

The Torch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 21

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

MAY 18, 2015

Church Picnic June 14th

-submitted by Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Please join us on Sunday, June 14th at 11:30, following our 10 am service for our annual end-of-year picnic. We have reserved our usual spot - the Mt. Olympus Pavilion at Sugarhouse Park. Please bring a salad or dessert to share with everyone, and if possible, bring your own nondisposable dishes and utensils so that we can limit the recycling and refuse that we generate. Please label vegetarian, vegan, nut free, and gluten free



options clearly to help those with particular food allergies, sensitivities, and preferences enjoy our community event. We will be providing beef burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers, as well as drinks, condiments, and chips. Cost is \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 for children payable at the park (checks made out to First Unitarian Church or exact change if paying in cash would be much appreciated).



At the May 10, 2015 service, the congregation thanked Mary Kroener-Ekstrand for her 6 years of service as the Director of Religious Education.

Congregational Briefs

Highway Cleanup May 16th

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, May 16, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. Remember, you get to keep any treasures you find (\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$-\$?). Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30 AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or

older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509.

Be a Small Group Facilitator

Guess what Emerson called "that grand word"? Here it is used in a sentence: You ought to become a facilitator for next year's Small Group Ministry (SGM) discussions. "Ought" it is! Emerson liked it because of its

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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

June 1, 2015

Submission Deadline

May 26, 2015 (Tuesday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after June 1st to ensure timeliness.

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Congregational Briefs

association with something one should do, something that is worthy of action. Facilitating a small-group discussion is a prime example of an opportunity you ought to take. Next year's SGM discussion topics will be drawn from Tom's sermons, and we are recruiting a few people to lead a group of 12 in a monthly discussion. Topics and training provided! The commitment is just four hours a month, beginning in October. To secure a place in line, you ought to e-mail John Rasmuson, njras@hotmail.com.



YRUU FUNdraiser Coffeehouse

MAY 16, from 6pm until 10 pm. YRUU is hosting a coffeehouse music event in Eliot Hall. Blues, old-timey, folk and cabaret music will be performed by the likes of Becky Heal, Jim Thornburg, David Owens, and many more. Bring a picnic dinner or snack. \$10 cover fee will get you in the door and your first drink is free. This is shaping up to be one serious FUNdraiser!

Unitarian Birding at Farmington Bay

Birding at Farmington Bay - Saturday, May 23rd. Farmington Bay is a wetland area on the S.E. shore of Great Salt Lake and is a great place to see birds, especially at this time of year. Many migrants have returned for summer breeding and raising young. If you've never been on a birding trip before this is a great place to start. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you can, water, snacks, sunhat, sunglasses, and insect repellent. We'll meet at the UU Church on 6th South by 8am to carpool. It takes about 40 minutes to drive. We'll be back by noon. This is limited to a small group, it just works better that way. Call or email Sylvia Gray (801-532-3486) or pdggray@xmission.com to let her know you'll be there and if you have any questions.

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 May 26 is "All the Light We Cannot See," by Anthony Doerr. All are welcome.

Church Summer Campout

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE so mark your calendars for the Annual Church Campout at Wolf Creek Pass Group Campground. Arrival Date: Thu Jul 23 2015 Departure Date: Sun Jul 26 2015 Length of Stay: 3 nights Number of Adult Occupants is 60. This is always a fun family church event. Wolf Creek sits at an elevation of 9,400 feet in aspen and fir trees.

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Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

For Carlos

The alarming number of fatalities caused by excessive police force upon people of color has moved much of our country to a profound new level of reflection. For the first time in memory, police departments are reviewing procedures and state prosecuting attorneys are revisiting harsh statistics that point to a shockingly disproportion number of prison sentences imposed on non-whites.

First Unitarian Church suffered through this injustice perpetrated on minorities back in October, 1987. If you have joined our church since then, perhaps this bit of history will demonstrate that the current spate of police brutality extends far back and has affected the life of this church.

Back some 28 years ago, long before the Religious Education building was built in 1993 (still referred to by some as the "new building;" back when on the north side of the church we had a bungalow standing where the community garden presently is, our custodian lived in that house in exchange for her cleaning services. Her husband Carlos was practically a fixture in the church as he waited for her to finish up her job, and they then walked next door together. He had a warm smile and spoke not a word of English beyond "hello."

Early one fall evening Sonia, our custodian, called me. She was teary and extremely worried. There was a domestic dispute, Carlos exposed a gun, she called the police, and he fled. When she felt too much time had elapsed for receiving some police

accounting, she asked me to call the various hospitals to see if Carlos had been hurt.

