

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Fall Highway Clean Up Oct. 4

-submitted by Frank Steffey

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, October 4, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon.

Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30 AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509.



Join the Chancel Flowers Committee



Want to help make our sanctuary warm and beautiful? Be on the Chancel Flowers Committee -- first meeting at the Fair on Sept 21. Membership means sharing responsibilities once a month or less in arranging fresh or silk flowers for Sunday Services. Jane Grau, who's been the committee for five years, would like to pass the torch. Very little time required, but lots of creativity. Questions? Call Jane at 801-573-2987.

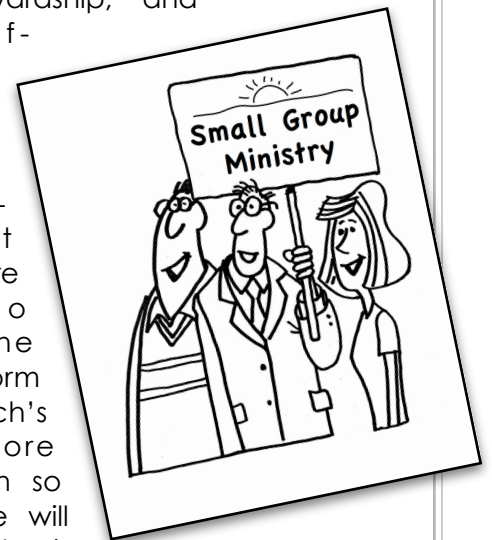
Small Group Ministry Registration Happening Now

-submitted by John Rasmusson

Registration is drawing to a close 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 later this month. The first discussion, a follow-on to Tom's May sermon on leisure, will be held in October.

Register today! If you need assistance, call Sandi Greene at 801-913-7328 as soon as possible.



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 29, 2014

Submission Deadline

September 22, 2014 (Mon.)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 30th 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

Activities Fair 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.

Theatre Group Upcoming Outings

Two Theatre Group outings. Please join us:

Next activity is the comedy "Blue Stockings" at the Babcock Theatre. We will see it on Saturday, September 20 at 7:30. "Blue Stockings" is about the first women who attended university against the mores of the day. Although they were academically competitive they were considered society rejects and were unmarriageable because they had the audacity to desire an education. Prices are \$8.50 plus service charge for students with an ID. \$16.00 plus service fee for seniors, and \$18.00 plus service fee for adults. Expect the service fee to be about \$1.50 - \$2.00. We will go to dinner before the play at 5:30 so let me know if I should make reservations. The dinner is a good way to meet your fellow theater goers.

The 2nd activity is the Fall Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City on October 3rd and 4th. We will carpool down on the afternoon of the 3rd. The play that evening is Shakespeare's "12th Night" at 7:30. On October 4th at 2:00 is a farce called "Boeing, Boeing"; at 7:30 that night is "Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure." 6 of us have reservations at the Stratford Inn. Each individual is responsible for purchasing the Shakespeare tickets at Bard.com and making their own hotel reservations.

Helen Stanhope will purchase tickets for the Babcock Theatre. Email her at theatre@slcuu.org or call at 801-355-5090 and leave a message. Helen will coordinate car pools for those unable to drive and coordinate meals. Don't hesitate to call for any information.

You will have fun at either activity or both. Come enjoy the theater!

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 21st: Caffe Niche (779 East 300 South)
- September 28th: Faustina (454 East 300 South)

Reverently Yours



Kiss Me I'm Irish has long been a slogan pointing to Irish pride, and the Irish have been about as proud of their heritage as anybody. I've watched the St. Patrick's Day parade in New Orleans (which would take any excuse to party), and in Boston where then-governor, Michael Dukakis broke ranks from the marchers to kiss my toddler daughter, a decision he may still regret today.

But the standard-bearer of all St. Patrick Day parades has to be New York City, where even before the Declaration of Independence was signed and the Constitution drafted, the Irish gathered in the streets of New York to honor St. Patrick, the patron saint of the Archdiocese of New York.

When in 1990 New York's Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization was denied the right to march in the parade, serious protests began. Essentially, people were to prove that one could be Irish, Catholic, and Gay, all rolled up in the same person. During those years, Cardinal John O'Connor declared that political correctness was not worth "one comma in the Apostle's Creed."

Times change, cultures change, attitudes change. Last week, the ban against gay groups joining the parade finally fell. Current Cardinal, Timothy Dolan likes the decision. But how is social change really created? How is pressure applied to move society to a more inclusive body? Look no further than a tavern and a good dark pint of Guinness. Yes, the change agent was a beer company. Guinness has been the parade's major sponsor, for a long time. Last year it withheld support and threatened the same for the next parade. Guinness, known for its stout beer, has lived up to its product's name: Stout as meaning brave, courageous and stalwart.

