



The Torch is Going Paperless

First Unitarian Church has always been in the vanguard of even UU churches in Environmental issues. However, our dependence upon paper has forced us to recognize that we can (and need) to do more in regards to building a sustainable planet. Therefore, our newsletter (The Torch) will be paperless in the new Church year beginning with the August 15, 2016 issue.

Please connect with the church website for all future issues of The Torch as well as generally learning more about the church and our many activities. Realizing that the new policy may cause a genuine hardship among some of our more elderly members, a few paper copies of The Torch will be available at the church.

Thank you for your understanding as we, along with a growing number of churches and institutions, move into a paperless era.

Upcoming Summer Forum Presentations

June 19: Medical Marijuana: Who Does the Ban in Utah Continue to Harm? -speakers from TRUCE (Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education)

June 26: The Future of Independent Journalism in Salt Lake City -speakers from Citizens for Two Voices

July 3: How Liberals Can Help Each Other Deal with Their White Privilege -speakers from Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

July 10: Showcasing African-American Performing Arts -performers from 365 Group

July 17: Reversing the Tragic School-to-Prison Laws -speakers from People Not Prisons movement.

Summer Forum happens Sundays at 10:00 am. Please see our website at www.slucu.org for more information on Summer Forum speakers and topics.



Pride 2016

*parade photos by
Lori Shields and
Colleen Bliss
Continued on page 5*

Congregational Briefs

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

July 18, 2016

Submission Deadline

July 11, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after July 18th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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DRE Sought for Ogden UU

Ready to serve Unitarian Universalism in a Bold New Way? Unitarian Universalist Church of Ogden is seeking a part-time Director of Religious Exploration, starting this summer. Serve an amazing congregation, work with a dynamic collaborative staff team, be a part of an exciting Developmental Ministry journey. Intrigued? Check out the job description at uuco.org and send your resume and cover letter to Reverend Shelly Page at revshellyuuco@gmail.com.

Dinner and Dialogue

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our Dinner and Dialogue this year. We have had lots of participation which means that many people have made new acquaintances and, hopefully, had a lovely evening with friends. Hopefully, you will continue to host and attend dinner parties throughout the summer, just without my help, but feel free to request my assistance if there is anything I can do help you at suppers@slcuu.org or 801-455-6553. - Darlene Thayne

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group will not meet over the summer. The next meeting will be September 29th when we will discuss "Alexander Hamilton" by Ron Chernow.

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 noon during the summer. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- June 19: Finca (327 West 200 South)
- June 26: Oasis Cafe (151 South 500 East)
- July 3: Cafe Trio (680 South 900 East)
- July 10: Caffe Molisse (55 West 100 South)
- July 17: Copper Kitchen (4640 South 2300 East)
- July 24: Cafe Niche (779 East 300 South)
- July 31: Market Street Grill (54 West Market Street)

Recycling this Summer

Environmental Ministry will be collecting hard to recycle items all through Summer Forum! Drop off your oral care product packaging, mylar power bar packages, plastic cereal bags, and personal care product packaging at the Environmental Ministry table, starting next week. Each piece is worth 2¢ to First Unitarian Church. Questions about this recycling? Call Judy Lord at 801-486-6694.

Reverently Yours

Traditionally, my last column of a church year comes with paeans to the summer months and hopes that all of you will be able to partake of all the treasures the season offers. I always include prayers of safety for your travels, and inspiration for whatever new endeavors you encounter.

Safety these days, however, connotes something far different from what we meant not all that long ago. Safety was tacked-on as a reminder to be careful: don't speed, don't do anything too stupid, take care of yourselves as you venture forth. But I write this end-of-the-year column on the eve following America's worst mass shooting in history. What happened at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida late last Saturday nights, places 'safety' into a totally different light.

Terrorism is now part of our landscape, even in America. Safety is a matter of simply not being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Safety emerges as a crapshoot. Safety, for all practical purposes, doesn't really exist any longer. We are constantly vulnerable in this age of terrorism. Whether we go to pick up some groceries, attend a concert or sporting event, ride public transportation or a plane, go to a movie or night club, the notion of a safe return home comes with no guarantees.

