

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 12

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

JANUARY 12, 2015

Developing Leadership in Our Church Community

-submitted by Dylan Zwick

Do you have a passion or interest that you'd like to share with others in our church community? Would you like to be more involved, but don't know where to start? Would you like to learn more about leadership both inside and outside the church?

Being a church leader doesn't necessarily mean sitting on committees and attending meetings. It means taking responsibility for actualizing things you care about, from environmental justice to folk dancing.

The Nominating Committee is expanding its role beyond just that of nominating board members and towards more broadly encouraging and fostering leadership. As part of this project, the committee will be teaching a course on leadership in our church community.

The course will consist of three two hour classes, and will meet on the fourth Thursdays of February, March, and April. The UUA leadership development course material will serve as a resource, but the primary goal of the class will be to introduce members to the possibilities and opportunities available at church for leading projects about which they're passionate, and to help develop some strategies for implementing these projects.

No prior leadership experience, either inside or outside our church, is required, nor is any commitment to future leadership roles necessary. As part of the class, participants will be encouraged to organize an event of their choice, which could be anything from a hike or bike ride, a trip to the ballet or theater, a community service project, or anything else the participant wants to do.

Hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please email Dylan Zwick at dylanzwick@gmail.com.

Pageant 2014 "Three Miraculous Births"



Religious Education continued on page 4

The Torch

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister, minister@slcuu.org

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Director of Religious Education,
dre@slcuu.org

David Owens
Director of Music, music@slcuu.org

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator, admin@slcuu.org

Board of Trustees

Erin Phinney Johnson
Board President

Christine Ashworth
Colleen Bliss
Robert Cummings
Sue Geary
Rebecca Heal
Philip Moos

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

January 26, 2015

Submission Deadline

January 20, 2015 (Tues.)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after January 26th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen
torch@slcuu.org

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

Congregational Briefs

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 next meeting is January 27, and the book is "Women Who Run With the Wolves" by Clarissa Estes. The book for February 24th is "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell," by Nadia Hashimi. All are welcome.

Singing Circle: International Folksongs

New hours for Winter. Check it out! Here's a chance to learn some delightful songs and harmonies in a welcoming atmosphere. This is for all levels of singers - from shy shower singers to confident vocalists! Adults and young people 15 years and up. Individuals under age 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult. When: Thursday nights, January 22 and February 26, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM, weather pending (we will not meet if there is a storm or icy road conditions). Contact: Stacey at 801-808-9249 or email 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 Music Jam

Unitarian sing-a-long and acoustic music jam will be Monday January 12 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 following jam is scheduled for Feb 9.) If you have any questions please contact Bill Stay at 801 360-5891 or Lori Shields at 801 440-6157.

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.

- January 11th: Este Pizzeria (2148 South 900 East)
- January 18th: Wasatch Brew Pub (2110 S. Highland Drive)
- January 25th: Pho Thin (2121 McClelland Street)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



Rev. Goldsmith poses with Jessica Clay, Student Body President at Starr King (UU Seminary in Berkeley). Jessica gave the sermon on December 28th. Photo by Steve Horton.

I believe in Christmas miracles. On our way home following the second Christmas Eve candlelight service, we came to a sudden halt down our tiny lane as a tree had fallen across the path tearing down electrical and telephone wires. The wires were splayed all over the lane, and not knowing what was hot and what was not, we tip-toed in the dark as best we could to our house trying to avoid contact with any wires. No lights, no water, no telephone, no Internet. Although I like the idea of an old-fashioned Christmas, I prefer it on my terms. As Mary got out all the candles, which were readily available since it was Christmastime, I tried my cell phone, which had no reception.

We are the only house on the east side of the lane so we were the only ones affected by the power outage. So I tiptoed around the wires again and headed up to the fire station close to our house. They were in their holiday spirit. The captain was called down to meet me, and he arrived in his slippers nice as could be. He called Rocky Mountain Power at 9:00p.m. on Christmas Eve and wished me luck. By 11:00 that same night, a crew had come out, got our electricity restored, and cut the tree into manageable pieces and moved them to the side of the road for clear passage. I listened for a possible Ho Ho Ho, but it was quiet and no reindeer in sight.

The telephone crew was different. They promised a fix by the 29th but nobody came. On the 30th in the late morning I saw the truck outside and ran to greet it as though being liberated from a dark period of history. The maintenance man looked down and said the company asked the wrong truck to come out. He couldn't fix it and there was no way of telling how long it would take for the right truck to come.

