



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**FEBRUARY 21, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM
“Do You Know the Story
About ...”**

In celebrating the church's 125 anniversary, the present congregation needs to know some of our church's stories from the past decades.

-Story-tellers: Hugh Gillilan, Alan Coombs, Tim Chambless, Barbara Kreek, Tom Goldsmith

**FEBRUARY 28, 2016
10:30 AM (SLIDE SHOW
AT 10:10)**

Celebration Sunday!

This Sunday marks the 125th anniversary of First Unitarian Church. Come celebrate at the Marriott Dance Theater on the University of Utah campus. One

Upcoming Sundays continued
on page 2

Celebration Sunday

-submitted by Dylan Zwick and the Pledge Committee

On February 24th, 1891 “The First Unitarian Society of Salt Lake City” adopted a constitution, its stated purpose being “the promotion of true religion and pure morality among ourselves and in the world.” The next year, our first minister, David Utter, preached his most famous sermon, entitled “Common Sense in Religion”.

Upon these ambitious goals, our church was founded. While nobody still alive remembers that first year, its memory lives on in us and what we do. This year we meet for Celebration Sunday to celebrate our past, enjoy our present, and build our future. We've been an integral part of great things, and with mutual help and support, we'll continue to do great things for each other, our community, and our world.

First Unitarian Church would like to invite you to Celebration Sunday this February 28th, 2016; the first Sunday after the 125th anniversary of our church's founding. This year Celebration Sunday will be at the Marriott Center for Dance on the University of Utah campus. There will be a historical slideshow at 10:10 A.M., and the service will begin at 10:30.

Our guest speaker will be the Reverend Rosemary Bray McNatt. Rev. McNatt is President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, and was the Senior Minister of the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York for 13 years. She's a former editor at the New York Times Book Review, the author of three books, and is currently co-editor for a planned anthology of Unitarian Universalist historical writings.

Please join us in celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!



A big thank you to the Special Collections Department at the Marriott Library for these images of some of our founding members.

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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March 7, 2016

Submission Deadline

February 29, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after March 8th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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UPCOMING SUNDAYS (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

service will be held at 10:30. Our special guest speaker will be Rosemary Bray McNatt, president of Starr King School, our Unitarian Universalist seminary in Berkeley. Her sermon is: "Turning Point."

A slide show depicting historic events begins at 10:10. The Chancel Choir will perform as well as the Jazz Vespers Quartet. Children will process at the beginning of the service. Please escort your children to the front of the theater, stage left, and find religious education helpers. Please arrive between 10:00 and 10:10.

MARCH 6, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM

"Outside the Box: Thoughts on Creativity"

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith & Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Both Rev. Tom Goldsmith and Rev. Matthew Cockrum will share their muddled thought about creativity.

Among Ourselves

First Church sends its love and sympathy to Judy Miller and her family. A memorial service for Judy's daughter Tess will be held on Saturday, February 27th at 9:45a.m. at First Church.

Congregational Briefs

First Church Info Sessions - Interested in learning more about First Church and Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet other newcomers? Check out our twice-monthly First Church Information Sessions. Generally held the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month, this month's sessions are:

- March 6th - 10:00-10:45 and 12:00-12:45 - meet Rev. Matthew at the piano after service and he'll lead you to the Parlor, no RSVP needed, or
- March 17th - 7:00-9:00 p.m. - meet Revs. Tom and Matthew in room 208. Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP to Rev. Matthew at clminister@slcuu.org

Congregational Briefs continued on page 8

Reverently Yours

With the sudden and unexpected death of Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia, we're forced to consider, or reconsider, the chemistry of friendship. He and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, were not only as far apart ideologically as the North Pole is from the South Pole, but they comprised the oddest of odd couples. They were indeed good friends, even bringing their respective families into the mix.

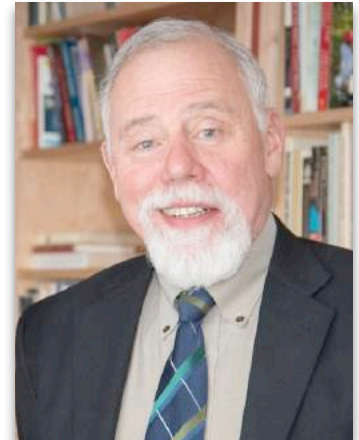
In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, we learn: "It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends." That piece of truth carries over in the Scalia-Ginsburg friendship. Scalia was the lone yet very loud dissent in Ginsburg's triumphant ruling in the case against Virginia Military Institute, which had excluded women from entering the college. Despite his brazen sexism, Scalia completed his dissent in plenty of time to give it to Ginsburg for her inspection. She was then able to amass an insightful response to his objection, making her historic decision on behalf of women so much more powerful.

