

The Torch

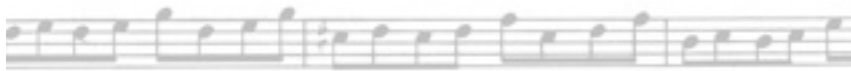


VOLUME 54 NUMBER 7

OCTOBER 24, 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.

Jazz Vespers Begins October 30th



Jazz Vespers October 30 - December 18, 2011 at
7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church

October 30th

A Tribute to Vince Guaraldi

November 6th

Dueling Pianos featuring Dr. Russell Schmidt

November 13th

Classical Jazz II

November 20th

James Bond Jazz

November 27th

Motown Jazz

December 4th

A Tribute to Herbie Hancock

December 11th

A Tribute to the Beatles

December 18th

Christmas Kool



Lots of Unitarians showed up to the first Annual Pink Dot celebration - October 11, 2011

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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November 7, 2011

Submission Deadline:

October 31, 2011
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after November 10th to ensure timeliness.

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

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



As a teenager, my stepdaughter found her religious home in a Presbyterian church. Nothing wrong with that, I figured. In fact I was very fond of their youth program. Almost jealous. But one night at dinner we could tell something was wrong. After our constant prodding and her stubborn denial, we finally drew it out of her, slow motion, in fits and starts. Bottom line: She learned in Sunday School that Unitarianism was a cult.

Oh those Calvinists are still at it I thought. Back in 1553 they burned Michael Servetus to death for publishing a small tract called "Errors of the Trinity" which became the precursor to Unitarianism. I felt relatively sure that Unitarians weren't going to be barbequed any longer, but the 450 year old rift still seem to be percolating along. How to respond to a teenager conflicted by what she was taught in church while confronting a cultist at the dinner table? I wanted to see if she was up to the absurdity of the accusation.

I said I totally agree with the notion that Unitarianism is a cult. After all, we have many rituals around caffeine, we teach sexuality to our children, and we do not believe that Christ died for our sins yet we still assemble in a church. Despite the fact that five American presidents called themselves Unitarian plus a king from Transylvania, we belong to the same cult as Emerson, Thoreau, Longfellow, Hawthorne, and Alcott. Beatrix Potter also belonged to the cult, which must make Peter Rabbit a rabid cultist.

Well, she finally got the point and asked in all sincerity, "Why do they teach such foolishness?" "Cult is a nasty word," I replied. "It's used to create a false sense of putting someone else down to give the

appearance of lifting oneself closer to the truth. As though there was one truth only."

Cult has once again entered the public dialogue as two Mormon presidential aspirants have been charged with exercising a practice that was distant from "true" Christianity. I like to think there is plenty reason not to vote for either of the Mormon hopefuls, but their religion is not one of them. I don't think you could get two professing Christians anywhere to agree on what Christianity really meant. Bill Moyers and Bill Clinton are both Southern Baptists with hardly the same religious interpretations as Jerry Falwell or Rick Perry. Who's to say what is right or wrong?

Both Mitt Romney and Jon Huntsman, Jr. are men of great integrity. If we are to make judgments about candidates, as we must, varying concepts of sacred truth cannot be one of the variables. No faith has the right to act as though it can divine "true" faith. And if it does, then it points to its own anxiety about seeming credible in the multicultural world of many beliefs.

Jon Huntsman, Jr. donated \$20,000 to the 1997 Capital Campaign of our church. Is this one cult supporting another cult? Are we intricately connected to the same cult?

What would John Calvin and the Presbyterians say to that? I know what Jacob Trapp said while he served as our minister during the 1930's: "Religion is not a matter of right beliefs and wrong beliefs, but how you live your life." That's the criterion that matters, especially for those who seek the presidency of the United States. TRG

Climate Change: From Despair to Empowerment

Submitted by Joan Gregory
Environmental Ministry

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/>], 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/>]

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>

Pay Registration Fee: \$50 <http://tinyurl.com/WkshpRgstrnDesprEmpwrmnt> or check: First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC, UT 84102 ATTN: Env Min Wkshp

Legacy Campaign Update

Submitted by Ed Dieringer
Legacy Campaign Chair

Our Legacy Campaign to add bathrooms/elevator, remodel Eliot Hall, and install solar panels continues to move forward. If all goes well, the above projects should be completed by the end of summer 2012. Current decision processes under way are 1) what is the best start date – do we begin as soon as possible in November or delay a few months to compress the construction schedule, and 2) how do we optimize the use of our current and expected monies. I look forward to receiving the remainder of your outstanding pledge sooner than later. And, I am hopeful that we can continue to get new pledges too, not only assure the completion of our current planned projects, but to also do more. For more information, go to www.slccu.org, call 801-582-8687 x 7 or email us at legacycampaign@slccu.org.

