

Robert Fulghum gave the sermon "Hallelujah" on November 15th. He was also the awardee of our "Fairly Free Thinker Award" at the church auction the evening before.



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**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**

**NOVEMBER 29TH**  
**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**  
**"Welcoming Diversity: A Key to Our Next 125 Years"**

-Rev. Harold Straughn

**7:30 PM**  
**Jazz Vespers**

**DECEMBER 6TH**  
**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**  
**"Climate Change and the Existential Threat"**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**7:30 PM**  
**Jazz Vespers**



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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

December 7, 2015

### Submission Deadline

November 30, 2015 (Monday)  
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after December 7th to ensure timeliness.

### Editor

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December 13, 2015 (9 and 11 a.m.)  
Lessons and Carols Service

December 20, 2015 (9 a.m.)  
Christmas Homily  
given by Rev. Tom Goldsmith

December 20, 2015 (11 a.m.)  
Christmas Pageant

December 20, 2015 (7:30 p.m.)  
Christmas Cool Jazz Vespers

December 21, 2015  
(Service 6 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m.)  
Winter Solstice Celebration

December 24, 2015 (5:30 & 7:00 p.m.)  
Christmas Candlelight Services

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

*Holiday Services*  
**2015**

## Congregational Briefs

### Contemplative Creativity: Waiting in Darkness

Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum in a 4-week series for adults (and adolescents) beginning Dec. 1st. 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.

### Do you dream about a volunteer opportunity where there is NO PREPARATION or PLANNING involved?

Our amazing First Church High School Youth are requesting GUEST advisors from various backgrounds and ages to participate in lively discussions and debates about what it means to be a UU. YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO ORGANIZE ANYTHING. Nicole Beckstead, Randon Beckstead, and/or Rev. Matthew will also be in attendance. Please contact Matthew Cockrum for more details at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext 205.

### UU Theatre Group - Family Theatre Outing

Start a new family tradition! Take your children or grandchildren to see "Babe's in Toyland" at Centerpoint Legacy Theater in Centerville, Utah. 525 North 400 West, Centerville. Date, Saturday, Dec 5, 2015 at 2:30. Balcony tickets are \$19.25 for adults and \$17.25 for children, students and seniors. If we purchase 20 tickets we get another discount. Contact Helen Stanhope at [theatre@slcuu.org](mailto:theatre@slcuu.org) or 801-355-5090 by November 27 and she will purchase tickets.

*Congregational Briefs continued on page 8*

# Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

When waves of terrorism struck Paris on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> it felt not so much that life had changed, rather that the dread that had quietly taken up residence in our spirit since September 11<sup>th</sup> awoke once more with a confirmation that loss of life going forward would be predictable in a surprising sort of way.

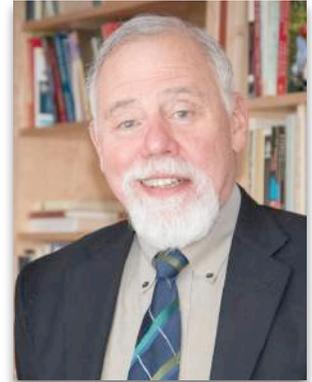
Andre Glucksmann, a French philosopher who died earlier in the week and ironically was being memorialized as ISIS unleashed its synchronized terror, wrote a book after 9/11 called "Dostoevsky in Manhattan." He characterized modern terrorism, especially of the order of Islamic terrorism as "nihilist before it is religious and even before it is political."

Glucksmann connected our current experience of terrorism with what Dostoevsky and Joseph Conrad explored in their time in which terrorism did not have a political end, but rode the emotions of vengeance with the existential message, "I kill, therefore I am."

In the unsatisfactory befuddlement following the question, "why do they perform such heinous crimes of violence and destruction?" Glucksmann's explanation sounds as plausible as any. Terror belongs now in the existential gestalt of our time. On the day following the Paris attacks, the Democrats held their second debate. This posed awkward timing for the debaters since the moderators were seeking some political accountability. Hillary declared that America was not responsible while Bernie reminded the audience of the Iraq War, which, according to him, planted the seeds of ISIS. He repeated his wise decision-making in voting against the War while Hillary endorsed it. Why not set the record straight?

According to a brilliant New Yorker article by Robyn Creswell and Bernard Haykel, the answer to "why" may be found in Arabic poetry. Poetry, we may all agree, expresses the soul of every culture. The currently popular Syrian poet Ahlam al-Nasr opposed the rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and was

indeed radicalized by Assad's methods. The poet describes the caliphate of ISIS, set up by uncorrupted rulers who institute pious norms as "an Islamist Paradise."



Perhaps there is more to Bernie Sanders' assessment of the region that mere political posturing. We may ponder America's disastrous shock and awe strike of Iraq when reading al-Nasr's poem celebrating ISIS's military triumphs as "a new dawn for Iraq:

Ask Mosul, city of Islam, about the  
Lions –

how their fierce struggle brought liberation.  
The land of glory has shed its humiliation and  
defeat  
and put on the raiment of splendor.

