



## **First Unitarian Church Auction November 14th at 6:00 pm Rice-Eccles Stadium**

For more information or check out the auction page at <http://www.slccu.org/programs/committees-and-groups/item/29-auction>

### **UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

**NOVEMBER 8TH  
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“Bernie Sanders and the Resurrection  
of the Social Gospel”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**7:30 PM**

**Jazz Vespers**

**NOVEMBER 15TH  
9:00 AND 11:00 AM  
“HALLELUIAH”**

We are privileged to have as our guest this morning, Robert Fulghum. Robert is a UU minister and author of remarkable renown. His insights into life are shared through wit. His unorthodox presentations in both the written and spoken word have endeared millions of people to him, and have become an expected staple of his ministry. The chancel choir will meld their voices to wherever Fulghum takes them. Not to missed.

**7:30 PM**

**Jazz Vespers**

**NOVEMBER 22ND  
9:00 AND 11:00 AM  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

**“Who Gets to Define Family?”**

Chancel Choir and Junior Choir will join us.

**7:30 PM**

**Jazz Vespers**



### **Youth Support Thank You!**

Just a shout-out to those of you who've been able to so generously support the middle- and high-school youth in their recent fundraising efforts (Bulbs and Halloween Party). You're helping these youth fund their Boston Heritage and Service trips in the summer. Keep an eye out for future opportunities like the tasty meal following the Solstice Service on December 21st.

### First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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Minister, [minister@slcuu.org](mailto:minister@slcuu.org)

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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 23, 2015

### Submission Deadline

November 16, 2015 (Monday)  
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after November 23rd to ensure timeliness.

### Editor

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## Congregational Briefs

### First Church Information Session

Join Revs. Tom Goldsmith & Matthew Cockrum in an opportunity to dive more deeply into Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Church. This month's session is Thursday, November 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Child care and light snacks provided. RSVP's appreciated but not required: [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 2015.

### Contemplative Creativity: Waiting in Darkness

Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum in a 4-week series for adults (and adolescents). You've heard the buzz about creativity and the arts being infused into the children's religious education program. Why should kids have all the fun? We'll use paints, collage and other media as tools to get in touch with, explore and express our understanding of Unitarian Universalist spiritualities. Advent (the four weeks leading up to Christmas) provide a perfect backdrop. No arts experience needed or expected. Please RSVP to Rev. Matthew at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 2015 or sign-up at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

### Call for Solstice Singers

This year, our Winter Solstice Service and Supper will again be enhanced by music performed by our Solstice Singers. Teens and adults from our congregation are encouraged--and needed!--to join with members of the Chancel Choir to sing at this one-of-a-kind service. Four rehearsals are scheduled: each Monday, beginning November 23, at 7:00 p.m. The Solstice celebration will be Monday December 21 at 6:00 p.m. If you enjoy singing, can make it to most of the rehearsals (and the performance!), and would like to join this fun group, please email Holly at [hollybstuart@gmail.com](mailto:hollybstuart@gmail.com) to get involved.

### Young Adult Group

The First Unitarian Young Adult Group is for those in their 20s, 30s or those young at heart. Our goal is to foster a young adult community at the church. We meet on Thursdays, twice a month. The first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm we will meet at the church in the Haven room with either Reverend Tom Goldsmith or Reverend Matthew Cockrum. Gatherings at the church involve Tom or Matthew bringing a topic or article as a stepping stone for intellectual discussion and include refreshments and light snacks. One other Thursday a month (usually the 3rd), we will be out in the community: attending events, getting food, or participating in community service. Please connect with us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FirstUnitarianSLCYoungAdults/> or contact Lauren Birge at [laurenbirge@facebook.com](mailto:laurenbirge@facebook.com). We look forward to welcoming you!

**UU Movie Group and Theatre Group** Our UU Theatre Group attends many local productions. First UU's Movie Group, a spin off of our popular Theatre Group, will meet about once per month. Contact Helen

*Congregational Briefs continued on page 10*

# Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

He only says, "Good fences make good neighbors".  
 Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder  
 If I could put a notion in his head:  
 'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it  
 Where there are cows?  
 But here there are no cows.  
 Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
 What I was walling in or walling out,  
 And to whom I was like to give offence.  
 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
 - Robert Frost



Walls are in vogue around the world. Aside from the notorious wall between U.S. and Mexico, which gets the conservative juices flowing whenever a candidate promises higher, wider, and thicker barriers to keep "aliens" out, walls are going up all over the place.