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

I'm not much of a beer drinker, but will feel better reaching for a Guinness the next time I'm thirsty. Now gay and straight can boast the logo, Kiss Me I'm Irish, as they parade down 5th Avenue. Remarkable how change comes about. Cheers, mate.

As a follow-up to my last column on Friendship Manor and the cloud of racism that hung over the retirement home, let me bring you up to date in my limited capacity. Rabbi Ilyana Schwartzman from Congregation Kol Ami (one of original sponsoring congregations along with First Unitarian), strolled across the parking lot with me to meet with Friendship Manor's management. It was a most amiable meeting and we were pleased with the conversation. We were impressed by procedures taken to ensure the safety of Mr. Coleman, a new African-American resident there.

Clearly the Salt Lake Tribune failed to write a comprehensive story on the matter, which would have led the reader to understand that any racism by residents was truly an aberration. The management did meet with their board, comprised of representatives from the four founding congregations the day following the conversation with the rabbi and me. Friendship Manor may have regrettably failed to call upon local clergy for help, but they did contact several organizations that specialize in these matters. I felt heartened by the news.

We will all learn together how this issue will ultimately be resolved. It's now tied up in mediation and we can only hope that a good outcome will follow. My concerns expressed in the last Torch issue were not mine alone. I thank the many members of our congregation who expressed alarm and wanted some explanation. But finally, we were all rudely reminded that racism remains a scourge in our society that arises in places sometimes one would least expect. TRG

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

Our church year has officially launched! Thanks to all those who have registered the kids and teens in your household for our Religious Education Program. Haven't done that yet? You

can fill out a Registration form on Sunday morning at the Welcome Table or go online to the church website to www.slccuu.org to find the Registration form in the Religious Education, Current Brochures and Registration section.

This year, our theme in Sunday morning religious education classes will be world religions. We will try in our classes to consider how many faith traditions and religious practices can offer food for thought on our search for truth and meaning. We will seek ways in which the values embraced in our congregational mission – inclusion, compassion, engagement, human responsibility, and celebration are shared across many cultures and traditions. And we will strive to be active in a variety of social justice activities to build the fair and peaceful world that we dream about.

I am still seeking a few more teacher volunteers. My most critical need is for folks to work with our 9am Elementary class. We have a

small but lively crew of 1st-6th graders who meet in a "one room schoolhouse" on Sunday mornings. Our lessons come from a curriculum titled, "Holidays and Holy Days." Each week, teachers and participants learn about the origins and meanings of various holiday celebrations from a variety of faith traditions. If you have ever wanted to learn more about the diversity of spiritual practices of the world, this is a fun way to do it. Please contact me if you can help!

In the next issue of the Torch, I hope to publish our list of Adult Religious Education programs for the fall session. Please contact me right away if there is a program you would like to request or a class you could offer to teach.

Best,
Mary

Religious Education Contact Information

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Director of Religious Education
dre@slccuu.org 801-582-8687 ext. 206

Nancy Moos
RE Assistant
reassist@slccuu.org 801-582-8687 ext. 205

Environmental Ministry News

Environmental Ministry Volunteers Needed – Recycling, Composting and Sunday Tabling

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory and Judy Lord, Environmental Ministry

Interested in helping out with Environmental Ministry? Just looking for an easy and practical way to plug in and lend a hand? Help is needed on Sundays with recycling, composting, and tabling in Eliot Hall on Sundays after services. Here's how it works: First, you choose one Sunday a month to help out – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th Sunday. For recycling and composting: We show you where the recycling and/or composting bins are located – inside and outside. You move the recycling and/or composting from the inside bins to the outside

bins on your assigned Sunday. For tabling, you choose the materials for the table based on upcoming events and actions as announced on the Environmental Ministry mailing list, published in *The Torch*, or announced in the Order of Service. You set up the materials on the table and talk with folks who stop by and encourage them to get involved and to add their names to the Environmental Ministry Mailing List. Simple, right? And SO helpful. If you are willing and able to take on one of these assignments on a regular basis, once a month, PLEASE contact Judy Lord, @ 801-486-6694, bookcat@hotmail.com, or stop by the

Environmental Ministry News continued on page 5

Environmental Ministry News

Environmental Ministry News continued from page 4

Environmental Ministry table on an upcoming Sunday.

UTAH CLEAN AIR FAIR

Saturday, September 20, 2014, NOON-5:00PM

Library Square



The goal of the Utah Clean

Air Fair (UCAF) is to amplify community engagement and empowerment on clean air issues through providing a fun and educational atmosphere for the whole family. We seek to continue to raise awareness on Utah's unique air issues in preparation of the dreary winter inversion months. We strengthen community empowerment on Utah's clean air issues by highlighting innovative solutions and creating an environment for family fun.

