

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 15

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Celebration Sunday!

-submitted by Judi Evans, Pledge Drive Committee

On Sunday, March 1st, we will come together to celebrate the spirit of life and our church community. Who are the people you see regularly? Why do they attend services? Why do they offer their time and money to further what they value about First Church? What makes our church community different from others?

People choose First Church for many reasons. Some feel a sense of belonging in a city that for the most part does not honor a progressive point of view. Others are happy to be among environmental activists who believe in action not just talk. Social justice, refugee aid and LGBT concerns attract others to be part of our community. People come to socialize and make new friendships that may last a lifetime. Some people have been coming to First Church for many years. First Church offers them a place to remember, feel safe and comfortable. Tom's sermons are uplifting, full of humor and let us know what is happening outside of insulated Utah. Many come to hear Tom as well as the summer forums offering speakers from around the community. Children and young people are offered a religious curriculum rich in questioning and analyzing universal truths and philosophies. The Women's Sacred Circle offers women of our community a safe haven to explore feminine spiritual issues. People are moved by David Owens magical fingers as well as our choir of enthusiastic, talented singers. People feel they are valued here. The Caring Community insures that no one is left alone to struggle with life issues.

Several people in our church community have told me what First Church means to them:

"Byron and I had been considering going to the UU church for years before we actually

come started. We finally got around to it in 2010 when we lived in Maryland and went to the church in Annapolis. We still liked the idea of a community of faith that allowed different interpretations of the word, but just couldn't get into it there.

Fast forward a few years and suddenly we have two young children. Byron and I both feel pretty incapable of teaching our kids what we feel they should know about religion and faith on our own, and want to make sure our children are well-informed and able to make their own choices about what they believe. It wasn't just as easy as spouting out a bunch of stuff about God which would probably occupy the same level of magical fantasy for a 3-year-old as Santa Claus. Especially since Byron and I have different beliefs (he is Christian, and I am a polytheist). So we found the First Church online.

Other than trying to go regularly on Sunday mornings we aren't really very active in the community. I did the Women's Circle last year but not this year. And we've only been to two family nights, and the Christmas parties. Sometimes we take advantage of the babysitting offered by the high schoolers. There is this, though: Byron and I agree we feel more at home at Church than we do in our apartment complex. Coming to the First Church is a chance for us to feel like maybe we do belong somewhere. That maybe there are other people like us in Salt Lake City."

-Jessie Eng

"I first discovered Unitarian Universalism when visiting the Unity Temple designed by Oak Park, Illinois resident and church member,

Celebration Sunday continued on page 6

The Torch

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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Next Publication Date

March 9, 2015

Submission Deadline

March 2, 2015 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after March 9th to ensure timeliness.

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Congregational Briefs

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven room at the Church. The book for February 24 is "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell," by Nadia Hashimi. The book for March 24 is "1491," by Charles C. Mann, new revelations of the Americas before Columbus. The book for April is "Deep Down Dark," by Hector Tobar. All are welcome.

Singing Circle: International Folksongs

New hours for Winter. Check it out! Here's a chance to learn some delightful songs and harmonies in a welcoming atmosphere. This is for all levels of singers - from shy shower singers to confident vocalists! Adults and young people 15 years and up. Individuals under age 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult. When: Thursday nights, January 22 and February 26, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM, weather pending (we will not meet if there is a storm or icy road conditions). Contact: Stacey at 801-808-9249 or email 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.

- February 22nd: Settebello (260 South 200 West)
- March 1: Rye (239 South 500 East)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



We have a huge Sunday coming upon us on March 1st!!! It's an annual affair, and it sneaks up on us very fast every time. Celebration Sunday marks our tribute, gratitude, and commitment to First Unitarian Church. It launches our pledge drive for the next fiscal

year, which begins July 1st. Why start the drive so early? Because financial commitments need to be in place before we can submit a budget to the congregation for approval in May. It's one of the few times our church feels a little bureaucratic. Financial matters can do that, even to a soulful place like our church. But the church doesn't function on prayers alone.

We have a very special guest joining us on March 1st – Carolyn McDade, feminist, songwriter, storyteller, and one who is blessed with an extraordinarily gift for words and music. She composed our favorite hymn "Spirit of Life," which in fact is our theme for Celebration Sunday. Please be sure to be part of the church's celebration. Come ready to receive inspiration and to deliver generosity.

And then on March 8th, we will have a guest joining me for an entirely different kind of service. Given everyone's newly raised sensibilities regarding law enforcement and the communities they serve, Salt Lake County Sheriff, Jim Winder and I, will address the issue we all feel needs addressing. Why has excessive police force dominated the media since Ferguson? We feel the effects of fatal police shootings very close to home. A Q&A will follow the sheriff's talk.

