

The Torch



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March 21, 2011

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Celebration Sunday Part II

Pledge Drive Committee

Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, to Speak at Celebration Sunday Part II, March 27

In keeping with our decade-long tradition of inviting celebrity speakers, Gini Courter will be our guest on March 27th to keep the pledge drive alive and thriving. Gini is the popular Unitarian Universalist Association moderator, having been re-elected at the 2009 General Assembly here in Salt Lake City. The moderator's chief role is presiding at General Assemblies and at meetings of the Board of Trustees. It is the UUA's highest volunteer position.

Gini Courter will be the guest speaker for Celebration Sunday on March 27, 2011 at 9:00am & 11:00am at First Unitarian Church.



A native of Flint, Michigan, Courter was raised a Methodist but left the church at age 14. For the next 13 years, she explored different religions. At the suggestion of a friend, she visited a Unitarian Universalist church and immediately felt a connection. In 1985 she joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint where she quickly became active in her congregation and district, eventually holding various positions in the UUA.

Courter believes that she brings numerous strengths to the job of moderator includ-

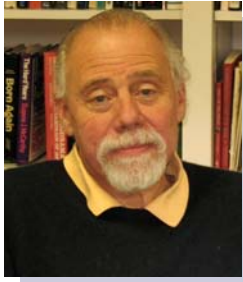
ing a deep passion for UU polity, solid networking skills, risk tolerance, and a preference for broadly shared leadership. She is committed to growing Unitarian Universalism and sees GA as an excellent venue for achieving this. "I want to create a GA experience that is as spiritually re-

warding as possible so that all who attend are well-equipped to return home, roll up their sleeves, and do the work of the congregation," she said in an interview. In her professional life, Gini is an Information Technology consultant, author of twenty-eight books, and a nationally recognized speaker.

Gini has been blessed with more wisdom, energy, humor, and sparkle than any previous speaker. You won't want to miss this one!

*-submitted by Christine Meecham
Pledge Drive Committee*

Reverently Yours



Where's Al Gore these days? I guess it doesn't matter, really. He left us the legacy of an inconvenient truth and now basks in his \$9million ocean-front home in Montecito. I'm not crying hypocrisy for failing to live in a more sustainable home, or his lack of

even pretending to care about gobbling up natural resources at a stupendously selfish clip. Al personifies just how inconvenient the truth really is, and that making adjustments to fit the rhetoric are annoying. He's in good company.

In a *New York Times* article about progressives crying Nimbyism (Not in my backyard), the "revolution" towards a sustainable planet has taken a pretty hard hit. The plain fact is that it's too inconvenient, even for those whose rhetoric is just where it should be. The issue is one of aesthetics: liberals fighting wind farms in Nantucket. Liberals who recycle religiously rejecting a recycling plant near their homes. The issue is also one of inconvenience: Liberal areas in Berkeley and Park Slope in New York reject bicycle lanes and high capacity buses that would comprise a green mass transit because in both cases, car lanes would be lost. Those progressive folks who speak green, remain addicted to their cars. Change? The whole thing is just too inconvenient.

The research thus far claims that culture has much to do with what is "acceptable" as environmentally friendly solutions. In Europe, for example, bike lanes are the norm and even opulent neighborhoods are in sight of wind turbines. They just "get it" in their culture. Americans, especially if they have money, refuse to mar the landscape or seascape of their real estate despite their verbal commitment to clean energy and a sustainable future.

The barrier the earth faces lies not exclusively in the drill baby drill mentality of the political right. The obstacle we struggle against is lodged in our own sense of

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

entitlement that wishes to preclude any inconvenience. A sustainable earth, then, becomes a mere concept with rhetorical flourishes that make us sound well-meaning. But the bottom line, so to speak, leaves us with an expanding carbon footprint. The best intentioned of us still can't get over the inconvenience.

Revolutions have never been known as convenient methods of change. Sacrifice is implied. Revolutions don't look to the path of least resistance. When speaking of commitment, the follow-up question must insist: "What are you willing to sacrifice?"

