

The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 6

OCTOBER 10, 2011

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

Somali Refugee Family of Ten Arrives in SLC

Submitted by John Rasmuson
International Rescue Committee



Muhioadin Ahmed Aden, 45, fled Somalia in 1991 after his father and brothers were killed in clan fighting. To reach a refugee camp in Kenya, he walked 500 miles. Over the next 20 years—as his family grew—he slept in a makeshift

shelter and earned a few dollars a day hauling sand and lumber in a donkey cart.

His fortunes changed for the better last month. Aden, his wife and eight children were selected for resettlement in the U.S. "It will be a different life and I think it will be better than this one," he told a United Nations worker as he waited to leave Nairobi. "I will live in a house or an apartment, not under plastic sheeting and wooden poles like I have for so long."

They arrived in Salt Lake City under the auspices of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in late September, and on their first day, they settled into an apartment furnished by the cadre of Unitarian volunteers which has been led by Ron Anderson for 12 years. "Thank you for making (the house) a home," wrote the IRC Logistics Coordinator in an e-mail.

With a steady inflow of refugees into Salt Lake City, many hours are required to prepare housing for them. IRC finds apartments and provides new beds, while the Unitarians devote themselves to household goods. Anderson, Andrea Globokar, Johanna Whiteman and others solicit donations, make weekly visits to second-hand stores, monitor Craig's List and muster for estate clearances. Since 2009, they have fully furnished 137 apartments with furniture, appliances and kitchenware—even framed prints to adorn bare, off-white walls! Working behind the

scenes, they have schlepped couches and tables into third-floor apartments and mastered the mysteries of digital converter boxes on televisions.

Despite having left misery behind in the crowded refugee camp, the Aden family faces a daunting transition to life in America. Having a mentor would make a significant difference. If you want to join in the rewarding work of helping incoming refugee families like the Adens, talk to Ron Anderson.

Junior Singers Perform at Gandhi's Birthday Celebration

On the afternoon of October 2nd, our talented young Junior Singers performed at the Mahatma Gandhi Birthday Celebration in Jordan Park. This event, hosted each year by the Gandhi Alliance for Peace, celebrates a local peace activist in an interfaith award ceremony. The Junior Singers, under the direction of David Owens, proudly represented our church, performing "Let There Be Peace on Earth," and "We Will Go Out in the World."



One of the goals of our congregation is to open possibilities for everyone to respond to the prophetic call to create a just and equitable world. We thank the Junior Singers for taking this important part of our mission to heart,

sharing it through their charming songs, and representing our church in the larger community.

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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The Torch is published approximately every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

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Next Publication Date:

October 24, 2011

Submission Deadline:

October 17, 2011
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after October 25th to ensure timeliness.

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 5 or torch@slcuu.org

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



What comes to mind when you think of the word "organic"? Probably stuff like "healthy" and "pesticide-free." Images of farms spring to mind and higher prices at the market for

that which has been organically grown. Organic is good for you; toxins are not. If you check your Webster's you'll find two other words relating to organic: "inherent" and "essential." Taking some liberties, perhaps, I like to think of organic as that which is "essential" to good health.

Also implied in organic is the notion of growth. Things can grow in a cancer-like way or they can grow organically, meaning healthy and essential. So it is possible to view the growth of a protest movement as "organic" when it sprouts seeds and matures in healthy ways. The current protests down at Wall Street fit the perfect definition of an "organic revolution." No unnatural ingredients have been added. Begun by twelve college students weeks ago, the product has grown ripe on its own without fertilizers, just passion. The protest has grown to thousands, because the seeds have a natural tie into the health of those who protest: An outlet for seething anger at the economic disparities in our society.

I know the corner of Wall and Broad Streets well. As a kid I was intimidated by the buildings that cast a certain darkness and by my father's hushed tones as he spoke of what went on there. The penchant for wealth is not new. Even longing for extreme wealth is not new. Greed is not the latest invention. But something about the accumulation of wealth these days coupled with callous indifference to those who are reeling from the

recession because they were not bailed out, leaves the ground ripe for protest.

