



Celebrating 125 Years with Pride

-submitted by Sue Geary, Social Justice Council

For the past several years, First Unitarian Church has participated in the annual Pride Parade wearing our Standing on the Side of Love T-shirts and walking behind our banner. Before that, we were flag wranglers helping with the HUUUUUGE rainbow flag at the end of the parade. But, that was all before we had a big birthday. Now that we are 125-years-old, we will have a float in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 5. The theme of this year's celebration is Icons, and 125 years running as a progressive church in Salt Lake City surely qualifies us as one of those.



Pride 2014

We will portray our history with costumes representing the 1890s, the 1920s, the 1960s, and the present. Members of the choir will lead us in singing a few familiar songs along the way. We hope to have some contemporary dancers to add a little pizzazz. Anyone who wishes to participate is welcome to join us, either in a costume or wearing a t-shirt that represents our church. We have extended an invitation to other UU congregations in the state. Thus far, we know that members from Ogden will be with us. Most of us will be walking alongside the float.

If you wish to join us, we will need to know in advance of the parade. This year, each participant must sign a Waiver and Release of Damages form that we must collect and submit at the starting area. The Social Justice Council will have the forms available at a table following church on Sunday, May 29 (service at 10:00 only). You may also contact Sue Geary at 801-554-6691 to get a form.

Here are the details for those who will participate:

Continued on page 5

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**MAY 29TH, 2016
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT
10:00 AM**

**“Poetry and Prayer:
Honoring the Life of a
Pacifist”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**JUNE 5TH, 2016
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT
9:00 AM**

**“The Gospel According to
RuPaul”**

-Rev. Matthew Cockrum

**JUNE 12TH, 2016
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT
10:00 AM**

**“Keeping Cool This
Summer”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

*Join us for the picnic following the service
- see page 6 for more information*

Congregational Briefs

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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Next Publication Date

June 20, 2016

Submission Deadline

June 13, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after June 21st to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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

Environmental Ministry Presents Nature Sings: Spirit of Our National Parks. Songs, photos & stories by Art Lee, Arts and Nature. Fri, Jun 3rd, 7PM in Eliot Hall. Grab a seat in front of Art Lee and the big screen, for an inspiring live concert and multimedia tour of our western National Parks. Art's songs and stories come from his adventures as a nature photographer mixed with a little history, science and philosophy. Don't miss this opportunity to experience nature's beauty, wonder and awe through the heart of an artist. With 20 years as a nature photographer and 10 years as a singer-songwriter, Art Lee has photographed all the National Parks of the western United States, and composed over 50 related songs. Nature Sings is his series of CDs/DVDs/shows. He manages a nonprofit, www.Arts-and-Nature.org, through which he sings in schools to educate about nature through the arts.

Meditation Group Changes

We will be meeting on Sundays in the Parlor at 11:15. We will not meet on June 5th.

Interfaith GLBT Pride Worship - June 2, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church - Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum and other religious liberals at First Baptist Church for the annual Pride Worship Service, presented by the Pride Interfaith Coalition of Utah.

Dinner and Dialogue

Please take a minute to sign up at the Welcome Table for a future Dinner and Dialogue, either as a host or guest. Hosts set the date, menu and number of guests they can accommodate, and guests contribute by bringing a dish to share. It's a great way to get acquainted with other like-minded people in our church. Questions?? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or suppers@slcuu.org.

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 (summer time to be determined). For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- May 29: La Frontera Millcreek (1250 East 3300 South)
- June 5: Pride Day Celebration - no Lunch Bunch
- June 12: Annual Church Picnic at Sugarhouse Park (12 pm)
- June 19: Finca (327 West 200 South)
- June 26: Oasis Cafe (151 South 500 East)

Reverently Yours

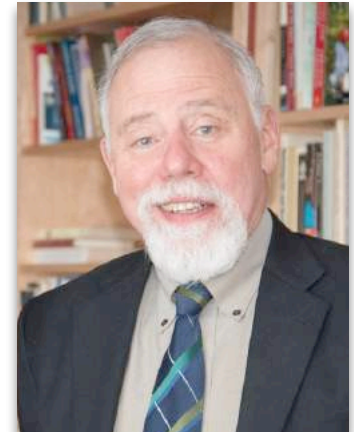
These are politically charged times, and they can take your breath away. Where do we turn to when winded from the constancy of polls pointing to bleak futures, and the unraveling of civility making the presidential race seem savage? The Trump phenomenon, which the media clings to like a dog its bone, fills us with dizzying scenarios of an intolerant society. It feels inconceivable that more than two centuries after the Enlightenment, fundamental freedoms for women, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community remain conspicuously absent. In fact, new state laws are being passed like hotcakes to further restrict basic human rights. Obstinate in their war on science, America's conservatives refuse to let climate change evidence influence their penchant for a god-fearing past and relentless economic growth for the future.

