

The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 5

SEPTEMBER 26, 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.

Environmental Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Joan M. Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

There are many opportunities for getting involved in the church's Environmental Ministry. And the start of the church year is a great time to jump in and help out. Here are some volunteering options:



Recycling Team – Help the church recycle by volunteering to empty recycling and/or compost into the appropriate outside containers. Help is also needed with scheduling recycling volunteers for this weekly effort.

Green Sanctuary – The church is working on becoming a Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary – a church that “walks its talk” in terms of energy conservation and our ecological footprint. Volunteer to serve on the Green Sanctuary Committee if you are interested in finding ways to save energy and reduce the church's ecological footprint.

Garden Group – Help out in the church vegetable garden and reconnect with Mother Earth.



Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – It's a SWAP ... help us advertise, set up, staff, box up, clean up and deliver items from our Triple R SWAP to the International Rescue Committee and others in need.

Continued on page 3

Community Solar Workshop

Submitted by Joan M. Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

Solar Simplified: An Introduction to solar energy and the community bulk-purchase model

When: October 4, 2011, 7-9 pm

Where: Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church

Why: Learn more about solar energy for your home and a new, exciting initiative underway at First Unitarian Church to get discounts on solar energy via bulk-purchase.

Have you ever thought about putting solar on your home but don't know where (or have time) to start? Are you interested in investing in solar but feel the price is still too high? Do you struggle to locate trusted, verifiable solar information and solar installers in Utah?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the good news is that you are not alone! Imagine what might happen if everyone at First Unitarian Church who wants to “go solar” were to come together to collectively make an informed solar purchase and negotiate a volume discount with a trusted local installer. Sound intriguing? As it turns out, this model, known as the *community bulk-purchase solar model*, is cropping up in communities across the country as a viable and creative way to make solar more financially attractive and simple for more people.

First Unitarian Church and Environmental Ministry are interested in replicating this successful model within our community, and we hope to jumpstart this effort. The details of our campaign are not yet finalized, and we want your input and involvement! To learn more and provide input, please attend the community solar workshop on October 4th at the church 7-9 pm, *Solar Simplified: An Introduction to solar energy and the community bulk-purchase model*.

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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October 10, 2011

Submission Deadline:

October 3, 2011
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after October 11th to ensure timeliness.

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

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



So I walked into Dan's Supermarket wearing a pink T-shirt. On the chest it said: Pinkdot.org. I was more than a little self-conscious. I looked at people

looking at me. Nobody said anything or asked. I wish someone had.

I went from Dan's to church for our staff meeting. We have quite a staff. They commented that I looked good in pink and actually wore pink well. But then again, this was a Unitarian staff. After staff meeting I flew over to the Pride Center to be videoed; the Pinkdot T-shirt was my uniform. Valerie, who heads up the Pride Center and has organized Pinkdot, said I looked better in pink than she expected. (This T-shirt may become part of my regular wardrobe). I've been anointed an ambassador for the event, and short clips of the many ambassadors will be shown on their Website and Facebook.

Here's the scoop: On Tuesday, October 11th, at 6:00p.m. in the Spring Mobile Ballpark, we invite everyone in Utah to don a pink shirt or blouse and attend a mass support for Utah's GLBTQ community. October 11th is National Coming Out Day. I invite my straight friends to reflect only a minute on how painful it must be to live one's life closeted for fear of brutality, discrimination, and ostracism. Imagine not living an authentic life, able to be who you are and love whomever you love.

The initial idea of forming a massive human pink dot originated in Singapore, a rather restrictive society. With great courage, straight allies came out in full force because (isn't it

strange?), everyone has a child, a parent, a relative, or a close friend who is queer. These straight folks just wanted the opportunity to demonstrate their love and support. You can watch it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrIB50jbqns>.

We are forming a pink dot in Salt Lake on the 11th to create a symbol (eventually an international symbol), for a more inclusive community. Families (yes, all children are invited) can go to the ballpark to tell their loved ones and friends that they are loved for who they are. Aerial photos will be taken. I hope you'll want to be part of the pink mass to show your support.

Please mark your calendars for October 11th. I suggest you may want show up a little early, like 5:30 or 5:45. It will be fun, meaningful, and deliver a message that simply calls on people to be more inclusive, more open-minded, more just. This message does not depend on words and fiery speeches or letter-writing campaigns to your legislators. It's just a pink dot. A symbol of love, courage and support. See you at the ballpark and be sure to wear pink. I bet you'll look better in pink than you might expect. TRG

October 1st – Joint Celebration, San Esteban and First Unitarian Church.