Austria is building a wall along with Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia. Greece and Bulgaria have walled off parts of their boundaries with Turkey. Baltic states are planning to erect walls that border with Russia. The rationale must be that good fences make good neighbors, but as the poet Robert Frost asked: "Why?" Does anybody stop to think just what is being walled in and what is being walled out?

As Frost wants to point out to his neighbor, "We're not talking about cows."

No, we're talking about people who have been thrown into horrific life circumstances by war, poverty, and drought. Global warming created many of these conditions, so we all share some responsibility.

It seems to me that the poor judgment exercised in this wall-building mania stems from a belief that one can wall out fear: Fear of the stranger, fear of the unknown; fear of any responsibility for one's neighbor. Walls are erected to preserve illusions of tranquility. Walls exist to keep what is mine, mine.

From high altitudes, the eye cannot discern boundaries between nations. The earth is a mass of land and water. No natural lines exist that demarcate where one country ends and the other begins. As astronauts reported with awe and amazement looking down on our home the Earth: It's all of one piece. Yet the human xenophobic intoxication creates artificial boundaries, pits us against them, and justifies a selfish existence regardless of the starving masses who seek some semblance of human understanding.

Frost wonders if he could put a notion in his neighbor's head that perhaps fences are not so necessary as he believes. I wonder if we can plant a notion that our neighbor's critical plight could easily be our own. After all, we're so close to one another. No one is exempt from the conditions of war and drought. We need one another. "Something there is that doesn't love a wall." That "something" may well be what lies at the heart of humanity. We are called to love our neighbor. TRG

# In the Life



"There is nothing within you unworthy of love." Those are words I repeatedly spoke from the pulpit when I preached on October 25. I confess you to now what I confessed on that day, I'm not certain I *believe* those words. Yet I still

contend that they are powerful...and a powerful potential extrapolation of Universalist thinking we inherited from our forebears. Certainly, Universalism argued that there was at least *something* within everyone worthy of love, worthy of redemption. Some of you aptly and articulately argued with me that there are many seemingly unlovable traits, characteristics and behaviors we evidence. From large-scale atrocities such as genocide, mass incarceration and systematic oppression to small-scale everyday acts of dehumanization and betrayal, we don't have to look hard or far to find the seemingly unlovable in ourselves and our world.

But what if that's just it? What if what is seemingly unlovable is really in need of being seen, acknowledged and embraced? Not in such a way as to affirm it as a desirable state...but rather as a way to recognize that we all far short of perfection and yet all of the world is still in need of being cherished. Could this be not only an outgrowth of Universalism but also a natural conclusion of the affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every individual?

This certainly makes life messier - when we're unable to divide the world into "us" and "them", "Liberals" and "Conservatives". But perhaps it also makes the world more real. Perhaps it also makes it possible to take a stand - when we must - from a place of love and a broken heart.

## Rev. Matthew Cockrum

I commend two readings to you that have circled 'round in me as I've continued contemplating these past weeks:

The first comes from a Sufi mystic and Muslim saint of the 8th century of the common era: Rabia Basri. Among her poems translated by Daniel Ladinski (who also translated the Hafiz quote used in the 10/25) is this partial passage:

I was born when all I once  
feared - I could  
love.

The second comes from Austro-Hungarian poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, and his oft-cited, "Letters to a Young Poet,"

So you must not be frightened, if a sadness rises up before you larger than you have ever seen; if a restiveness, like light and cloud-shadows, passes over your hands and over all you do. You must think that something is happening with you, that life has not forgotten you, that it holds you in its hand; it will not let you fall.

May these sentiments bless and challenge you.

P.S. I was unable to pull off a love-based protest presence with the World Congress of Families. If you're interested in preparing for future events of this type, please let me know!

P.P.S. I'll be out of town November 9-12 at a regional gathering of Unitarian Universalist ministers. I look forward to reconnecting with you upon my return.

Here's to the Work!  
Peace, Faith & Passion,  
Matthew



# Religious Education News

## A Learning Community

For the first eight weeks of RE for children Kindergarten age through 6th grade, we have focused on guiding the youngest members of our congregation into the overall fabric of our church. Whether it is lighting the Chalice, singing a hymn or simply joining with adults to celebrate holidays, we are learning what it means to be a connected community.

Sunday School for our elementary-age children is a time to learn about our Unitarian roots. We're exploring the meaning of a social conscience, delving into the traditions and history of famous Unitarians, and examining how one can take actions that influence positive change in our world.

