

# The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 11

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

DECEMBER 22, 2014

## Environmental Ministry Updates

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory,  
Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

Just what is Environmental Ministry up to these days? Well ... here are some updates about what we are watching and what we are doing ... and some previews of what's ahead:

- **COP 20 – Lima, Peru** – News out of COP20, indicates that UN Climate negotiators dropped the ball in Lima—now it's up to the grassroots to pick it up. Paraphrasing Rising Tide North America: *The draft agreement is narrowly focused on unenforceable commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that won't begin till after 2020 and won't keep temperature rises below 2° Celsius, or keep the extractive industries from expanding and cooking the planet, and will do next to nothing to help poor nations adapt to climate change and sustainably lift their people out of poverty.* BUT, the good news is ... outside COP20 ... *"Thousands of people, representing indigenous communities and their allies from all over Latin America and the world came together for the Cumbre De Los Pueblos, (People's Summit)." Raising their voices, taking action.* <http://risingtidenorthamerica.org/2014/12/resistance-and-solidarity-from/>
- **Keystone XL Pipeline** - Keystone XL is back in the news. On Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, President Obama made some of his strongest and clearest remarks about the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline yet. The President seems committed to the State Department process – waiting for their recommendations before making his final decision. Read 350.org's statement on the President's remarks: <http://350.org/president-obamas-strong-words-on-keystone-xl/>



First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

## Holiday Services 2014

**December 21st**  
9 am - Christmas Pageant  
11 am service - "Charles Dickens & A Christmas Carol" - Rev. Tom Goldsmith  
7:30 pm - Christmas Kool Jazz Vespers

**December 24th**  
5:30 pm & 7 pm  
Christmas Candlelight Services

- **Utah Tar Sands** – For 5 months, this summer and fall, people were on the Tavaputs Plateau in the Book Cliffs of Eastern Utah, holding vigil on the land where U.S. Oil Sands is attempting to open up the first commercial tar sands mine in the United States. The U.S. Oil Sands proposed project is located on land straddling the boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. There were 26 arrests this summer resisting this operation which is already increasing air pollution, devastating the land, and increasing carbon emissions, contributing to climate change. By Oct, U.S. Oil Sands stock was lower than it had been in 5 years: <http://tinyurl.com/USOilSandsStock> This fall, much work is going into supporting those who took action. Follow: Utah Tar Sands Resistance: <http://www.tarsandsresist.org/> and Western Resource Advocates <http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/land/oilshale.php> for more information.
- **Move to Amend** – Mayor Ralph Becker and the Salt Lake City Council signed a joint resolution on Tues, Dec 9th recognizing opposition to the 2010 "Citizens United"

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# 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

January 12, 2015

## Submission Deadline

January 5, 2015 (Mon.)  
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after January 12th to ensure timeliness.

## Editor

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# Congregational Briefs

## Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group will not meet in December. Regular meetings will resume on the 4th Tuesday of the month, starting on January 27, and the book is "Women Who Run with the Wolves," by Clarissa Estes. The book for February 24 is "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell," by Nadia Hashimi. All are welcome.

## 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](mailto:suppers@slcuu.org).

## UU Music Jam

Unitarian sing-a-long and acoustic music jam will be Monday January 12 from 7pm to 9pm in The Sanctuary. Everyone is invited and all levels and abilities are welcomed. Bring 6 copies of songs with chords in large print to share or just show up and sing/play what others have brought. (The following jam is scheduled for Feb 9.) If you have any questions please contact Bill Stay at 801 360-5891 or Lori Shields at 801 440-6157.

## 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](mailto:lunchbunch@slcuu.org).

- December 21st: Saffron Valley East India Cafe (26 E Street)
- December 28th: Red rock Brewery (254 South 200 West)
- January 4th: The Annex by Epic Brewing (1048 East 2100 south)
- January 11th: Este Pizzeria (2148 South 900 East)

# Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



In this season of delight, let me throw one more gem your way. Much has been written and discussed about the high school senior prepared to volunteer for a service project organized by her school's National Honor Society. She

went to the South Towne Expo Center to help raise money for Primary Children's Hospital at their Festival of Trees, only to be turned away at the door for not wearing a dress. She showed up very professionally dressed in a pantsuit, but what is good enough for Hillary apparently will not satisfy the "standards" of the festival's women's Board.

