



The Torch

First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

December 7, 2009
Volume 52, Issue 10



*The Junior Singers perform at services on November 29, 2009.
Photos by Mary Kroener-Ekstrand*

Social Justice Holiday Giving

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 6th, and continuing through Sunday, December 20th, 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 include HEAL Utah, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the International Rescue Committee of Utah (for household goods).

The **Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL)** works to engage citizens in efforts to protect public health from nuclear and toxic waste and to promote clean energy policies for our state.

The **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)** is a worldwide movement that provides health and family planning services in over 180 countries.

In Salt Lake, the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** works to successfully resettle refugees from around the world. Our church has worked with the IRC to furnish countless apartments with donated furniture and household goods. However, the recent increased numbers of refugees has outstripped our ability to do so. A donation here would go into a special household goods fund.

-submitted by Judy Smith

Inside this issue:

Reverently Yours	2
Mountain View	3
Religious Education	4-5
Environmental Ministry	6
Animal Ministry	6
Calendar	7
Sunday Services	8

The Torch

Next Publication Date:
December 21, 2009

Submission Deadline:
Mon. December 14, 2009
at 9 a.m.

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

Editor:
Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen

Email to:
jennislcuu@yahoo.com or drop off at church office

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext.5



Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



Intolerance is an ugly matter and cause for great concern. The ideology of the Republican right wing, uninhibited in expressing intolerance for immigrants, healthcare, reproductive rights, global warming, homosexuality, taxes, sex education, and diversity of any kind, is decimating the two-party system by severing any Republican of good-will from funds and national support. The trenches have been dug, and it's quite appalling how the likes of Michael Steele and Rush Limbaugh can amass a group think fueled by shocking intolerance.

South Carolina senator, Lindsey Graham, a man of solid conservative stripes, has faced censure by his own party for seeking compromise with John Kerry on climate change legislation. The Republican Party has criticized Graham when he stated that his primary concern as a senator was to be relevant. Graham voted for the nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, unacceptable for an ideology that demands conformity of belief. Ideology can never escape a most subjective spin on events, and in fact, is defined as making assumptions about reality that have no factual basis.

Moderates and individual thinkers are fast becoming extinct on the Republican side of the aisle, or may already have obtained that distinction. This represent a tremendous threat to American democracy, a system built on reaching across a spectrum of views on both sides of the aisle in order to hammer out legislation that is both fair and just. When someone like our own Senator Hatch hopes that the American people will rebel if healthcare reform is passed, he speaks as a prisoner of right wing ideology. When legislators want Obama to fail at any cost to the nation, then ide-

ology has blinded men and women to the virtues of a free nation.

Our situation today may not be that different from a population fractured by intolerance in Transylvania at the time of Unitarian King John Sigismund. The power struggles then in culture and religion are reminiscent of our own incredulity of how a specific virulent belief system vies for control at the peril of dismantling a system of laws fundamental to our tradition of justice.

In the city of Torda (Romania) in 1568, King John with the aid of his Unitarian preacher, Francis David, issued the Act of Toleration. In the blood-curdling atmosphere of the Reformation, the King decreed that no preachers were "allowed to be abused for their views." Imagine how such a decree, an act of civility with political power to back it up, could change things in our nation today. Essentially, tolerance proved an edict against ideology ruling the kingdom with hatred and falsehoods.

Stemming from a concern about dogma in general (forced conformity in belief), the one and only Unitarian King in our history succeeded in halting all threats to free thought. The King further renounced the national establishment of a single religion. In 1568 he upheld diversity, which still remains challenging to us civilized folks almost 450 years later. I'm not suggesting that Senator Graham or Senators Snowe and Collins from Maine or Dede Scozzafara who was forced to resign her race in Upstate New York's 23rd district look to the Edict of Torda as guidelines, or fancy that Unitarianism may save the day as it once did. However, moderate republicans, an oxymoron these days, need something fast to protect the basic ideas of individual thought, compromise with others, and that nobody be abused for their views. TRG



Mountain View Update

Social Justice

We're starting off with a good team this fall at Mountain View Elementary. Five of last year's reading tutors are back in the saddle- Judy Smith, Betty Anderson, Gary Widdison, Peter Grundfossen and myself, and two fresh new readers -Pat Miner and Chuck Smith- are giving it a go as well. Betty's friend, Pauline Cordray, is coming three afternoons each week to work with kids in the after school program, and Nancy Howard and I have found comfortable time slots at the monthly Star Store.

By the way, the next shopping spree at Star Store runs from Dec.16-18 and some kids have been holding onto their Starbucks until that Christmas rush. So don't forget to add any small,

fun items you come across to the Star Trunk in Little Chapel to become affordable gifts that students can purchase for family and friends.

Many thanks, again, to Vickie Venne who has finished sewing four beautiful jumpers and is working on others for refugee girls who are unused to wearing pants. Vickie has become our one-woman production line!

If anyone out there has the time, if you think might enjoy working among a very diverse population of school children who can benefit from your efforts, please call me at 801-485-9871.