Generally speaking, friendships are hard to explain. There's no checklist, that when completed, you find yourself with a friend. Friendship drives much deeper, penetrating the soul to where another person ultimately just "feels right" as a friend. But what's in that elixir that moves people closer together as friends? It remains, and probably always will, inexplicable.

Scalia and Ginsburg were both from the outer boroughs of New York, and tied to their respective ethnic habits. It seems an Italian Catholic and a Jew can cross many boundaries to develop a long and valuable friendship. Some say it was their common love of opera that brought them together; others say they spoke the common

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

language of New York and had similar career paths. But in the end, analyzing a friendship never bears much fruit. Friendships just are, and they never need to be justified to the public.



Our nation's polarization will only be magnified following Scalia's death. Two conflicting ideologies stand ready to go to the mat for getting the "correct" ideology to succeed Scalia. The body was still warm when rancorous threats flowed from the conservative corridors of power. The antipathy between conservatives and progressives was reinforced with vows of ruin.

But the friendship between a very large male with outspoken conservative views, and a diminutive woman of impeccable liberal credentials who never hesitated to enforce her principles, shows us that relating to one another could be different if we tried. The problem may well lie in the fact that most politicians...and most of us...don't even try to get to know the person on the other side of the ideological divide. But the respect that Scalia and Ginsburg held for each other is a societal virtue that has completely dissipated over the past few years. Vehement disagreement has obliterated respect, and we feel the crippling consequences today. Maybe Donald Trump and Barack Obama both love opera. Who knows? But will they ever explore that possibility? TRG

In the Life

I've been getting around a bit more, now that I've been in Salt Lake City 6 months. Yeah...I'm an old pro...I know all the ins and outs...all the communities and nooks and crannies of this place.

Okay...that's all completely ridiculous. Of course I don't know Salt Lake City yet. I know some aspects of the streets I bike, the bus and train lines I ride, the restaurants and shops and parts of town that I travel. But the city and community as a whole? C'mon! It'd take a lifetime!

I have however, had chances in the last few months to be present for a few different aspects of Salt Lake City life. In January I attended the Martin Luther King Day Rally and Parade (march/parade) that started at East High School, had some powerful spoken word poetry and concluded at Kingsbury Hall on the University of Utah Campus. Later in the month I attended a Planned Parenthood fundraiser at Publik Coffee that included selected first-person stories about experiences with abortion. The room was packed with a surprising (to me) number of generations and groups.

In February I joined a few other First Church members (and met some of our South Valley UU comrades) at an Islamic Community Center open house. Free texts, tasty food, headwear experiments and an Islam 101 presentation with Q&A provided a lively experience. Later I attended a CORC (Coalition of Religious Communities) day at the Legislature, training UU's and Jews from the Salt Lake area on how to engage the legislative process as a religious presence.

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Maybe you already knew this, but Salt Lake City has some impressively diverse opportunities. They're not just on the slopes or hiking trails. It seems you just have to be willing to accept the invitation to take a different route, to attend something slightly outside of your norm or comfort zone.



When was the last time you did that?
What's stopping you?

I dare you. I challenge you, right now. Sometime in the day after you read this, make a conscious choice to take a different route home or to work or school. Accept an invitation that you might otherwise turn down. Step outside your "comfort zone" and see what you learn and who you meet.

It's all part of the growth process, right? The good ol' spiritual and intellectual journey. Here's to The Work, Friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

P.S. and FYI - The Divestment Petition put forth by UU's for Justice in the Middle East obtained enough signatures to make it to business agenda for the 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, OH. For more information visit uujme.org.

Religious Education News



"Let Our Light Shine"

NOTE: This is a very abbreviated version of the Unitarian Universalists' earliest history in the United States. This article is intentionally written in a style that makes it eminently readable for

your young children.

As we mark our calendars for Celebration Sunday to mark the 125th anniversary of Salt Lake City Unitarian Church, I was curious to learn about the founding of our church in the United States.

Over two hundred years ago, when this country was comprised of only 13 colonies, there was an Englishman named John Murray. John and his wife Eliza were very religious people and often preached about God.

