

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 7

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

OCTOBER 27, 2014

Committee Rally a Success

-submitted by Christine Ashworth

Committee and event leadership gathered September 13, 2014 for an organizing rally. We shared hopes, challenges, and excitement for the new church year. It is mind-blowing to hear about all of the amazing things going on in our community.

Several committees realized there would be power in collaboration. One result was a fun joint training on October 4, 2014 to cross train the Sunday morning teams of coffee, welcome, and ushering.

One key concern shared by all teams was encouraging enough folks to share their time. Each activity has its unique challenge; from needing a strong back to learning the trick of the vestibule doors. You will be enriched by sharing your time and energy at whatever level you are able. When you move out of your comfort zone and engage with the vision and passion our fellow congregants have for their respective areas, you will be inspired.

Service to my church is part of my spiritual practice. As with any spiritual practice, there are times when I am really not in the mood and/or too busy dealing with other aspects of my life. But, I keep working at it because service exposes me to people I have grown to love and respect, and my connections at church have more depth and substance.

Thank you to all of you who organize events, make coffee, bring wine and food, smile at newcomers, raise money, give money, care for the sick (people and the environment), nurture our youth, arrange flowers, lead, follow, scour the sink, make music, offer inspiring words, facilitate groups, and generally show up in spite of the challenges. We are all better people because of your efforts.

In service to our faith, Christine Ashworth

Jazz Vespers Begins November 2nd

It's hard to pick and choose which performances to attend, but a program for the season is as follows. Each week will provide a tribute to a legendary musician. Jazz Vespers Begins its 26th Season on November 2nd at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm.

Nov. 2 Tribute to Duke Ellington/
Billy Strayhorn

Nov. 9 Tribute to Bill Withers

Nov. 16 The Original Music of the Jazz
Vespers Quartet

Nov. 23 Tribute to Aretha Franklin

Nov. 30 Tribute to The Band

Dec. 7 Tribute to Sam Cooke

Dec. 14 Tribute to U2

Dec. 21 Christmas Kool



The Torch

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

Next Publication Date

November 10, 2014

Submission Deadline

November 3, 2014 (Mon.)
by 10:00 a.m.

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

Editor

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Congregational Briefs

Chancel Choir to perform at Assembly Hall on Nov. 7th

Again, the Chancel Choir has a marvelous opportunity to extend an invitation to our congregation for a special Concert Event. The Reverend Patti Willis and Music Director Mary Lou Prince (from South Valley Unitarian) have collaborated in the composition of a cantata called, "Songs Of The Earth". This beautiful and lyric set of ten pieces with spoken word will be performed at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square on Friday, November 7th at 7:30 pm. A Festival Chorus comprised of our two Unitarian choirs as well as a large LDS Choir from Kaysville has been formed for this event. We of the Chancel Choir have delighted in having the opportunity to work on this and very much look forward to its presentation. If you have further questions, feel free to contact David Owens at 801-390-0488 .

Open Minds Book Group

The next meeting of the Open Minds Book Group will be at 7:00 on November 25th in the Haven room at the church. The book is "Under the Wide and Starry Sky" by Nancy Horan. All are welcome.

Singing Circle: International Folksongs

All voices welcome - from shy shower singers to confident vocalists! Come learn wonderful songs, interesting harmonies and have fun! Adults and young people 15 years and up. Individuals under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult. When: Each month on the fourth Thursday, from 7:00-8:30 PM. Contact: Stacey at voicecoachSLC@gmail.com.

Dinner and Dialogue

Make new UU friends while enjoying good food and stimulating conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Table to HOST a dinner in your home. You set the date and the menu, and decide how many guests you can accommodate. Guests sign up to ATTEND and contribute by bringing a dish to share. What could be simpler? Questions, please get in touch with Jan Crane, 801 870-1222 or suppers@slcuu.org.

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 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Carol Shaughnessy at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- October 26th: Indochine Vietnamese Bistro (230 South 1300 East)
- November 2nd: Roots (3474 South 2300 East)
- November 9th: Wild Grape Bistro (481 E. South Temple)
- November 16th: Red Moose Coffee Company (1693 South 900 East)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



It's a fact: All people rich and poor feel the same emotions, pain, joy, love, hurt, sadness, hunger, thirst, and have needs for shelter, food, and desire opportunities for their children. They all have blood coursing through their veins

and bleed when pricked. Rich and poor are made of the same molecules, organ parts, DNA, and rules of biology. They all find their beginnings in utero and enter life the same way. But after inhaling their first breath, rich and poor diverge into separate orbits. Life is experienced as radically different. As the gap between rich and poor widens in astonishing ways, the rich, isolated by their staggering opulence, often lose sight of the basic concept that we are inextricably tied to one another. One can pretend that the poor have no health care needs, and are somehow exempt from hunger and despair. One can ignore the fact that poor people have the same feelings as all humans do.

