

The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 5, 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.

Groundbreaking Ceremony and Legacy Campaign Update

Submitted by Ed Dieringer
Legacy Campaign

I stand on the newly laid cement and grasp the new stair rails. I admire the newly refurbished front of our Sanctuary and Eliot Hall. My eyes move up the repaired and freshly painted pillars, past the lettering pronouncing the building as First Unitarian Church. The newly restored bell tower now shines forth like a beacon.

These first visible results of our Legacy Campaign are satisfying. I now look to the north of the sanctuary. The next step, putting on the bathroom/elevator addition and improving access to the church has begun; tractors have cleared the ground next to the garden and a protective fence has been installed. We expect to get our work permit within the next week and the foundation work will begin in earnest. This next step is bound to try our patience with limiting access temporarily and trying to keep the mud at bay. Let us know your questions and concerns by emailing us at legacycampaign@slcuu.org.

In the meantime, let's celebrate this momentous time with a short ground-breaking ceremony on December 11th at about 10:15 AM, between church services. Thank you to all those who have generously contributed time and money to making these improvements to our church a reality.



Work has begun - November 28, 2011

December 18, 2011 (9 and 11 a.m.)

Lessons and Carols Service

December 18, 2011 (7:30 p.m.)

Christmas Kool Jazz Vespers

December 21, 2011

(Service 6 p.m. ~ Dinner 7 p.m.)

Winter Solstice Celebration

December 24th (4 p.m.)

Christmas Pageant

December 24th (6 p.m.)

Christmas Candlelight Service

December 25th

**One Sunday Service
only at 11 a.m.**

January 1st

**One Sunday Service
only at 11 a.m.**

First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

*Holiday
Services
2011*

LEGACY GROUNDBREAKING

CEREMONY

DECEMBER 11TH

AT 10:15 A.M.

(FOLLOWING THE 9 A.M. SERVICE)

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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December 19, 2011

Submission Deadline:

December 12, 2011
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after December 20th to ensure timeliness.

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

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



Turning the pages of the calendar has been reduced to a figure of speech. Very few people left who adorn their kitchens walls or studies with a calendar of

twelve magnificent photos of wilderness, animals, or shirtless missionaries. And upon each page in the empty boxes designated by a date, scribbles of forthcoming events to remind one that the days and nights ahead will be busy with appointments and dinners with friends.

The calendar has gone pretty much the way of the telephone booth, which may be why we're left with no hope of Superman flying in to save the day. And of course mailboxes have disappeared as well. Remember when as you were leaving the house you'd shout back to whoever was listening: "Just going to drop these letters in the mailbox." This meant a quick walk to the corner for a breath of fresh air. By the way, what's a letter?

But it's the calendar I'm missing because December and its inherent holiday madness has crept into my life suddenly by stealth. I was not mentally prepared for December; not even the weather gave me clues. Now the seasonal preparation has me running behind and running scared. Will everything be in its proper place by Christmas Eve? A first granddaughter will come to visit, and although she will never remember it, the house must be perfectly transformed into a Christmas wonder. It will be my own version of Occupy Christmas, and I'll do it for my sake more than hers. But it requires so much planning in the fleeting days

ahead preoccupied with so many other things.

I wish I had a calendar that would have warned me as the holiday season approached. Or maybe flares and a chorus line could have aided my inattentiveness to the few remaining dates scrunched in before the end of the year. I confess I am looking for excuses. I was never prepared for the holidays; they always took me by storm. If I were a good minister I'd be planning for Christmas in July, or at least tracking it. But frankly it's hard to open one's heart to a message buried in the darkness of the season after finishing a bar-be-cue on the deck and sipping a cold frosty. Maybe Christmas is supposed to surprise you because who is ever ready to tune in a chorus of heavenly angels or take a moment to think how a baby born out of wedlock can signify our yearning for peace and civility. You can't brace yourself for a miracle. They just happen, catching you unaware, unexpectedly. Even the shepherds around Bethlehem on a star-studded night were caught by surprise when the birth announcement pierced the evening stillness. But fortunately the words that followed were: "Be not afraid." Good advice for the shepherds. Good advice for us as we're still startled by the unexpected event. TRG

Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church extends loving sympathy to Andrea Globokar and her family for the death of her father.