Unlike our own church, however, a church in the 18th-century England was not exactly a happy place. No one sang, no one smiled, no one laughed. Followers of that seemingly sad religion were called Calvinists, so named after John Calvin, a Frenchman who lived in the 1500's.

Calvinists believed that most people, when they died, were likely to be categorized as sinners, so they could not go to Heaven. Needless to say, church in the 16th century was a serious business. As time passed, John and Eliza Murray became acquainted with a fellow named James Rely, a Methodist minister, who held different beliefs.

Rely believed that people could be happy and didn't need to feel they would never make it to Heaven. Rely believed that God loved all his children and didn't have favorites. He became known as a Universalist because he believed salvation was universal. Salvation meant that you were no longer burdened by sins, whether real or imagined.

John and Eliza Murray eventually left their Calvinist colleagues and beliefs behind and joined the Universalists, but this move brought with it the loss of their friends. The Murrys were now characterized as sinners. Back in the 18th century, that meant that you did not believe what your church taught you to believe.

Adding to John's woes, his wife and baby became seriously ill. Despite spending a great deal of money for doctors, John's wife and baby died. John was arrested by local authorities because he could not repay the loans he had secured in his valiant effort to save his wife and child. In his despair, John decided he would never preach another sermon, and most certainly would never attend church again.

Fortunately, John's enormous debts were paid by his wife's brother. Once free, John fled England. He boarded a ship bound for America and eventually landed at Barnegat Bay in New Jersey.

Shortly after his arrival, John met a farmer named Thomas Potter...a man who believed in a loving God, not a hateful one. Thomas Potter had built his own small church years before he had met John Murray.

Religious Education continued on page 6

Religious Education (continued from pg. 5)

Thomas Potter, being a good man, helped nurture John Murray out of his despair and, on the Sunday morning of September 13th, 1770, John Murray went to the church that Thomas Potter had built and gave a sermon. His message was one of universal salvation.

That message meant, quite simply, that you don't have spend your life thinking you've been a bad person, as other religions have often taught.

John Murray told his congregation, "You possess only a small light, but uncover it and let it shine." Later, In 1779, John Murray became the minister of the first organized Universalist Church in America in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Thomas Potter's church doesn't exist today, but if you go to the shores of Barnegat Bay in New Jersey, you can visit a Unitarian Universalist retreat called Murray Grove. If you were to visit the website for Murray

Grove, you would find these inspirational words:

Murray Grove's story is a story of a farmer whose faith sustained him through ridicule and time, a story of a man so lost to the world that he sailed thousands of miles to lose himself in the wilderness, a story of what happens when passion is reignited, a story of pilgrimages and hope, and of sadness and rebirth. Murray Grove is a sacred place to many, a historic site to others and a place where people gather to get in touch with their roots, themselves and one another.

Today, nearly 240 years later, there are over a thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations in the United States...quite a testament to the everlasting qualities of the earliest founding principles of the Unitarian Church.

In Service,
Julie Miller, RE Director

Board Bits

-submitted by Sue Geary, Board of Trustees

Retaining a Second Minister: Board Invites Dialogue with Congregation

**This is the first installment of a regular Torch feature through which your Board of Trustees will seek to keep the congregation informed and engaged in our collective endeavor of church stewardship.*

How often do you hear someone say, "There are so many people at church that I don't know."? Perhaps you have made that observation yourself. We are surely growing beyond the wildest dreams of those determined, liberal souls who established our church 125 years ago this month. It was

largely because of this growth that the Board sought and secured congregational support for the addition of a Consulting Minister of Congregational Life whose duties would include both assuring a successful entrance for newcomers and building programs to address the changing needs and interests of diverse congregants. With Reverend Matthew Cockrum just six months into his two-year tenure, it is apparent that we are not simply expanding by people, participation, and programs, but that we are actually experiencing a metamorphosis from a pastoral (pastor-centered) church to a

Board Bits continued on page 9

Refugee Resettlement Committee News

Goat midwives sought! No kidding!

*-submitted John Rasmuson,
Refugee Resettlement Committee*

Last spring, 67 kids were born at the East African Refugee Goat Project west of the Salt Lake City airport. Nancy Rasmuson and Ron Anderson kidded around with three of them.

As the 2016 kidding season approaches, volunteers are needed to help. Thanks to the First Church Refugee Resettlement Committee's work with the refugee community over the last decade, Unitarians have priority consideration for this unique opportunity.