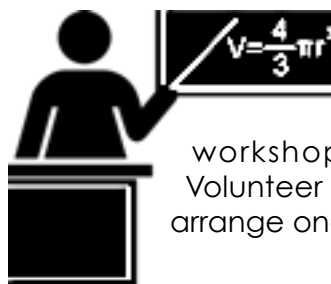
4:30p.m. at San Esteban (46 South and 32 West). Please sign up in church to bring either a side dish for 6 or a dessert for 6. **Program:** Joint worship service with a mixed choir under the direction of David Owens. Potluck supper with San Esteban congregants supplying tacos and rice and beans. (Pretty authentic). And then salsa dancing until 9:00p.m to a great live band. Bring children, food, appetite, and joyous spirit fit for celebration.

Environmental Ministry Volunteer Opportunities (continued from page 1)

Environmental Ministry Table – Environmental Ministry staffs a regular table on Sundays in Elliot Hall to answer questions and provide information and to serve as a gathering spot during coffee hour for environmental discussions. Volunteer to help staff this table.

Communication – Updating and maintaining the Environmental Ministry website, electronic mailing list, and volunteer list are volunteer opportunities that can be done from your personal computer. Writing articles for *The Torch* on environmental issues or about upcoming Environmental Ministry events is another way to contribute.

Lectures/Videos/Discussions – Environmental Ministry sponsors programs on environmental topics of interest to our members and the community at large. Volunteer to assist with planning and hosting these programs.



Environmental Education – Environmental Ministry offers courses, book discussions, and workshops throughout the year. Volunteer to teach, coordinate, or arrange one or more of these.

Environmental Ministry Highlights: Two Lectures by Richard Heinberg

*Submitted by Joan M. Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry*

The End of Growth: Peak Oil & the Economy of the Future

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 pm
Bill & Vieve Gore School of Business - Auditorium
Westminster College, 1840 S. 1300 E., SLC

We all take economic growth for granted – until it falters, as in 2008. But what if the recent economic meltdown was not just an interruption in the story of continuous economic expansion, but the first sign of the end of growth as we know it? Will the convergence of financial instability, the end of cheap oil, and climate change usher in an era of contraction? In other words, do we have to adapt to a “new normal”? Traditional economic growth is not the best measure of human health and welfare. How might we pursue improvements in education, the arts, health, well-being, freedom, and happiness without depending upon ever-expanding consumption? What does a transition to a new economy look like that doesn't depend on a model of growth based on cheap energy, reckless consumption and financial speculation?

Coal, Climate & the Last Energy Crisis Wednesday,
Sept 28, 12:15 pm
S.J. Quinney College of Law – Southerland Moot
Courtroom

University of Utah, 332 S. 1400 E., SLC
Lunch provided. 1 hr CLE.

America's energy pundits seem to agree that the country has a nearly endless supply of cheap coal. This assumption shapes environmental as well as energy policy. But recent studies call it into serious doubt, and suggest instead that coal is the Achilles heel of both American and Chinese energy planning. What would a post-coal energy economy look like?

RICHARD HEINBERG is a Senior Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute and is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost Peak Oil educators. He is the author of ten books including his newest, *The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality*, and has authored scores of essays and articles for many journals and websites. Richard has spoken to hundreds of audiences in 14 countries, and has appeared in many film and television documentaries, including Leonardo DiCaprio's *11th Hour*, and is a recipient of the M. King Hubbert Award for Excellence in Energy Education.

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,

Last year, I had the opportunity to teach an Our Whole Lives sexuality education course for first and second graders and their parents here at our church. On one particular Sunday, we began our session on the topic of "families" by asking each child who wanted to participate to write on the

whiteboard something that they know about families. Here is what the ten participating children wrote:

Families....

- are important
- do fun things together
- encourage you
- are a support system
- are safe to have big feelings with, like mad, sad and glad
- are special
- how many kinds are there?
- love you
- keep you safe from bad things
- give you toys

I was impressed by the kids' responses. The underlying concepts in the description of family that these young people collectively developed could be used in a sociology class at the U.

Based on their own life experiences and intuition, our kids focused on the supportive functions of the family - both personal and material - as critical attributes rather than focusing on identifying roles and rules for membership. They did not bring in such details as the race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender, abilities, sexual orientation, social roles, or even adoptive, biological, or legal relationships of individuals within a family unit.

This is no small thing. Our kids know that love makes a family and that many kinds of family structures are possible - explicitly acknowledging that there may be more kinds than they know. What I hope to call to your attention in telling this story is how the core values of our church, in this case especially inclusion and compassion, help guide even the very young members of our congregation as they search for meaning and understanding in their lives.

Members of First Church of all ages have an opportunity to publicly stand for these important shared values at the upcoming Pink Dot Utah event on the evening of Tuesday, October 11th. Look for announcements here at church about this exciting program of peaceful

demonstration, which will involve folks of all ages wearing pink and gathering at Spring Mobile Ball park to create a huge, human pink dot as a statement of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in our community. Or for more information go to www.pinkdotut.org.