The chairwoman could not have been more cliché when she actually said, "Once someone sees someone wearing pants then everyone thinks that would be accepted." Of course it would be horrible to imagine young women representing the National Honor Society wearing pants in the year 2014 in order to raise over a million dollars for hospitalized children. What is the world coming to?

But the kicker of the whole thing, of which I and truly all of us should be most proud, is the fact that the young woman denied her volunteer hours is Ellie Kaiser, raised in our church's RE program. She interviewed on TV and with the press with complete equanimity, totally poised, and confident. She claimed the dress code was sexist and punitive. Ellie still felt supportive of Primary Children's Hospital (which does not require women to wear skirts), but would not continue to support the Festival of Trees.

Ellie is following in the footsteps of Unitarian feminists like Susan B. Anthony. We probably taught her that or at least conveyed the values of total equality among the sexes. If

you have ever wondered what happens to our children when they go through Sunday School and are then released unto the world, we now see that we have impressed them with values that will help them carry on our progressive values.

Thank you Ellie for standing up for what is right and for being eloquent in your protest. But the next time you find yourself in such a position, and the media is drawn to your attention, put in a plug for the First Unitarian Church. Something to the order of: "I'd like to thank all my teachers at the First Unitarian Church."

Maybe we should all thank our Sunday school teachers for turning our young men and women into people who make us proud.  
TRG

# Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Dear All,

Whatever holidays you may celebrate at this time of year, I wish you peace, love, and joy as we come to the close of 2014. Each individual and each family brings something unique and special to our church. Thanks for being a part of this community.

Warmly,  
Mary



## RE Newsbits

### RE on December 28th

Please join us after the holiday rush on Sunday December 28th during our regular religious education elementary classes. We'll have two black belts on hand to teach us some forms and a bit of the history and importance of martial arts in eastern religions. Please send your kids in comfortable clothing for this active and informative event!

### Warm Thanks to Our Holiday Event Planners

At the time of this writing, some of our events have happened and some are upcoming. But many folks have been working hard throughout December to create programs and opportunities for our community to gather....



Our Church Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Warm thanks to the many folks who brought treats and snacks to share, and also to the volunteers who planned and led activities during the party: Erin Johnson (Gingerbread Houses), Carole Straughn (Gift Circle), Jim French (beeswax candles), Dawn Opolous & Richard Anderton (Card Making), and David Owens (Caroling). Also, special thanks to Nancy and Bethany Moos and Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen for help with set up and clean up.

We would like to thank Allison Christensen for coordinating our Giving Tree/Sub for Santa

program this year. She was assisted by some of our junior high and high school youth, and we appreciate their efforts to prepare gift tags and organize the returned gifts for delivery.

Our Solstice Service and Celebration on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is a big undertaking! Warm thanks to Susan Barnum for organizing the YRUU and junior high families to prepare and serve the dinner. We also would like to thank Holly and Beverly Stuart for their help in planning the service and leading the music and Martha Veranth for leading the folk dancing. Thanks also go to all of the Solstice Singers and Junior Choir members for the time and effort that they put in to enhance our program with live music. And we would like to thank Marynell Hinton and Tobin Atkinson for another wonderful puppet performance this year.

Our Christmas Pageant is a much loved holiday tradition at First Unitarian Church. We would like to thank Paul Kuttner for sharing his theater talents with our young people and helping to direct the show and to all the volunteers who stepped up to help with costuming, cueing, and kid management during the rehearsal and performance.

### 8th/9th Grade OWL Calendar Update

Our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade OWL program will be taking a holiday break for two weeks. No class on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> or Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. Class will resume on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Religious Education continued on next page*



## Religious Education Continued

### YRUU Mission Trip Update

Our high school youth group is planning to connect our summer Mission Trip with an opportunity to attend the UUA General Assembly Youth Caucus in Portland, Oregon this coming June.

Please plan to attend a parent-youth program on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> during the 11am service in the Haven. Jillian and the youth will lead an intergenerational worship program, which will be followed by an opportunity to make a formal commitment to support this important faith building, group bonding, service learning tradition.