What does one do when faced by the enormity of the issues, where capitalism has run amok leaving any trace of compassion in its wake? You might want to sit down and face the problem, like the college kids did. Then cultivate that little piece of land in the financial district with songs, speeches, sit-ins, teach-ins. And before you know it, celebrities stop by to pay a visit, getting a taste of this organic stuff and adding some wholesome ingredients of their own. It's a protest designed not to start at noon on a particular Saturday and everyone leaving before dinner. It's a protest that will last and grow in vitality because it's organic...or "essential."

Voltaire made famous the phrase: "To cultivate one's garden." It's essential to one's mental state. It provides perspective on life. Now a garden is being cultivated in the teeming concrete jungle of New York City. The farmers are Everyman. It's all organic. When next in New York I will head straight there and taste the fruit. I think it will be good for me, and for everyone who visits the garden. TRG



Intern's Corner

Jamila Tharp



Finding our balance is not always so easy!

May Peace and Blessings Be Upon Us!

I find myself late writing this newsletter contribution. Well, things don't always go as I plan. How about you? In our household we can have easy morning routine "get ready for school" transitions and then other days, well...hmmm. You know what I mean.

I'm curious, what do you do when things don't always go as planned? As a mom, I have learned how important it is to take care of myself, find my balance and even at times put myself first because doing so means being a better mom for my kids and a kinder partner to my spouse.

I have been the "at home mom" for our children up until moving to Salt Lake City. Prior to that professionally I worked as a data analyst/public policy planner as well I founded a healing center. I can attest to the fact that parenting is the most important job we have as humans and I think it is the most difficult one too. It can be the most rewarding job, spiritually uplifting and fun. And, it can be the most difficult, heart breaking and disappointing. My life is filled with tales of both as a parent like most parents.

Parenting is such a spiritual practice. Have you ever stopped to think about it? Our children always call us to be our best selves which requires a bit of self awareness to pull off. Our children can bring our worst selves out as well. The skills that are required for parenting is a tall order for any job description, but add in these economic times and the health, environmental and social injustices that people have to contend with and sheeeeeshhh, it's hard.

So, what do you do to take care of yourself? I walk with my dog, Jazzy. We walk every morning for a bit and I just love it. I love these crispy cool air fall mornings and I love the sunshine, squirrels and birds. I practice gratitude and place my attention on all the people and blessings I have in my life. I talk to a friend. There are many ways I find my balance. And, sometimes I talk to my spiritual advisor or minister.

May we find balance for this moment and in each moment to come, a constant moving target no doubt for most of us.

As part of my ministerial internship at the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City I offer pastoral care by appointments. If you would like an appointment with me, please call the First Unitarian Church at (801) 582-8687 ext. 207.

Everyone Cares: A Church-wide Caring Committee

Submitted by Andrea Globokar
Caring Committee

Each year Orientation Meetings are held to welcome those wishing to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Church. At these meetings, participants engage in telling their stories and expressing what they are seeking. Almost without exception, newcomers are here looking for "community". This may mean different things to different people, but the standard message is that people are seeking a place where they feel they belong.

Each of us as a member of the First Church Community knows that feeling and has found our "place". It is now up to us to help these seekers should they wish to join us on our journeys. One of the best ways to become part of a community, is to reach out to someone in need and ease their burden. Participating in the Caring

Committee is a way for each of us to reach out, meet new people, and share our gifts.

As part of a church wide effort to build community and provide support to church community members, the Caring Committee will be asking everyone, at one time or another, to participate in providing assistance to others in need. This may include providing food, transportation, a friendly telephone call or card. You will be asked only to support those who live in your zip code. No one will be asked to participate more than one time per year.

If you hear of someone that may be in need of support, contact Andrea Globokar and she will follow up. Our goal is to provide support in the short term for church community members or help connect them to broader community resources.

If you do not wish to or cannot participate in this process at all, you are free to opt out by contacting Andrea Globokar at 801-518-7461 or caring@slcuu.org.

