

# The Torch

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## A Report from General Assembly 2007

There were several of us from First Unitarian who attended as delegates, the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Portland, Oregon in June. We all felt the workshops and presentations were excellent and were grateful we had been in attendance.

One of the featured presentations was "The Pentagon Papers Then and Now" It was moderated by Amy Goodman and featured Daniel Ellsberg, former senator Mike Gravel, along with the former editor of Beacon Press and the man who was the UUA President during this time, Robert West. We all took pride in the fact that Beacon Press was willing to publish the papers while other publishers refused in fear of litigation.

There were so many offerings each day that making choices was difficult, and we seldom saw one another so I think the workshops were well covered by our delegation. We all attended the Delegate Assemblies and felt privileged to have a vote on the assembly resolutions. We were especially pleased to support the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which passed unanimously as well as a "Stop

US Sponsored Torture" resolution. The music as always was inspiring with one presentation being done by the Portland First Unitarian choir, and another by the choir which is composed of the GA attendees who rehearse and prepare and perform during the General Assembly .

As always we have a get together with our MDD Unitarians. Nancy Bowen our District Executive and Charles Scholz our MDD Board VP were there to greet us and preside over the gathering. We also had a "group of rowdy cowboys " who were there to promote the next MDD conference to be held in Billings, Montana in Oct. I encourage you to consider attending the MDD conference as well as General Assembly, though it will be held in Fort Lauderdale which is less convenient than Portland in 2008, make plans to attend as well as volunteer for the 2009 General Assembly to be held in SLC. Please feel free to contact me with your questions about either conference .

- Submitted by Joan Proctor

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The Summer Forum committee presented a SLC Mayoral Candidate Forum in July.

Candidates from left to right: Ralph Becker, Dave Buhler, Keith Christensen, J.P. Hughes, John Renteria, and Jenny Wilson.

The primary election is Sept. 11th. General Election is Nov. 6th.

Photo by Steve Horton

## Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



***“We all have an important role in making our church truly welcoming.”***

The internal Unitarian clock has sounded: It's time to head back to church. There are other indications to be sure like the light at dusk feels different and the kids are whining about their return to school. But even without those clues you would know. You feel the need to reconnect with the community, hear the music, participate in worship, and get involved in good old church work. The summer hiatus, brought to us by our New England forebears who needed to escape Boston to either Cape Cod or Maine without guilt, gives us both respite from ecclesiastical over-commitment and simultaneously come late August, helps us realize just how meaningful our Unitarian community really is. Fatigue and grudges miraculously disappear by summer's end, and the soul awakens as from an alarm clock sounding the time to get up and moving. There's spiritual work to be done. It's time to go to church.

We have been most fortunate through the nine weeks of our church hiatus to preserve excellent programming for those who were in town and needed/wanted to feel inspired. The Summer Forum Committee has once again demonstrated their singular talent in selecting speakers from diverse areas in local life. My heartfelt thanks to the committee for keeping church doors open with high-quality programs.

Church worship resumes on August 26<sup>th</sup> with one service at 10:00a.m. Not everyone is back yet from their own little Cape Cod escape so we ease back into our routines gradually. But the tenor of our routines will change slightly this new church year as once again, nothing is sacrosanct. Two new concerted efforts will be immediately apparent, and each one has its own vocabulary. First, you will hear the constant refrain of “What's on our plate?” It won't take you long to figure out the reference. The plate is our collection plate that circulates each Sunday morning to make church feel like church while helping the treasury. But this tradition will undergo a slight revision once a month when the circulating plate will not go into funding our church but funding social justice concerns in the larger community.

The gifting of our collection plate to support other avenues of justice-making has been a successfully proven venture for many UU churches already. Our Social Justice Council, Board of

Trustees, and minister have all chimed in to fully support this new program. We should not be surprised, but the once-a-month collection for social justice has tapped into the generosity of Unitarian Universalists across the nation. Typically churches now count on 5-10 times the amount of a “normal Sunday collection” to support justice programs in their respective communities. Pledges will still be welcome, but all cash and ear-marked checks will go to social justice.

First Unitarian Church will begin the “What's On Our Plate” initiative on September 16<sup>th</sup>, sending all proceeds to Head-Start at the Hartland Apartment Complex. The recipient of our first contribution could not be more perfect. The children who attend Head Start at Hartland will eventually wind up at Mountain View Elementary School with which we are in partnership already. Instead of beginning our support for the kids when they get to be school-age, we have the opportunity to support them in pre-school. I believe we all know how invaluable that experience is. Please be prepared to make a generous contribution on September 16<sup>th</sup>. (Generosity is also welcomed on other Sundays).