Before giving you a preview of the next eight-week block of Religious Education, I would like to thank our devoted staff members and volunteer teachers who have taught Sunday School for the first eight weeks (and who have helped immerse me in the principles of Unitarianism!). In Pre-K and Kindergarten: Sonia Carnell, Lissa Lander and Walden Brown. First and Second grades: Brenda & Tom Goodwin. In Third and Fourth grades: Charlie Johnson, Sunita Shankaran and alternates Mary Mitchell, Kendra and Raleigh Smith. In Fifth and Sixth grades: Sandy Harty, Audrey Harty and Christen Rose. And finally, in the infant & toddler rooms, our professional staff including Triniti, Olivia, Erin and Mike.

During the next eight weeks, we will shift into an arts-based curriculum specifically designed to incorporate the seven Unitarian principles. Earlier this year, we previewed this process by noting how both the fine- and performing arts (music, theater, painting and crafts, for example) help young students develop greater self-esteem and energize their innate curiosity about topics they might otherwise not be exposed to.

The foundation for our new arts-oriented program, which runs for eight weeks this fall

and for another 8-week session in the spring of 2016, is our partnership with Framework Arts, Incorporated.

Framework Arts is a Salt Lake-based non-profit project-based curriculum-building organization founded by arts educator Megan Hallet. She

describes it this way: "Our purpose is to engage children and their teachers to create personal narratives. In other words, under the guidance of proven artist-educators, we inspire children to express themselves in creative ways that might not necessarily occur in a standard classroom setting."



For the next eight weeks, Framework Arts will oversee, for each child, the creation of a 3-D artist book that investigates and represents their personal narrative built around the seven Unitarian principles. Both the Fall and the Spring sessions are designed to inspire our children by placing local--and a few not-so-local--contemporary artists, writers and performers in our RE classrooms.

At the outset, the two lead instructors for Framework Arts are Megan Hallet and Amy Childress. Megan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a Master of Education Degree from the University of Utah. She is intensely devoted to helping both children and adults express their latent creativity in art and in sharing their unique stories in different art forms.

Megan has co-produced art exhibits involving young people such as Community: EAT, WORK, PLAY, THRIVE AT ART ACCESS. She has also participated in Drive-By Art and has served as a civic arts curator for an NEA-funded Our

*Religious Education continued on page 6*

Town Project entitled "Claim It!" held at the Sorensen Community Center.

Amy Childress is a Salt Lake City native with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She is TESOL- certified from the University of Utah (TESOL stands for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.) Amy is a writer and book artist and a member of the Marriott Library's Book Arts Studio. She loves the art of storytelling, and was active for years with the Salt Lake City Spoken Word Community.

Amy is currently an Associate Librarian at the Salt Lake City Public Library and for Children and Teens at the Day-Riverside Branch. Amy

has also served as a mentor and teacher at Salt Lake Community College.

Following this first art block, we'll shift back to the traditional RE curriculum. For the last eight-week cycle of the Sunday School year, we'll schedule a second arts block.

Along with these new segments, we will continue to participate in our traditional events including a service project (canned food drive), The Giving Tree, our Christmas Pageant and our Winter Solstice Celebration.

In service,  
*Julie Miller*

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## RE Newsbits

### **Canned Food Drive in November!**

The Elementary Religious Education children will be having a canned food drive throughout the month of November. We are hoping to partner with the University of Utah Alumni Association to provide lots of great items to the Utah Food Bank.

Especially needed are: peanut butter, canned tuna, canned fruit, especially small pop-top variety, canned stews and chili, boxed meals, macaroni and cheese, and pasta. Please think healthy foods, low in sodium and sugar, with natural ingredients. Bins will be set up in Little Chapel for your donations.

### **Halloween Party**

The Halloween Party was a ghoulishly good time! Thank you everyone who participated. We raised over \$300 for the high school service trip! We enjoyed some eyeball bouncing, pumpkin ghost bowling, and of course, the spooky alley! It was great, family fun!

### **Mentoring Our Youth**

Our Coming of Age program is a special rite to mark the journey from childhood to being a youth in our community. As a community, we

do not have a creed of beliefs that we want to instill in our youth. We want them to come to the place where they are comfortable with their own faith. The program encourages the youth to write a faith statement, a big task for a 12-13 year old! Many of us have never written our own faith statement, so the difficulty of this task is evident. Mentors are members of the church community who wish to act as guides for the youth on their faith journey this year. Mentors help the youth do the thinking and soul-searching that goes into their faith statements. Finally, the mentor provides a connection for the youth to the adult population of the church.

