

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 3

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

Small Group Ministry Starting Soon

-submitted by John Rasmuson

Registration begins this week for the 2014-15 season of Small Group Ministry (SGM). As the undergirding of our congregation, SGM contributes to the "Within" and "Among" ENDS. Last year, this popular program attracted almost 200 people. Among the topics discussed in the monthly meetings were: "The Gift of Failure," "Stewardship," and "The End-of-History Illusion."



All SGM participants—past, present and future—are asked to complete the registration form on the church's website before Sept. 21. In so doing, people will register their preference for meeting times. Where a cluster of registrants develops, a

facilitator will be assigned. Facilitators will contact

members of their groups in late September.

The first discussion, a follow-on to Tom's May sermon on leisure, will be held in October.

Those without internet access will be assisted during coffee hour in Eliot Hall on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7 and 14. The intent is to make registration as accommodating as possible.

Questions should be e-mailed to Sandi Greene (sadekline@gmail.com) or John Rasmuson (njras@hotmail.com).

Congregational Briefs

Activities Fair Sunday, September 21st

Our annual Activities Fair will be held on Sunday, September 21st after both services. The Activities Fair is a great opportunity to learn about the various groups, programs, and committees of the church. **Attention church groups:** tables will be set up outside and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

UU Music Jam

Unitarian sing-a-long and acoustic music jam will be Monday September 8 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. If you have any questions please contact Bill Stay at 801 360-5891 or Lori Shields at 801 440-6157.

First Unitarian Church Tables at Equality Utah Allies Dinner

Be part of the celebration on September 26 at the Salt Palace! Reserve a seat at the First Unitarian Church of SLC tables to celebrate the monumental leaps in justice for equality during 2014. Until July 16, tickets are \$125/per person. After July 16, they are \$150/per person. Last year we had 5 tables. Let's make it 6 and show our support for justice and equality for all. The keynote speaker will be the critically acclaimed actress Laverne Cox, star of the series "Orange is the New Black". She is the first trans woman of color to have a leading role in a mainstream television series and to host her own TV show.

Registration procedures have changed this year. To reserve your seat at the First Unitarian Church of SLC Tables:

Congregational Briefs continued on page 2

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

September 15, 2014

Submission Deadline

September 8, 2014 (Mon.)
 by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 16th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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

Congregational Briefs

Continued from page 1

1. Go to alliesdinner.org to make your reservation.
2. On the right hand side of the screen, click on PURCHASE TICKETS.
3. Fill in your personal information.
4. Under "Donation Amount" click OTHER enter \$125 your ticket purchased before 7/16. After 7/16, click \$150.
5. In the rectangular box under where you entered your e-mail, enter your table captain as "ANDREA GLOBOKAR".
6. In September, all tickets for the First Unitarian Church of SLC tables will be given to me for distribution. At that time I will notify you when and where to pick up your tickets.

Given the wonderful events of this year, with Utah leading the way toward marriage equality nationwide, this is an event not to be missed! Contact Andrea Globokar, anglobe@comcast.net or 801-518-7461, with questions.

Open Minds Book Group

The group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the church. The next meeting is September 23rd, and the book is "In the Shadow of the Saber tooth: A Renegade Naturalist Considers Global Warming, the First Americans, and the Terrible Beasts of the Pliocene," by Doug Peacock. All are welcome.

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.

- September 7th: Desert Edge Brewery (602 East 500 South)
- September 14th: Finca (1291 South 1100 East)
- September 21st: Caffe Niche (779 East 300 South)

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 31st

One service only at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 7th

Ingathering Sunday!

Welcome to a new church year. We are back to our two service schedule at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday, September 21st

Activities Fair on the plaza following both services

Reverently Yours

It quickens the pulse when racism overtly rises to the surface (literally) next door. In 1967, four congregations (First Unitarian Church, Congregation Kol-Ami, First Congregational Church, and the Community Church of Bountiful) co-sponsored the concept and building of Friendship Manor. These are four relatively progressive congregations establishing a retirement community that offered enough subsidies to make Friendship Manor economically diverse. The Board of Trustees at Friendship Manor is comprised of members from each of the four founding congregations.