The second new effort in the church will deal with hospitality. Our hospitality as a church in how we welcome newcomers and care for the community we call church. We have a new membership team of twelve (that number seems to work well in Utah), who will CHANGE THE CULTURE in how we greet our guests. We all have an important role in making our church truly welcoming. And this committee will also administer the Care Committee which expects again to have full participation among the whole congregation. Sign-up for the Care Committee will begin at the Activity Fair on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

So yes, the internal Unitarian clock announces it's time for church. Halleluiah. A few changes will take place so we don't grow too complacent. I hope you really appreciate the value and opportunity presented by these changes: Reaching out to help the larger community; reaching in to nurture our own community as well. See you in church. TRG

## Board Walk

Marti Major

First Unitarian Church Board of Trustees

Through a bit of luck, I have been able to attend the Russell Lockwood Leadership School (RLLS), twice! Other members of our church were all signed up and ready to go, but had to cancel. I was available and game, so off I went. I absolutely loved my first year. I discovered how incredibly spiritual and moving our religion is and how gratifying and dear to connect with fellow UU's in such a constructive and beautiful setting.

The school is taught by UU ministers, and staffed by volunteer graduates of RLLS, and the students are volunteers – often starting out in church leadership roles – from congregations within our UUA/Mountain Desert District (TX, NM, UT, CO, ID, WY, MT and NB). At RLLS, students learn leadership skills (group dynamics, leadership and management styles, conflict resolution and congregational governance). We also study Religious Heritage and Values – what does Unitarian Universalism mean? (I had been a member for years and had no idea!)

Most moving for me was learning how to conduct our own UU worship services. That's right, there are UU congregations all over where services are developed, produced and performed by their members. Each morning starts with a beautiful worship, designed and performed by a team of 5 to 7 participants (with a staff member assigned as resource/facilitator). Following this moving and powerful experience, there's breakfast. Then "Worship Appreciation" where the service is acknowledged (a big thank you) and participants share their feelings and opinions in a powerful supportive and constructive discussion (What moved you? What was memorable? What did you learn?).

And what would a good "summer camp" be without great music – we had Judy Fjell, a singer/songwriter from Montana teaching music to enhance our services, good care of our voices, and for those who "don't sing", they do now!

Another moving element of RLLS was the Credo groups, 3 to 4 participants and a facilitator who met each evening to process and share deep and personal understanding and beliefs, with a focus on deep listening and caring. And after Compline, a quiet service that closed the day, there was still time for board games, cards, a walk in the July evening, or a soak in the hot tub!

I loved both of my RLLS experiences so much I asked to return to RLLS as a volunteer staff member, and finally as registrar. This past summer was my fourth and last year – and the best, because it happened here in Utah!

Previously, RLLS always happened the last week of July in Colorado near Estes Park. As we started planning for RLLS 2007 it was clear we would have to find a new venue, and, as Registrar, I worked hard at finding alternative sites for RLLS - and Alta was the "best I could come up with" - YES, ALTA! We had 35 UU's up at Alta Lodge this past July and it was the best ever, and will be returning there in 2008! So, I want to leave you with this thought:

6 nights, 7 days in the summer at Alta Lodge, \$900.

Unitarian Universalism 24/7... Priceless!



***"I discovered how incredibly spiritual and moving our religion is and how gratifying and dear to connect with fellow UU's in such a constructive and beautiful setting."***

Board Walk will feature an article by a member of the First Unitarian Church's Board of Trustees approximately once each month during the regular church year.

First Unitarian Church Announces:

A NIGHT at the MUSEUM

celebrating  
The Fine Art of Generosity



and presenting the first annual  
"Fairly Free Thinker Award" to  
Pat Bagley

Friday,  
November 2nd  
6 p.m.

Utah Museum of  
Fine Arts

# RE: News for the Village



## Ingathering Sunday September 9th!

On Sunday, Sept 9th we will celebrate our annual Ingathering service. This marks the beginning of our regular church year.

Kids, teachers, and parents please meet 15 minutes prior to the start of your service on the front of the church lawn for our RE parade.

**Sunday, August 26th and Sunday, Sept. 2nd** we will be making banners with the kids in RE for our parade. Please come and help--and catch up with friends.

Note: There will be only one service at 10 am on Aug. 26th and Sept. 2nd.

### RE Contact Info

LeeAnn Williams, DRE  
801-582-2033  
LeeAnnslc@yahoo.com

Trisha Schelble, RE assistant  
801-582-8687 ext. 6  
pschelble@hotmail.com

## RE Teacher Training

Please mark your calendars for you teacher training. The schedule is---

Date	Grade Level	Time	Location
Monday, Aug. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Preschool, Kindergarten, and 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	6-7:30	Little Chapel
Tuesday, Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6-7:30	Little Chapel
Wednesday, Aug. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Junior High-6th,7th Grade Coming of Age -8th Grade	6-7:30	High School Room
Thursday, Aug. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	High School YRUU	6-7:30	High School Room

Making chalices at "Being UU" Summer School  
Photo by LeeAnn Williams



## YRUU Mission Trip 2007 Part 2

It's amazing how I can talk about our trip for hours, but what I love is that it will stay with me for a lifetime. None of us truly knew our strength as individuals or as a group, but after uncovering and rebuilding a well, the satisfying stink glowing proudly around our muddy bodies caused everyone to have the brightest of hopes.