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,
As the leaves change color and the canyons begin to glow with their autumn fire, I am already thinking about winter holidays.

No - I'm not kidding.

The RE Council has made a tentative schedule of events and activities for our church year and we are recruiting volunteers to be on task forces for each. I'd love to hear from you if you would like to help with a family party for your child's age group in November, with our annual Holiday Party and Sing-a-long for all ages in December, with our Solstice Worship Service on December 21st, or with our annual Pageant on Christmas Eve.

Each of these congregational events helps us to develop meaningful relationships with one another within our religious community. Doing the work that it takes to plan, set up, run, and clean up is easy and fun when we can gather a good group of volunteers together the share the effort. Many hands make light work. Please consider joining us!

Now I'm off to the canyon for a hike with my dog. I do need to plan ahead, but I don't want to miss out on the present!

In Service,
Mary

Adult Religious Education Registration Has Begun!

Brochures for our fall programs are available at the RE Table in Eliot Hall. Online sign-ups are available on the church website at www.slcuu.org, where you can also

find a pdf copy of our brochure. Sign up soon -- courses begin in mid-October. We hope you will find something that interests you in our course offerings. And if you don't, we hope that you will join our Adult RE Committee to help plan the program of your dreams for the winter/spring session. Send an email to Mary at dre@slcuu.org to get involved.



Halloween Party Oct. 15th

Please join us here at the church for our first congregational party of the year -- a Halloween celebration for all ages -- on Saturday, Oct 15 from 6-8pm.

The YRUU High School youth group

has many fun activities planned for all ages including the Spook Alley Haunted House, games, dancing, a pumpkin carving contest and costume contest, Halloween crafts, and other holiday treats and sweets! We will not be serving dinner, so please eat before you arrive.

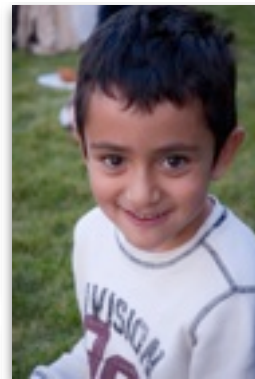
This event is a fundraiser for the YRUU Summer Mission Trip. Admission is \$6 for each adult or \$10 couple and \$4 kids 10 and under. Admission includes games, activities, and snacks. The pumpkin carving contest is \$3 per pumpkin. You can buy tickets at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall on Sunday October 9th or at the door on Saturday October 15th.

We hope that you will come out to support our wonderful youth and to join in the fun of a community event.



Debu Majumdar, President of the Idaho Falls UU Congregation, told stories of his native India to our elementary-age RE kids on Sunday, September 25th.





*First Unitarian Church & San Esteban
Celebration ~ October 1, 2011*

Photos by Steve Horton

Endowment Fund News

A generous contribution was received
to honor

Hugh Gillilan

Ruth and Bill Ohlsen shared their appreciation for Hugh's many years of leadership and organization of the Unitarian highway clean up project.

Yenta Kaufman gave a generous contribution
in memory of

Priscilla Mayden

Gifts to the Endowment Fund support the mission of our church in perpetuity.

What's on Our Plate for October

Submitted by Penny Breiman
WOOP Committee

Kilo Zamora, Executive Director of The Inclusion Center will be at church on Sunday October 16. The Inclusion Center is a local non-profit in Salt Lake City dedicated to eliminating prejudice, bigotry and discrimination.

The Utah branch began in 1967 initially as a part of the National Conference for Christians and Jews. Now, locally it is The Inclusion Center and works with local schools to create safer places for students to grow and learn together. Besides the leadership conferences the Inclusion Center provides for teens to become Global Leaders at a weekend retreat, the Inclusion Center also partners with staff and administration of schools to ensure the values of respect and safety of students. We

accomplish this through a workshop called "Inclusive Spaces". This workshop has quickly become one of the most requested programs in the Wasatch Valley as bullying and discrimination has been on the rise.