The reasons for terrorist attacks in Paris, however, go beyond cause and effect. More is involved than endless acts of revenge. Westerners, who are the product of the Enlightenment can, never grasp the decadence that Paris represents in the eyes of purist, fundamentalist, jihadists. ISIS views us, whose tradition speaks of "truthfulness," with vile disdain as representing "untruth." Add to that chopping up the Middle East region according to western self-serving needs following WWI, and we still just skim the surface of loathing.

I plan to reread Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," untouched since high school. I expect no answers to jump out, but perhaps I can come to understand an existential angst that is not necessarily unique to the present. TRG

## In the Life



"There is a Unity that makes us one."

While attending a UU ministers gathering earlier this month I was introduced to a revisioning of the "Five Smooth Stones of Liberal Religion," authored by Unitarian Universalist theologian, James Luther

Adams. (For more on the stones and Adams look here: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/wholeness/workshop1/167560.shtml>). The revisioning was titled "Five Jagged Rocks of Unitarian Universalism" and was conceived by clergy in our region with an eye toward mountainous landscape and life in the western U.S. "There is a Unity that makes us one," is one of those jagged rocks...jagged not only because the west can be a place of harsh conditions but also because our faith is not always an easy one...it is rough and tumble. This affirmation has also been stated as, "Everything is connected."

However you state it, this truth has been apparent in the news that is shaking us: the LDS Church's policy change that results in emotional turmoil in families with queer members; the Paris attacks and subsequent saber-rattling; continued violence and civil war throughout the middle east and the attendant refugee

## Rev. Matthew Cockrum

crisis..and then of course there's the environment, the homeless and poverty here in our own towns and streets.

Everything is connected.  
There is a Unity that makes us one.

As we approach this Thanksgiving holiday - however or if even you observe and celebrate - I invite you to consider the news of our world and the experience around your family tables as a reminder of our connection...of our responsibility and accountability to one another. As one of our hymns puts it, "We are not our own, Earth forms us." Rather than succumbing to an easily caricatured version of our UU principles that emphasize either individualism, let us see ourselves as connected. Let us look at the violence around us and within us...the violence in our history and most likely our future, and ask how we are connect to it...responsible for it...how we benefit from systems that perpetuate injustice and inequality.

Let us look around the tables where we feast - if we feast - and see how we are connected...how there is a Unity that makes us one. Let us begin our work there...with "the infinite possibilities of Love."

Here's to The Work, Friends.  
Peace, Faith & Passion,  
*Matthew*

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## Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 6)

*aug/03/stop-burning-fossil-fuels-now-no-co2-technofix-climate-change-oceans?CMP=ema-60]* suffice to explain marine life won't make it, even if we could pull CO2 rabbits out of thin air. Dump CO2 in the atmosphere and oceans collapse; no future fix works except dramatic emission reductions starting now.

- Michael Mann's "'Fat Tail' of Climate Change Risk" [[\*e-mann/the-fat-tail-of-climate-change-risk\\_b\\_8116264.html\]\* makes it obvious that the risk of runaway greenhouse warming is so high that a WWII-like mobilization is imperative.](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-</a></li>
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**Adapted with Permission from:** <http://www.tree-of-life.works/situation>

# Religious Education News

## Traditions of Joy: a Passport to Winter Celebrations!

Come to our Intergenerational Holiday Party! Since both the kids RE and the adult RE studied world religions last year, this year we will be exploring the winter traditions of



6 world religions - Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Aboriginal/Earth Religions. Come experience activities, songs, cultural crafts (appropriate for kids *and* adults) and a delicious spread of traditional foods. Don't miss this great event that celebrates the diversity of ages in our congregation and the diversity of ways to celebrate this festive time of year. Happy (Multicultural) Holidays! Saturday Dec. 12, 2-4 pm

## Bah Humbug!

Like it or not, the holidays are approaching and our annual pageant is in the works. We will be performing A Christmas Carol this year at 11:00 on Sunday December



20th and there are lots of parts available! Please stop by the Religious Education Table in Eliot Hall with your little one to sign up for a special part. Walk ons are always welcome, but speaking parts will be taken quickly. For more information contact Julie Miller ([dre@slcuu.org](mailto:dre@slcuu.org)) or Nancy Moos ([reassist@slcuu.org](mailto:reassist@slcuu.org)).

## 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](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org)) or Nancy Moos ([reassist@slcuu.org](mailto:reassist@slcuu.org)).

## Mark Your Calendars! Winter Solstice Annual Celebration and Dinner, Monday, December 21st 6 pm

Don't miss the annual Winter Solstice Celebration! Come celebrate the shortest day of the year with your First Church friends. This fun and distinctive service and supper



is a much loved non-traditional holiday tradition here at First Church! Our Winter Solstice Worship will begin at 6 pm and is open to all. The intergenerational party after the service is a fundraiser for our youth travel programs and is always fabulous! Dinner, folk dancing, and a drum circle are included. Tickets will be available starting December 6<sup>th</sup> during the coffee hour. \$10 per adult, \$5 per child.

