

The Torch

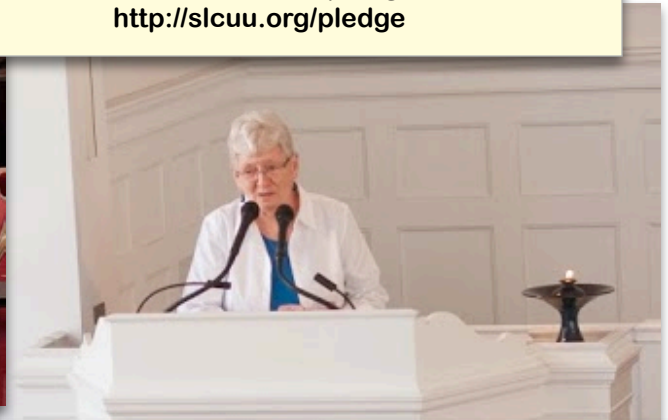
VOLUME 57, ISSUE 17

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

MARCH 23, 2015



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CELEBRATION Sunday

Photos from Celebration Sunday
taken by
Tom Oesleby and Neil Whitaker.

The Torch

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Minister, minister@slcuu.org

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Director of Religious Education,
dre@slcuu.org

David Owens

Director of Music, music@slcuu.org

Hal Gonzales

Church Administrator, admin@slcuu.org

Board of Trustees

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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

April 6, 2015

Submission Deadline

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

Events to be listed should occur after April 6th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen
torch@slcuu.org

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

Congregational Briefs

The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival April 18th from 5 to 10 pm.

Artists: Please register using the online form found on the Church Webpage. The link is <http://www.slcuu.org/programs/committees-and-groups/item/30-art-fair>. This is a fun event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any question please contact Bill Reed at wbreed@gmail.com.

Fighting Classism and Racism with Opera

Sunday, March 29 12:30pm-1:30pm in the Chapel. Unitarians have been asking how we can better reach out to communities who are under-represented in our church. How can we help create a welcoming atmosphere? Do we know the skills and talents of our own church members and are we able to recognize what potential members have to offer? Victoria Sethunya will be giving a presentation with personal narrative and song to help us begin to explore these questions. An opportunity to discuss will follow.

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven room at the Church.. The book for March 24 is "1491, New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus" by Charles C. Mann. The book for April 28th is "Deep Down Dark," by Hector Tobar. All are welcome.

Dinner and Dialogue

Make new UU friends while enjoying good food and stimulating conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Table to HOST a dinner in your home. You set the date and the menu, and decide how many guests you can accommodate. Guests sign up to ATTEND and contribute by bringing a dish to share. What could be simpler? Questions, please get in touch with Jan Crane, 801 870-1222 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 at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- March 22: Kathmandu II (212 South 700 East)
- March 29: Desert Edge Brewery (602 East 500 South)
- April 5: Silver Fork Lodge (at Brighton Ski Resort)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



It's one thing to read history, another to experience it firsthand. I attended the signing of SB 296 last Thursday, when the governor signed a nondiscrimination bill into law protecting gay and transgender communities in jobs and housing. It felt like history being made –

which it was – and it brought tears of joy to virtually everyone gather in the Capital Rotunda. The acoustics were terrible, per usual, but the progressive spirit soaring in triumph was quite unusual.

I remembered the time in 1983 when the music director in my old New England congregation entered my office, closed the door behind him, sat on my sofa and wept uncontrollably. I just sat with him saying not a word, waiting for the tears to stop flowing. After a while, he simply said, "All my friends are dying."

The AIDS epidemic was beginning to take shape as a horrendous reality at that time, and fear within the gay community felt absolutely paralyzing. Other historic episodes since then stand out as markers of society trying to understand its relationship with the LGBTQ communities. We suffered through the indignity of Don't Ask, Don't tell in the military. The Defense of Marriage Act then seemed like an implacable obstacle to equality, cementing the limited definition of marriage in the American psyche. But then Civil Unions were enacted in a few states as efforts to restore at least a modicum of dignity to the power of love between same sex couples.

Marriage equality began suddenly to build momentum to the point where even Utah, conceivably the most conservative state in the nation, was forced to follow the laws of equality. Feeling the euphoria as one who was honored to officiate same-sex weddings,

made me think that revolutions of such proportion do not need the time espoused among the gradualists in society. When the time has come...the time has come.

Still, unable to fully accept gay equality in Utah, the state preserved discrimination laws as though the GLBTQ community did not qualify for full rights as citizens and as human beings. That was the situation until last Thursday when the governor amidst hundreds of cheering souls signed SB 296. Republicans and Democrats, straights and gays, were hugging each other as only imagined in the Kingdom; there were no barriers between ideologies and cultures that afternoon from 6:00p.m. – 6:30p.m. We had all observed and participated in an event of huge historical significance.

Some day in probably a generation from now, young gay and lesbians and transgender people making their way through Utah society will never know what it was like before the signing of SB 296. They will come to take their freedoms and rights for granted...as they should. And I will remember the day, standing on a crowded stairway behind the governor, cheering him on as his pen scratched out his signature, ending the two-tier system of justice. It was like actually watching the shot being fired heard around the world. TRG

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

With the vernal equinox on March 20th and the daffodils already blooming out on the playground at church, spring has officially sprung here in the Salt Lake Valley! Several of our upcoming Religious Education programs will highlight the traditional spring theme of renewal. I hope that many of you will join us as



we have a very Unitarian Universalist (which is to say open and inclusive) celebration of Easter on April 5th and as we dedicate children in our congregation on April 12th.