Apparently the response is "not much," and that's heard loud and clear from those who speak green and those who do not. The part we all keep forgetting is that despite the truth being inconvenient, it remains THE TRUTH. In our mental games we keep the truth at bay, but it moves closer to a painful reality. Our children, perhaps our grandchildren will ask us someday, "why didn't you put up with the inconvenience?" What do we say? "I didn't like the look of wind turbines?" TRG

In keeping with our Celebration Sunday tradition of inviting celebrities to our pulpit, our speaker this year, Gini Courter, couldn't make it in time for our pledge kick-off. But I promise you, she is well worth waiting for. She will speak on Sunday, March 27th at both 9:00 and 11:00 am services. Gini is the Moderator for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Many might content that position wields more power than UUA president. Regardless, Gini is one of the most fun and dynamic speakers I have ever heard. I am looking forward to introducing her to you all on the 27th

Religious Education - News for the Village



Dear All,

Celebration Sunday is coming! Please join us for this special tradition during regular Sunday service on March 27th. What are we celebrating? Our congregation, our shared interests, our values, and our Unitarian Universalist

faith. While our Adult members and friends are treated to a visit by UUA Moderator Gini Courter, children and youth will enjoy their own very special programming.

Elementary children will be treated to a presentation by Mad Science. Their entertaining program is designed to introduce kids to a world of discovery while sparking their imaginations. This interactive, science-themed show has been described as spectacular, captivating, educational, and entertaining. We hope that this program will inspire

wonder and fascination in our children and be a whole lot of fun too!

Bad Dog Arts will be here to work with junior high and high school youth. Our teens will explore how to express words and emotions just by using colors, lines, and shapes. Bad Dog Arts is a non-profit youth arts organization located in downtown SLC. Their mission is to inspire youth from diverse cultures to experience the power and freedom to imagine, dare, and create new possibilities, individually and creatively through the creative arts.

I sincerely hope that many of our children and youth will join us on Celebration Sunday for these special programs.

In Service,
Mary

Upcoming Dates in Religious Education

March 20th

Elementary Classroom Sunday

March 21st

RE Council Meeting (7-8:30 p.m. Rm. 201)

March 27th

Celebration Sunday Programing

April 3rd

Elementary Classroom Sunday

April 9th

Intergenerational Potluck and Game Night

Religious Education Contact Info

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The youth in RE prepared care packages for Native American elders on Social Justice Sunday - March 6, 2011



Zabriskie Requiem - Again!

Presented as a Fund Raiser for the Capitol Campaign, The Music Department at First Unitarian Church is pleased to present as an evening Concert this original work commissioned especially for us.

With a full Instrumental Ensemble, Soloists and Chancel Choir, this remarkable piece will be presented again for the enjoyment of our congregation and the greater Salt Lake community.

Music Department

The concert will take place SUNDAY evening - April 10th, at 7:30. Due to the limited space in the Sanctuary and demand on seating, we again suggest you arrive early.

Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Suggested Donations will be from \$10 up per person. Questions, contact David Owens or member of the chancel choir.

-submitted by David Owens

Celebration Sunday Photos by Steve Horton - March 6, 2011



Legacy and Building Updates

1. We are close to getting the new blinds installed in the top part of the south facing sanctuary windows.
2. We have been working with Hughes Construction and AJC Architects to plan the staging of construction and refine architectural plans. This included meeting with electrical engineers to plan installing a new transformer and electrical service on our campus.
3. We initiated hazardous materials inspections throughout the campus to determine what materials must be removed relative to the construction.
4. Michael Mielke and Kevin Emerson have provided valuable support in pushing forward with plans for photovoltaic cell installation. This includes preparing and submitting applications for some potential funding.

Legacy Committee

5. Thank you to Steve Harty for preparing a special cake to celebrate First Unitarian Church's 120th anniversary and completion of restoration of the front of the sanctuary.
6. The main thrust of our fundraising is winding up, but we will continue to look for additional funds and ways to achieve our goals. Although raising close to \$2 Million in pledges has been an admirable achievement, we are unfortunately about \$1 Million short of our ideal goal. This has caused us to consider various alternatives to our original plans. I would ask that anyone who has not yet contributed to please consider making that donation or pledge now so that we can do the work necessary to preserve and improve our church campus.

