

The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 14

FEBRUARY 6, 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.

Why I Pledge

Submitted by Dylan Zwick
Pledge Committee

A conversation between Becky Heal and her son, Dylan Zwick, Co-Chairs of this year's Pledge Drive.

Dylan: So, mom. Why do you pledge?

Becky: Are you kidding? I couldn't face you if I didn't. (Laughter) You've been on the committee for the past three years and if I didn't pledge, you'd know! But seriously, it's really a matter of integrity. I have found a home here. I have had some of the most beautiful experiences of my life here. I've raised you and your brother here. I have to pay my fair share. It's only right. I just wish I could do more.

OK, it's your turn, why do you pledge?

Dylan: Gosh, OK. I pledge because it's all part and parcel of being a member of our church. I think with this church, as with most things in life, you get what you give. I don't mean just in terms of money. If you come here to occasionally hear a sermon, you're really not taking full advantage. To really "get it" you need to try to take your passions, ideals, and enjoyments and make them, and yourself, a part of this church and our larger community. Pledging is a critical part of that.

What has been your best experience as a member of our church?

Becky: What an impossible question! (Laughter). I've found meaning here, over and over again. Nothing is better than that. But if I had to be specific, highlights have pretty much been musical: Recording a CD with my children's choir and taking them to the Nashville GA, singing gospel songs with the choir, singing the Zabriskie Requiem, singing at Carnegie Hall ... guess it's been a lot of singing.

Dylan: Maybe that's why we picked the theme, "Raise Your Voice."

Becky: Let's just hope it raises some money! (More laughter) How about you? What are your best experiences?

Dylan: Oh there have been so many! I mean, just off the top

of my head I can think of the theater group laughing together in our hotel room at the Shakespeare Festival, Robert Fulghum's sermon on the rituals of our lives, and the Christmas Eve service about the one-night truce during World War I. You know, Martin and Muriel brought us in to this church.* Martin was a mandolin player, and I remember going to a service on his birthday with my dad a few years after Martin passed away. David began the service with a piano rendition of the first movement of Vivaldi's Mandolin Concerto. A

Celebration Sunday

March 4th
9:00 or 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Jay Leach

Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Charlotte, North Carolina



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THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Director of Religious Education

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Submission Deadline:

February 13, 2012 (Mon.)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after February 22nd to ensure timeliness.

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

Why I Pledge (continued from page 1)

coincidence, to be sure, but it meant something to me.

Oh, now that we're almost at the end of the article, we should talk about Celebration Sunday. (Laughter.)

Becky: It's going to be phenomenal! I'll never forget when Jay Leach spoke in our church a few years ago. You know I don't

remember much, Dylan, but I remember him. (Laughter) He's every bit as good as Robert Fulghum. And the choir's working on some great stuff. I hope everybody is there!

*The late Martin and Muriel Zwick, Dylan's grandparents, were longtime active members of our church.

Legacy Project Update

Submitted by Ed Dieringer
Legacy Campaign

Thank you to all of our Legacy Campaign contributors who have paid their pledges early and /or have made gifts and contributions above the pledged amounts. These have helped our cash flow tremendously. Although doing well to get through our current plan using a budget of \$1.4 Million, we have had to trim two originally planned items, the front lawn/plaza for gathering and a roof over the center dead space between the RE Building and Kitchen. To be able to add these two items back to our list, we need to raise another \$100K. Anyone game to chip in a few extra bucks or got some ideas to help out? Give us a call at 801-582-8687 ext. 211 or legacycampaign@slcuu.org.

I have posted a timeline picture of the projected construction schedule in Eliot Hall. We have finished installing all the sewer and water lines and pouring the foundation for the new addition. The upstairs women's bathroom, main floor area in front of Tom's office, and basement area just below that have all been gutted. Openings will now be cut into the brick walls in those areas and RE and Sanctuary eaves and the new building structure will be built against those walls. The structure will be wrapped building insulating blanket while Hughes Construction continues to build the addition. I appreciate Tom's and our

church staff's patience so far. The noise, diesel fumes, and dust have been greater than expected causing them, at times, to have to promptly and unexpected exit the premises. Some people have asked what the plan is with the RE building windows where the new building abuts. These will be removed and drywall will cover over those places. Another question frequently asked is are we making sure that we are doing everything possible to recycle? The answer is ABSOLUTELY! Basically, it is cheaper to recycle than to throw it in the dump.



Photo of construction progress as of January 30, 2012.

Endowment Fund News

Generous contributions have been received:

In Memory of

Agi Plenk

from Ruth and William Ohlsen
Beverly and Jim Cooper

In Memory of

Lillian Strong

Sharon Strong's mother
from Carol and Rob Blackwell
June Orme

It is easy to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund. Simply send a check to the church office indicating the person you wish to honor, and an acknowledgement will be sent to both you and the honoree. Contributions to the Endowment Fund support our Church in perpetuity.

What's On Our Plate for February

Submitted by Gene Mahalko
WOOP Committee

The "What's On Our Plate" collection February 19 will be in support of Head Start.