A few weeks ago I spent a couple of hours with Sheriff Winder and two black clergymen from Salt Lake. He is very personable, honest, and willing to face our concerns. Probably

most of us voted for him. He will not deliver the usual and predictable pabulum. I look forward to a good interchange.

Allow me to circle back to Celebration Sunday. We remain extremely visible as a church community comprised mostly of progressive thinkers in a conservative environment. We are reminded almost daily for the need to articulate our principles of an inclusive community, care for those who exist on the margins of society, and to keep the moral imperative alive to help restore a sustainable earth. Our church works effectively and tirelessly with a committed staff and a phenomenal cast of volunteers who realize deeply the absolute need for a strong liberal voice in the wider community.

We have reached the point, however, (and this is good news) that our growth necessitates a second minister. Our pledge drive for 2015-16 is all about bringing on a second minister. Please reflect deeply on how your pledge can help make this happen. We will only grow stronger institutionally, and assure our voice is heard. TRG

Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church extends its warmest wishes and sympathy to Barbara Tanner and family for the loss of Norm Tanner who died on February 12th. A memorial service will be announced sometime in the spring.

Need Funds for College?

Please contact Tom Goldsmith who will connect you with Dr. Don Thomas, former SLC Superintendent. Don, a member of our congregation has committed to helping high school students with financial needs to tap into existing resources of which most are underutilized.

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand



Dear All,

It seems that spring weather has come a bit early to the Wasatch front. And so I turn to a about the birds and the bees. Not in terms of climate change, but in terms of sex education. Yes, it

is time once again for me to remind you of our congregation's commitment to offering comprehensive sexuality education for all ages and stages as we get ready to launch the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program for our 1st and 2nd graders and their parent/guardian(s).

Although most adults think of sex education in association with puberty, the OWL curriculum takes the position that we are sexual beings our entire lives and build a sense of sexual identity beginning in early childhood. Children are naturally curious about their own bodies and about the nature of romantic and sexual relationships. These interests are evident in role playing games (doctor, family, etc.) in the early elementary setting and in teasing about real or imagined romantic pairings (e.g. "name and name, sitting in a tree, k-i-s-s-i-n-g") in upper elementary settings. Unfortunately, very traditional gender roles are often strongly reinforced and diverse experiences, ideas, and viewpoints may be ridiculed. At the same time, American pop culture is highly sexualized, so that young children are exposed to increasing numbers of and increasingly explicit sexual images and ideas. In this context, it becomes critical to provide

opportunities for children and their families to discuss these issues in a safe and supportive environment that affirms healthy sexuality and supports the value of diversity.

The OWL curriculum is designed to give children and their parents developmentally appropriate knowledge in human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Moreover, it does so in the context of a program that supports the core values of our religious community – inclusion, compassion, engagement, human responsibility, and celebration.



11am 1st/2nd Grade RE Class Learns About Passover



Passover Seder Table

In the OWL program for 1st and 2nd graders, parents and their children enroll and participate in the class together to support the development of open and effective family communication about sexuality in an age appropriate manner. Topics will include parts of the body, keeping our bodies safe and healthy, different types of families, birth and adoption.

Parents of 1st and 2nd graders registered in our program will be receiving an email invitation to sign up for this important family education opportunity. I look forward to supporting the OWL program this spring and am grateful for the support of our

congregation in offering this unique and special opportunity.

In Service,
Mary

Religious Education News Bits

Zumba Class March 8th! Join us for some energetic dancing with Zumba instructor Jaron Winder! He is a fun and exciting instructor, you're sure to burn lots of calories and have a great time doing it! Come to Eliot Hall at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. This is a fundraiser for the YRUU Service Trip to Portland! Any questions, please contact Nancy Moos at reassist@slcuu.org

Big S little s, What Begins with S? The Seuss-sational Spaghetti Supper..S, S, S! Please join us for a night of entertainment and fun with Dr. Seuss! Our high school youth are presenting a spaghetti dinner - including spaghetti, bread, salad, drinks and dessert (wine available for a small donation) for just \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids. March 21st, entertainment begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner and free crafts. We will have a dance interpretation of McGrew's Zoo by the Learning Circle Dance Company. It promises to be a magical night! All proceeds go to the YRUU Service Trip fund. Tickets will be on sale in Eliot Hall March 8th and 15th, get yours early! Any questions? Contact Nancy Moos at reassist@slcuu.org.