*-submitted by Ed Dieringer
Legacy Capital Campaign Chair*

Thank you First Church

Committee

Hello and warmest greetings to you.

I participated in the rally in support of Tim DeChristopher on Monday. I'd like you to know that the whole event really fed my soul and that I've returned to my home in Cumming, Georgia feeling hugely re-energized and refreshed. Especially when Peter Yarrow talked about the reasons we sing instead of shouting in anger— so as not to "shut down feeling" in ourselves and others; to keep us open and connected at the level of the heart— and when Bethany Yarrow sang the Native American prayer, I felt deeply and PROFOUNDLY moved. You will never know how much I needed that! Thanks to all of you, some of whom I met, for your hospitality and for all the work you did in order for the event to happen so wonderfully. I'm also gladened to see the congregational resolution and Tim's speech to the congregation on your website.



I believe many of you there would like to know about the iMatter March scheduled for this up-coming Mother's Day, May 8th, and so I'm including the link below to a 3-minute YouTube video describing it. To my mind, it galvanizes the same sort of empowering energy that Tim galvanizes, and it's well-timed to help build on and carry the momentum of that energy forward following Tim's trial. The clips which focus on 16-year-old organizer Alec Loorz are from a Bioneers speech he gave after being introduced there by Dr. James Hansen. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B0de_ikhOU.

In solidarity with you and Tim and with all best wishes,
Mary Mann

Work Activity Center Thanks First Church

What's On Our Plate

The Work Activity Center expresses our thanks to the First Unitarian Church for the generous donation raised through February's "What's On Our Plate" collection. With over 50 years of continuous service, the Work Activity Center is the Salt Lake Area's oldest non-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities.

More than 165 individuals who face daily challenges due to developmental and physical disabilities attend the Work Activity Center. With the funds donated to our Center, we will be able to continue to expand our Creative Arts Program through Ceramics classes.



with art work design. Our individuals also experience a keen sense of accomplishment through acquiring or mastering skills and communicating in ways they never thought possible.

Thank you for your willingness to assist the Work Activity Center in providing opportunities for independence and individual growth for adults with disabilities. Congratulations on your anniversary! We appreciate the chance to share in your celebration.

-The Work Activity Center

The Creative Arts Program allows additional opportunities for socialization, self-expression and cognitive stimulation inherent to the creative elements associated

Thank You and More

Environmental Ministry would like to thank the congregation for your support and solidarity during Tim DeChristopher's trial. And, even though the verdict was guilty, this is a victory. All along, Tim has been willing to accept the consequences for his action. In the face of this intimidation, we responded with joy and resolve. We will push to expand and open up the dialogues that have taken place here and invite all to hear the whole story of Tim's motivations -the story that was not allowed in the courtroom. This is an historical moment – the beginning of a new conversation. It is time for us to carry this conversation forward into bold and consequential action in the face of the climate crisis if we are to assure a livable future for ourselves and our children. We are witnessing a people powered revolution. In the face of intimidation,



Ashley Anderson (Peaceful Uprising), Bethany Yarrow, Peter Yarrow, and John Gregory at the midnight vigil for Tim DeChristopher February 28, 2011

we are responding with joy and resolve. are the peaceful uprising!

Ah ... but don't think you're going to get off easy ... there is still much work to be done. Be on the lookout for a call to action for the Sentencing Hearing – and be sure to mark the date on your calendar – Thursday, June 23, 2011. If you'd like to get involved in the planning process for the Sentencing Hearing, join us on Wednesday, March 23rd at the Peaceful Uprising Warehouse, 1361 S Main St. for our first Peaceful Uprising Sentencing Hearing Planning session.

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



Numerous stories, photos and videos about the events surrounding Tim's trial are available online. We have links to many of those items that feature church members on the church's Facebook page. Please look for us on Facebook and "Like" us!

