewardship - Nancy Bowen. What are the characteristics of a worthy organization? What can we do now?

4. Exploring Spiritual Practices - John Cooper. How do you take time to listen to yourself, to experience an integrated wholeness?

Lunch noon

Enjoy a delicious home cooked vegan lunch that conforms to Ethical Eating standards. Affinity groups are welcome to identify their topic and claim and table for conversation.

Nancy Bowen will answer questions about Regional Collaboration in the pacific west.

Afternoon Workshops 1:00-3:00

1. Belly Dancing - Elisabeth Epperson & Sophia Hawes-Lutrova

Enliven your world with dance. Learn how to move in this invigorating tradition.

2. Work of Welcoming and Membership- Nancy Bowen. Learn creative ways to expand your welcome. Who is welcome at your table?

4. Soul Collage- Julie Vesely. Experience this popular and powerful form of spiritual practice.

5. Prayer scarf making and gathering: Come find out about South Valley's prayer shawl ministry and learn to knit or crochet and begin a prayer scarf destined for a homeless youth.

6. Social Action: Join the youth in delivering boxes for the Food Bank.

7. Treasurer Gathering: The treasurers from the cluster are invited to gather and share their joys and sorrows and some ways that they have made things work.

From 3:15 to 4:15: We'll have talking circles around whatever you would like to share with fellow UUs: small group ministry, welcoming, membership, any aspect of religious education. Just let us know!

Closing Circle 4:30

Reserve a space on Saturday by return email to admin@svuus.org.

Please let us know which classes you are interested in so we can let teachers know about supplies. Please bring a check for \$15 to cover materials and lunch.

Sunday

Worship begins at 10:30 and all are welcome!

12:30 Community Chat with Rev. Nancy Bowen

Home hospitality possible---please contact as soon as possible about your needs.

November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	10 Board Meeting 5:30 pm UU Music Jam (pg.2)	11	12 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13	14 MDD Gathering (pg. 6) ← →	15
16 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	17 Torch Submissions Due 10 am IPL Comedy Night 7 pm (pg. 6)	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20	21 Green Sanctuary Kick- off 6:30 pm (pg. 1)	22
23 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	24	25 Open Minds Book Group (pg. 2)	26 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29
30 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	December 1 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5	6 RE Holiday Party 3 pm (pg. 5)

Sunday Services

Sunday, November 9th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

“What Does it Mean to Be an American?”

-Tom Goldsmith will be joined by several members from the congregation to address this rather intriguing question, especially following the mid-term elections.

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers
Tribute to Bill Withers

Sunday, November 16th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

“The Humanities in a Digital World”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers
The Original Music of the
Jazz Vespers Quartet

Sunday, November 23rd

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Service
“Comfort Food for a
Comfort Myth”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers
Tribute to Aretha Franklin

First Unitarian Church
569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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Return Service
Requested



First Unitarian Church nurtures and challenges the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engages in building a progressive and just world.