



The Torch

First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

January 25, 2010
Volume 52, Issue 13

Last Chance to Participate in Our ValUUs

The values held by each member and friend of First Unitarian Church add up to the core values of our congregation. The Board of Trustees invites you to participate in "Our ValUUs," a stimulating appreciative inquiry session, to share your experience and ideas. The outcome of this process will be used to prepare a new mission statement to guide our Church's actions and its governance in the years to come.

So far, about 60 people have signed up for these meetings, run by members of the congregation trained to facilitate an efficient and friendly session. In addition, there are 11 Small Group Ministries which participate in the Our ValUUs process. We expect that by the end of January more than 150 people will have shared

their most important experiences and vision for the First Unitarian Church. People who have already participated in the meetings described them as "invigorating," "fun," and "valuable in getting to

Our ValUUs

Dates for Our ValUUs Meetings

- Sunday, Jan. 24, 12:30-2:00pm
- Tuesday, Jan. 26, 5:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:00-8:30pm
- Sunday, Jan. 31, 12:30-2:00pm

All meetings take place at the Church in Room 201. Sign up at www.slccuu.org, at the Church office, or at the Our ValUUs table in Eliot Hall during coffee hour.

know what other people and groups in our congregation are up to."

It is not too late to make your perspective count. Please sign up during coffee hour on January 24 for one of the remaining sessions. Or you can

contact the Church Office at 801-582-8687. Even better, sign up on our website at any time at www.slccuu.org.

-submitted by Markus Vodosek and the Board of Trustees

Joyful Sound for Common Ground

First Unitarian Church will join with Equality Utah, Pride Center, Inclusion Center, PFLAG, and the Religious Alliance to celebrate "Common Ground." Please mark your calendar for a fabulous 1 hour celebration



with our church choir singing on January 23, 2010 at 6 p.m. in the rotunda of the Utah State Capital. Come make a joyful sound for common ground!

Inside this issue:

Reverendly Yours	2
Environmental Ministry	3
Religious Education	4-5
Dialogue for Peace	6
Animal Ministry	6
Calendar	7
Sunday Services	8

The Torch

Next Publication Date:
February 8, 2010

Submission Deadline:
Mon. February 1, 2010
by **9 a.m.**

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

Editor:
Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen

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



What's better than New Year resolutions and has greater sticking power? It's beating death, as was the case of the passengers on board U.S. Airways Flight 1549 who were part of the Miracle Landing on the Hudson. The first year's anniversary just passed, after a

flock of geese disabled both engines of the plane and passengers heard from the cockpit the immortal words: "Prepare for contact."

Sometimes it takes us a long while to think about self-improvement techniques and perhaps making it to the gym next week or whenever you get a chance. Or we think about changes in our schedules and dream of more time with the family. Well, a year later, after interviewing many of the passengers who ended up so unexpectedly in the Hudson River on a cold Winter's afternoon, we discover they had about 90 seconds to reform their lives with a promise to God, the Universe, Life Force, or whoever would listen: "If I live I'll promise..."

Their promises on the way down to what appeared certain death, avoided only by the genius of the pilot (was God his co-pilot?) were promises that we make ourselves almost everyday but never get around to them. They promised to be less busy and preoccupied with work, to spend more time with the children and family, and to say (out loud) those nice things to people who matter to them. In other words, the pact with Life went something like this: In these fast-fleeting seconds of my existence I

suddenly see the errors of my foolish ways. If I get a second chance, I will apply my new wisdom and insight to procure a better life.

And – one year after the dramatic landing where all passengers walked away with their lives intact, they have still held on to their promises made in the fox-hole. They are spending more time with family, working fewer hours on the job, continue expressing their love and gratitude to people who matter, and are finally getting their priorities straight. They admit that challenges continue; work demands do not lessen, but they have a different orientation.

So what does it take to prevent our precious gift of life from being swallowed up by demands that rob us of more heartfelt commitments? The old line, "You can't take it with you," gets writ large when you feel 90 seconds away from turning out the lights for good. You quickly make a deal with some force that guides life and death, and as I've learned from the interviews, you keep your promise. These are no idle wishes.

Do we need to land on the Hudson to really turn our lives around to where sanity and commonsense prevail? The sad response is: "Probably yes." If only we could have been on board flight 1549 a year ago. The quality of our lives would be improved. TRG

Please Note: For all newcomers to First Church, Rev. Tom Goldsmith will hold a UU Orientation Class on February 15th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Eliot Hall. Please register for the class to learn more about UU history and theology and to answer everything you wanted to now about Unitarian Universalism.

Among Ourselves

There will be a memorial Service for Bill Brown in the chapel on Saturday January 23d at 11:00a.m. As a congregation, we send our love and deep sympathy to his wife Pat and the whole family.



Environmental Life Span Classes for Winter

Environmental Ministry

Join us for lively discussions which typically lead to consequential action on environmental issues. Register at the RE Table in Eliot Hall on January 31, February 7 and February 14.