Environmental Ministry Holiday Potluck Gathering & Fundraiser

Submitted by Joan Gregory
Environmental Ministry

Friday, December 16th, 2011, 7:00-10:00 PM

Environmental Ministry will host a Winter Holidays Gathering/Potluck/Fundraiser with a focus on gathering together in community and on raising funds to assist Gage & Gage Productions with the remaining costs of producing the Bidder70 film. For the past 3 years, Beth and George Gage have put their lives into the filming of Bidder70, the story of Tim DeChristopher's bold and courageous action, from the day of the auction to Tim's sentencing. Our First Unitarian Church community, our whole Salt Lake environmental community, our Peaceful Uprising community...all of these communities are part of this film ... it tells our story too. Let's watch the Bidder70 trailer together and, if all goes well, some special segments of the film too!

The Gage's are now in a really expensive part of the film...music, editing, sound mixing, color correction, technical aspects ...where the expenses really add up. Their goal is to finish the film before the end of 2011. Tim's story is a story of empowerment that needs to be told across the country and the world. Starting with the Sundance Film Festival – the whole idea is to SPREAD this story far and wide. But that can't happen, if the film is not finished!!

That's a difference WE can make.

Bring:

- Bring some food to eat and share
- Bring your own place setting (a plate, utensils, glass, cup)

- Bring an item to place into the silent auction (if you can ... it shouldn't be something new ... bring something nice that you have but don't need/want/use anymore ... and put it up for bid)
- Bring your money to donate and bid to help support the Bidder70 film [no one will be turned away for lack of funds]
- Bring an instrument if you play and can help lead us in song or share your talent with us all

What we will do:

- Eat, drink, mingle, talk, sing, eat, chat, share ideas, have fun, mingle
- Sing, bid, sing, eat, drink, talk, bid, mingle, bid, eat, sing, have fun
- Watch the Bidder70 trailer and, if all goes well, some special segments of the Bidder70 film!

If you are able to come and can let us know in advance by RSVP to green@slcuu.org, that would be great, but it **is not required**. If you don't get a chance to RSVP, come anyway, bring your friends. Come have some fun, and raise some funds, and we'll likely throw in a little singing and for sure some movie watching along with the deal. If you are not able to come, but would like to make a donation, you can help support the Bidder70 film at: www.gageandgageproductions.com/Bidder70.html, and choosing: DONATE.

Endowment Fund News

The following contributions have recently been contributed to the Endowment Fund to honor and remember several members of our congregation.

Generous contributions were made in loving memory of

Charlotte Newman

by June Orme &
Mrs. WM. H. Schultz

Dema Morrison

by Cosette Joesten

Contributions to the Endowment Fund support the Church in perpetuity.

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,

December is such a busy time of year. All of a sudden, everything feels more frenetic to me.

Whatever winter holidays we may celebrate, there seems to be a scramble to prepare for them. Plan the meals, arrange the travel, buy the food, choose the gifts, decorate

the home, make the traditional treats, invent some new traditions for your own family, prepare for the guests, etc...For those of us with kids in our lives, there also are lots of "big events" at schools and at extracurricular

programs for youth -- everything from the big test to the big game to the big show -- that demand our attention and time. And there are parties, concerts, and entertainments, and educational programs all around town.

It takes a conscious effort to stay sane through December -- to find joy and connection in the holiday season rather than pressure and stress. I hope that your participation at First Church can be one of the resources you draw on to support that conscious effort.

In service,
Mary

RE Newsbits

Giving Tree/Sub for Santa

Each year, members of First Unitarian Church provide holiday gifts to children and families in need through the Sub for Santa program. Many of the families who we will be helping this year are members of the San Esteban Congregation with whom we have been developing a sister church relationship. On Sunday, December 4th, the giving tree will be up in Eliot Hall with specific requests from the families. If you are able to purchase a gift for a family in need, please select a gift tag and take it shopping with you. Wrapped gifts will need to be returned to Little Chapel with the gift request attached by Sunday, December 18th. Your generous participation will bring great joy to others on Christmas morning.