People tell me that my face is a bit transparent at times. I don't know. I never see it. But I bit the bullet, thanked him for at least coming up Emigration Canyon, and walked away. I was at my desk when someone, twenty minutes later, knocked on the door sending my dog into apoplexy. There was the same telephone guy with a huge smile saying: I think I gave it a temporary fix. I did a splice here and added a screw there and let's see what we've got. I picked up the phone to a precious dial tone. (Oh did that sound sweet). He then checked my modem, which was happily blinking once again. The Internet was working and I was reconnected to the universe.

He didn't have to do this, not in this age of compartmentalized bureaucracies. But the spirit of generosity was alive and well. Rocky Mountain Power also moved beyond all norms and expectations in acts of kindness. How to make sense of this all?

Were these gracious and helpful assists due to the Christmas spirit? Or were they part of human nature that would have helped regardless of the season? The crew I talked to wanted no credit. Just doing our job they said. But it's Christmas Eve I reminded them. Just doing our job. God bless you, I said, they not knowing it was an official ministerial blessing. I returned to the house, the fire was aglow in the fireplace with the mantle holding numerous ornaments. A few candles had been blown out because we now had electricity and water and heat. All was calm. A Christmas miracle if you ask me. TRG

Among Ourselves

Our love and support are extended to Steve Horton and his family. Steve was in a head-on car collision January 2nd and was rushed to the ICU at University Hospital. Since the hospital insists on few (if any) visitors, best to keep abreast through www.Caringbridge.org/visit/stevehorton2. Also stay connected to our own church Caring Network, which will serve the Horton family over what appears for a long, but hopeful period, of time.

Our love and support are also extended to Joan Johnson who is in University Hospital with pneumonia.

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

After all the excitement of our holiday happenings, we are ready to settle back into our regular routines in Religious Education. Are you looking for fresh ideas or a new outlook as we enter

2015? Our Adult Religious Education program brochure is being assembled now and will be out by the end of January. Perhaps you can find food for thought in one of our upcoming classes or programs. Or you might consider volunteering your time in our Religious Education Program for children and youth? Teaching is an excellent way to broaden and integrate your own knowledge about our Unitarian Universalist faith traditions. We particularly have need of volunteers to teach elementary classes during the 9am service, though we also have a few openings on teaching teams at the 11 am service.

We are a large and busy church with a wide variety of programs and activities. I'd be glad to help you find a niche for yourself as we enter the new year.

Warmly,
Mary



Elementary students really got a "kick" out of our TaeKwonDo demonstration on December 28th! We were lucky to have two black belts, Nathan and Philip Moos show us some techniques and talk a bit about martial arts training in Eastern Religions. We learned the relationship between the forms and the concept of yin and yang in Daoism, as well as how the discipline of the martial arts encourages self-discipline in it's participants. The student's creed tells students to focus on three areas: building confidence of the mind, heart and body; strong friendships and community, and never fighting for selfish ends. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Welcome Newcomers! Come and Get to Know Us Better
UU Orientation Program, Monday, January 26th, 7-9pm in Eliot Hall
Are you interested in finding out more about First Unitarian Church? Please join us for our upcoming UU Orientation Program. This session will provide newcomers to our church an opportunity to meet one another, get to know the Minister and Director of Religious Education, learn about Unitarian Universalism, and get involved with the many activities and programs of our congregation. Sign up at the Welcome Table during coffee hour after any Sunday service or registering online anytime. Childcare will be provided – please indicate your need when you sign up so that we know how many kids to expect.

January/February 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|--|
| 11 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. | 12 Board Meeting 5:30 pm UU Music Jam 7pm (pg. 2) | 13 | 14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. | 19 Torch Submissions Due 10 am | 20 | 21 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 22 Singing Circle 6 pm | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. | 26 Torch Submissions Due 10 am UU Orientation 7 pm (pg. 4) | 27 Open Minds Book Group 7pm (pg.2) | 28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 29 | 30 | 31 Triple R Swap (10 am - 2 pm) in Eliot Hall (see previous Torch) |
| February 1 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. | 2 | 3 | 4 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Sunday Services

January 11th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Where's God?"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

January 25th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Going Slow"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

January 18th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Freedom and
Violence"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith &
Chancel Choir



Standing ovation for David Zabriskie.
Photo by Steve Horton

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

**Pageant 2014
“Three Miraculous Births”**



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