Environmental Issues Book Discussions:

Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis [Author: Al Gore] **Facilitator:** Michael Mielke. **Description:** "Despite the seeming intractability and magnitude of the looming climate destabilization crisis, we will discuss how it can be solved. *Our Choice* gathers in one place all of the most effective solutions that are available now and that, together, will solve this crisis. It is meant to depoliticize the issue as much as possible and inspire readers to take action—not only on an individual basis but as participants in the political processes by which every country, and the world as a whole, makes the choice to solve it. **Date/Time:** Tuesdays, February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 7-8:30 pm **Book available:** Book Table. Read at least the 1st 1/4th of the book before the 1st session.

Carbon Detox: Your Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Real about Climate Change [Author: George Marshall] **Facilitators:** Hans Ehrbar and Joan Gregory **Description:** If you have ever tried to have a meaningful one-on-one conversation with a family member, friend, or colleague about the seriousness of climate change and the urgency of consequential action, you know how notoriously difficult it can be to have these conversations. Join us as we explore ways to communicate climate change so that others will listen. **Date/Time:** Thursdays, March 25, April 1, 8, 7-8:30 pm **Book available:** Environmental Ministry Table. Read at least the 1st 1/3rd of the book before the 1st session.

Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living [Author: Michael A. Schuler, Minister 1st

Unitarian Society of Madison WI] **Facilitator:** Kathy Albury **Description:** A guide to a long lasting good life using four life skills: paying attention, staying put, exercising patience, and practicing prudence. Schuler suggests following the spiritual search for sustainability to provide that "‘something more’ in life that a material - and pleasure-oriented culture can't provide." **Date/Time:** Thursdays, April 15, 22, 29, 7-8:30 pm **Book available:** Environmental Ministry Table. Read at least the 1st 1/3rd of the book before the 1st session.

Envisioning Economies for Better Communities.

Description: We will expand on our discussions of environmental/climate threats and related economic problems, identify connections and conflicts on the road to economic and environmental sustainability, clarify our vision of justice, and develop an agenda for change. Those joining this discussion are asked to read the following books in advance: *Agenda for A New Economy* [David Korten] and *The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience* [Rob Hopkins and Richard Heinberg]. **Facilitators:** Joanna Straughn and Michael Mielke. **Date/Time:** Wednesdays, February 10, 24, March 10, 24, April 7, 21, 7:00-8:30 pm **Books available:** Book Table. Read both books in advance of the 1st session.

Saving the Planet, Saving our Asses: Safe Biking on SLC Streets.

Description: Learn bicycling strategies that could save your life. Learn tips and tricks of bike commuting. Ride more safely and confidently while doing your part to save the planet. **Instructor:** Krista Bowers. **Date/Time:** Saturday, May 8, 1:00-3:00 pm

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory,
Environmental Ministry

Green Tip: U Share

Environmental Ministry

Have you ever needed the use of a fuel efficient car, 4-wheel drive hybrid SUV, or pickup truck for just an hour or two? Of course, you'd want to be able to pick it up right in your own neighborhood, right? Have you ever considered getting rid of your car but then dismissed that idea because you occasionally need a vehicle for hauling larger loads or getting you to places not easily reached via public transportation or bicycle?

Well ... U-Haul's U Car Share program is now up and

running in Salt Lake City, with a fleet of 20 vehicles available for pickup in 18 different SLC locations. Access to these vehicles is by the hour without the hassle of insurance, parking fees, or maintenance costs. Lifetime membership is \$25. Reservations are made online and you unlock your reserved vehicle by swiping your membership card. It's really simple! Consider checking it out at www.ucarshare.com.

-submitted by Jim French, Environmental Ministry



Religious Education - News for the Village

RE Newsbits



Last Call for Guest At Your Table Donations

Twelve households in our congregation have turned in Guest at Your Table Boxes with donations for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Thank you!

If you would still like to turn in a coin box or a check to support the UUSC's work to advance human rights throughout the United States and around the world, please turn it in at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday service. We will give a final report on the pro-

gram in the next issue of the Torch.

Valentines Date Night baby sitting

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 ndrotisch@gmail.com.

Pancake Breakfast Jan.24th to Benefit Haitian Relief Efforts

Pancake Breakfast Jan. 24th to Benefit Doctors Without Borders Haitian Relief Efforts

On Tuesday, January 12th, a major earthquake hit the island nation of Haiti. Damage has been extensive, and the International Red Cross is currently estimating that 3 million people – one third of the nation's population – have been directly affected by this tragedy. International relief efforts in the wake of this natural disaster have been complicated by the poor infrastructure within the country.

The children and youth of our church will be holding a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 24th after both the 9 and 11am services. Donations will be accepted on a sliding scale from \$2 to \$10 per plate. Please bring both

your appetite and your wallet to church, and give what you can. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the relief agency Doctors Without Borders, which already has a strong presence in Haiti having worked there for the last 19 years.