This program requires a commitment to being in the classroom at 11:00 on the following dates: January 10<sup>th</sup> 12:45-2:15 Mentor Training, January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Ceremony on May 1<sup>st</sup>

If you have any questions about mentoring, please contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum (clminister@slcuu.org) or Nancy Moos (reassist@slcuu.org).

# Environmental Ministry News

## Holiday Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Saturday, November 21, 2015

Our swap will be at San Esteban Episcopal Church, 4615 So. 3200 West, West Valley City  
Noon – 4PM;

Drop off ONLY at First Unitarian Church 8–10AM



**Purpose:** Share what we have with each other, our neighboring community, families being resettled in Salt Lake City by the International Rescue Committee & with others in need. Reduce waste, recycle what you don't need, reuse what others don't need, share your abundance.

### How this works:

- bring what you don't need (items like clothing, jewelry, books, music, videos, school supplies, kitchen & household items, linens, *working* electronics, toys & games – **NO large furniture please**) to the sixth south side of the church on Saturday morning.
- visit San Esteban to take what you need from what others have brought;
- no money is exchanged;
- bring only what you **don't** need, take only what you **do** need;
- if you don't want to be tempted to take stuff, just drop your stuff off at First Unitarian, 8-10AM;
- if you need stuff, come on over to San Esteban - enjoy meeting new folks and finding treasures, Noon-4PM;
- what is not taken will be donated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) & others in need;
- the church does not have space to store donations before the swap, if you are not able to bring items on the day of the swap, consider asking a member, friend, or neighbor to drop items off during the swap hours;
- ALL are welcome.
- Start your Christmas shopping here!

## Islands of Sanctuary

**Friday, November 20, 2015, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall, First Unitarian**

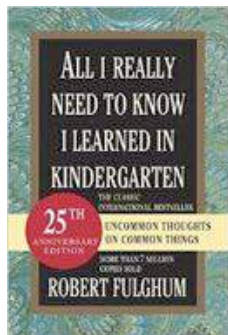
Native Hawaiians and Aboriginal Australians resist threats to their sacred places in a growing international movement to defend human rights and protect the environment. In Australia's Northern Territory, Aboriginal clans maintain Indigenous Protected Areas and resist the destructive effects of a mining boom. In Hawai'i, indigenous ecological and spiritual practices are used to restore the sacred island of Kaho'olawe after 50 years of military use as a bombing range. A discussion will follow the film.

*STANDING ON SACRED GROUND FILM SERIES* - Indigenous communities around the world and in the U.S. resist threats to their sacred places—the original protected lands—in a growing movement to defend human rights and restore the environment. In this documentary series, native people share ecological wisdom and spiritual reverence while battling a utilitarian view of land in the form of government megaprojects, consumer culture, and resource extraction as well as competing religions and climate change. The series exposes threats to native peoples' health, livelihood, and cultural survival in communities around the world. Throughout the film, indigenous people tell their own stories—and confront us with the ethical consequences of our culture of consumption. The *Standing on Sacred Ground* films were produced by the Sacred Land Film Project [<http://sacredland.org/>], a project of Earth Island Institute [<http://www.earthisland.org/>], to deepen public understanding of sacred places, indigenous cultures and environmental justice.

Donations are appreciated, but not required. Proceeds go towards our purchase of the films in the *Standing on Sacred Ground Series* and towards the work of the organizations featured in our local screenings of this series.

## Remembering What We Learned in Kindergarten

### Church Auction - November 14, 2015 at 6pm



"All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten," author and Unitarian Minister, Robert Fulghum. On the list of things he learned is 'Share Everything' and 'Hold hands and stick together.'

We are asking all of our church members to share in the effort to raise money for our church, to hold hands and stick together. Let's ask ourselves what we can do to contribute, how we can arrange to be there, how we can acknowledge the effort and work of the auction committee, the donors, the sponsors, and the church staff who make this event possible. It's more than raising money; it's social and festive, highly entertaining, and a time to come together to celebrate all that we love about our church.

Who knows what to expect at this year's auction with Utah's Supreme Democrat, Jim Dabakis, as our auctioneer and award

winning author, Robert Fulghum, as our special guest? We will begin selling tickets in Eliot Hall on October 25th. Rice Eccles has a new caterer and a sophisticated menu so prepare yourself for some excellent food and drink. We offer free childcare at the church for parents who want to attend this event.