1st/2nd Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program Announcement
All parents of registered 1st/2nd graders have been sent an invitation to preregister for our upcoming OWL sexuality education class. If you have a child in the age group and did not receive the invite, please contact Mary at dre@slcuu.org. The

OWL program will begin with a mandatory orientation session on Sunday, March 22 from 12:30-3pm. At this time, parents will have an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum, meet the instructors, and address any questions or concerns. Formal registration and payment of the \$25 class fee will occur at the orientation meeting. Scholarships are available upon request. Regular class meetings will be held on Sundays April 12, 19 and 26 and May 3 from 12:30 - 3:00pm.

Adult Religious Education Registration Ongoing...

Do you want to get to know other adults in our congregation while challenging your own intellectual and spiritual journey? There is still room for you to join in an Adult Religious Education program for Winter/Spring. The Nonviolence study group is still welcoming new members and will be meeting on alternate Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm – the next meeting will be on Feb. 24th. The Leadership Development Class will be meeting once per month on Thursdays from 7-9pm beginning on February 26. And there are a variety of other groups and programs that welcome newcomers throughout the church year. Check out the details in the Adult Religious Education Brochure – you can pick one up at the Welcome Table during coffee hour on a Sunday morning or

look it up in the Religious Education area on our church website anytime: www.slcuu.org.



11 AM 3rd/4th Graders Celebrate Mardi Gras with mask making and bead work



9 AM Elementary RE Celebrating Mardi Gras with costumes and a skit

Celebration Sunday (continued from page 1)

Frank Lloyd Wright. After reading a one-sheet write-up on UU beliefs that was set out for visitors, I thought to myself, "Now that sure makes a lot of sense!" It took a few more years before I found this beautiful church on the hill. So many things about it just felt right to me- and that has only been reinforced the more I've attended and become involved. I love the focus on being a part of making the world a better place. I love the freedom to question, to share, to not have all the answers, but to search for them together. I love Tom's thought-provoking sermons and the amazing music stirs my soul. I love the welcoming spirit which embraces all kinds of people and families for who they are. I love the women's group I attend and cherish new friendships I've made.

Since I am a person who likes to commit it was important for me to 'sign the book' and own my new-found community. I pledge because I feel it's important to support things I believe in- to invest one's heart, time and treasure for a church community that makes a difference not only in my life, but in the world at large."
-Jan Crane

"First Church provides me with a spiritual community of caring and support, a spiritual home that me hope in a world that often seems severely lacking in love and caring for others. However, I know that I need to play my role in helping to create and sustain that spiritual home for myself and others by giving back to the community to the best of my ability through financial support as well as through caring and love."
-Carol Romagosa

Celebration Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on what First Church means to you. How does our church community impact and enhance the quality of YOUR life and the lives of others? What can you comfortably do to support the organization as well as the community? Pledging is more than cash that is withdrawn every month. It is the opportunity to commit to being a part of something bigger than ourselves. To serve the community as well as our own church community. To make a difference in a sea of conformity.

Get Moving.

Albert Einstein and Dr. Gregory House (world-class diagnostician), agree, "Nothing happens until something moves." People are moving around us. Refugees fleeing persecution and only with what they can carry, are resettling here through the International Rescue Committee. Two thirds of them are children. Become a positive part of the movement. Maya Angelou described, "When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream, whose face we will never know, will benefit from our action, as we who are downstream from another profit from the grantor's gift." Cast some of your furniture, clothing, toys, etc., in good condition, suitable for start-over needs of a displaced family. Help create life-changing smiles. Contact the First Church Refugee Resettlement Committee, Coordinator Joe DuBray, at 801-930-9640, dubrayfj@gmail.com, to arrange a pick up or volunteer to help.



From the World Religions Adult Religious Education Class



Environmental Ministry News

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

Environmental Ministry and Social Justice Council Book Discussions

Environmental Ministry and the Social Justice Council invite you to participate in the following upcoming book discussions:

· *Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving (Elephant Room Press, 2014). Tuesdays, February 24, March 3, 10 Discussion 7-8:30PM in The Parlor (above Eliot Hall) at First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC. The author writes: *Waking Up White* is the book I wish someone had handed me decades ago. By sharing my sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, I offer a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As I unpack my own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, I reveal how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated my ill-conceived ideas about race. I also explain why and how I've changed the way I talk about racism, work in racially mixed groups, and understand the racial justice movement as a whole. Exercises at the end of each chapter prompt readers to explore their own racialized ideas. *Waking Up White's* personal narrative is designed to work well as a rapid read, a book group book, or support reading for courses exploring racial and cultural issues. SOURCE: <http://debbyirving.com/the-book-2/>