First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City



Right Work Right Time

ONLINE Auction
NOVEMBER 4 - 19, 2011

Go to: www.slccu.AuctionAnything.com

Bidding begins Friday, November 4th 5:00 pm
Ends Friday, November 18th 5:00 pm

ALL-INCLUSIVE AUCTION CELEBRATION
November 19th 6:30 – 9:00 pm Eliot Hall
Wine & Appetizers
Short Program, Drawing Winners Announced
Winning Bidders: Come pick up your Loot!

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is grounded in an active commitment to peace, justice, fairness, equity, and compassion. These values are clearly expressed in words in our *Seven UU Principles*, our congregational Mission Statement, our hymns, and in various aspects of our worship services such as readings and sermons. But we UUs like to consider ourselves a community of deeds and not creeds. Social action is one of the most important vehicles through which we express our faith. Unitarian Universalists have historically been activists in many of our nation's important social reform movements. And today, we as a faith community continue to be committed to building a progressive and just world.

At First Church, there are many opportunities for congregants of all ages to be involved in important social justice work. You may be aware of the many committees and programs that adults engage in – for example, the What's on our Plate monthly offering donated to local non-profits, the Salvation Army sandwich makers preparing and serving meals in our community, the International Rescue Committee furnishing apartments and mentoring refugees, the Mountain View Elementary volunteers offering tutoring and school supplies to a west side school, and the Environmental Ministry working to prevent climate change and promote the health and well-being of our Earth. If you would like to get involved in these or other social justice efforts through our congregation, pick up a

copy of the Welcome Book at the Welcome Table in Eliot Hall to find contact info and program descriptions.

We also offer a variety of opportunities for our children and youth to engage in social justice projects through our Religious Education programs. Our elementary aged participants spend one Sunday each month learning about issues in the community and taking action to make a difference in the world. For example, on Sunday, October 23rd, the elementary aged kids will have a guest speaker from the Road Home shelter to help them learn about poverty and homelessness in our local community, and then they will sort toiletries into personal hygiene kits for distribution at the Road Home shelter. Our junior high students will be working with adult mentors to engage in service activities of their choosing as part of their Coming of Age curriculum this year. And our high school participants choose an issue to study each year and plan throughout the year for a week long summer Mission Trip, which is an important service-learning and personal growth opportunity for our youth.

We hope that congregants of all ages are learning that the way we live in the world and the way we treat one another matters. Each of us has a lot to give to our faith and to the world. Or in the words of 19th century Unitarian minister Edward Everett Hale, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do."

In Service,
Mary

Quotes on UUs & Social Justice

"Ours is a theology of engagement. We draw inspiration and truth from experiencing each other and the world around us. In doing so, we necessarily witness both the beauty and brokenness of our larger community and environment. We are here because we want to help heal the brokenness." -From "Inspired Faith, Effective Action," UUA Office for Advocacy

"The prophetic liberal church is the church in which all members share the common responsibility to foresee the consequences of human behavior (both individual and institutional), with the intention of making history in place of being merely pushed around by it".
-James Luther Adams

"May your life preach more loudly than your lips."
- William Ellery Channing

"Our generation has a mission, a clear and evident one; we have a compelling moral purpose which can direct our lives and our energies—literally, we are about saving the world. These days of challenge call us to put aside our pettiness and our little quarrels, our theological differences, and to focus on the larger issues. You don't talk about the color of the drapes when the house is burning down." - Marilyn Sewell

"Universalists are often asked where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move." - L. B. Fisher

RE Newsbits

Halloween Party Success!