In Service,
Mary

Religious Education News Bits

Canned Food Drive, Ongoing now through Easter

Throughout the month of March, we are collecting canned goods for the Crossroads Food Pantry. This is a very doable hands-on social justice project for all ages -- even for very young children. I'd be glad to send you suggestions about how to talk about food insecurity without frightening your child. Let me know if you would like guidance on that by sending an email to dre@slcuu.org. Please bring non-perishable food items to Little Chapel each Sunday morning between now and Easter. Each of us can make a difference, and together, we can make a big difference!

Child Dedications, Sunday, April 12 (please sign up by April 5)

Rev. Tom Goldsmith is planning a Child Dedication ceremony during the regular Sunday services on Sunday, April 12 to formally and publicly welcome your child into the world and our church community. Although babies and young children are most commonly dedicated, children of any age may be included in this ceremony. For more information you can pick up a flyer in the infant/toddler room or at the Welcome Table in Eliot Hall on a Sunday morning. To sign up, please contact Nancy at reassist@slcuu.org.

Get Your Groove On . . .

Tie Dye is coming back April 12th. YRUU youth will dyeing choice items for your Mother's Day, Father's Day and all other celebration day needs. See us after services on the 12th! Proceeds go to the YRUU Service Trip.



Celtic Dancing In Sunday School on March 15th

Warm thanks to Xander and Dominique for sharing their talents with us at church.



Environmental Ministry News

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



Utah Interfaith Power & Light, The Nature Conservancy & First Presbyterian Church Present:

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, atmospheric scientist,

Evangelical Christian, and author of *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-based Decisions*

Faith, Science, and Climate Action

Monday, **March 23, 2015, 7:00-8:00PM**

First Presbyterian Church, 12 "C" Street, SLC

Additional Presentations:

3/26/2015, 7:00-8:00PM, Clark Planetarium, 110 S 400 W, SLC

Dr. Hayhoe is a Climate Scientist and an Evangelical Christian. Her faith influences her science and her science influences her faith. She combines these two often - strained topics into a convincing presentation about caring for creation and the need to act now on climate change. TIME magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in 2014. She has been interviewed by Bill Moyers, is part of a NOVA episode and had a prominent role in "Years of Living Dangerously" - an 8-part HBO series on climate change directed by James Cameron. Join us for her presentation... and bring a friend. Sponsored by: The Nature Conservancy; Utah Interfaith Power & Light; USU Sustainability Council; Utah Citizen's Climate Lobby; Gandhi Alliance for Peace; Humanities Department, Brigham Young University; Intermountain Bioneers; First Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact: Susan Soleil, 801-554-9495, Utah Interfaith Power & Light.

***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* [Book Discussion]**

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 2015, 7:00-8:30PM

The Parlor, First Unitarian Church

Look Around

Mother Theresa said, "If I look at the mass I will never act. If I look at the one I will." Refugees fleeing persecution and only with what they can carry, are resettling here through the International Rescue Committee. Two thirds of them are children. Look around. Is there something you can give? Furniture, clothing, toys, etc., in good condition, suitable for needs of a displaced family starting over, help create life-changing smiles. **Contact the First Church Refugee Resettlement Committee**, Coordinator Joe DuBray, at 801-930-9640, dubrayfj@gmail.com, to arrange a pick up or volunteer to help.

Come join us in reading and discussing: *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* by Naomi Klein (Simon & Schuster, 2014) . Discussion 7-8:30PM at First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC. Climate change, Klein writes, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It's about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe.



Either we leap—or we sink. *This Changes Everything* is a multi-platform project that includes a non-fiction book by Naomi Klein, a feature documentary by Avi Lewis (coming in 2015), movement events, educational materials, a partnership with Beautiful Solutions [<https://solutions.thischangeseverything.org/>] to highlight new economy solutions, and an evolving website [<http://thischangeseverything.org/>], blog [<http://thischangeseverything.org/blog/>], Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/thischangeseverythingproject>] and Twitter [<https://twitter.com/thischanges>] feeds.

Endowment Fund News

The Endowment Committee would like to thank the following for contributions that were made to the Endowment Fund between November 2014 to March 3, 2015:

In honor of

Fran Wilcox's

90th Birthday

From Andrea Globokar

In memory of

Steve Horton

From Bill and Ruth Ohlsen

Hugh and Jan Gillilan

Remembering to donate to the Endowment Fund for a Memorial Gift or a special event or occasion is an excellent way to support our Church.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

The Endowment Fund Committee wishes to honor the following Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Member 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
Sue Geary and Michelle Page
Joan Proctor
Martha Veranth*

We would be delighted to honor others if you contact us to let us know 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 your estate planning. Please contact any Endowment Fund Committee member: Hugo Rossi, Cathy Chambless, Bill Ohlsen, or Cosette Joesten

March/April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	23	24 Open Minds Book Group 7pm (pg.2)	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26 Singing Circle	27	28
29 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	30 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	31	April 1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	6 Board Meeting 5:30 pm	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	13 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16	17	18 Annual Arts & Crafts Fair (pg. 2)

Sunday Services

March 22nd
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Finding Oz"
-High School Group

March 29th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Deconstructing History"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

April 5th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Easter Service
"Did it Really Happen?"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith &
the Chancel Choir

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

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RE High School raising funds for their service mission trip with a bake sale and tickets to Dr. Seuss dinner



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