University Hospital informed me that Carlos was dead and asked if I could bring his wife to identify the body. We both raced up to the ER, and Carlos' corpse was identified. This is what we learned: Eight policemen chased Carlos up Emigration Canyon until the road ended. They surrounded him, and reported that Carlos spoke threatening words to them, finally declaring that they would have to "take him out with guns a blazing."

Carlos said that????? No officer who chased him spoke Spanish. Something was very wrong. Officer Madsen was the one who fired the bullet that killed Carlos. Everyone at the church knew the circumstance surrounding Carlos' death was pure fabrication. We were incensed and felt powerless until our Board president, Gary Child, an attorney, filed a wrongful death suit against the Salt Lake City Police Department. In a day, Eliot Hall was turned into a press conference room with Gary and me firing away at the injustice of Carlos' death. Every TV station and news reporter covered the event.

The case warranted an expert attorney and so we hired the very best, Kathy Collard. She was a high-profile lawyer and took the case



Reverently Yours continued on page 5

Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church sends love and sympathy to Barbara Tanner and family. Norman Tanner died on February 12th at age 100. Norm was a model of generosity, and supported organizations with a progressive mission. His memorial service was held on May 17th.

Religious Education

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Dear All,

I want to warmly thank Tom Goldsmith, Nancy Moos, and the entire congregation for the kind tribute offered and farewell gifts presented to me during the Sunday service on May 10. As my time as your Director of Religious Education comes to a close, I am grateful for the many opportunities that I have had to facilitate communities of inquiry with congregants of all ages here at First Unitarian Church. I leave my position with many fond memories of our time together and wish you well as you enter the next chapter of the life of the church.



In Gratitude,
Mary

Schedule for Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, May 24 - Summer Schedule Begins,
One Service at 10am

We will offer childcare and our Annual Talent Show in Little Chapel, in which your children and youth can sing, dance, play an instrument, recite a poem, or otherwise share some accomplishment or skill with the group. So many of our kids have put in a lot of work to prepare for various culminating activities and performances at school or in extracurricular programs. Here is their chance to share with friends at church...

Sunday May 31, One Service at 10 am

The childcare room will be staffed and we will have crafts and games on the playground for older kids during the service. Parent or teen volunteers welcome to help!

Sunday June 7, One Service at 8:30 am followed by the Pride Parade

We will offer childcare, a rainbow craft activity, and supervised playground for elementary kids, then all are welcome to join the First Church group to march in or just watch the Salt Lake City Pride Parade, which begins at 10 am. For Parade route and other details, go to www.utahpridefestival.org/parade/parade-route.

Sunday June 14, One Service at 10 am followed by Church Picnic at Sugarhouse park

The childcare room will be staffed and we will have crafts and games on the playground for older kids during the service. Parent and teen volunteers welcome to help

RE Teachers Needed

Next year will bring some exciting changes to the RE program, with our new structure and new personnel. We are gearing up to put things in place for the fall. Although there will be some new aspects to the program, we will still be grateful for the assistance of teachers at both the elementary and the upper grade levels. If you are interested in either continuing to teach or have been thinking about it and would like more information, please contact Nancy Moos at reassist@slcuu.org for more information. We can't run this valuable programs without your help!

Our youth groups will be selling lunch before the congregational meeting on May 17th.

You'll get a sandwich, chips, fruit, dessert and drink all for \$10 for adults and \$5 kids under 12. This is a fundraiser for the service and Boston Heritage Trip.

Reverently Yours (continued from page 3)

pro bono. She had a stunning reputation and interviewed all seven policemen who were witnesses to Madsen's shooting. Even Kathy couldn't break the impregnable wall of police solidarity regardless of circumstances. They had each other's back. The case could not proceed.

During the process of working on the charges, I received a call from Phil Riesen, anchorman of our ABC affiliate news station, Channel 4. He told me he had a file draw full of complaints lodged by minorities against Madsen. Some of the grievances were gruesome, shadows of Nazi sadism. "We have to get Madsen", Riesen told me, because he was dangerous to society. But since the Police witnesses refused to step forward with the truth, nothing could be filed against Madsen.

Eventually Madsen moved to Phoenix where he continued serving on the force. A few years following the shooting of Carlos, I received an unexpected call from Riesen. He said, "We got our man, but tragically. Madsen's in prison for shooting his wife."

The saying goes: Every profession has a few rotten apples. That seems true enough. But the only way we can weed out those bad apples is when the police themselves recognize their responsibility for maintaining a just society, rather than protecting their own. A bit of honesty by the police back in 1987 could have saved countless suffering and spared the life of Madsen's spouse.