It was not until the third night that I really understood our mission on this trip. There was so much spirit in the air. As the crickets sang, some volunteers played guitars, drums and maracas. With a sudden burst of energy some of us got up and started dancing, our twirling almost knocking over our bowls coated in baked potatoes and hotdogs. Soon we had dragged everyone out of their seats to jump around to the music. As I spun, I caught a glimpse of Pauline, our host mother. It was the first time I had seen her smile so big, her old wrinkled cheeks stretching far back to their youth, the moon reflecting in her glistening eyes. I knew then I wanted

to stay like that forever, dancing and drowned by the stories of what had made the people surrounding me.

To make the night last as long as possible we slept beneath the stars, as prominent as freckles, the moon flourished above our isolated bodies atop the graceful mesa. The sweet sense of everlasting agelessness put us to sleep, not yet comprehending that the following sunrise would bring our final day.

As the trip was ending, a new part of me was slowly beginning. I didn't go to Arizona to be changed to change the Hopi, and I realize now it wasn't my desire to help the Hopi that led me to Arizona. It was my heart that led me to a new home.

-Emma Cover

Continued on next page

## YRUU Mission Trip 2007 Part 2 (continued from page 4)

My experience on the mission trip that the High school group went on was a good one. We went to the Hopi reservation, which is in northern Arizona. It took us about twelve hours to get there (nine hours of driving, three hours of stopping). We left on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and got there that night. While we were there we did jobs such as repairing a house and cleaning out a well. We were there for four days.

During these four days I, with help, cleaned and repaired the floor and lower walls of a house where people were living. What I had to do was I had to smooth down the walls with a piece of sandstone so that later, after the mud that was put on the walls to fill in the cracks and gaps dried, the people living there could put plaster on the walls. On the first day of actual work (Monday) people who wanted to help put mud on the walls, the mud was put on to fill in the cracks in the walls. On the second day (Tuesday), again, people who wanted to help were tasked with smoothing down the walls with sandstone. On the third day (Wednesday), again, people who wanted to help now had to scrape the mud off the floors with scraping tools.

I participated in the work that was done on the house on Tuesday and Wednesday. And did not do much else. Overall the Mission trip was a good experience for me."

*-Jonathan Nolan*



When we arrived at the Setella's land, it was not that amazing. This is probably because it was the middle of the night and therefore, dark. But the next morning, we were given amazing views of the sun rising in an unpolluted sky. The air was crisp and clear, and felt invigorating.

As the sun rose in the sky, the temperature began to climb. By noon the temperature would go from a balmy 55 degrees to a pleasant 90 degrees. The sun would bear down upon us, and if you lacked a hat and sunscreen you would be burnt easily in a few minutes.

The sun would begin to decline and the heat would continue to rise. Work ceased at this time, as the temperature was now near 100 degrees. Most people would gather underneath the tarps and relax in the shade, with an occasional breeze to cool you off.

The setting sun was quite amazing. Its many colored hues of light would fill the sky. Everyone would pause from what they were doing to look and admire. The nighttime would cool down the earth, and the next morning we would awake and the start our day again.

*-Matthew Nolan*

## A New Year, A New YRUU

Inviting all High School Teens to the YRUU Kickoff- September 9th at 7:00 pm at the ANNEX BUILDING. Whether you are a returning YRUU-er or a new 9thGrader, we welcome you!

Bring a snack or drink to share- it will be a fun night!

YRUU is our High School Youth Group... all teens in high school are welcome. We meet Sundays from 7:00- 8:30 pm (with a few exceptions). Those who have graduated from high

school are invited to our Campus Ministries... those who are not yet in high school are encouraged to go through Coming of Age and we will welcome you into your freshman year!

Welcome back to a new church year...

*-Andrea Kalvesmaki*  
Youth Advisor

## Doing a lot with so little

Growing up, my brother was the clothes-horse, still obvious at a recent family reunion. My fashion sense tends toward comfort and relatively stain-free. I don't shop often, but have been known to spend several hundred dollars on clothes in one day – usually to last the rest of the year.

So I was humbled to learn how far \$300 can go. Thanks to the generosity of the Social Justice Council, I was given the opportunity to purchase fabric for school jumper uniforms for the Somali Muslim girls at Mountain View Elementary. I have thoroughly enjoyed making the jumpers, but this opportunity put the project on a fast track. And for what I can spend on six to ten items, over 60 jumpers will be made!

