



The Torch

First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

January 11, 2010
Volume 52, Issue 12

The Board of Trustees Needs Your Help

Our ValUUUs

The Board of Trustees is undertaking a study to determine the core values of our Church. Our goal is to identify the distinctive ideals, practices, and talents that lend our Church its vitality. In other words, we are interested in understanding more about what is happening when we, as a Church, are at our best. We will use the outcome of this study to prepare a new mission statement which articulates our Church's core values. We believe that the new mission statement will be a valuable guide for our Church's actions and its governance.

Our congregation has not gone through a process of articulating its core values since the early 1990s when we developed our current mission statement. A lot has changed since then inside our congregation and in the world around us. In our work as a Board, we have found that the current mission statement is neither succinct nor relevant enough to guide us in the governance of our Church. For example, the current mission statement asserts that "we initiate and assist new UU congregations throughout the state," an activity that hasn't been on the mind of many of our friends and members for at least a decade. On the other hand, the current mission statement is silent on several activities that many of our friends and members are engaged in, such as environmental ministry, our Church choir, or animal ministry.

We are convinced that going through the process of articulating our core values is not an academic exercise. As the Board makes important decisions about the Church's future, we want to make sure that we clearly understand the values of this congregation. To begin the process of articulating our values, we would like to hear from you! We are convening small groups of members and friends this month to discuss why people got involved in the Church and what their most important Church experiences have been.

Both small Group Ministry groups and ad hoc groups will be involved, and all Church congregants will have an opportunity to participate. The findings from the group meetings will be submitted to the Board, which will summarize them and write a new mission statement. The congregation will then vote on the new mission statement in our congregational meeting in May 2010.

If you are participating in a Small Group Ministry group, your January meeting will be dedicated to this process. If you are not in a Small Group Ministry group, please sign up for one of the twelve ad hoc group meetings scheduled for January. We have trained six members of our congregation to facilitate the twelve meetings. To sign up, please stop by the Our ValUUUs table after one of the January services in Eliot Hall or visit the Church Office. Even better, sign up on the Church's website at www.slccuu.org.

Joyful Sound for Common Ground

First Unitarian Church will join with Equality Utah, Pride Center, Inclusion Center, the SLC Council, cast from the Judge Memorial production of **Rent** and others to celebrate "Common Ground." Please mark your calen-

dar for a fabulous 1 hour celebration with our church choir singing on January 23, 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Rotunda at the Utah State Capitol.

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The Torch

Next Publication Date:
January 25, 2010

Submission Deadline:
Tues. January 19, 2010
at 9 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after January 26th to ensure timeliness.

Editor:
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Email to:
jennislccuu@yahoo.com or
drop off at church office

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext.5



Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



We make choices all the time. The current rage involves choosing safety or privacy, making full-body scanners at airports a hot topic. It creates strange bedfellows: Jason Chaffetz and the ACLU are on the same side opposing this invasion of privacy while most travelers feel okay about it. The full-body scanner is certainly not meant for prudes, but fright, paranoia, and security seem to take precedence for Utah travelers.

This choice is specific for our time. It does not come close to the classic choice that surfaces in great literature, poetry, song, and film: Do you choose wealth in life or love? I guess they need not be mutually exclusive, but somehow they are when you come right down to it. At least that seems the case and the either-or options are presented from the Bible to Shakespeare to Joni Mitchell to The Beatles. Henry David Thoreau declared truth was more important than love or money, but look at what life got him. He was too clever for his own good. It comes down to money or love.

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Oscar Wilde reminisced that as a young man he thought money was the most important thing in life and when he got older he knew that to be true. But then again, Wilde has never gone down in history as a great romantic.

I raise the question about our personal choices between love or money because I caught a snippet from a newspaper article about a New Year's tradition in many parts of Latin America. There you ring in the New Year with new underpants, a tradition whose source is beyond all research. But here's the catch: The color of underwear signifies what resolution one is seeking for the year ahead. Red means love. Yellow means money. Which would you choose? Either way you're making a bold statement, and the truth is known only by you, your partner, and a full-body scanner if you happen to be flying on New Year's.

In *Terms of Endearment*, the character Aurora Greenway says it just the way most of us would like it: "Work like you don't need the money, love like your heart has never been broken, and dance like no one is watching." If that sentiment had a corresponding color for underwear, I'd be first in line. And wouldn't you? Happy New Year! TRG

Swing Dance!
with live music by
the Stratford
Street Big Band!



Where: Holladay City Hall
4580 South 2300 East
When: January 30 7-11 pm
(dance lessons 7-8)
Tickets: \$25 in advance
\$30 at the door

Lessons available for the first hour
Refreshments available

For more information or to reserve your
space, contact Glenda at:
801-486-3063 or g.shenkal@gmail.com

Help the Chancel Choir get to Carnegie Hall by attending the Swing Dance Fundraiser!