Annual All Church Holiday Party and Caroling

Join us for our annual intergenerational holiday social from pm on Saturday, December 10th from 1:30 until 3:30 in Eliot Hall. This is always a fun event for all ages featuring food, fun, and fellowship. Ruth Ohlsen will again accompany us on the piano for our Christmas carol sing-a-long, which is always a joyful time. We hope that you will be here to share in the spirit of the season.

We need help making treats in advance, setting up before the party, helping with some craft activities for children, and cleaning up afterwards. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Mary at dre@slcuu.org.

Winter Solstice Service & Supper

Join us at First Church to celebrate the rebirth of the returning sun at the Winter Solstice Celebration on Wednesday, December 21st. Our annual Solstice Celebration begins with a beautiful service at 6pm, followed by a chili supper, music, drumming, dancing, joy, and frivolity. Not only is this a fun party, but all proceeds

will support our youth travel programs including the Junior High Boston History and Heritage trip and the High School Mission Trip. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids (under 10), and \$25 for a family.

We need to know how many will be attending, so please buy tickets at the Religious Education (RE) table in Elliot Hall after each Sunday service between now and December 21st. Then, come and enjoy food to fill your belly, words to warm your soul, music to tickle your ears, and dancing to lift your heart. This event does sell out each year, so don't delay! Buy today!

In the spirit of caring for Mother Earth, please BYO bowl, plate, cup, & utensils for the evening if possible. An added bonus... wine is a suggested donation of \$1 a glass if you bring your own cup (no, you can't cheat and bring a 16 oz cup for your wine), \$2 if you don't!

Want to donate or volunteer for this event? We very much need volunteers to make and bring chili (we'll supply the recipe) or cookies/brownies, or to donate a box of wine or a jug of lemonade or tea. Please contact Nancy if you want to volunteer and/or donate, or need more information -- (801)453- 4076. See you there!

Christmas Pageant

This year, our annual Christmas Pageant will be held at 4pm on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th. As usual, kids who want to participate can sign up for parts at the RE table in Eliot Hall on December 11th or 18th. For those with larger speaking parts, we have scheduled a rehearsal on December 24th at 10am. Kids can still participate with a smaller role without attending the rehearsal. We will also need lots of adult volunteers to help with costumes, cues, and kid supervision. Please sign up with Allison Zafiratos at reasst2@slcuu.org if you are willing and able to help.

Guest at Your Table Continues

On Sunday, November 20th, Religious Education classes for children and youth focused on the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as we launched The Guest at Your Table program for this year. This program is an excellent way to help your children to focus on the needs of others and the spirit of giving throughout the holiday season. If would like to

participate in this membership drive/fundraiser to support the human rights work of the UUSC, you may pick up a coin box at the RE table in Eliot Hall any time in December to take up a collection at your table. Coin boxes or checks should be returned to church in January. Donations are tax deductible. For more details, go to the UUSC website at www.uusc.org.



Sunday, November 27, 2011: Tracy Thomas from No More Homeless Pets meets with RE kids in preparation for a service project; Ministerial Intern Jamila Tharp addresses the children during the worship service; Church member and volunteer John Rasmussen speaks with RE Kids before their service project.

Giving to the Community Food Co-op of Utah

Submitted by Chriss Meecham
Co-op Committee

What is it?

IT'S A SIMPLE IDEA REALLY – provide quality, healthy food at a substantial savings through cooperative purchasing; and build a sense of community by bringing people together and promoting volunteer service. The Community Food Co-op is for *EVERYONE*. Whether you are struggling to meet your basic food needs or are just looking for a way to share in the community, you can be part of this simple exchange: giving and receiving.

The Community Food Co-op began in January of 2006 and is a project of Crossroads Urban Center, a grassroots, non-profit organization that has been working to meet people's basic survival needs and address the root causes of poverty since 1966. Our First Unitarian Church is a host site where members can pick up their food orders on the third or fourth Saturday each month.

How can you help?

This is the time of year when we think of giving back to our community. You can help reduce hunger in Utah by simply joining the Food Co-Op. You don't need to order every month, but by regularly participating you help provide a consistent way for people (particularly the working poor and those on limited fixed incomes)

to stretch their grocery budgets while being able to afford quality, healthy food.