Because of the increase need to train teachers and administration to be skilled in handling issues of bullying and discrimination, the funds from "What Is On Our Plate" will be used as part of Inclusive Spaces Workshops. With the funds, The Inclusion Center will be able to access a greater number of schools in the Salt Lake Valley, teaching and training the teachers and administrators, so they have the skills necessary to keep our children safe, understanding and compassionate.

From the Administrator

Hal Gonzales

Members and Friends of the First Unitarian Church:

Here are some highlights from the close of the 2010-11 fiscal year which the Board of Trustees and the administrative office would like to share with you..

- **Pledges.** Based on the 2010-11 Pledge Drive, we received \$410,000 in pledges. Of the amount pledged, we received \$400,931. This represents "slippage" (the amount not collected) of less than 3%, which is well below the national average for Unitarian Churches (around 5%). and less than half of what we normally we budget (7%).
- **Plant Fund.** As a result of the generous pledging and giving, we were able to increase the amount to maintain our buildings and grounds to \$7,500 in the

current fiscal year. By way of comparison, in 2009-10 we could only give \$2,500 to the Plant Fund.

- **Contingency Fund.** After meeting all of our financial obligations, we were able to add an additional \$22,000 to our Contingency Fund. The target for many non-profit organizations is to have the equivalent of 3-months operating expenses (\$120,000) in a Contingency fund. This latest transfer brings the balance to a just over \$70,000.00.

As you can see, this is all very positive and is only possible because of your generosity. Thank you for making and fulfilling your pledges!

Environmental Ministry Upcoming Events

Environmental Ministry Film and Discussion:



How to Boil a Frog: make friends/make fun/make trouble

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 7:00 pm,
Eliot Hall

"If you're inciting a revolution, there are two ways to seem less dangerous. One is to be less dangerous. The other

is to be funny." [\[http://howtoboilafrog.com/themovie/\]](http://howtoboilafrog.com/themovie/)

Join Environmental Ministry for an evening of eco-comedy (documentary feature film) that mixes rapid-fire humor with hard-hitting facts to show the consequences of overshoot: too many people using up too little planet, much too fast. Gives us an overview of our situation and 5 surprising ways that regular people like you and me can save civilization, while making our own lives better now. We'll have some popcorn on hand and we'll take some time at the end to discuss and critique the film. Hope you will join us.

Retreat/Workshop: Climate Change: Moving from Despair to Empowerment

Sponsored by Environmental Ministry, First Unitarian Church

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2011, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Location: Episcopal Conference Center, 75 South 200 East, Salt Lake City, UT

Facilitator & Guide: Barbara Ford, [\[http://www.gaiaworkshops.net/about-barbara-ford/\]](http://www.gaiaworkshops.net/about-barbara-ford/), activist, therapist, facilitator, singer, and artist from Portland, OR with over 25 yrs experience working with individuals and groups is one of 9 stewards of Joanna Macy's *The Work that Reconnects* [\[http://www.gaiaworkshops.net/the-work-that-reconnects/the-work-that-reconnects-2/\]](http://www.gaiaworkshops.net/the-work-that-reconnects/the-work-that-reconnects-2/)

Feeling overwhelmed by the climate crisis? Are grief and despair holding you back from action? How do we stay present, emotionally and spiritually, in order to participate effectively and joyfully in the healing of our world? How do we move beyond psychological barriers to confront climate change determination and empowerment? Come join us as we work through grief and despair to action, empowered to engage, advance, and defend a livable future. Based in large part on the revolutionary work of eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, called *The Work That Reconnects*, this workshop will help participants move through disempowering numbness & despair toward a deeper sense of clarity and purpose regarding our role in the healing of the planet. As we honor our deepest feelings and gifts; our intention, vitality, creativity, and sense of connectedness deepen; opening a channel of joy and meaning for our work in the world.