Head Start has been operating in Salt Lake City since 1965, when we were part of a pilot program created as a result of Lindon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." With humble beginnings of serving 34 children living in poverty in '65, we have grown to serve over 2,500 children living in poverty in Salt Lake and Tooele County each year. Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and their families.

The mission of Salt Lake Head Start is to provide health, education, and self-sufficiency to young children and families facing adversity and we are the only preschool program in Salt Lake City currently doing all of these things. Our focus is on getting these kiddos ready for success in Kindergarten and beyond. We recognize a child cannot learn if they come to us with serious health and dental issues, which is why we address the health of a child first. This includes providing health and dental screenings to 100% of our

children through free health clinics. Many of these screenings result in referrals and/or treatment, which we pay for should the family be uninsured or underinsured. Also included in our health strategy is to provide our children with 2/3 of their daily nutritional needs through our food service program, operated out of our very own kitchen with a professional Chef who uses only fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in his ethnically-diverse foods made from scratch on a daily basis.

Children need to develop skills that enable them to be socially competent, intelligent and self-assured individuals. We are the one early childhood education organization that meets the total needs of each child, thereby ensuring that every child will have the same opportunity as his or her more advantaged peers to succeed in school and life. Our goals and objectives address the needs and demographics of families, promote the highest level of services possible, are culturally sensitive, and ensure that families and children leave Head Start with the desire to be lifelong learners and achievers.

We believe that parents are the most important educators in their child's life, as well as their biggest

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Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,

One of the seven principles that all member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Associations agree to affirm and promote is "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." (This is the fourth principle, for those of you who are counting...) As I reflect on this principle, I think there is a double

layer of meaning – as we seek to bring this principle into practice, we should BOTH promote each individual's personal search, AND we should promote a collective search for truth and meaning.

In an older version of the UU principles, adopted 50 years ago at the time of the merger between the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America this principle is stated as follows: "The members of the Unitarian Universalist Association, dedicated to the principles of a free faith, unite in seeking: 1. To strengthen one another in a free and disciplined search for truth as the foundation of our religious fellowship..."

I actually prefer this older version of the principle. It more clearly and directly calls upon us as individuals to engage in supportive relationship with one another and to build a community around a common sense of

purpose. I also like the idea presented in this older version of being charged with a "disciplined" search. To me, this implies an intentional and committed approach to religious and spiritual growth and learning – rather than a haphazard or inconsistent effort.

There are many opportunities in our congregation to engage in this "disciplined" search for truth and meaning, including regular attendance at worship services, participation in small group ministry, and participation in Religious Education classes at the church. If you are looking for new ways to connect with fellow seekers and kindred spirits who can encourage, support, and challenge you on your journey of religious and spiritual growth, I encourage you to enroll in one or more of our Winter/Spring Adult Religious Education classes and programs. We have a slate of one-time events as well as on-going classes scheduled between early February and mid-June. Brochures with course descriptions and sign up information are available at the RE Table in Eliot Hall after Sunday services and on the church website at www.slccuu.org.

In Service,
Mary

Coming of Age Community Service Project

As part of their Coming of Age curriculum, our 7th and 8th graders choose a community service project. This year they looked at several options and chose to make a meal for the families at The Road Home. On January 22nd they gathered together with parent volunteers and made sack lunches for the 60 adults and 40 children currently residing at shelter. The youth and their chaperones then took a field trip to the facility and were met by Josh Stovall, the Volunteer Coordinator for The Road Home. He gave them a brief tour of the facility as they talked about the barriers that can keep families from finding housing and the many circumstances that can lead families to finding themselves homeless.

The average length of stay for a family at the shelter is 31 days and though there are generally 100 people housed in the Family Shelter, there are another 100 women in the Women's Shelter and 400 men in the Men's Shelter. The mission of The Road Home is "to help people step out of homelessness and back into our community."

This past Sunday, the 29th, the kids then talked about their experience at the Road Home in their classroom and how community service is part of our faith. Each

youth in the Coming of Age group will begin meeting with their mentor in the coming months as they work to fashion a Faith Statement they will then present to the congregation at their Coming of Age Service on June 3rd. We look forward to hearing how this year has contributed to their faith journey!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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Above: more photos from lunch making for the Road Home.
Left and Below: Photos from the RE 11 a.m. service on Jan. 29th



What's On Our Plate (continued from page 3)

advocate, and we work to instill this in them while they are within our program. We assign a case worker to every single family who works very closely with the families to assess their needs and provide them with referrals for things like emergency food or housing, assistance with getting their GED, or finding a job. At the beginning of every school year, each family sets a goal in partnership with the case worker, who checks in on and supports throughout the year.

To give you an idea of how important our services are, the average annual income for a family within our program this year is just \$13,974. 10% of our children have a diagnosed disability. Close to 50% of our children come from a single-parent home. And 33% of our parents have less than a high school education. We serve children whose parents would not be able to afford to pay for preschool, therefore eliminating the

possibility of them to have any preparation prior to attending kindergarten.