Check out the website at: <http://utcleanairfair.org/> RSVP via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1482554458655567/> Interested in helping out? Contact Jim French, rentthesun@gmail.com.

People's Climate March in SLC

Sunday, September 21, 2014
NOON - 3:00pm

Venue Change Pending (most likely new venue: Liberty Park)



In September, world leaders are heading to New York City for a historic summit on climate change. With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we the people will be taking to the streets and taking a stand to bend the course of history, to demand a world with an economy that works for people and the planet, to demand significant action on the part of our government. We need as many on board in New York City on September 20-21 as possible. <http://peoplesclimatemarch.org/>. However, for those who cannot make it to NYC, events are being organized in major cities all over the planet including an event HERE in Salt Lake City. Come stand in solidarity and peace with the People's Climate Change March in NYC! PLEASE BRING POSTER MATERIALS, FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, PASSION, AND A WILL FOR POSITIVE TRANSFORMATION!

RSVP: http://act.350.org/event/peoples_climate/7801 NOTE: We have it on good authority that the venue for this event will be changing from the originally advertised venue (Utah State Capitol) to LIBERTY PARK as

the starting point for the march. WATCH the RSVP web site and be sure to sign up so you are notified when the venue changes. And while you are waiting for that update, check out *DISRUPTION*, a documentary film about climate change — the science, the politics, and the movement.: <http://watchdisruption.com/>.

Live More with Less Conference

Friday, October 3, 2014

1:30 - 6:30 pm

Room 134, Science

Auditorium, Utah Valley University, 800 W. University Parkway, Orem, UT



It is no longer sufficient to merely protest "supply side" assaults on the environment such as coal-fired power plants, fracking, tar sands & oil shale in Utah, the Keystone XL pipeline, nuclear power, etc. These protests are helpful but address only one-half of the problem—the supply of dirty energy. The other half of the problem is the demand for dirty energy. As long as demand for gasoline and electricity continues unabated, fossil and nuclear energy will find their way to the market despite protests. This is why many of Utah's faith communities and universities are joining hands to sponsor a "demand-side" conference that explains how, for most people living here, a switch to a more modest lifestyle with a smaller use of natural resources is necessary, and in fact urgent, if we are to prevent unacceptable climate damage for the younger generation alive today.

Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute, and author of eleven best-selling books including *The End of Growth* will address how we must change to avoid the worst outcomes posed by our current economic and ecological predicament. Rev. Harold Straughn and Carole Straughn will represent First Unitarian Church on a panel of faith leaders and will speak about their transition to a more sustainable way of living and about our 7th Principle. Environmental Ministry is one of 10 co-sponsors of this FREE conference being organized by the Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance and the local university, faith-based, and non-profit communities. REGISTER for this FREE CONFERENCE: <http://livemorewithless.org/october-3rd-conference-details/>. More information: <http://livemorewithless.org>.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

With the church year beginning for 2014, the Endowment Fund Committee wishes to honor the following Ralph Waldo Emerson Society members who have included First Church in their estate plans. We appreciate the vision, leadership, and dedication to our church from the members and friends listed below:

Ron and Janet Anderson
Barbara Samuels in Myrna Wolf's name
Cosette Joesten
Flo Wineriter
Dolores Chase and Richard Haacke
Hugo and Julia Rossi
Ed and Teresa Dieringer
Rob Mayer and Carol Blackwell
Harold and Sonja Decker
Tom Goldsmith and Mary Tull
Tim and Cathy Chambless
Bill and Ruth Ohlsen
Dick Teerlink
Alan and Marjorie Coombs
Andrea Globokar
Henry Whiteside and Karol Kumpfer
Doug and Sandi Greene

We would be delighted to honor others if you contact us to let us know if your existing plans currently include the church or if you would like more information about easy ways to leave the church as a beneficiary in you estate planning. Please contact any Endowment Fund Committee member: Hugo Rossi, Cathy Chambless, Bill Ohlsen, or Cosette Joesten.

September/October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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. 2)	22 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	29	30	October 1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2	3	4 Highway Cleanup meet at 9 am (pg. 1)
5 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	6 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9	10	11

Sunday Services

Sunday, September 14th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Looking for Honest Religion"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 21st

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Should We Follow Our Bliss?"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 28th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Necessities"

-Rev. Russ Menk

The Rev. Russ Menk will grace our pulpit this Sunday. Many of us will remember former congregants Russ and Jackie who left in 2008 for the Bay area in order for Russ to train for the UU Ministry. He's back, and he's ordained.

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

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Return Service
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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.