· *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor (Skinner House Books, 2013). Mondays, March 16, 23, 30 Dinner at 6PM, discussion begins at 6:30PM at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 Highland Drive, Cottonwood Heights. In this clarion call to action, leading Unitarian Universalist theologian Paul Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in the national debates on social policy. Showing that religious liberals are more numerous than many realize, he calls on them to embrace their prophetic heritage and bring their religious convictions

to bear on the issues of our time. *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* will lift your spirit, while inspiring you to lift your voice and reclaim a place in the public square. This 2014-15 Unitarian Universalist Common Read invites Unitarian Universalists to explore and claim our contribution, as religious liberals, to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our contemporary world. Discussion guide: http://www.uua.org/documents/lfd/commonread/reclaiming_discussionguide.pdf. SOURCE: <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Reclaiming-Prophetic-Witness-P17243.aspx>

· *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* by Naomi Klein (Simon & Schuster, 2014) Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5. Discussion 7-8:30PM in The Parlor (above Eliot Hall) at First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC. Climate change, Klein writes, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It's about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe. Either we leap—or we sink. *This Changes Everything* is a multi-platform project that includes a non-fiction book by Naomi Klein, a feature documentary by Avi Lewis (coming in 2015), movement events, educational materials, a partnership with Beautiful Solutions [solutions.thischangeeverything.org/] to highlight new economy solutions, and an evolving website [<http://thischangeeverything.org/>], blog [<http://thischangeeverything.org/blog/>], Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/thischangeeverythingproject>] and Twitter [<https://twitter.com/thischanges>] feeds. SOURCE: <http://thischangeeverything.org/>

Supporting the Divestment Movement at Colleges and Universities

One question we get a lot at the Environmental Ministry table is how can we support the student divestment movement?

Environmental Ministry News continued on page 8

Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 7)

Friday's Global Divestment Day rally was one very visible way for sure. With Rev. Tom Goldsmith speaking and a whole host of Unitarians participating ... we were front and center with our support. Thank you to all who participated!! Here are some other ways, check these out to see what works for you:

Some of you may have already signed this petition to the University of Utah to Go Fossil Free! http://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/Fossil_Free_UUtah But if you haven't, you can sign it based on whatever University of Utah category you fit into: student, staff, faculty, alumni, or member of the greater University of Utah community (like perhaps you attend church in the neighborhood or you attend sports or cultural events at the University).

Current faculty or staff of ANY college or university, are eligible to sign this Faculty/Staff Divestment Network Letter: <http://tinyurl.com/FacultyStaffDivestNetwrkLetter> which urges universities and colleges across the nation to divest from fossil fuels. It states further that: we need urgently to move away from fossil fuel use and extraction, to undermine the control that fossil fuel companies have over governmental energy policies, and that it is our moral obligation to take immediate action against the threat that climate change poses to our future.

If, per chance, your retirement funds are currently invested in TIAA-CREF, there is an active campaign to call on TIAA-CREF to offer a fossil fuel free investment/retirement option – not even their SOCIAL CHOICE option is fossil free. Signing this petition will let TIAA-CREF know that you want a fossil free option: <http://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/tiaa-cref-go-fossil-free>

And if you are an alum of a college or university ... let your alma mater know where you stand on divestment. Harvard alumni are launching a special fossil free alumni fund [<http://divestharvard.com/fossil-free-alumni-fund/>] where alumni may make tax deductible donations to Harvard. Harvard will receive all these donations held in escrow for Harvard once the Harvard Corporation publicly commits to divesting from fossil fuels. Harvard alumni aren't alone in establishing this kind of fund – as evidenced by the establishment of this multi-school donor-advised divestment fund: <http://www.divestfund.org/>.

Finally, watch for future rallies as the student-led divestment campaigns move forward at the University of Utah and on other local campuses.



Global Divestment Day – Friday, February 13, 2015 – Students, faculty, and members of the community (including members of First Unitarian Church of SLC) call on the University of Utah to DIVEST its endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

February/March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	23	24 Open Minds Book Group 7pm (pg.2)	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	26 Singing Circle 6 pm (pg. 2)	27	28
March 1 Celebration Sunday! Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (pg. 1)	2 Family Fun Night 6 pm Torch Submissions Due 10 am	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Zumba Fundraiser 1pm (pg. 5)	9 Board Meeting 5:30 pm UU Music Jam 7 pm	10	11 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	16 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	17	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	19	20	21 Seuss-sational Spaghetti Supper 5:30 pm(pg. 5)

Sunday Services

February 22nd
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Utah's Liberal Party"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Junior Singers;
Information sharing by
the Board of Trustees

March 1st
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Celebration Sunday!
Tom Goldsmith, Carolyn McDade,
and VERY SPECIAL music
composed for the occasion

March 8th
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
"Law Enforcement and
Community Relations"
Sheriff Jim Winder joins
Rev. Tom Goldsmith

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