

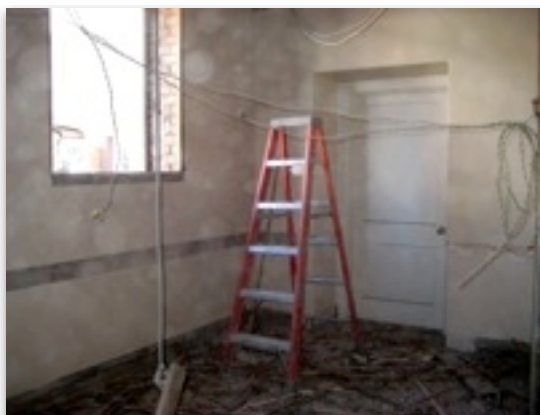
The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 13

JANUARY 23, 2012

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



Pardon Our Dust: Construction starts to move indoors. Left: what used to be the Sexton's office and the women's restroom upstairs in the old building. Center and right: North end of the church, which used to be the anteroom to Rev. Goldsmith's office and the men's restroom downstairs in the old building

Congregational Briefs

Crossroads Co-Op Closes in January

The Crossroads Urban Center Board of Directors recently voted to close the Community Food Co-op of Utah. Faced with significant losses, the difficult decision was made to close this program. The First Unitarian Church has been a host site for the past 5 years, helping to provide high quality food to the community. The last monthly distribution was held on January 21st. Thanks to all the Co-Op volunteers for all your good work and to all the members of the congregation who participated in this worthwhile project.

Team leaders: Andrea Globokar, Nancy Lindsley and Chriss Meecham

Remembering Downwinders

Join us for a candlelight vigil Remembering Downwinders. Friday, January 27, 2012, 5:30 pm, Episcopal Church Center of Utah 75 S. 200 East. January 27, 2012 has been designated by the United States Senate as a "National Day of Remembrance for Americans who, during the Cold War, worked and lived downwind from nuclear testing sites and were adversely

affected by the radiation exposure..." This date marks the 61st anniversary of the first nuclear weapon test in Nevada. The event will include comments by local religious leaders, inspirational music and a solemn reading of the names of Downwinders.. Please join us in remembering... We dare not forget.

Open Minds Book Group

The next meeting is Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the church in The Haven upstairs. We will discuss the book *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. All are welcome.

Be Part of Our Caring Community

In order to provide support to our church community members, the Caring Committee will be asking everyone to provide care to others in need. This may include providing food, transportation, a visit or friendly telephone call to someone who lives in your zip code. If you hear of someone that may be in need, contact Andrea Globokar at 801-518-7461 or caring@slcuu.org. Our goal is to provide support for church community members or help connect them to broader community resources.

THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of
Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Director of Religious Education

David Owens
Director of Music

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator

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Editor:

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen
torch@slcuu.org

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Submission Deadline:

January 30, 2012 (Mon.)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after February 7th to ensure timeliness.

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

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



It felt like money from the beyond. We received a kind gift to the c a p i t a l c a m p a i g n recently from no one who w a s canvassed. The

best part of the gift was the accompanying letter. It was sent by the daughter of Dick Nelson. He served so nobly and ably as chair of the Endowment Committee for many years, and also many decades ago chaired the Board of Trustees. Many of you undoubtedly remember Dick who passed away just a few years ago. I always enjoyed a very warm and personal relationship with him.

The letter reminded me of Dick's stint on the Board, and it was during his term as president that the church purchased the two lots north of the church. He always envisioned that someday the church would grow and utilize the additional land. I regret that the capital campaign was launched after Dick died. He would have been proud; a fulfillment of a dream. But his daughter, who lives in New York, noticed the construction on the once-envisioned land during a recent visit to Salt Lake, and felt moved to make a gift in honor of her father.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the visionaries of our church from decades ago and even longer. Their commitment to this church was one thing; many have done that. But the beauty lies in the ability to see beyond that which presently is, and to imagine new growth, vitality, and all it would take to realize that.