WHAT: Swing Dance with live music by the Stratford Street Big Band
WHERE: Holladay City Hall 4580 South 2300 East
WHEN: Saturday, January 30 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
TICKETS: \$25 in advance - \$30 at the door
CONTACT: Glenda at 801-486-3063 or g.shenkal@gmail.com



What's On Our Plate for January?

Social Justice

Bad Dog Rediscovered America

Bad Dog Rediscovered America is an art-mentoring program which utilizes experienced artists/mentors to work with Salt Lake youth from ages 5 - 19, many of whom come from at-risk environments such as low-income families and single-parent households. The program's mission is to help young people develop their imaginations and to encourage them to strive for excellence in all facets of their lives. Art is the vehicle which they believe will motivate, inspire, and challenge students to find means of self-expression.

Bad Dog has four main arts education programs, and our focus this month is on that part of their Community Outreach program which targets refugee and immigrant students at the Hartland Complex. Over 75% of the Hartland youth are nonnative English speakers and

come from all over the world. Many of these students do not easily learn from the structured academic methods practiced in our schools, and they have a difficult time assimilating to our culture while still retaining their own. Bad Dog provides a valuable communication outlet for these young people who cannot express themselves through traditional language skills.

Currently Bad Dog provides an hour and a half art session once a week at the Hartland Complex. The usual number of students who ask to be included in the arts program is 40 - 50 per day. The classroom size is inadequate to serve this many children at one time resulting in many being turned away. Funding from our church would provide for a second session to be held each week. Art supplies and snacks are needed as well as additional personnel.

The Dialogue for Peace group invites you to meet a professional peace advocate and learn about the important role Utah will play in permanently ending nuclear testing. **David Culp**, Legislative Representative, Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program, will be visiting Utah and making three public presentations dealing with "The Significance of the CTBT". Please see upcoming Orders of Service for more info on these events, coming up January 24- 26th.

Holiday Service photos submitted by Mary Kroener-Ekstrand and Nicole Droitsch. More photos on page 6





Religious Education - News for the Village

RE Newsbits

Solstice

The annual Solstice Celebration was a rousing success! (please see photos on page 3) A big thank you to all those who participated in this wonderful celebration. There was something for everyone, a fantastic service to welcome the sun, a hearty meal, a drum circle, a pinata, and of course Scottish Country Dance lessons.

The event was also a great fundraising success for our Coming of Age Boston bound youth, they thank you for your participation. If you were unable to attend this year make sure you do not miss it next year - the Solstice for 2010 is on December 21st again.

Guest at Your Table



Thanks to all those who participated in the Guest at Your Table program throughout the holiday season. Please turn in checks and coin boxes at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after service this week.

Valentines Date Night babysitting

The Coming of Age youth will be offering babysitting on Saturday, February 13th. So make some fancy reservations or dust off your fondue set!

Time will be 5-9 p.m. and the cost is \$5/hour for the 1st child in a family and \$3/hour for each additional child. Reservations and prepayment must be made by Sunday 7th. Sign-up can be made at the RE table or you can email Nicole at ndro-tisch@gmail.com.

Sustenance Sunday

During children' worship services on the third Sunday of each month, our young people have been collecting an offering of nonperishable foods. Now that the children and youth are beginning in the Sanctuary each week, we would like to designate the third Sunday of each month, beginning January 17, as Sustenance Sunday. Attendees at both the 9am and 11am service are invited to bring a nonperishable food item with them to the service. Children and youth will collect this food offering prior to leaving the sanctuary for their worship service in Little Chapel. These food items will be donated to a local food pantry as part of First Church's community outreach effort to reduce hunger and food insecurity along the Wasatch Front. Support this effort to provide sustenance to neighbors, friends and families in our community.

RE Social Justice for January

On January 24th the Religious Education Program will holding our Social Justice Sunday for the month. This month's theme is "Have-and-Have Not's". We are asking that parents and families have their children bring some gently used toys from their own home to donate to others children who do not have much.

Volunteers Needed: We will be working with the kids on games and activities that help them understand the principles of giving, additionally, we will need help getting the toys to appropriate

agencies. If you are willing and able please contact Nicole Droitsch (contact info below).

If you are in need of some toys for your child please contact Nicole Droitsch, Acting Co-DRE at ndroitsch@gmail.com or 801-582-5830.

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. " ~ C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) Irish author and scholar



Life Span Adult Education Survey

"To foster inquiry, shared interest and dialogue within the First Church Community"

We are looking for your ideas, suggestions, and past experiences with Adult Religious Education classes you have taken. Please fill out the survey and return it to the basket on the R.E. table in Eliot Hall. Or, if you prefer, print the on-line survey or complete the survey in The Torch and return it to the basket it on the RE table.