In an exciting addition to that project, I have the opportunity to teach some of the mothers and older sisters to sew. Many already have fabulous handiwork skills, so I anticipate that teaching a straight stitch on a sewing machine will come easily. If anyone has (or knows someone who has) a sewing machine to donate to the cause – or wants to help sew or teach – we can grow this project further. Let me know at 467-6503.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the girls who will be receiving the jumpers, thanks so much to the First Unitarian Community for making this possible.

Let the sewing begin...

- submitted by Vickie Venne

## Environmental Ministry Gearing Up for New Church Year

### Environmental Ministry Meeting

The first meeting of the Environmental Ministry Team for 2007-2008 will be held on Sunday, August 26, 2007, 11:10 am, RE Building, Room 201. If you would like to be involved in planning this year's environmental ministry efforts, please join us and come ready to volunteer.

bring them to the Environmental Ministry Table in Elliott Hall (starting September 9th) and we will dispose of them as hazardous waste. Better still, use rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones - you'll save money and reduce CO2 in the process. Rechargeable batteries are accepted as household hazardous waste at the two facilities mentioned above.

### Battery Disposal - Hazardous Waste

It has come to the attention of the Environmental Ministry Team that the Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Management Facility and the TransJordan Landfill do not accept alkaline batteries for special hazardous waste disposal - these batteries are put into the landfill along with regular waste. To keep your alkaline batteries out of the landfill,



First Unitarian Church is proud to be a part of the Salt Lake City Green Program



# August/September 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 19 Summer Forum: 10 a.m. (see pg. 8)	20 RE teacher training (K - 1st)	21 RE teacher training (2nd - 5th)	22 RE teacher training (Jr. High and Com- ing of Age)	23 RE teacher training (High School and YRUU)	24	25 Co-op pick up 9:30 - 10:30
26 Sunday service One service only 10 a.m. (see pg 8)	27 Torch submission deadline (noon)	28	29	30	31	September 1
2 Sunday service One service only 10 a.m. (see pg 8)	3	4	5	6	7	8

### Small Group Ministry at First Unitarian Church

We are about to enter our fourth year of small groups, and are fine-tuning the process as experience dictates. Some people want to continue with their same small groups, Others want the chance to meet new people. Brand new people wish to sign up. We hope to accommodate everyone.

For those considering small groups for the first time:

Groups are configured with about 10-12 people who meet once a month for an hour and a half to two hours. Each group has a facilitator, and each facilitator meets with the minister on a monthly basis to get acquainted with the subject matter for that month. The subjects for discussion are designed to provide grist for reflection more than intellectual discourse.

The basic premise is that we all have stories to tell, and the respective stories provide a wonderful entrée to group sharing and forming connections with others on a far deeper level than our customary superficial ways of conversation.



Everyone must fill out a new resgistration form for the 07-08 Small group Ministry. New groups to start in September.

I wish to remain in my small group which meets on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of the week) at \_\_\_\_\_ (time). The facilitator is/was \_\_\_\_\_.

I wish to sign up for a new group. Please circle days and times most convenient for you.

- |           |         |           |         |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Monday    | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
| Tuesday   | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
| Wednesday | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
| Thursday  | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
| Saturday  | Morning | Afternoon |         |
| Sunday    |         | Afternoon | Evening |

I wish to be more geographically centered with a group in (circle one):  
Bountiful      Park City      Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be considered as a group facilitator

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return or mail this page to the church office. Question? Call Rev. Tom at 582-8687 ext. 2

# The Torch

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## Summer Forum

Sunday, August 19

10:00 a.m.

**“Creating Healthy Communities:  
Banks and the Community Rein-  
vestment Act”**

-Prof. Cal Boardman

## Sunday Services

Sunday, August 26

10:00 a.m. only

**“Summer Revelations”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 2nd

10:00 a.m. only

**“Sicko: Medicine and Spirituality”**

-Tom Goldsmith will be joined by two  
physicians, Cami Collett and Steve  
Horton as well as by a KUED docu-  
mentary expert in discussing the latest  
Michael Moore film.

## Community Co-Op

First Unitarian Church is an official host site for the  
Community Food Co-Op of Utah, helping people get  
access to affordable, nutritious food.

**For the month of September, shares must be  
ordered by Friday September 14 for pick up  
on Saturday, September 22 from 9:30-  
10:30am in Elliot Hall.**

Order forms are available online at [www.foodco-  
op.org](http://www.foodco-op.org). Place orders by mail -- 347 South 400 East,  
SLC, UT 84111; phone – (801) 364-7765 x 125; or  
fax – (801) 364-7228.

No orders will be accepted at the Church during the  
summer. For more information, contact Nancy Lind-  
sley at 583-8566 or [RNLINDSLEY@MSN.COM](mailto:RNLINDSLEY@MSN.COM).