Janet Yellen, chairwoman of the Federal Reserve, lamented last week that rising economic inequality is bad for the economy. Imagine that! As income levels soar for the elite few, and the share of wealth decreases disproportionately for the rest of society, we cannot succeed economically as a nation with this kind of imbalance. Yellen painted a bleak picture of the increasingly unequal distribution of wealth and income, warning that Americans already have relatively little chance to advance economically. Her warning was met by Republican congressmen complaining about Yellen's partisanship and called for new legislative restraints.

Closer to home, First Unitarian Church in fulfilling its mission, has grown more economically diverse. We have families, who

though employed, stand one emergency away from total financial collapse. Some have already crossed that threshold. I recently held a meeting with church leaders who unanimously agreed that we have an institutional responsibility to our members to avert dire consequences for families of little means following a crisis. We hope to be in a position to provide interest-free loans and in some cases outright grants to minimize the vulnerability experienced by some of our members.

We will dedicate our Sunday offering plate exclusively for this endeavor. **If you missed church on October 26th, which precluded you from contributing, please take the opportunity now to write a check to First Unitarian Church marked "Emergency Fund."** We do not see homelessness and hunger as partisan issues. There are moral responsibilities we carry as human beings, and if we are fortunate enough to have the means to help others, may we live up to our principles and make life's journey a little lighter for those who struggle. TRG

A reminder to those who have registered for the book discussion with Tom Goldsmith on Sam Harris' book "Waking Up."

We will meet on two successive Wednesdays: October 29th and November 5th. Both sessions will be held in the Haven from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. And for those who are on the waiting list, we'll have another round of discussions sometime in the winter. Stay tuned.

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

We've now officially settled into the rhythm of the church year. Sunday school classes are launched, Adult Religious Education classes have begun, and

many monthly programs focused on social connections and/or personal development are meeting

regularly. Have you found a niche within our congregation?

If you are looking for ways to get more connected, please stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings to pick up our brochures and literature or just drop me a line and I'll be glad to help you find ways to nurture your own spiritual and intellectual journey within our church community.

In Service,
Mary

RE Newsbits

Annual Halloween Carnival, Tuesday October 28th

Come one, come all to the annual YRUU Halloween Festival on Tuesday, Oct 28th from 6:00 - 8:00pm here at First Church. Our high school youth group has planned a variety of activities for kids including a "Haunted Hallway", costume contest, carnival games, music, candy, prizes, and more. All ages are invited to attend and share in seasonal fun and games. Friends are very welcome, so please feel free to invite others who might enjoy a family-friendly social occasion. Eat dinner before you arrive – we will serve treats but not a meal!

All proceeds from this event go towards the YRUU Mission Trip fund. The suggested donation amount is \$5 per person payable either on Sunday during the coffee hour or at the door. Thanks for your support!



11:00 a.m. Elementary Religious Education participants display lanterns and flower garlands as they learn about Diwali, Oct



Religious Education Contact Information

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October/November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	27	28 Halloween Carnival 6 pm (pg. 4)	29 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	30	31	November 1
2 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	3 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	4	5 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	6	7 Choir performs @ Assembly Hall 7:30 pm (pg. 2)	8
9 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	17 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20 Singing Circle 7 pm (pg. 2)	21	22

Sunday Services

Sunday, October 26th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
“Domination”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, November 2nd
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
“Golfing with Monkeys”
It is my distinct pleasure to welcome an old friend and colleague to our pulpit this Sunday. **Scott Alexander**, minister of the UU Fellowship in Vero Beach, has had an extraordinary career in working for the UUA and with his ministry to several churches. He's a great speaker, offering poignant sermons through wit and stories.

7:30 p.m.
Jazz Vespers
Tribute to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn

Sunday, November 9th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
“What Does it Mean to Be an American?”
-Tom Goldsmith will be joined by several members from the congregation to address this rather intriguing question, especially following the mid-term elections.

7:30 p.m.
Jazz Vespers
Tribute to Bill Withers

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The Chancel Choir was joined by several other choirs from around the Wasatch front for an Inter-Denominational Concert hosted by the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) This exciting event was held at the First Presbyterian Church on South Temple last Saturday.

Photo by Steve Horton



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