In Service,
Mary

Adult Religious Education Registration for Fall is Here!

The Adult Religious Education Committee will be distributing brochures for our fall programs at the Activities Fair on September 25th and at the Religious Education table in Eliot Hall after Sunday services. Online sign-ups are available on the church website along with a pdf copy of our brochure at www.slccuu.org. If you need assistance to register, you may also sign up at the Religious Education Table.

Please Register Your Child/Teen for Religious Education

We ask that parents or guardians register children who will be attending our Religious Education Programs on a regular basis. Our online Registration Form asks that you provide some basic contact information as well as educationally relevant information about your child(ren). We also ask you to indicate ways in which you will participate in our cooperative program.

The Religious Education Council would like to sponsor class parties and family activities for children and youth in our religious education programs and their parents so that we can all get to know one another better. Invitations will go out by email to registered participants, so please be sure that you have registered or at filled out a visitor form so your kids and family can be included in these fun social events.

UU Orientation Scheduled for October 3

Welcome newcomers and not-so-new-comers who are ready to find out more about our church and its programs! Our Minister Tom Goldsmith, our Director of Religious Education Mary Kroener-Ekstrand, and members of our Welcoming Committee are presenting a Unitarian Universalist Orientation program on Monday October 3 from 7-9pm. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for this event at the Welcome Table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday service or on our church website at www.slccuu.org.



Congregational Briefs

UU Orientation Scheduled for October 3

Welcome newcomers and not-so-new-comers who are ready to find out more about our church and its programs! Our Minister Tom Goldsmith, our Director of Religious Education Mary Kroener-Ekstrand, and members of our Welcoming Committee are presenting a Unitarian Universalist Orientation program on Monday October 3 from 7-9pm. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for this event at the Welcome Table in Eliot Hall after a Sunday service or on our church website at www.slccuu.org.

From the Caring Committee

Send Some Cheer Peter Grunfossen, long time member and former Board member, was injured in a bicycling accident at the beginning of the month. He is now in rehab and prognosis is good. It would bring Peter enormous pleasure to receive your good wishes for his speedy recovery and to know he is in the hearts and minds of the First Church community. No telephone calls please. If you would like to send a card or greeting to Peter, send it to:

Peter Grunfossen
560 East South Temple, #403
Salt Lake City, UT 84102



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.slccuu.org/auction> or contact Julie Swaner at auction@slccuu.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 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss the book Year of Wonders: a novel of the plague by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome.

Parking Reminder for Friendship Manor Lot

1) Yellow passes must be displayed on the rear view mirror except when parking in those spaces reserved

Continued on page 6

Congregational Briefs (continued from page 5)

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.

Volunteer Opportunity

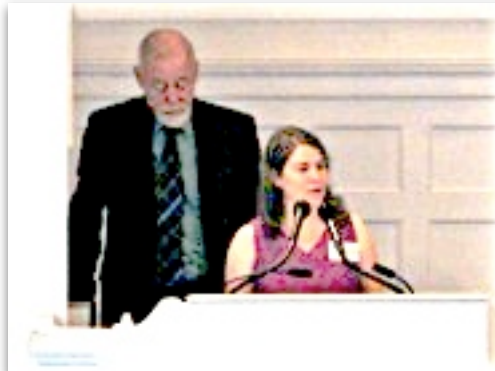
We are looking for one or two volunteers who are interested in helping with our Torch mailing parties: labeling, taping, and sorting. Mailings happen every other Thursday at 10:00 for about 1.5 - 2 hours. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jenni at torch@slcuu.org or 801-582-8687 ext. 202.

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.

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. October orders should be ordered by Oct. 7th and can be picked up on October 22nd 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.



Back to Church

Photos from Ingathering Sunday, September 11, 2011

September / October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 25 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below) Activities Fair	26	27	28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	29	30	October 1 Celebration w/ 1st Unitarian and San Estaban Church 4:30 pm (pg. 2) Folk Dance 6 pm
2 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	3 UU Orientation 7 pm (pg. 5) Torch Submissions Due 10 am	4 Community Solar Workshop 7 pm (pg. 1)	5 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	6	7 Co-op orders due	8
9 Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	10 Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201	11 Pinkdot with 1st UU (pg. 2 & 4)	12 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am	17 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20 Open Minds Book Club 7 pm (pg. 5)	21	22 Contra Dance 6 p.m. Co-op pick up

Sunday Services

Sunday, September 25, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.

“Unitarian Universalism: The Time is Now”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, October 2, 2011
9 and 11 a.m.

“Love Warrior Work:
Opening Hearts, Changing Minds”
-Jamila Tharp

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

“Feeling It”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith



First Unitarian Church
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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