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), 1999 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is an international medical humanitarian organization that provides aid in nearly 60 countries. They are presently operating five hospitals in Port au Prince and are continuing to build capacity by bringing in additional medical personnel and supplies to serve the enormous needs of the Haitian people. For more information about Doctors Without Borders, visit their website at doctorswithoutborders.org.

-submitted by Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

First Unitarian Church raised \$4,549.00 for UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) relief efforts in Haiti with our collection plate on Sunday, January 17, 2010. Thank you to all who donated. For more information on UUSC's efforts in Haiti, please go to http://www.uusc.org/content/conditions_remain_critical_haiti



Religious Education: Past, Present, and Future

You are invited! Please join the Director of Religious Education Search Committee for our Inter-generational Sunday services on February 7th entitled "**Religious Education - Past, Present and Future**".

We will be looking back at the programs and people that helped form and support our Lifespan Education here at First Church, thanking those that make it such a success today and looking

forward to when our new Director of Religious Education joins us in the fall of 2010.

We hope everyone will join us to celebrate this essential part of our church. If you have any questions please contact: Allison Zafiratos - Chair of the DRE - Search Committee 801-359-2793 or alzafiratos@gmail.com. See you then!



Photos from the 9 a.m. children's worship service on Sunday, January 17th, led by the 2nd/3rd grade class and their teacher, Kira Kilmer. The children are reading a story poem on Harriet Tubman.

Photo by Rob Richardson.

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.shenkai@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.shenkai@gmail.com



Save the Date for Peace

Dialogue for Peace

The Dialogue for Peace Group at First Unitarian Church 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". Mark your calendars now and plan to attend at least one of these events:

- Sun., Jan. 24, 11:30am, Quaker Meeting House, 171 E. 4800 S., Murray
- Tues., Jan. 26, 10:45am, Hinckley Institute Forum, University of Utah, SLC
- Tues., Jan. 26, 7:00pm, UN Association, Apple Spice Junction, 6420 S. 900 E., Murray, Dinner at 6:00pm -- \$12 charge)

David has 15 years experience on nuclear arms control and disarmament legislation. He was instrumental in the passage of the nuclear testing moratorium in 1992; the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997; and the defeat of a new nuclear warhead, or nuclear "bunker buster" in

2004. Previously he was a lobbyist at the Indiana legislature for a statewide citizens group, successfully opposing two nuclear power plants. He is one of six registered lobbyists on nuclear disarmament on Capitol Hill.

A renewed national discussion about the role and future of nuclear weapons is underway in the United States. President Obama, Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Clinton, along with a bipartisan group of respected foreign policy statesmen, argue that the United States should significantly reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security policy. Congress will be the forum for a number of nuclear weapons policy debates, including whether to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). David will share some general information about the CTBT and the ratification process. Utah's Senators Hatch and Bennett will play an important role in these debates. Find out why the CTBT is relevant to Utah voters and how you get involved.

-submitted by Chriss Meecham

Love Animals?

Animal Ministry



"We have a responsibility to be aware of our growing effect on the Earth and do something about it. It's in our self-interest to do so, because a diverse biosphere contributes to the success of every species on the planet, including us. But nonhuman species also suffer from the damage we cause—and they, too, have a right to live happy, healthy lives." - Lisa Towell

From "Love Animals? Be a Real Environmentalist." Full article available on the web at <http://prime.peta.org/2009/03/love-animals-be-a-real-environmentalist>

NEXT MEETING: Animal Ministry meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:45 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 list please join at <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.

-submitted by Tresa Stitley



January/February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
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	6 Folk Dance 6 p.m.
7 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 am (pg. 8)	8 Board of Trustees Meeting Room 201 7 pm	9 RE Council Meeting 7 p.m.	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	11	12 Food Co-op or- ders due (see below) Coffee House 6 p.m.	13
14 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (pg. 8) Folk Vespers 7:30 pm	15	15 Torch Submissions Due 9 a.m.	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	17 Open Minds Book Group 7 p.m. Parlor (pg. 8)	18	19

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 24: **Squatters Pub** 147 W. 300 S.
January 31: **The Other Place** 469 E. 300 S.
February 7: **Olive Garden** 2272 S. 1300 E.
February 14: **Café Niche** 779 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.slccu.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 24th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Sins and Virtues"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, January 31st

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**"America: Land of the Free and Home of
the Terrified?"**

-David Irvine

We are exceptionally fortunate to have David Irvine return to our pulpit since he last brought down the house nearly five years ago with his stunning sermon on Torture. Irvine is a retired Brigadier General, former legislator, and currently

one of the drafters of the Ethics Reform Initiatives. He practices law in Salt Lake City.

Sunday, February 7th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**"Religious Education: Past Present and
Future"**

-DRE Search Committee and Supporters of
Religious Education