Where do we turn to in this lunacy? You may not be surprised to hear me say "our church." But not for the reasons you think. The image that quickly comes to mind is our church's fierce stance on protecting American liberties. Social justice is our creed, and protest our spiritual practice. Some say the minister rails too frequently against social injustice, eco-injustice, and the frightening neglect of the poor by our nation's leaders. Yet the social issues of our day come wrapped in moral imperatives, which deserve a religious response if not an outcry of dissent.

Yes, our church advocates for social change. But what remains crucial is that our church also serves as a refuge from the daily onslaught of social crises. Our church as sanctuary – the true meaning of sanctuary implying shelter – was made apparent by the magnificent performance of our choir singing the requiem (music by Dave Zabriskie; libretto by Kathleen Cahill). The composition had a profound impact on the congregation, reminding us that our church serves partly as a springboard to social engagement, but also as a safe haven to examine personal issues and begin the process of healing.

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

In the swirl of social movements, our music program generally keeps us grounded in the more personal aspects of life, feeding us with meat for the spirit. Perhaps the writer, Charles Bukowski had it right when he said:



"An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way. An artist says a hard thing in a simple way." The requiem serves as a perfect illustration. The number of books I've read on the grieving process only makes me dizzy. The discussion goes around in circles leading nowhere. Yet in 45 minutes of music and poetry, the whole congregation was in tears, relating to the universal experience of loss in deeply individual ways.

Music may be our church's main thrust into the arts, but it surely doesn't end there. We are becoming increasingly diverse with poems, plays, and the Arts Festival itself.

The arts play a unique complementary role in the life of our church. They give us a chance to catch our breath in the whirlwind of social catastrophes. We can pause, reflect, pray, and refuel our energies.

We can feel immensely proud of the role that the arts fill in church life. And we are all grateful that in these politically charged times, our church provides not only a means by which we try to right the wrongs, but our church also serves as refuge for the soul. TRG

Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church extends its love and sympathy to Rebecca Batt. A memorial service for her husband, Rand Hart, will be held May 30th at 5:00p.m. at First Church.

In the Life

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

A few weeks ago at the annual Congregational Meeting the Governing Board introduced the concept of a size transition from a “pastoral” to a “program”-sized congregation. This lingo bounces around the world of church professionals and references complexity and size of staffing, programming, budget, attendance, participation and organizational structure, to name a few. Many factors influence congregations as they grow, mature, decline, atrophy. Resources indicate that congregations will shift back and forth at these transition points...dancing one side of a size transition and then another. Choices are made...or things “just happen”...pertaining to buildings, staff, worship services, educational programming...and all of these occurrences serve to either support the status quo, move toward greater complexity and sophistication or return to a former, edenic way of being. “It was all better when...”

I do not know which direction this congregation will choose to go in terms of its staffing, its programming and its funding.

I do suspect, though, that if you look at the life of this congregation over the course of its history you will see patterns, trends and histories. You will see times when this congregation’s internal ministries (those focusing less on social justice and more on management, funding and structure) tipped one way or another. And you will see how those tipping points were reached, assessed and then evaluated as to whether this

was a good choice or bad choice in the long run.

Some of you here have already lived through some of these decisions and discernments. Your wisdom, encouragement, challenge and experience will be critical components of the next steps at First Unitarian Church.

We have entered a dance already in progress, learning the steps as we go, contributing to the music and creating new forms out of old.

Let us be curious, friends, about the dance, the music, and the possibilities within, between and beyond.

Here's to The Work!

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

P.S. I'll be joining adult chaperones traveling with Junior High youth to Boston June 6-11 and Senior High youth to South Dakota June 19-25. Please keep us in your prayers and well-wishes for safe travels and meaningful experiences.



Auction Item Cocktail Party held Saturday May 7th

-submitted by Bill Reed

Fun, fun, fun was the comment of guests who attended the Cocktail Party held by Diane Johnson and Bill Reed at their home. They opened their east bench home to 25 Unitarians for this auction item that raised \$1,000 for the church. Drinks included Sazerac (Bill’s mother is from New Orleans) and Cowboy Lemonade (Di’s family is from Texas). Appetizers served included jackfruit tacos, red pepper dip and deviled eggs.

Also Root Beer Floatini was served as “dessert”. “Stump the bartender” was played during many lively conversations. Bill and Di plan to hold this again next auction.