-submitted by Louise Ewing

Holiday Services

December 20th
 Christmas Pageant ~ 9 a.m.
 Lessons & Carols ~ 11 a.m.
 Christmas Kool Jazz Vespers ~ 7:30 p.m.

December 21st
 Winter Solstice Celebration ~ 6 p.m.

December 24th
 Candlelight Service ~ 6 p.m.
 Candlelight Service ~ 10 p.m.

The annual **Winter Solstice Celebration** is back. Please plan to join us for a worship service and family meal on Monday, December 21st at 6pm. This event is a fundraiser for the Coming of Age Boston Trip and the High School Mission Trip. Please sign up and pay for your dinner at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday Service.

Upcoming Sunday Happenings

Sunday, December 6th

- Services at 9 & 11 a.m.
- Social Justice Holiday Giving begins (Eliot Hall following both services)
- Sub for Santa begins - pick up your gift tags in Eliot Hall before or after services today.
- Jazz Vespers at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13th

- Services at 9 & 11 a.m.
- Environmental Ministry's Wilderness Stewardship Poster making during Coffee Hour
- showing of "Wild Utah" and presentation from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance at 1 p.m.
- Jazz Vespers at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 20th

- RE Christmas Pageant at 9 a.m.
- Lessons & Carols at 11 a.m.
- Family Theatre Group outing at 2 p.m. (pg. 5)
- Christmas Kool - Jazz Vespers at 7:30 p.m.



Religious Education - News for the Village

RE Newsbits

Sub for Santa is Here

Each year, members of First Unitarian Church provide holiday gifts through the Sub for Santa program for refugee families whose children attend our partner school, Mountain View Elementary. On Sunday, December 6th, 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 church with the gift request attached on the following Sunday, December 13th.

Solstice Service and Supper

The annual Winter Solstice Celebration is back. Please plan to join us for a worship service and family meal on Monday, December 21st at 6pm. This event is a fundraiser for the Coming of Age Boston Trip and the High School Mission Trip. Please sign up and pay for your dinner at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday Service.

Holiday Shopping Child Care! December 19th 12-4 p.m. child care will be provided for parents and guardians wishing to get some holiday shopping in, have a nice quiet lunch, clean house, or take a nap. Sky's the limit! Cost is \$20 per child \$15 for 1st sibling and \$10 for each sibling after. Please sign-up at the RE table, reservations are required. All monies will go towards the youth trips to Boston and the Mission Trip.

Annual Pageant The annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20th at the 9:00 service. Rehearsal will be Saturday the 19th from 10-12 (please see the Holiday Shopping Child Care options following the rehearsals). Sign-ups will start on December 6th at the RE Table.

RE Holiday Party The RE Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 12th from 2-4:00 p.m. Come bring a dish to share, make holiday crafts, play holiday games and join in a holiday sing-along.



The 4th-6th grade class built an aqueduct to learn about access to safe drinking water as a human right as part of the UUSC Guest At Your Table curriculum on Nov. 22.

RE Contact Info

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Co-Acting Director of RE
801-582-8687 ext. 3
MaryUURE@gmail.com

Nicole Droitsch
Co-Acting Director of RE
801-582-8687 ext. 6
ndroitsch@gmail.com



Guest at Your Table Continues Through December

Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong. Thanks to our support, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights. Your beautiful Guest at Your Table coin box and *Stories of Hope* booklet introduce you to people whose lives have been changed by this work. If you have not picked these materials up yet, it's not too late to participate. Stop by the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after Sunday service. All participants should plan to return your coin box (or a check) to church during the first two weeks of January.



Family Theater Trip

Please join the First Unitarian Church Theater Group for a special family outing to see *Go, Dog, Go!* at the Salt Lake Acting Company on Sunday December 20th. The group rate tickets are \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. We will meet in the Green Room at the theater at 2 p.m. for a private pre-show party. Then we will sit together to enjoy the show at 3pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Dylan Zwick at dylanzwick@gmail.com.

For more information about the show, please go to the SLAC website:

www.saltlakeactingcompany.org



New RE Assistant

Please help welcome our new RE Assistant Jennica Davis! Jennica has been involved with RE as the Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) Coordinator. She brings a wonderful knowledge and spirit to the RE team. Welcome Jennica! Jennica can be contacted at jennicaca@gmail.com or at 801-582-5830.



salt lake acting company presents

Go, Dog, Go!



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR THE UNITARIAN CHURCH THEATRE GROUP

In celebration of the holidays, Salt Lake Acting Company presents its first show for children (& the young of heart), **GO, DOG. GO!**, adapted from P.D. Eastman's classic book.

If you know **GO, DOG. GO!**, you know it's not really about dogs, but rather about interaction and imagination. There are dogs of all shapes and sizes working, playing, dancing, singing, eating, dreaming, and celebrating. **GO, DOG. GO!** is an exhilarating canine musical with a lot of action. Like the book, the play is a circus of physical delight, full of inspiring discoveries - a pop-up book that comes to life.