1. What classes offered in the fall session would you like to see offered again?
2. What classes have you taken in RE in the past? Indicate any you would like offered again.
3. What suggestions do you have for future classes?
4. What skills/expertise do you have that could be offered in the Adult RE curriculum? DON'T BE SHY! WE NEED YOU!
5. Tell us anyone you know and their area of expertise that we could approach to teach a class in Life Span Adult Education.
6. Would the availability of child care make a difference in your attending Adult RE classes?

Please deposit surveys in the basket on the R.E. table during coffee hour.
An on-line version is posted on the "Adult RE" section on the First UU Church website:

<http://www.slcuu.org/adult-religious-education>



The Purpose and Goals of Animal Ministry

Animal Ministry

- To educate people regarding the treatment of companion, farm, and wild animals;
- To educate, advocate and spread awareness of the plight of animals;
- To aid groups and individuals who help the various animal causes;
- To hold regular book discussions;
- To collaborate with other church committees;
- To facilitate vegetarian alternatives at all church functions;
- To publish articles in The Torch newsletter regularly;
- To meet monthly;
- To have monthly Vegan Circle Suppers available;
- To work closely with UFETA (Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

First Unitarian of Salt Lake Animal Ministry fits with our Seven Principles as follows:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
The right of people to realize humane and non-violent work conditions.
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Human relations including our relationships with non-human animals.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
To honor the paths of those who choose to live compassionately with every living being.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
To educate ourselves and others about the truth of the modern farming facilities and the emotional and physical pain inflicted on the workers and the animals.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democ-

atic process within our congregations and in society at large;

To live with a clear conscience that our lifestyle is not bringing harm to other beings;

6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Peace, liberty and justice for ALL!

7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;

Understanding that this web includes so much more than "me."

Animal Ministry meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm at the Youth House (on 1300 E - just north of the church). Please enter by the side door.

To join our Animal Ministry mailing group go to <http://tiny.cc/1uam> .

If you have any questions or need further information about our Animal Ministry group please contact Tresa Stitley at 801.671.2858 or tresarose@yahoo.com.

QUOTE:

"The lower animals are our brethren. I include among them the lion and the tiger. We do not know how to live with these carnivorous beasts and poisonous reptiles because of our ignorance. When man learns better, he will learn to befriend even these. Today he does not even know how to befriend a man of a different religion or from a different country." ~Mahatma Gandhi

-submitted by Tresa Stitley



Pageant Photos submitted by Mary Kroener-Ekstrand





January/February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
10 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 am (pg. 8)	11 Board of Trustees Meeting Room 201 7 pm	12 RE Council Meeting 7 p.m.	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	14	15 Food Co-op orders due (see below)	16
17 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (pg. 8) Animal Ministry meeting, Annex 12:30 pg. 6	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 Torch Submissions Due (9 a.m.)	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	21 Open Minds Book Group 7 p.m. Parlor (pg. 8)	22 Coffee House 6 p.m.	23 Contra Dance 6 p.m. Joyful Sound for Common Ground 6 p. Capital Rotunda (pg. 1)
24 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (pg. 8)	25	26	27 Salvation Army Sandwich making 4:30 p.m. in Kitchen Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30 Food Co-op pick up (see below)
31 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	February 1 Torch Submissions Due (9 a.m.)	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	4	5	5 Folk Dance 6 p.m.

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 about 12:45 p.m. For more information contact Tresa at 801-671-2858.

January 10: **Café Niche** 779 E. 300 S.
January 17: **Oasis Café** 151 S. 500 E.
January 24: **Squatters Pub** 147 W. 300 S.
January 31: **The Other Place** 469 E. 300 S.



Community Food Co-Op

First Unitarian Church is an official host site for the Community Food Co-Op of Utah, helping people get access to affordable, nutritious food. Please order January shares by January 15th for pick-up on January 30th between 9 and 10 a.m.

You can order online or print forms to mail in at: www.foodco-op.net (please note new web address). Place orders by mail -- 1469 S 700 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84104; phone - (801)746-7878; or fax - (801) 975-0336. For more information, contact Nancy Lindsley at 583-8566 or NALindsley@gmail.com



First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

801-582-8687
www.slcuu.org



Please Recycle Your Torch

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service Requested

Sunday Services

Sunday, January 10th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"The Downside of Positive Thinking"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, January 17th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Human Dignity"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, January 24th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Sins and Virtues"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Open Minds Book Group: Next meeting, Thursday, January 21 in the Parlor [above the Admin Office] at 7 p.m. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak will be discussed. This book is available at both the City and County libraries as well as in paperback at bookstores. All are welcome.

Year-round food drive: Hunger is not seasonal. Bring a can of food to church! Let's see how many times we can fill the Utah Food Bank barrel in Eliot Hall by the end of the church year. THANKS!