Our congregation has put up about \$2 million to take the vision to the

next level. Someday in the future, when \$2 million will seem like a paltry sum, our members at that point in time will surely remember the sacrifices we present members made back in 2010-2012 for no reason other than our faith in the church to keep growing and serving a larger population. I am sure their hearts will be filled with gratitude towards us, as ours are today for the blessings of our forebears.

A progressive voice in Salt Lake was first envisioned in 1890, and from the time the congregation drew up a charter in 1891, there have been a series of building blocks that helped our church grow through the centuries. Proudly we have taken our turn in the process; it's like fulfilling that which is expected of us.

Dick Nelson never got to see the construction presently at hand. He may not have envisioned an elevator going in, new office, handicapped bathrooms, a new kitchen, etc, but he hoped there would be more. And so that Board of probably some forty years ago invested in land to make today's construction a reality. We are extremely grateful. And by the way, our capital drive is not yet complete. If you are new to the church or may want to reconsider your pledge because you have the visual reality before you and want it to succeed to the best it can be, please call the office or tap Ed Dieringer or me on the shoulder. We'll be glad to talk with you. TRG

Among Ourselves

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family of Agi Plank. Her memorial will be held on February 11th at 1:00 p.m. here at the church.

Intern's Corner

Jamila Tharp



I was eight years old when I met who I now call my sister. Ellie was 14 years old at the time. Our lives interweaved considerably as we both grew up, albeit largely through her "best friend" connection with my brother who is also 6 years older than me. To decipher between

the legend of myth and reality, I recently had to ask her how she came into my family's lives. The prevailing lighthearted joke throughout the years in our family has been that "As we pulled the moving van into the driveway of our new home, there sat Eddie on the front porch. He came with the house." As myths often capture something metaphorically large and yet real, this myth captures my family's sentiments towards Ellie. We associate her entry into our lives and into our hearts with the time in which we moved into that house.

It did not take long to quickly feel Eddie's big brother presence in my life and to claim him with all the familial affection due a sibling. Eddie has since transitioned into Ellie, a significant metamorphism in many ways. Yet, with regard to my family one constant has held true, our "family's house" and our hearts have stayed open and connected to Ellie.

I so wish Ellie's whole life as a transgender person was met with such welcoming and acceptance. I know it has not. The reality of prejudice and discrimination that people who are transgender face pains me beyond my ability to articulate. Last November I was invited to speak as a clergy person at The International Transgender Day of Remembrance in Salt Lake City. The beautiful faces I looked into in the memorial pictures displayed lining the church with each of their life's story shared was heart breaking to take in. Each had been murdered. Each had lost their lives due to hate and ignorance.

In a state in which even basic housing and employment legal protections are non-existent for

people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), by far the transgender community is the most marginalized even within the larger LGBT community. Transgender education is sorely needed.

I am pleased to share that on February 25th from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm The First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City will host an educational workshop on the issues of transgender and gender. The first part of the workshop is presented by Connie Anast, executive director of the Transgender Education Advocates of Utah is entitled *Transgender 10*, and will include basic information about transgender persons, definitions, gender identity vs. sexual orientation, dispelling of myths and stereotypes, rights and protections and hate crimes. The second part entitled *Beyond the Binary* will be presented by Candice Metzler and she will speak to the origin of gender and what it is to "gender bend" – not living wholly in one gender or another – and how we all bend gender in our own ways. The third part of this invaluable educational workshop will be a panel of people who are transgender sharing their stories with us as well answering our questions.

The ***Transgender 101 and Beyond the Binary*** educational workshop will have limited space offered. I encourage you to call the church at 801-582-8687 ext. 207 as attendance will be secured by reservation only.

This is just one more opportunity that as liberal faith community members we have to make a significant difference in the world. By educating ourselves and learning how we can help make our community safe, welcoming and accepting for all our community members with regard to "gender bending" and also for those of us who are transgender, we will begin to affirm the natural gender diversity that exists within our house of humanity. Truly, within this house, we are all brothers and sisters.