Million Letter March

For the month of March we are at the Environmental Ministry Table during coffee supporting the Citizens Climate Lobby in their attempt to encourage the U.S. Congress to pass effective climate legislation. Thus far, Congress has failed to act so we, the people, must lead. A million letters can create the political will for action on climate change.

Drop by the table to pick up info, or go to www.millionlettermarch.org. You can write your letter there using the tips provided, print it and mail it. Or just write a letter and leave it at the Environmental Ministry Table for us to mail for you. Don't forget to upload your letter to www.millionlettermarch.org or give us a copy to do it for you. Either way, please take the time to complete the registration slip at our table so that we know a

Environmental Ministry

letter has been sent from Salt Lake City. This will give the Citizens Climate Lobby some ammunition when they talk to your Congresspersons in D.C. One great idea the Citizens Climate lobby is encouraging is a fee on carbon dioxide at the source (mine, well, port of entry) and return of all the revenue to American households. Other suggestions are at their site, or you may have a better idea of your own.

Many of you have already picked up the information packets—please don't forget to return your letter(s) and/or your registration slip. You are welcome to email them to me: Kathy Albury, kfa44@yahoo.com

*-submitted by Kathy Albury
Environmental Ministry*

Supporting Tim

Environmental Ministry

Many people have asked, "How can I support Tim?". There are several answers to that question, depending on what you would like to do:

- **Peaceful Uprising:** <http://www.peacefuluprising.org/donate> Peaceful Uprising is the organization that was co-founded by Tim DeChristopher following his action. Peaceful Uprising focuses on defending a livable future through empowering non-violent action. Donate online or make checks payable to: IHC/Peaceful Uprising. Peaceful Uprising is a project of the International Humanities Center, a 501(c)(3) charitable trust.
- **Midnight Vigil Audio CD:** <http://music.peacefuluprising.org/album/midnight-vigil-for-tim-dechristopher> Listen online for free or make a "name your own price" donation online to Peaceful Uprising to download your own copy onto your computer. To request that the church make a physical audio CD for you, sign up at the Environmental Ministry Table or the Book Table on Sundays. Requested minimum donation for the CD: \$5.00. All CD proceeds will be donated by Environmental Ministry to Peaceful Uprising. Make checks payable to: First Unitarian Church, with a note: EnvMin

- **Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund:** <http://www.bidder70.org/> Donations to the Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund are not tax-deductible. Although Tim's main lawyers are donating their time, there are numerous fees and research costs which must be paid. In addition, these funds are used to support Tim's expenses during the legal process. Donate online or make checks payable to: Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund.
- **Time and Skills:** Your time and skills are welcome donations as we begin working on preparations for the Sentencing Hearing (Thursday, June 23, 2011). If you'd like to get involved in the planning process for the Sentencing Hearing, join us on Wednesday, March 23rd at the Peaceful Uprising Warehouse, 1361 S Main St. for our first Sentencing Hearing Planning session.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or do not feel comfortable making Internet donations, donations will be accepted at the Environmental Ministry table on Sundays.

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

Spring Cleaning Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Environmental Ministry



Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10 am – 2 pm in Eliot Hall

Purpose: Share what we have with each other, our neighboring community, families

being resettled in Salt Lake City by the International Rescue Committee and with others in need.

How this works:

- bring what you don't need (working items only) & put them on a table – **no large furniture please;**

- take what you need from what others have brought;
- no money is exchanged;
- bring only what you don't need, take only what you do need;
- what is not taken will be donated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) & others in need;
- the church does not have space to store donations before the swap, if you are not able to bring items on the day of the swap, consider asking a member, a friend, or a neighbor to drop items off during the swap hours;
- ALL are welcome.

Congregational Briefs

Save the Date - April 9th Potluck and Game Night

In April, the RE Council is sponsoring a Congregational Potluck Dinner and Game night here at the church. Please join us on Saturday April 9th from 5-8 pm in Eliot Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build friendships and share intergenerational fun and fellowship within our church community. All are welcome!