If you have any interest in participating in our summer Mission Trip program, please attend.

### New Year, New Opportunities

Life happens, and a few of our fall Sunday School teachers need to step out mid-year. Perhaps you have just the right gifts and talents to get involved and join a teaching team. We presently need about 5 more volunteers to be "fully staffed" as we enter the new year. Specifically, we need adults to work with elementary kids at 9am, preK-Kindergarten kids at 11am, and junior high and high school youth at 11 am. If you have been in the congregation for about 6 months and are interested in learning more about our faith and connecting with our youngsters or teens contact Mary Kroener-Ekstrand at [dre@slcuu.org](mailto:dre@slcuu.org).

## Environmental Ministry Updates (continued from page 1)

Supreme Court decision that opened funding floodgates in political campaigns. As a result, Salt Lake City joins over 600 U.S. cities opposed to the Supreme Court ruling. *"This marks the end of Phase One of the Move to Amend, Utah Chapter effort. And is the beginning of Phase Two, which seeks an ordinance to ban contributions by corporations at the city level and limit individual contributions to no more than \$500."*

- **Divestment** – On the home front, Environmental Ministry is preparing to present a Divestment Workshop at the January 2015 meeting of Utah Interfaith Power & Light and to make a proposal for a similar workshop to be held at the Parliament of Religions which will be here in SLC in October 2015. Nationally and internationally, 350.org and its partners have called on people everywhere to take part in the first ever Global Divestment Day this coming Feb 13 & 14, taking their fossil fuel divestment campaigning to a new level: <http://gofossilfree.org/category/global-divestment-day/> More as our Salt Lake City action plan develops.

- **Green Sanctuary** – We are making progress on Green Sanctuary – the UUA program through which we examine our current environmental impacts and move towards more sustainable practices in ways grounded in Unitarian Universalism. We are working on some fun ways to engage in this effort and hope to be able to get everyone involved. The program has 4 focus areas: environmental justice, worship and celebration, religious education, and sustainable living. As part of the sustainable living focus, Environmental Ministry has pulled together a collection of dishes, bowls, utensils and cloth napkins to accommodate our full Solstice Celebration ... we now have enough to feed 150! Less waste and an array of colors and patterns to brighten our celebration.
- **Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (The SWAP)** – SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, January 31, 2015 will be our next SWAP, 10AM-2PM in Eliot Hall. Bring what you don't need, take what you need. No money exchanged. Start setting things aside today!

# The Refugee Resettlement Committee to Pope Francis

-submitted by John Rasmusson

Dear Pope Francis,

Good greetings from the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Your speech to the European Parliament last month struck a responsive chord here--especially your admonition to accept and assist people fleeing war and poverty.

Ron Anderson, Andrea Globokar and other Unitarians began doing just that here in 1997. In fact our Refugee Resettlement Committee has been at it for so long, we are running short of the furnishings needed to set up apartments for incoming refugee families.

Do you have some stuff in the Vatican that is looking a little shabby? We'll gladly take it off your hands and use it to furnish refugee apartments. We always need sofas, chairs and tables which are in good condition.

If your people will contact our people, we'll work out the details. Ron Anderson's phone is (801) 671-8968; Joe DuBray's is (801) 930-9640. Call ASAP! We need the stuff.

In the meantime, keep up the good work.



## Holiday Party

December 6, 2014



# December/January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Christmas Pageant 9 am Service 11am Christmas Kool Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	22	23	24 Candlelight Services 5:30 & 7 pm 	25 	26	27
28 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	29	30	31 	January 1	2	3
4 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	5 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	6	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	12 Board Meeting 5:30 pm	13	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15	16	17

## Sunday Services

December 21st

9:00 a.m.

**Christmas Pageant**

11:00 a.m.

**"Charles Dickens and A Christmas Carol"**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

7:30 p.m.

**Jazz Vespers**

Christmas Kool

December 28th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**"The Spaces Between"**

-Please help me welcome our guest speaker Jessica Clay, student body president at Starr King, our UU seminary in Berkeley.

January 4th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**"Can We Build a Just Society?"**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

January 11th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**"Where's God?"**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

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