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,

First Church's mission statement calls upon us to nurture and challenge the intellectual and spiritual journey for all generations. We certainly have folks of all ages in our congregation; that is, all generations are present. And we

offer classes and programs for various ages and stages -- both for children and youth in Sunday school and for adults in Adult Religious Education. So if we are providing for each life stage separately, are we meeting the charge we have set for ourselves?

Recently, I've been receiving a lot of communications from both the Unitarian Universalist Association and our Mountain Desert District about intergenerational, or as they seem to call it,

multigenerational programming. They have also begun using the term "full community" to refer to programs that are targeted to all generations.

How connected are you to all generations in our congregation? Would you like to do more to connect with the full community? How should we as a church provide opportunities for this?

If you have ideas on these issues, I'd love to hear from you. These are the types of conversations we are having in the Adult RE Committee and the RE Council. We could use your input as we continue in the ongoing work of building our church community.

In Service,
Mary

RE Newsbits

UU Orientation Scheduled for January 30th

Welcome newcomers and not-so-new-comers who are ready to find out more about our church and its programs! Our Minister Tom Goldsmith, our Intern Minister Jamila Tharp, our Religious Education staff, and members of our Welcoming Committee are presenting a Unitarian Universalist Orientation program on Monday October 3 from 7-9pm. Come get to know us and find out more about First Unitarian Church. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for this event at the Welcome Table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday service or on our church website at www.slccuu.org.

Youth Mentors Needed

The Coming of Age Mentor Program is intended to help participants make intergenerational connections in our church. The 7th and 8th grade youth are used to gathering primarily with age peers at church during Sunday School. Bringing adult mentors into the group changes the dynamic and helps the youth feel more a part of the larger congregation.

Mentors will meet with the youth during the 11 am service on 7 Sundays between now and the end of the church year. Early in the program, there will be

"getting to know you" games and activities. Once the mentors and youth have established a little bit of a relationship through these early meetings, the focus will shift and the mentors will help the youth develop a personal credo or faith statement that will be presented to the congregation at the COA service on June 3rd. If you are willing and able to get involved in this program, please contact RE Assistant Allison Zafiratos.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFO

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Director of Religious Education
dre@slccuu.org; 801-582-8687 ext. 206

Allison Zafiratos

Religious Education Assistant
reasst2@slccuu.org; 801-582-8687 ext. 205

A Story of Community, Commitment, and Generosity

Submitted by Joan Gregory, Coordinator
Environmental Ministry



Remember Environmental Ministry's holiday gathering and fundraiser auction just before the holidays - the one to raise funds to assist Gage & Gage Productions with the remaining costs of producing the Bidder70 film? Our goal was to raise funds to complement the \$1,000 grant given by the

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We are pleased to report that we raised \$1,101! This was awesome! We matched and beat the UUA grant! Thank you so much to all who contributed. But that is just the beginning of the story ...because then, Unitarian miracles began to happen!

On Sunday morning, we continued our auction and many of you participated - we raised an additional \$1,800, matching and beating the fundraising event's contributions. As a result of these fundraising efforts our combined UUA/First Unitarian contribution was \$4,000. Gage and Gage were thrilled. But the story does not end there ...

On that same Sunday, a member of our congregation asked, how much is really needed ... \$30,000, I said ... the Gages are now in an extremely expensive stage of film production ... music, editing, sound mixing, color correction, technical aspects ... where the expenses really add up. And this member of our congregation said, Tim's courage and commitment are an example for all of us - we must get this word out, let me see what I can do to help ... and this very generous anonymous donor matched and beat the UUA/First Unitarian by donating \$5,000. It was a joy to deliver this news to the Gages. But that is not all ... because our congregational giving was an inspiration ...

Soon afterwards, the very generous anonymous donor from our congregation asked, so how much did we raise? And I said, well - \$1,000 (UUA), \$3,000 (First Unitarian congregation), \$5,000 (your generous donation). And the very generous donor was

inspired by the generosity of the congregation, and said ... we can do better. Let's issue a challenge to anyone who will contribute or match our donation up \$5,000. And I nearly had to pick the Gages up off the floor.