Religious Education News

Julie Miller

Petition to Ban Plastic Bags in Salt Lake City by
Liam Mountain LaMalfa, UU RE Student

Have you ever used a plastic bag? You probably did not think much of it. But plastic bags are dangerous in many ways. This is why they should be banned. Did you know that over 6,000 plastic bags are used every 5 seconds in the United States and these bags take 1,000 years to decompose, at least! Plastic bag factories create huge amounts of pollution. Plastic bags also create litter and are toxic to animals when they eat them. For example, plastic bags can blow into the ocean. Then, jellyfish-eating animals will devour the plastic, thinking it's a tasty treat. The animals die soon afterward. As you can see, plastic bags are very dangerous. This is why plastic bags should be banned, or in a few years, this planet will be in big trouble!

In order to solve this problem, many cities in the United States and countries around the world are trying to decrease the amount of plastic bags used. For example, Ireland has put a tax on plastic bags. Since then, the amount of plastic bags used in Ireland has gone down by over 90%! Many cities throughout California have banned plastic bags completely.

Because of what I have learned about the dangers of plastic bags, I think that we should ban the use of plastic bags in Salt Lake City. I have started a petition at Uintah Elementary School where I am in fourth grade. The petition is now at the Environmental Ministry Table here at the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City if you would like to sign it. With other kids from RE at First Church and my school that want to come with me, I will be taking all of the signatures to a Salt Lake City Council meeting before they vote on banning plastic bags this Fall. Thank you for your support on this very important issue!



NOTE: Thank you for helping Liam support this most important cause.

In Service,
Julie Miller, DRE
Liam Mountain LaMalfa, UU RE Student

Pride (continued from pg. 1)

- Pride Parade, Sunday, June 5
- This year, the parade route has been reversed, so will travel from west to east in downtown Salt Lake City.
- Our entry is #128 in the Purple Block, which will line up on 200 West between South Temple and 100 South. We will be on the right side of the street facing south.
- Our float must be in place by 7:00 am. Participants, however, must not be there before 10:15 am.
- DO: Wear clothes, carry water, sing, wave, and have fun
- DO NOT: Bring a pet, throw anything into the crowd, possess or consume alcohol during the parade

If you would like to be involved, but cannot participate in the parade, we are collecting donations to help with expenses through a Faithify account. More information will be available at the Social Justice Table on May 29.

Annual Picnic - June 12th

In celebration of our 125th Anniversary, the RE Department is organizing some 19th century-style games during this year's picnic!

The annual end-of-year picnic is almost here. This event is fun for all ages, and we hope that you are planning to attend. If you would like to be part of the team that makes it all happen, please contact Joe Herring at jherring5@gmail.com or 801-440-5521. We need some extra hands to assist with set up, grill tending and other food service tasks, and of course, clean up.

Annual Church Picnic Details

When: Sunday, June 12th at 11:30 following our 10 am service.

Where: We have reserved our usual spot - the Mt. Olympus Pavilion at Sugarhouse Park.

What to bring: Please bring a salad or dessert to share with everyone, and if possible, bring your own non-disposable dishes and utensils so that we can limit the recycling and refuse that we generate. Please label vegetarian, vegan, nut free, and gluten free options clearly to help those with particular food allergies, sensitivities, and preferences enjoy our community event. We will be providing beef burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers, as well as drinks, condiments, and chips.

How much?: Cost is \$5 per person, \$4.00 for children payable at the park (checks made out to First Unitarian Church or exact change if paying in cash would be much appreciated).

Register for Annual Church Campout

If you haven't already please register online for the annual summer campout. This year will be held at the same campground as last year. It is a wonderful site for children and adults alike. There is a great mini-amphitheater at the site where kids have often held plays and we all have held a lay Sunday service. Also it is great for Mountain biking for the experience and inexperienced. Wildflowers should once again be plentiful. There is fishing nearby.

Where: Wolf Creek Campground group site #1.

When: Thursday, July 14, 2016 – Sunday, July 17, 2016 (3 nights).

Check-In Time: 2:00 PM

Check-Out Time: 1:00 PM

How Much: \$30 per car for the 3-day weekend. Price is \$30 regardless of number of days you plan on staying. Please Carpool if possible (up to 6 people per car). Cost is per car because of limited parking.