Format: full-day workshop, discussion, music, art, exercises

Cost: \$50 – some scholarships are available

Register: <http://www.slccu.org/adult-re-registration>

Fall Highway Cleanup

Submitted by Frank Steffey
Highway Cleanup



Many thanks to the following 19 volunteers that cleared litter from SR-65 on September 24: Bob Weirick, Susan Slade, Bill Yates, Helen Stanhope, Peter Poulsen, Bill & Ruth Ohlsen, Steve & Patti Horton, Jerry Crouch, John & Nancy

Rasmuson, Chris Fannesbeck, Mark Silver, Gene Mahalko, Steve Connor, Lori Shields, Liam Connor-Shields, and Frank Steffey. The hardcore award goes to Bob Weirick, who would not let recent ankle surgery and a cumbersome foot brace hold him back.

This could be YOU finding surprising treasures when we do our next cleanup in early May.





Congregational Briefs

Annual Auction



Going, going, gone! In fall 2011 (Nov. 4th-Nov. 19th, 2011) we are challenging ourselves to do something different for our yearly auction. This year you won't hear the sound of the auctioneer's voice, you won't have to pay \$45 to attend the event, and you won't hear the bang of the gavel announcing "Sold!" You will go

online and bid for fabulous vacations, outrageous baskets, and more. Do you have something to donate for this important event? For more information, please go to <http://www.slcuu.org/auction> or contact Julie Swaner at auction@slcuu.org or 801-519-9018

The auction committee is ready to receive any goods or items that you want to donate to the auction. We will have a table in Eliot Hall after each service. Bring it on!

An Evening with Sister Dottie and UUs!

Sister Dottie Dixon's new play is coming to Salt Lake Acting Company this season. If you are planning on going, please refrain from purchasing tickets through SLAC as we are planning our own special Unitarian preview hosted by Tom Goldsmith, Mary Tull, Sandi & Doug Greene. This performance will be held on February 16th and include a wine and cheese pre-show party and a dessert after party with actor Charles Lynn Frost in the Green Room. Tickets will go on sale in early November as part of this year's auction fundraiser. Look for more information soon!

Open Minds Book Club

The next meeting is Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in "The Haven," here at the church. We will discuss the book *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome

Endowment Fund

There are remarkable people in our congregation. Honor the talents or the gifts of time by a church member or friend by making a contribution in their name to the Endowment Fund. Gifts to the Endowment Fund enable the fund to grow and support the mission of our church in perpetuity. Recipients receive a card acknowledging your gift.

UU Lunch Bunch

UU Lunch Bunch: family-friendly group for those who would like to get together and for lunch and chat with likeminded people. Meet at the restaurant on Sundays about 45 minutes after the last service. For more information, contact Sonia Hult at 801-349-8046

October 9, 2011 Squatters Pub 147 West 300 South

October 16, 2011 Cafe Med 420 East 3300 South

October 23, 2011 La Frontera 1250 East 3300 South

Parking Reminder for Friendship Manor Lot

1) Yellow passes must be displayed on the rear view mirror except when parking in those spaces reserved for the Church and CCNS or on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

2) Parking is permitted ONLY while attending a church/school functions. So, for example, you may not park in the lot if you are attending classes at the University. You may not leave your car in the lot while you catch Trax to an event downtown. Friendship Manor's parking enforcement company will boot the cars of those who violate this policy.

October / November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	10 Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201	11 Pinkdot with 1st UU Spring Mobile Ballpark 5 pm (see previous Torch) 	12 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13	14 Coffee House	15 RE Halloween Party Fundraiser 6-8 pm (pg. 4)
16 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	17 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	18 Environmental Ministry Film and Discussion 7 pm (pg. 7)	19 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20 Open Minds Book Club 7 pm (pg. 8)	21	22 Contra Dance 6 p.m. Co-op pick up
23 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	24	25	26 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	27	28 Coffee House	29
30 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am Jazz Vespers Begins 7:30 pm	31 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	November 1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3	4 Marth Schack Memorial (noon) Co-op orders due	5 Folk Dance

Sunday Services

Sunday, October 9, 2011

9 and 11 a.m.

“Feeling It”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, October 23, 2011

9 and 11 a.m.

TBA

-Lay Service Committee

Sunday, October 16, 2011

9 and 11 a.m.

“The Evening News with W. S. Merwin”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith



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