Since Friendship Manor and First Unitarian Church share the same block as virtual neighbors, negotiating a parking lease since 1993 and cooperating on many issues together as good neighbors, it came as a shock last weekend when reading in the Salt Lake Tribune about a new African-American resident there filing suit against them for housing discrimination. According to the article, the resident, Jack Coleman, has experienced overt in-your-face- racial slurs and threats and he claims management has not protected him from such insidious harassment.

It will take some time for this all to be unraveled, with investigations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It makes non-discrimination a primary feature in its federal regulations.

If The Torch were a daily rag, I could keep you abreast in a timelier manner than in the bi-weekly church newsletter to which we have become accustomed. The proverbial question of how far does a person get involved in a neighbor's business before appearing too nosy strikes me as irrelevant at this point. As a clergyman whose congregation helped found the retirement home, I will immediately pursue the answers to a few questions:

- 1- Why was nobody on the Board notified of the issue which extends back to April?
- 2- Why were none of the clergy contacted for input on this moral violation?

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

- 3- Why wasn't the safety and security of Mr. Coleman immediately put in place?
- 4- Was the article true that the management exhibited indifference?



Our church actually has a very good relationship with the management at Friendship Manor and, having been misquoted myself by the Tribune dozens of times, I need to get to the truth of the matter. I wish either Woodard or Bernstein were around to help me.

The management is obviously not responsible for what any of its 185 tenants might say nor the prejudices they harbor. But - - management must remain aware of the maintenance and protection of a moral and safe environment that the four original congregations had intended. Thus I am – well, furious – that none of the board members representing the churches nor their clergy was ever contacted. Since racism demands a response from religious communities because of the moral violation to a person's basic humanity, it seems odd at this point that neither clergy, congregations or other resources like the Inclusion Center were brought in to address the problem.

We are just at the beginning. Hopefully the next edition of The Torch will be superfluous because a meeting of minds and hearts will already have taken place.

Right now it feels a bit rattling. We'll learn soon about the real facts, and figure out our role accordingly. TRG

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand, Director of Religious Education



Dear All,

Another church year begins.

Our Ingathering Sunday on September 7th will be the official launch of our Religious Education Program for children and youth as we switch back to our schedule of 9am and 11am services. On

this day, we hope that children and youth of all ages will gather on the front lawn to meet their teachers and peers. We will parade in to the Sanctuary en masse to the joyous song of our wonderful Chancel Choir. After a brief time of full community worship, the young people and their teachers will exit the Sanctuary together for our first "official" class meetings of the new church year.

Please come to connect with old friends and make some new ones. Come to explore how religious traditions and practices from around the world might inform your own spiritual understandings and practices. Come to contribute as a volunteer assistant or teacher guiding young people through their journey of faith.

As the Chinese proverb goes, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." I look forward to taking the first step of this year's religious education journey with you.

Best,
Mary

Volunteer Needs:

I still have need of a few more RE teachers especially for PreK-K and elementary aged kids at 9am. There are also some scattered openings for volunteers at 11 am. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining a teaching team and spending one or two Sundays per month guiding our children and youth through their religious journey.

I would love to hear from you if you would like to offer a program in Adult Religious Education.

Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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

Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

(It's a SWAP!)

Saturday,
September 13, 2014,
10 am – 2 pm
Eliot Hall



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

How this works:

- bring what you don't need (working items only like clothing, jewelry, books, music, videos, school supplies, kitchen & household items, linens, working electronics, toys & games – **NO** large items please) & put them on a table
- take what you need from what others have brought;
- no money is exchanged, it's all **FREE**;
- bring only what you **don't** need, take only what you **do** need;
- what is not taken will be donated to 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, a friend, or a neighbor to drop items off during the swap hours;
- ALL are welcome.
- Questions? Want to help? Call Judy Lord @ 801-486-6694.

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 31 Sunday Service One 10 am service only	September 1 Labor Day - Church office closed	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Ingathering Sunday Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	8 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Board of Trustees meeting 5:30	9 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	11	12	13 Triple R Swap 10 am - 2 pm (pg. 4)
14 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Activities Fair following both services on plaza (pg. 1)	22 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	25	26	27

Sunday Services

Sunday, August 31st
 One Service only
 at 10:00 a.m.
**“Neoliberalism and the
 Rise of Income
 Inequality”**
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 7th
 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
**Ingathering
 “Can 9/11 be Captured
 by a Museum?”**
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith and
 the Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 14th
 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
**“Looking for Honest
 Religion”**
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

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