The Annual Church Art Festival - April 16th

The 2011 Church Art Festival will be held on April 16th this year. The festival celebrates the visual and performance arts and crafts of church members and friends. There will be music and dance performances in both the Chapel and Little Chapel. There will be visual art in Eliot Hall. Event is from 5 pm to 10 pm. This is always a fun event so mark your calendars now. Have questions or want to help email Bill Reed at art-fair@slcuu.org or wbreed@gmail.com or call 801-582-0137. Artists interested in showing their work please contact Bill Reed and we will also have an online sign up sheet available soon.

Young Adult Group Forming

Hey twenty-somethings, let's get to know each other! Mary and Jeremy Heeringa have been planning some social events for young adults. Coming up this weekend is an informal gathering for coffee and conversation in the parlor (above the main church office) after the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, March 20th. Please save the date and plan to join us. If you are 18-35 and would like to receive emails about future gatherings for young adults, please send your contact info to Mary at youngadults@slcuu.org.

Community Garden Time!

Interested in a plot at First Church's garden this year? We have several spots available! For more information or to sign up for a garden plot, come by the Environmental Ministry table or email Kathy at kfa44@yahoo.com or Julie at juliean-nemd@yahoo.com. It will be a great season with lots of fun for all! Would you like to become more involved with the garden? Planning meetings are scheduled for the third Sunday of each month between 10 and 11 am in the parlor. Please come! We would love your input, energy, creativity, and ideas!

UU Folk Jam

The Unitarians are still folk jamming the First Friday of the month. Folk players and 3-chord songs welcomed. The next UU musical jam will be Friday April 1st from 7 to 9pm. Please bring a couple three-chords songs. Please call Lori Shields for more details: 801-583-2843.

Open Minds Book

The book group meets on April 21 at 7 pm in the Haven. The book for April is Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear. All are welcome.

Crossroads Community 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. March orders can be picked up on March 19th between 9 and 10 a.m.

Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are potluck socials hosted by anyone who would like to volunteer. Hosts choose their date, time, and number of guests. If they wish to specify a theme, special interest, age group, lifestyle, or geographical location, they are free to do so; otherwise, the Circle Suppers are open to anyone. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend. Once an event is scheduled, a sign-up sheet for guests is posted in Eliot Hall on the red bulletin board behind the drinking fountain. Anyone wishing to host or attend a Circle Supper may contact Colleen or Rick Bliss at 801-254-3369 e-mail ctbliss@gmail.com, or visit the Circle Supper table during the social hour after services.

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 45 minutes after the last service. For more information contact Sonia Hult at 801-904-3709 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org

March 20: **Vertical Diner** 2280 S. West Temple

March 27: **The Dodo** 1355 East 2100 South

April 3: **Einstein's Bagels** 240 South 1300 East

April 10: **MacKool's Public House** 1400 S. Foothill Blv.

March/April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Sunday Service 9 & 11 am (see below)	21 RE Council Meeting 7 pm (pg. 3)	22	23 -Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. -Salvation Army Sandwich Making 4:30 pm	24	25 Coffee House 6 pm	26 Contra Dance 6 pm
27 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am Celebration Sunday II (see below)	28 -Torch Submissions Deadline 9 a.m.	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	31	April 1 -Food co-op orders due -UU Folk Jam 7 pm (pg. 8)	2 Triple R Swap Folk Dance 6 p.m.
3 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	4	5	6 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	7	8 Coffee House 6 pm	9 Intergenerational Potluck and Game Night (pg. 8)
10 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am Zabriskie Requiem Again! 7 p.m (pg. 4)	11 -Torch Submissions Deadline 9 a.m. -Board Meeting Rm 201 5 pm	12	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	15	16 Annual Church Art Festival 5 - 10 pm (pg. 8)	17 Co-op pick up 9-10 am

Sunday Services

Sunday, March 20th

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

“Can Nature Be a Religion?”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, March 27th

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

“Celebration Sunday II”

-Be on hand to welcome the UUA moderator Gini Courter. Tom Goldsmith and the choir will be on hand to add joy to one of the great speakers in our denomination.

Sunday, April 3rd

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

“Depth of Friendship”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith



The Torch

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The Torch

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by **9 a.m.**

Events to be listed should
occur after March 8th to
ensure timeliness.

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or drop off at church office

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

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