All volunteers must be trained. A class is being conducted on Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon at the International Rescue Committee office at 221 South 400 West in downtown Salt Lake City. To reserve a place—or to get more information—e-mail matthew.kennedy@rescue.org.

Kidding watch begins about Mar. 20. The goat project is a microenterprise operated by the 200-plus Burundi, Bajuni and Bantu refugee families who have been resettled in Utah. The goats will be rented out for brush and weed control.

Responding to IRC Refugee Needs

*-submitted Joe DuBray,
Refugee Resettlement Committee*

In "As You Like It," Shakespeare's character Jacques, facing death, opines, "All the world

is a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." The "world as a stage" is a description much older than Shakespeare. Hebrew, Greek and Roman literature divided life into fourteen, ten and seven periods. In Jacques' play of

life the: "Last scene of all, that ends this strange eventful history, is second childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing." Refugees, of all ages, arriving in Salt Lake City through the International Rescue Committee come "sans (almost) every thing" they physically need to start life over. The First Church Refugee Relocation Committee (RRC) hopes that whatever your stage of life, you will act and heed Ralph Waldo

Emerson, "you cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon will be too late." You can play a welcoming part for a family seeking refuge in our community by donating good condition household furniture and furnishings. Dining tables are a special need now. But needs change. Check the bulletin board in Eliot Hall for RRC information or call Joe DuBray at 801-930-9640 or email dubrayfj@gmail.com to arrange a donation pick up. Thank you.



Congregational Briefs (continued from pg. 2)

Adult Religious Education

On Sunday, March 6th in the chapel from 12:30-1:30 Alan Coombs will teach a class on the history of Unitarianism Universalism. In celebration of our 125 years, this will be a two-part course. On March 20th Alan will continue with The History of The First Unitarian Church in SLC.

Class descriptions for this and other upcoming Adult RE classes and sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Table and online at slcuu.org. Registration can be done online or by filling out the form on the sheet.

Friendly People Needed - The Hospitality Team is in need of Ushers and Welcome Table volunteers. Sign up for monthly or less-frequent shifts. Easy-in, easy-out - just two hours a month or less! Interested? Stop at the Welcome Table for more info or contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687.

Open Minds Book Group - new meeting day

The Open Minds Book Group will meet on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the Church. The book is "Room" by Emma Donoghue. Starting in March the group will meet on THURSDAYS at the same time and place. The book for March 24 is "The Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner. All are welcome.

Arts and Crafts Fair 2016

The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on March 19th from 5 to 10 pm. Artists: Please register using the online form (<http://www.slcuu.org/news/latest-news/item/223-annual-arts-fair-march19th>). This is a fun family event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can

show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any questions please contact Bill Reed at artfair@slcuu.org

Dinner and Dialogue For February

Please sign up to host or attend a dinner and dialogue in February. The theme will be "Spiritual Journeys," and we will share stories of our experiences learning from another culture of from another religion or perhaps even a family member. As always, the host will set the date, decide the menu and number of guests they can accommodate. Guests contribute by bringing a dish to share. Sign up at the Welcome table. Questions? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 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 Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- February 21: Boulevard Bistro (1414 S. Foothill Blvd)
- February 28: Taqueria 27 (1615 Foothill Dr.)
- March 6: Even Stevens - East Central (414 East 200 South)

February/March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	22	23 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Celebration Sunday! 10:10 am Marriott Center for Dance (pg.1)	29 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	March 1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3 Young Adult group 7:30 pm in Haven	4	5
6 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1) First Church Info Session (pg. 2)	7 Family Fun Night 6 pm	8 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am	14 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	15 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 First Church Info Session 7 pm (pg.2)	18	19 First UU Arts and Crafts Fair 5-10 pm (pg. 9)

Board Bits (continued from pg. 6)

program (group-centered) church. Our sweet, little church with the big, bold community footprint is becoming a sweet, bigger church with an even longer and wider reach.

The Board has concluded that it is time to institutionalize a second minister position. Further, because it will take some time to generate the ongoing funding for that position as well as for associated support staff, we need to engage the congregation in the planning process now. On January 9, the Board hosted a gathering of volunteer leaders

to begin discussion regarding a second minister. The participants identified the benefits of adding a minister, some key challenges related to this addition, and some proposals for action going forward. The discussion also generated a list of questions which the Board has answered in a Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) hand-out.

With the hope of hearing from from a wider number of voices and viewpoints, the Board will have a **table in Eliot Hall following services on February 14 and 21**. Please stop by, pick up a FAQ hand-out, and share your thoughts.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
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