Universal Environmental Justice

Environmental Ministry

Environmental Ministry presents a service focusing on Universal Environmental Justice on Friday, December 18, 2009, 7:00 pm, in First Unitarian Church's Sanctuary.

Climate change is often presented as an environmental problem. Many talk about it as THE environmental problem. Indeed, some would say that it is THE PROBLEM, the biggest, most important problem of any kind that has ever faced the human species. When climate change is viewed primarily as an environmental problem, the solutions have to do with environmental technology-- technological fixes for a technological problem (technological in the sense that it has to do with

how we generate power). This approach to climate change is shortsighted, missing both the essential cause of our predicament and the opportunity it presents for deep change. Hence, the proposition: we have no environmental problems, only moral ones.

Ed Firmage Jr. will deliver the pulpit homily. Tim DeChristopher will provide a "moral call to action." Light refreshments will follow in Eliot Hall.

*-submitted by Michael Mielke & Joan M. Gregory
Environmental Ministry*

Wilderness Stewardship: Protecting Utah's Redrock Wild Lands Sunday, December 13, Eliot Hall During Coffee Hour AND 1:00-2:00 pm

Is the future of Utah's wild lands important to you? Would you like to join with people from different communities of faith to be a dynamic voice for wild land protection?

Join us on Sun., Dec 13th as we call for the stewardship of Utah's precious wild lands: During coffee hour (between or after services), join us in creating a poster showcasing our support for wilderness stewardship that will be exhibited with posters from many other faiths at the State Legislature. Bring a photo of yourself in wilderness to place on the poster. Write a note about your connection to Utah's wild lands.

AND

From 1-2 pm join us in viewing "Wild Utah!" – a 22 minute DVD about the beauty and vulnerability of Utah's red rock wild lands, hear an exciting update from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance about the potential for wilderness legislation this coming year, and learn about other ways you can get involved. [Sandwiches will be sold after 2nd service so that those who stay for the update will be nourished in body as well as in mind and soul.]

From the Animal Ministry

NEXT MEETING: Our next Animal Ministry meeting will be Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 pm in Room 201. Please join us and bring a friend! If you are interested in more information or in joining the Animal Ministry group, please contact Tresa Stitley at 801.671.2858

"The world, we are told, was made especially for man – a presumption not supported by all the facts.... Why should man value himself as more than a small part of the one great unit of creation?"

—John Muir, naturalist and explorer (1838–1914)



December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
6 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 am Social Justice Giving begins (pg. 1) Sub for Santa begins (pg. 4) Jazz Vespers 7:30 p.m.	7	8 RE Council Meeting 7 p.m.	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Coffee House 6 p.m.	12 RE Holiday party 2 p.m. (pg. 4)
13 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Wilderness Stewardship Event after services (pg.6) Jazz Vespers 7:30 p.m.	14 Torch Submissions Due (9 a.m.) Board of Trustees Meeting Room 201 7 pm	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	17	18 Environmental Min. Service 7 pm (pg. 6)	19 Food Co-op pick up (see below) Pageant Rehearsal 10 a.m. (pg. 4) Holiday Shopping childcare 12-4 pm (pg. 4)
20 Christmas Pageant 9:00 am Lessons and Carols 11:00 am Christmas Kool Jazz Vespers 7:30 p.m.	21 Winter Solstice Celebration (pg. 3) 	22	23 Salvation Army Sandwich making 4:30 p.m. in Kitchen Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	24 Candlelight Services 6 & 10 pm (pg. 3) 	25 	26 Contra Dance 6 p.m.
27 Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	28	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	31	January 1 	2 Folk Dance 6 p.m.

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 12:45 p.m. For more information contact Tresa at 801-671-2858.

- December 6: **Squatters Pub** 147 W. 300 S.
- December 13: **Café Trio** 680 S. 900 E.
- December 20: **Pago** 878 S. 900 E.
- December 27: **Café Med** 420 E. 3300 S.



Community Food 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. Please pick up December shares on December 19th between 9 and 10 a.m.

You can order online or print forms to mail in at: www.foodco-op.net (please note new web address). Place orders by mail -- 1469 S 700 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84104; phone - (801)746-7878; or fax - (801) 975-0336. For more information, contact Nancy Lindsley at 583-8566 or RNLINDSLEY@MSN.COM.



First Unitarian Church
of Salt Lake City

569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

801-582-8687
www.slccu.org



Please Recycle Your Torch

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service Requested

Sunday Services

Sunday, December 6th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Memorial Sunday"

-First Unitarian Church's Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers

Featuring David Chisholm

Sunday, December 13th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

"Religion and Intellectualism"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers

Piano Night

Sunday, December 20th

9:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

11:00 a.m.

"Lessons and Carols"

Be on hand to touch the Christmas spirit in either service or stay for both. Our children, our choir and minister will offer a timely infusion of warm holiday feelings

7:30 p.m.

Jazz Vespers

Christmas Kool featuring Nicole Madison