For \$10.00 a month, you can provide fresh fruits and veggies to a needy family by ordering a Donation Share.



You can sign-up to be a Co-Op volunteer once a month to help pick-up and/or distribute the food shares on Distribution Day. In particular, we could use a volunteer with a truck or van to help transport the food shares from the warehouse to the church.

For more information:

Please contact Nancy Lindsley (crossroads@slcuu.org; 801-583-8566) or log onto the Food Co-Op's web page <https://foodco-op.net>.

Congregational Briefs

Attention Committee Chairs & Staff

Start thinking about your 2012-2013 budgets. Budget requests will be due on January 16, 2012.



News from the Book Table



The Book Table is accepting book orders for delivery on Sunday, 11 December. Most titles will qualify for a 25% discount off the cover price. Orders may be placed at the Book Table or e-mailed to Rick Gregory, rfg@csolutions.net.

Give the Gift of Social Justice for the Holidays

Don't know what holiday gift to give the person who has everything? This holiday season, the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church will again be there to help you give a gift while, at the same time, helping those who are less fortunate.



Starting Sunday, December 4th, and continuing through Sunday, December 25th, you can make a donation of any amount to a charitable organization in honor of the person to whom you would be sending a gift.

The Council will provide you a donation acknowledgement in the form of a decorative card insert to send with your holiday card. You, as the donor, receive the tax benefit for having made the donation. The person who has everything receives a very nice acknowledgement of the donation given in their name.

This year's charitable organizations are: The Interethnic Health Alliance and The Fourth Street Clinic. Stop by our booth after the service for more details.

-submitted by Michele Page & Sue Geary, Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs

Fair Trade Holiday Sale

Our church's Fair Trade Holiday Sale will be held in Eliot Hall on December 11th. Ten Thousand Villages will bring a broad selection of handcrafted gifts and home decor items from around the world. In addition, this year we will introduce another Fair Trade participant, BeadForLife (www.BeadforLife.org), working to eliminate poverty in Uganda by offering handmade beaded jewelry and other unique items. Please plan to visit these vendors' tables pick up gifts while supporting our efforts to promote fair trade.

Open Minds Book Group

The next meeting is Monday, December 12, at 7 p.m. We will meet at the home of Andrea Globokar for a pot luck dinner to celebrate the holidays and to get to know each other better. We will not have a specific book to discuss. Please call Vickie Steffey (801-277-2509) for more information. All are welcome! The book for January 19 is Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

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.



Jazz Vespers
each Sunday through December 18, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church

December 4th
A Tribute to Herbie Hancock

December 11th
A Tribute to the Beatles

December 18th
Christmas Kool

Come early ~ available seating goes quickly!

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>Services 9 & 11 am (see below)</p> <p>Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm (pg. 6)</p> <p>Giving Tree tags available (pg. 4)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Coffee House 6 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>RE Holiday Party 1:30 - 3:30 pm (pg. 4)</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)</p> <p>Legacy Groundbreaking Ceremony 10:15 (pg. 1)</p> <p>Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm (pg. 6)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Torch Submissions Due 10 am</p> <p>Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201</p> <p>Open Minds Book Group 7pm (pg. 6)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Co-op pick up</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Lessons & Carols 9 & 11 am (see below)</p> <p>Christams Kool Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm (pg. 6)</p> <p>Giving Tree items due (pg. 4)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Winter Solstice Celebration 6 pm (pg. 4)</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Coffee House 6 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Pageant 4 pm (pg. 4)</p> <p>Candlelight Service 6 pm</p> 
<p>25</p> <p>Sunday Service One service only at 11 a.m.</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Coffee House 6 pm</p> 

Sunday Services

*Sunday, December 4, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“Would Jesus Occupy Wall Street?”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

*Sunday, December 11, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“Wonder”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

*Sunday, December 18, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.*

“Lessons and Carols”
-Sentimental ditties and a full-choir resounding embrace of
the holidays with Rev. Goldsmith, David Owens, David
Zabriskie, Holly Stewart, the choir, and you!



First Unitarian Church
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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