YRUU high school youth group would like to thank everyone who helped setup, run, and who attended our annual Halloween Party Saturday night, October 15th. It was awesome to see so many smiling faces and hear so much laughter. Kids had a great time bobbing for apples, tossing beanbags with amazing accuracy, making Halloween cards and painting pumpkins. Of course, the highlight (for some kids many, many times) was the Haunted Hallway. Thanks again for helping make this family party a reality, and we can't wait to do this again next year! - YRUU

Invite to Trunk or Treat

The Community Cooperative Nursery School, which meets in our church building during the week, has generously invited the children of our church to join them for a "Trunk or Treat" program on the evening of Friday,

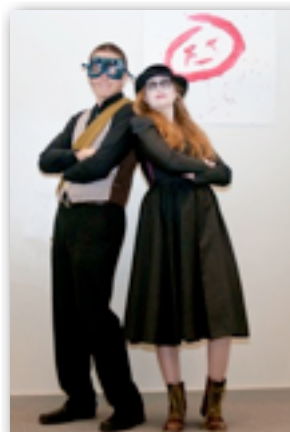
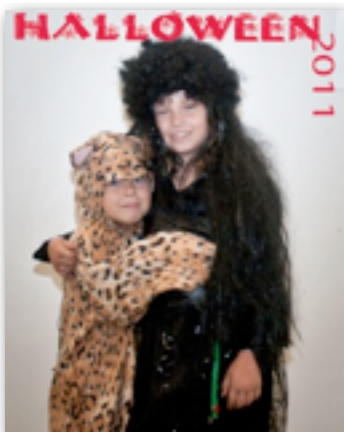
October 28th. Parents will park in the south end of the parking lot with their trunks open and candy ready to hand out, and costumed kids can parade from trunk to trunk trick or treating. This event will run from 5:30-7:30pm, and participants will have a costume parade in Friendship Manor at 7pm to share the fun and festivity of the holiday with those senior citizens who might not otherwise see any trick or treaters. Any family who wishes to participate should sign up on the table outside the CCNS and DRE office (at the end of the hall near the playground).

Announcement of 5th/6th grade retreat

First Church is pleased to invite all 5th and 6th graders to join in a fall "Tween Retreat" November 12-13th, 2011. Details and registration forms have gone out via email to registered participants and recent visitors to our religious education program. If you have a child in the age group and did not receive this information, please contact Mary at dre@slcuu.org ASAP.



**RE Halloween Party
October 15, 2011
Photos by David Horton**





Congregational Briefs

First Unitarian Church's You Tube Channel

First Unitarian Church now has its own You Tube Channel! We'll be posting some of Rev. Tom Goldsmith's sermons as well as other interesting videos from our church. If you have a You Tube account, you can subscribe to the channel -- or just visit the site and enjoy!

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

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. November orders should be ordered by November 4th and can be picked up on November 19th between 9 and 10 a.m. here at the church. For more information, please contact Nancy Lindsley at crossroads@slcuu.org or 801-583-8566.

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.

T-Shirt Fundraiser

Thinking you missed your chance to pick up the latest in UU apparel at the activities fair? Well, if you are dying to have the COA (Coming of Age) youth shirts with "You don't have to think alike to love alike!" on them, you're in luck. We have some shirts left. You can get yours in a few ways. We will be selling them at our Holiday Boutique Booth on November 20 after services. We'll also have groovy tie dye designs made by the youth, so you don't want to miss that Sunday! If you just can't wait to get your shirt, you can phone or email Nancy Moos and she'll get

one to you! 801-453-0476, ut_moos@yahoo.com. All proceeds go to the Boston Heritage Trip.

Endowment Fund

Consider leaving our church as a beneficiary in your will. Your gift to the Endowment Fund will support our mission, goals, and actions in perpetuity, as the fund is invested to preserve or increase the real value of bequests and gifts, while providing an annual distribution for uses above and beyond the church's regular activities.

UU Lunch Bunch

UU Lunch Bunch: a family-friendly group for those who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded 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 23, 2011 La Frontera 1250 East 3300 South

October 30, 2011 Shanghai Cafe 145 East 1300 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
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 (see below) Jazz Vespers Begins 7:30 pm (pg. 1)	31 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	November 1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3	4 Martha Schack Memorial (noon) Co-op orders due	5 Folk Dance
6 Services 9 & 11 am (see below) Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm (pg. 1)	7 Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201	8	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11 Coffee House	12
13 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm (pg. 1)	14 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Open Minds Book Group 7pm	18	19 Auction Celebration 6:30 pm (pg. 3) Co-op pick up (pg. 6)

Sunday Services

*Sunday, October 23, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“Politics as Spiritual Practice?”
-Lay Service Committee

*Sunday, October 30, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“Truthful Speech”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith and the presentation of the UUA
Guardian of the Future award to Joan Gregory

*Sunday, November 6, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“The Spirit of Paris”
-David Owens and David Zabriskie will celebrate Paris on two
grand pianos as Tom Goldsmith offers the narrative of this most
compelling city.

Memorial Service for Martha Schack will be held on Friday,
November 4th at 1:00 at the First Unitarian Church.