Today, technological literacy is an essential component to a child's education and key to a thriving future. Studies show that teaching a child to use a computer is now just as essential as teaching them to read, write, and do math. Children with access to computers and trained teachers can learn faster and better. Most of the children in our classrooms have no exposure to computers at home. Ten years ago we were able to purchase new computers for our classrooms for the children's use. Since then, the number of classrooms has increased and computers have depreciated significantly. We need to purchase new computers for our classrooms to enhance our children's learning and would like to use any money raised through your organization to do so.

Congregational Briefs

Adult Religious Education Brochures for Winter/Spring Now Available

Our Winter/Spring 2012 Adult Religious Education Program will include both one time events and ongoing classes between February and mid-June. Course descriptions and sign up information are available online at www.slccu.org in the Religious Education Current Brochures and Registration section of our church website. Paper copies of the brochure and assistance with sign up are also available at the Religious Education table after Sunday services.

Open Minds Book Group

Due to conflicts in scheduling, we've had to change the book group meeting to the 4th Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is February 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the church, upstairs in the Coming of Age room. We will discuss the book *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. The book for March 27 is *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury. 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@slccu.org. Our goal is to provide support for church community members or help connect them to broader community resources.

UU Day at the Legislature

Thursday, February 9 has been designated as UU Day at the Legislature by the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC). We would like to have a strong showing among our congregation to visit with legislators and show our support of proposed legislation that would advance social justice in Utah. For more information, contact either Social Justice Council Co-Chair: Sue Geary or Michele Page at socialjustice@slccu.org.

Environmental Ministry News

Environmental Ministry's Third Friday Film and Discussion Series: Glen Canyon

Submitted by Krista Bowers and Joan M. Gregory, Environmental Ministry

Environmental Ministry's next film and discussion will focus on Glen Canyon. On Friday, February 17th, 7-9 PM in Eliot Hall, Glen Canyon Institute will present the short film *Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision for the American West*. They will also discuss the latest scientific data and potential policy change on the Colorado River with consideration to everything affecting it: climate change, demand, and drought. Glen Canyon Institute (www.glencanyon.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of Glen Canyon and a free flowing Colorado River.

Transitioning and ReSkilling

Submitted by Jim French, Carole Straughn, and Joan M. Gregory, Environmental Ministry

Following the Crash Course, facilitated during the fall by Jake Hanson, we formed an Environmental Ministry Transition Group which continued to meet to discuss the topic of transitioning to a more resilient locally based lifestyle, re-skilling, reclaiming community. On January 3rd, we watched and discussed the film: *Garbage Warrior* about architect Michael Reynolds and the art of "Earthship Biotechture" – passive, solar, off-the-grid, sustainable housing. On January 10th we gathered for a potluck and brainstormed ideas for skills that we would like to teach, learn or brush up on in 2012. On January 17th,

we held a follow-up discussion to the Crash Course, and on January 24th, we participated in Salt Lake City Green Drinks. On January 31st, we held a mini-reskilling workshop - focusing on 4 skills: seed starting; making and maintaining worm bins; eating and canning applesauce; and very beginning knitting.

In February, we will have several gatherings:

- Tues, February 7, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall - Show portions of the film: *The End of Suburbia* followed by a discussion
- Sun, February 12, 6 PM - Come join us for a potluck at the Wasatch Co-Housing Common House, 1411 Utah Street 84104 (near the intersection of 1330 South and Redwood Road). Wasatch Co-Housing is an intentional community with shared gardens, solar panels and other sustainable lifestyle choices.
- Tues, February 21, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall - ReSkilling Workshop, possible topics: Tool Maintenance, How to make Organic Fertilizer, Wealth Protection
- Tues, February 28 - Come join us for an evening with Salt Lake City Green Drinks which meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday. For more information, check out their website: <http://greendrinks.org/UT/Salt%20Lake%20City>.

All who are interested in transitioning to a more resilient locally-based lifestyle, re-skilling, and reclaiming community are welcomed to get involved. Hope to see you there! And if you have questions or would like to offer your skills for a future reskilling workshop, contact Jim French [rentthesun@gmail.com] or Carole Straughn [carolestraughn@yahoo.com].

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	6	7 Transition film & discussion 7pm (pg. 6)	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	9	10 Coffee House	11 Plenk Memorial 1 pm
12 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	13 Torch submission deadline 10 a.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	16	17 EM 3rd Friday Film 7 pm (pg. 6)	18
19 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below) WOOP Sunday (pg. 3)	20	21 Re-Skilling Workshop 7-9 pm (pg. 6)	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	23	24 Coffee House	25 Contra Dance
26 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am	27 Torch submission deadline 10 a.m.	28 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 6)	29 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	March 1	2	3

Sunday Services

Sunday, February 5, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

“Be-Loved: The Acts That Create Community”
-Jamila Tharp, Ministerial Intern

Sunday, February 12, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

“The Book of Love”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, February 19, 2012

9 and 11 a.m.

Board Service
-First Unitarian Church’s Board of Trustees



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“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.