As I said in a previous Torch, we are looking for new donors and new attendees. Past donations by church members have included a dinner with Rob Kirby, a picnic at Red Butte garden on the summer solstice, a sushi dinner, an Italian dinner with Mayor Ben McAdams, dinner with Tom and Mary, wine, coffee and dessert while being entertained by three Utah Symphony members, a martini party, a barbecue and more. If you have never donated to the auction, think about what you can offer.

If you have never attended the auction, make this the year that you do. The live auction is always delightful. We are looking for sponsors, donors and attendees. Please contact Julia Rossi, Auction Chairperson ([juliarossi@comcast.net](mailto:juliarossi@comcast.net)) if you want more information or to find out how you can participate. Hope to see you there!

## Jazz Vespers Continues Through December 20th

Jazz Vespers happens each Sunday at 7:30 pm through December 20th. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

- **November 8th:** Tribute to Hoagy Carmichael
- **November 15th:** Tribute to Ornette Coleman with Tom Young on Trumpet
- **November 22nd:** Tribute to Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers with Kris Johnson on Trumpet and Joe Chisholm on Trombone
- **November 29th:** Tribute to Janis Joplin with Jasmine Mae on Vocals
- **December 6th:** Tribute to Sly and the Family Stone

- **December 13th:** Tribute to Louis Jordan
- **December 20th:** Christmas Cool





# November 2015

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                        | Thursday  | Friday                                     | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 8<br>Sunday Service<br>9 & 11:00 pm<br>RE at 11:00 am   | 9<br>Board of<br>Trustees<br>Meeting 5:30<br>pm Rm. 201 | 10  | 11<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>7:30 pm | 12  | 13   | 14<br><br><b>Church Auction<br/>6pm (pg. 8)</b>    |
| 15<br>Sunday Service<br>9 & 11:00 pm<br>(pg. 1)<br>RE at 11:00 am   | 16<br>Torch<br>Submissions<br>Due 10 am                 | 17  | 18<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>7:30 pm | 19<br>UU Orientation<br>and<br>information<br>session 6:30<br>pm (pg.2) | 20<br>Env. Min.<br>program 7 pm<br>(pg. 7) | 21<br>Triple R at San<br>Esteban (pg. 7)           |
| 22<br>Sunday Service<br>9 & 11:00 pm<br>(pg. 1)<br>RE at 11:00 am   | 23  | 24<br>Open Minds<br>Book Group<br>7 pm (pg.10)                    | 25<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>7:30 pm | 26<br>Thanksgiving<br>Holiday<br>(church office<br>closed) →            | 27   | 28   |
| 29<br>Sunday Service<br>9 & 11:00 pm<br>(pg. 1)<br>RE at 11:00 am   | 30<br>Torch<br>Submissions<br>Due 10 am                 | December 1<br>Contemplative<br>Creativity class<br>begins (pg. 2) | 2                                | 3   | 4  | 5  |
| 6<br>Sunday Service<br>9 & 11:00 pm<br>(pg. 1)<br>RE at 11:00 am<br>First Church<br>Information<br>session in parlor<br>after service | 7   | 8   | 9<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>7:30 pm  | 10  | 11   | 12<br>RE Holiday<br>party (details<br>coming soon) |

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
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## Congregational Briefs (continued from page 2)

Stanhope at [theatre@slcuu.org](mailto:theatre@slcuu.org) for more information on either these church social groups.

### 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 book for November 24 is "Soldier Girls" by Helen Thorpe. All are welcome. The group will not meet in December.

### Settling Refugees

In Fiscal Year 2016, the United States will admit 85,000 refugees. Some will be resettled in Salt Lake City. Most are families with their worldly possessions packed in a few suitcases. Thanks to furniture donations from the First Church congregation, hundreds of the new arrivals have spent the first night in Utah in their own apartment. To continue to provide this important, humanitarian service, the Refugee Resettlement Committee needs your gently-used kitchen tables and chairs. Sofas and living-room chairs, too. If your friends are replacing furniture, the RRC would like an option on the

discards. Please help. Call Joe Dubray, 801-930-9640, to schedule pick-ups.

### 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 Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or [lunchbunch@slcuu.org](mailto:lunchbunch@slcuu.org).

- November 8: Mahider Ethiopian Restaurant (1465 South State)
- November 15: Finca (327 West 200 South)
- November 22: Gracie's (326 South West Temple)

### Sunday Meditation

"The mind is flighty and elusive, moving wherever it pleases. Taming it is wonderful indeed, for a disciplined mind brings true joy." Buddha.

UU Mindfulness Meditation is meeting each Sunday in room 201 no earlier than 12:30 pm for about 30 minutes of group meditation. All are welcome.