## Environmental Ministry News

### Environmental Ministry Lecture/Film/Discussion Series



#### AMERICAN OUTRAGE

Friday, December 4,  
2015, 7-9PM

Eliot Hall, First Unitarian  
Church

Carrie and Mary Dann are feisty Western Shoshone sisters who have endured five terrifying livestock roundups by armed federal marshals in which more than a thousand of their horses and cattle were confiscated -- for grazing their livestock on the open range outside their private ranch.

That range is part of 60 million acres recognized as Western Shoshone land by the United States in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, but in 1974 the U.S. sued the Dann sisters for trespassing on that land, without a permit. That set off a dispute between the Dann sisters and the U. S. government that swept to the United States Supreme Court and eventually to the Organization of American States and the United Nations.

*American Outrage* asks why the United States government has spent millions persecuting and prosecuting two elderly women grazing a few hundred horses and cows in a desolate desert? The United States Bureau of Land Management insists the sisters are degrading the land. The Dann sisters say the real reason is the resources hidden below this seemingly barren land, their Mother Earth. Western Shoshone land is the second largest gold producing area in the world.

*American Outrage* was produced by Gage & Gage Productions and directed by George Gage and Beth Gage, the producers and directors of *Bidder 70*.

#### Climate Change ... as we head into the Climate Talks in Paris in December 2015!

Submitted by Michael Mielke and Joan M. Gregory, Environmental Ministry and Association for the Tree of Life

Environmental Ministry's work focuses on environmental and climate justice. As our international leaders head to the Climate Talks ... the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris – Nov 30-Dec 11, 2015 ... it is important that we all know and understand the current realities of climate change ...

- Recount: It's Time to "Do the Math" Again [<http://www.nocarbonbudget.info/>] David Spratt's report asserts that the world is already experiencing dangerous climate change at just 0.85°C warming, and if we really don't want to exceed 2°C, we must adopt a budget with a low risk of exceeding the target.
- Jim Hansen warns that Greenland and Antarctica will melt 10 times faster than previously known, "resulting in sea level rise of at least 10 feet in as little as 50 years" [[http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slatest/2015/07/20/sea\\_level\\_study\\_james\\_hansen\\_issues\\_dire\\_climate\\_warning.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2015/07/20/sea_level_study_james_hansen_issues_dire_climate_warning.html)]. This is catastrophic, not just for all of the coastal cities drowned, or the hundreds of millions of climate refugees trading water, but for all of us.
- Kevin Anderson's October 2015 analysis [<http://phys.org/news/2015-10-climate-scientist-ipcc.html#jCp>] of the latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) pathways and projections
- Anderson's "Real Clothes for the Emperor, Facing the Challenges of Climate Change," [[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_EIPuchOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_EIPuchOw)] from about three years ago expresses why a 10 percent reduction-per-year in fossil fuel use was necessary then to keep climate from destabilizing.
- Naomi Klein corroborates Kevin Anderson's carbon reductions, "8 to 10 percent a year," in a brutally honest interview [[http://www.democracynow.org/2015/8/4/naomi\\_klein\\_obama\\_is\\_beginning\\_to](http://www.democracynow.org/2015/8/4/naomi_klein_obama_is_beginning_to)], complaining (like Hansen) about the inadequacies of our government and President Obama's climate plan, related to having any future whatsoever.
- New research related to pulling CO2 from the air in the future shows that our oceans will still be poisoned, and two examples: [<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/>

*Environmental Ministry continued on page 4*

# November/December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	23	24 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg.10)	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26 Thanksgiving Holiday (church office closed)	27 	28
29 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	30 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	December 1 Contemplative Creativity class begins (pg. 2)	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3	4 Env. Min. Film series (pg. 6)	5
6 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	7	8	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11	12 RE Holiday party 2-4 pm (pg.5)
13 Lessons & Carols 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	14 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 Christmas Homily 9:00 am Christmas Pageant 11:00 am  Christmas Cool Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	21 <b>Winter Solstice</b> Celebration Service at 6pm Dinner at 7pm (pg.5) 	22	23	24 Candlelight Services 5:30 & 7 pm 	25 	26

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## Congregational Briefs (continued from page 2)

### Settling Refugees

In September, a record number of refugees were resettled in Salt Lake City. Ninety-two people arrived at the airport, dazed but eager to begin a new life away from the threat of violence. Six of the incoming families (25 people) moved into apartments furnished by the Refugee Resettlement Committee (RRC). In September, the RRC logged 65 volunteer hours moving second-hand furniture to keep pace with record inflow. If you are upgrading your sofa or kitchen table and chairs on Black Friday, call the RRC to have your old furniture recycled. A call to Joe Dubray at (801) 930-9640 will suffice.

### 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. 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/>. We look forward to welcoming you!



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

• **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