Carlos – I've been thinking of you through these many cases where white officers have been able to shoot and kill people of color with impunity. But finally the conscience of many in this country, not all, has driven a profoundly new awareness of gross inequities in our system of justice. Change is in the air; the boiling cauldron of racism has bubbled over. Frightening statistics of incarceration and deaths among minorities fill the media every day. We are approaching the dawning of a new day of justice. No proof yet, but hope fills the air. Carlos, you are not a forgotten statistic in our nation's compromised history. I think of you often. Rest in Peace. TRG

Environmental Ministry News

MOOC Study Group: Making Sense of Climate Science Denial

Submitted by Joan M. Gregory and Amy Brunvand, Environmental Ministry

The Marriott Library is hosting a weekly discussion group for people enrolled in "Making Sense of Climate Science Denial," a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), taught at the University of Queensland, Australia. The course started on April 29th, but you can still sign up for the MOOC, review the previous modules or just the one for the current week, and join us for discussions.

When: Wednesdays from 11:30AM-12:30PM starting May 13th

Where: Marriott Library Conference Room 5201

How: Course URL: <https://www.edx.org/course/making-sense-climate-science-denial-uxq-denial101x>

Cost: FREE, unless you would like to earn credit (\$100)

This course examines the science of climate science denial. It looks at the most common climate myths from "global warming stopped in 1998" to "global warming is caused by the sun" to "climate impacts are nothing to worry about." You'll learn both the science of climate change and the techniques used to distort the science. With every myth debunked, you'll learn the critical thinking needed to identify the fallacies associated with the myth. Finally, armed with all this

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Congregational Briefs

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Plenty of trails for family hiking and mountain biking. Online registration will be available soon.

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.

Mindfulness Meditation

Guided Meditation: Intention and Attention Discussion: Science, Medicine, Spirituality, Habit? Dates: May 28 Time: 2:00 PM Location: First Church - The Haven

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



Helping refugees is not just about furnishing apartments with second-hand furniture.

You can mentor an Iraqi family as it navigates the shoals of a new life in Utah. Or you can hang out with the

kids at the East African Refugee Goat Project northwest of the airport. Prospective mentors can e-mail lyn.spataro@rescue.org for information. Information on the goat project is available from a number of old goats like John Rasmuson and Ron Anderson. Nancy Rasmuson can also provide information at njras@hotmail.com.

Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- May 24th: Even Stevens (Sugarhouse 2030 South 900 East)
- May 31st: Mellow Mushroom (1080 East 2100 South)

Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 5)

knowledge, you'll learn the psychology of misinformation. This will equip you to effectively respond to climate misinformation and debunk myths.

When: Wednesdays from 11:30AM-12:30PM
Where: Marriott Library Conference Room 5201

04/29/2015 Week #1: Overview of the climate controversy
05/06/2015 Week #2: Global warming is happening

05/13/2015 Week #3: We are causing global warming

05/20/2015 Week #4: The past tells us about the future

05/27/2015 Week #5: We are feeling the impacts of climate change

06/03/2015 Week #6: Responding to denial pt. 1

06/10/2015 Week #7: Responding to denial pt. 2

May/June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Sunday Services 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting following 2nd service	18	19	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	21	22	23 Birding activity (pg.2)
24 One Sunday Service only at 10:00 a.m.	25 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	26 Open Minds Book Group 7pm (pg. 2)	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	28 Meditation 2pm (pg. 6)	29	30
31 One Sunday Service only at 10:00 a.m.	1	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5	6
7 One Sunday Service only at 8:30 am followed by Pride Parade	8 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Board Meeting 5:30 pm	9	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	11	12	13

Sunday Services

May 17th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Memorial Sunday

"Requiem by John Rutter"

-Chancel Choir conducted by
David A. Zabriskie

Please join us following the 2nd
service for our Annual
Congregational Meeting

May 24th

One Service only at
10:00 a.m.

"Facing Down
Privilege"

-Rev. Harold Straughn

May 31st

One Service only at
10:00 a.m.

"Dealing with
Assholes"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

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Return Service
Requested

Important Upcoming Dates

- **May 17th** - Congregational Meeting following the 2nd Sunday services. YRUU youth will be selling sandwiches.
- **May 24th** - One Sunday Service only at 10:00 a.m.
- **May 31st** - One Sunday Service only at 10:00 a.m.
- **June 7th** - One shorter Sunday Service only at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Pride Parade
- **June 14th** - Once Sunday Service only at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Annual Church Picnic at Sugarhouse Park
- **June 21st** - Summer Forum begins; Summer Forum will happen each Sunday for 10 weeks at 10:00 a.m.



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