In Orlando, two obvious features are accentuated. The target of terrorism is the GLBTQ community and the perpetrator is Muslim with loyalty pledged to ISIS. This one act defines our times: An intolerance of people who identify as GLBTQ, and a killer who raps his Muslim faith around violence that no God could possibly condone.

When I was asked by an ABC Channel 4 reporter last Sunday how we can stop such tragedies from happening in the future, my mind raced in a million directions. There wasn't time to express anything of merit; just the usual that evil is manifest time and time again. But what I would have liked to have said would run something like this:

Rhetoric fosters a climate of hate, which leads to unconscionable results. The statements on the

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Orlando massacre issued by LDS authorities, Senator Orrin Hatch, and Governor Gary Herbert shook me to the core. They offered blanket condolences without a single reference to the gay community. The remarks could have been applied to any situation warranting the customary sympathy and need for prayer.



I could not help but think how conveniently LDS leaders look past their own cruel intolerance of the GLBTQ community. From Proposition 8 to their policy on children of same-sex couples to their overt denunciation of marriage equality and everything related to queer, the LDS church can only appear awkward and insincere in extending condolences to the family of those who were gunned down in Orlando. Hard to imagine offering prayers of healing to the people whose lives you condemn as sinful. The LDS church has contributed to GLBTQ communities not being safe.

The Muslim community must also consider its neglect of standing up more fiercely against the violent fringe of their faith community. It is insufficient to claim that ISIS represents a group that misunderstands the real teaching of the Qur'an. Isis and ISIS sympathizers must be strongly denounced. Liberal and moderate Muslims must summon the courage to challenge the violent groups within Islam, and not, along with the rest of us, claim that we are all hapless victims.

This column is not a great send-off for the summer. The world is growing less safe, and we know that. But I still wish for you a time to refuel your spirits, enjoy the change of scenery if you are fortunate to travel some. I look forward for us all coming together again in the fall, a community we can thankfully count on in a fractured world. TRG

In the Life

I write these words in the wake of the gay nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida. One part of me is balling up my fists, grimacing in rage, shaking my head, holding back tears, fighting urges to rant and rave, planning to attend a candlelight vigil and wondering what I should write and say...and to whom and when. Another part of me is standing still, hands at my sides, palms up, allowing waves of grief and fear and hurt sadness and yes, anger, to wash over me and flow through me.

One part of me says, "Just because it's legal to be queer doesn't mean it's safe."

Another part of me says, "That poor man. What pain and fear must have prompted him to shoot?"

That this happened in the month of Gay Pride may be happenstance, random.

That this happened in the month of Gay Pride is a reminder that the original Stonewall uprising in New York City in 1969 was an act of rebellion...against the forces of greed and fear, corruption and oppression. The original movements and responses were not referred to as "Pride;" they were called Liberation.

There is always a struggle for liberation...within us, between us, around us.

Our task is to seek that struggle, not turn away from it.

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Our task is to recognize the resources we have and how they may be deployed in that struggle.

Our task is to look for the Divine unfolding in the midst of struggle.

I write these words in between service trips - having just returned from Boston with fourteen 7th and 8th grades, and preparing to leave for Pine Ridge with twelve 9th-12th graders. These journeys - one focused on heritage and the other focused on service - are exactly what we must all be doing in our lives. We must look at our roots. We must seek to understand the events, relationships, choices and dynamics that have shaped who we are. And we must look at our branches. We must cultivate wisdom, courage and intentionality around how we might engage the world in which we live.

Peace and unrest to you as we enter these summer months.

Peace that passes understanding.

Unrest that upsets oppression and complacency.

Here's to The Work, Friends,
Matthew



Hospitality Continues in Summer Months

Our summer forum is a fantastic opportunity for ministry to continue to an entirely different community. If you love First Church and want to be a welcoming face in the summer to the many folks who come to hear excellent speakers in a different setting on Sunday morning, please let Rev. Matthew Cockrum know. He'd love to get you set up as an Usher or Welcome Table volunteer. Contact Matthew at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687 ext. 205

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.slcuu.org/component/rsform/form/6-intermountain-unitarian-universalist-camping-trip>



Thanks to Colleen Bliss and Lori Shields for Pride Photos

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