INFO: Wolf Creek Campground is in the Unita & Wasatch-Cache National Forest at an elevation of 9,400 feet in stands of aspen and fir trees. It is a Nonelectric campground. An amphitheater sits above Site 1 and has a cement stage, wood benches and a campfire circle. The 3.5-mile Trail Hollow Trail begins in the campground and offers great hiking and mountain biking into the West Fork of the Duchesne, offering unparalleled views of the surrounding Wasatch Range. All ages welcome.

Bring your own camping gear and food. Bring something to share at a potluck supper on Friday evening. There will be loosely organized fun, including crafts and activities for kids. If you plan to join us for the Annual Summer Camping Trip, please complete the form below after submitting your registration fee through our donation form. <http://www.slccu.org/component/rsform/form/6-intermountain-unitarian-universalist-camping-trip>

Board Bits

What a Great Congregation!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Congregational Meeting last Sunday. During the meeting, members elected Philip Moos and Matt Wilson to serve on the Nominating Committee and Tim Chambless, Teresa Dieringer, and Jan Crane to the Board of Trustees. Now, if only the Republicans and the Democrats can follow our example and conduct their election business with the same dignity and efficiency in July!

Thank you, also, to the 133 people who completed our Annual Congregational Survey. The information that you provide through your responses is of great value to your Board. We now have three-years of data that serve as a measure of our progress towards meeting our ENDS. Look for a detailed summary of this year's survey in an upcoming Torch.

-Sue Geary for the Board of Trustees

Summer Forum 2016

A diverse and exciting new lineup of speakers awaits you for ten Sundays from June 19 through August 21. Programs begin at 10 a.m., and feature music and Q&A sessions. Conversations and refreshments continue in Eliot Hall. Child care is provided.

June 19: Medical Marijuana: Who Does the Ban in Utah Continue to Harm? Christine Stenquist and Lissa Lander of TRUCE (Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education) report on the state of legalization of medical marijuana, locally and nationally, focusing on the harm being done by the ban.

June 26: The Future of Independent Journalism in Salt Lake City Spokespersons for CITIZENS FOR TWO VOICES--Joan O'Brien, Karra Porter, and Ted McDonough—tell of their efforts to produce local ownership for the Salt Lake Tribune.

July 3: How Liberals Can Help Each Other Deal with Their White Privilege Local leaders of the national organization SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (SURJ) describe their mission to help white liberals discover how best to support racial justice.

July 10: Showcasing African-American Performing Arts Performers from the 365 GROUP present poetry, singing, instruments, and dance from among their more than 900 members.

July 17: Reversing the Tragic School-to-Prison Laws Panelists from the PEOPLE NOT PRISONS Movement (Anna Brower, Jean Hill, and Andrew Riggle) update current their efforts.

July 24: Family Members from Sperm Donors Bill Cordray describes the national movement of "donor-conceived persons" (he is one) who are seeking—and finding—their adult siblings.

July 31: Is Our Politics Experiencing a Meltdown? Political Scientist Tim Chambless and Journalist Paul Rolly reflect on the aftermath of the primary season and the just-concluded political conventions.

August 7: Inside the Armed Resistance to the Federal Government Anthony Rampton of the Utah Attorney General's office describes his involvement in the April 2014 armed standoff in Nevada and the 41-day armed federal land takeover this winter in Oregon.

August 14: New Forms of Critical Thinking and the Future of Progressivism Rev. Harold Straughn, author, minister, chaplain

August 21—Our Annual Environmental Justice Festival Bryan Vandenheuvell and Lauren Birge show and tell about building, and living in, their Tiny House. Other presenters will demonstrate lifestyle alternatives to enhance the environment.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Non-profit Org.
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Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service
Requested

Spring Highway Clean Up

Many thanks to the following 14 volunteers who didn't let bad weather deter them from removing litter from SR-65 on a very wet May 21st: Catherine Groseclose, Helen Stanhope, Nick Shifrar, Hifesh Tolani, Joe DuBray, Summer Haven, Becky Hickox, Kevin Leecaster, Todd Seymour, Eric Seymour, Stuart Koeven, Jeff Koeven, Paige Koeven, and Frank Steffey. My apologies for any name mis-spellings. Sadly, no valuable treasures were found this time. It was refreshing to see many new faces. Thanks to Helen Stanhope for providing snacks afterwards.

Many thanks to Todd Seymour and Catherine Groseclose for volunteering to take over this beneficial activity in the future.



Mark Your Calendars!

- May 29th: One service only at 10 am.
- June 5th: We will have a "short and sweet" Sunday service at 9 am so that congregants can participate in the Pride Parade (see page 1 for more info).
- June 12th: One service at 10 am, closing out our church year. Followed by our annual picnic at Sugarhouse Park.
- June 19th: Summer Forum begins (see page 7).