And ... no sooner had word of the \$5,000 challenge started to spread, than low and behold ... the Gages received a \$5,000 check, meeting the \$5,000 challenge! Making the total raised ... \$19,000.

For the past 3 years, Beth and George Gage have put their lives into the filming of Bidder70, the story of Tim DeChristopher's bold and courageous action, from the day of the auction to Tim's sentencing. Our First Unitarian Church community, the whole Salt Lake environmental community, the Peaceful Uprising community ... all of these communities are part of this film ... it tells our story too. Tim's story is a story of empowerment that needs to be told across the country and the world - the whole idea is to SPREAD this story far and wide. That can't happen, until the film is finished!! Our combined \$19,000 contribution is going to make a HUGE difference. The Gages send their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the support and generosity of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City community.

And, IF, per chance, you are feeling a little left out. Perhaps you were out of town during those last few weeks before the holidays, didn't get an opportunity to contribute, or funds were short? Well there's no time like the present. The Gages still need approximately \$11,000 to cover those remaining production costs. Consider issuing a challenge to your friends and neighbors. Donations may be made directly to support the Bidder70 film at: <http://www.gageandgageproductions.com/Bidder70.html>, by choosing: DONATE. Or by check to: Sparky Productions, P.O. Box 903, Telluride, CO 81435. Sparky Productions is a 501(c)3 public charity. Please write: "Bidder 70 Film" in the note. THANK YOU!

ReSkilling Workshop

Submitted by Joan Gregory
Environmental Ministry

Join us on Tues, Jan 31st, 7-9 pm, Eliot Hall., as we reskill, rediscover hidden talents, and reclaim lost abilities. ReSkill to restore, cherish and and preserve our quality of life and our environment. This ReSkilling workshop will teach daily-living skills and encourage the development of self-reliance in the Salt Lake area. Attend up to three - 30 minute sessions. Pick among: SEED Starting; How to make and maintain a WORM BIN; Making,



eating and canning APPLE SAUCE; and very beginning KNITTING. This mini-workshop is hosted by Environmental Ministry's Transition Group which is part of the Transition Salt Lake movement - building local resilience by reclaiming community.

Endowment Fund News

Generous contributions have been received:

In Memory of

Janet Teerlink

from Cosette Joesten

In Memory of

Agi Plenk

from

Mrs. William Schultz
Carol Blackwell and Rob Mayer
Cosette Joesten
Gregory and Demetrios Skedros

Contributions may be given to the Endowment Fund to honor a special event, in memory of a loved one, or to acknowledge contributions to our community.



"Like" us on Facebook! It's a great way to keep up with what's happening at First Unitarian Church.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/FirstUUSLC>

First Unitarian Church now has it's own YouTube channel where we will be posting selected sermons and more.

Construction Changes

The men's restroom on the first floor of the old building is no more. Please use the men's restroom on the 2nd floor of the RE building whenever possible. Half of the hallway behind the chapel is being affected by construction as of publication.

January / February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	23 Parenting throughout Lifespan workshop 7-9 pm (pg. 4)	24	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26	27 Coffee House 6 pm	28 Contra Dance 6 pm
29 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	30 Torch submission deadline 10 a.m. UU Orientation 7-9 pm (pg. 4)	31 ReSkilling Workshop 7-9 pm (pg. 6)	February 1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	2	3	4 Folk Dance 6 pm
5 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	6	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9	10 Coffee House 6 pm	11 Plenk Memorial 1 pm
152 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am	13 Torch submission deadline 10 a.m.	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 1)	17	18

Sunday Services

Sunday, January 22, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

“Called to the Ministry”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith and Jamila Tharp, Ministerial Intern

Sunday, February 5, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

“Be-Loved: The Acts That Create Community”

-Jamila Tharp, Ministerial Intern

Sunday, January 29, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

“Nuclear Ethics and Downwinders”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith



First Unitarian Church
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