

# The Torch

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## A Celebration of Our Building's 80th Birthday

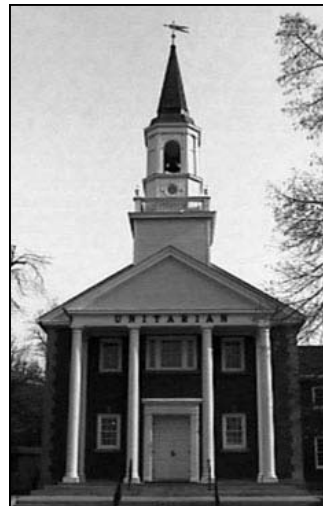
Did you know that our building celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this month?

The Colonial Revival style of First Church, designed by Salt Lake architect Slack Winburn with help from Boston headquarters, was intended to be symbolic of the New England home of the Unitarian movement. It was paid for with donations, funds raised by members, and a matching amount of \$20,000 from the American Unitarian Association.

Since the founding of The First Unitarian Society of Salt Lake City in 1891, services had been held in a number of downtown locations, including Unity Hall, which the Society built in 1903. While the new church was being constructed, the congregation met at the Ladies Literary Club on South Temple until July 1927.

On Sept. 4, our church building was dedicated with music, a reading by Rabbi Samuel Gordon, and a sermon by a Unitarian minister from San Francisco, Rev. Dr. Caleb Dutton.

The Rev. Frank Hunt ministered to about 124 members, with 139 children in RE. It was reported at the 1928 congregational meeting that the budget of \$5,430 was balanced and the church was debt free.



Eliot Hall was dedicated to Rev. Samuel Eliot, who established, with "missionary zeal," the Rocky Mountain Conference in the 1890s, and initiated the founding of a non-sectarian "People's Church" in Salt Lake.

(This information is from Unitarianism In Utah: A Gentle Religion In Salt Lake City, 1891-1991, by Stan Larson and Lorille Miller.)

**Please join us on Sept. 9th in Eliot Hall, after both services, for cake to commemorate our beloved building.**

*-Submitted by Jane Grau*

## Environmental Ministry Needs YOU!

Looking for a way to get involved in the church?

Environmental Ministry has need for many volunteers. From recycling, to staffing the Environmental Ministry Table, to writing letters, to cleaning up the Jordan River and many, many other opportunities.

Environmental experience is helpful for some of this work, but not required for all of it.

If you would like to get involved in First Unitarian Church's Environmental Ministry efforts, be sure to stop by the Environmental Ministry Table in Elliott Hall starting on Sunday, September 9th where we will be signing up volunteers to help in our efforts.

*-Submitted by Joan Gregory*

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## Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



It was as though the finches read the instruction booklet that came with the bird feeder. We were warned that it might take two to three months before the finches realized that they had easy access to food, and after ten weeks of waiting the finches started arriving on cue. They brought a sense of calm to the porch because on the other side hung a hummingbird feeder and hummingbirds make me crazy. They are so skittish I get uncomfortable watching them, and they constantly look into my window while fluttering madly as if to say, "Look Ma, no hands." The finches approach the birdfeeder much like planes lining up to land at the airport in perfect order, waiting their turn.

**"We see our dilemma clearly but can't stop in spite of ourselves."**

But lately it's been more than finches who take advantage of this gift of food magically suspended in the woods. There's been a crowd of chickadees and other birds I can't identify as they quickly dart in and out creating havoc in what had once been a well-civilized and disciplined approach to dining. When the feeder is full and six birds can chow down simultaneously it is still manageable. But when the seeds dwindle to a lower level where only two birds can eat at the feeder, aggression is unleashed. I want to reprimand them forgetting they are not my pets. All sense of sharing is lost and the birds fight so madly with each other to get a place at the table that nobody wins. The birdseed is in low supply, but nobody gets to eat because of constant skirmishes. In a rare moment of calm I fill the feeder again as though a god had just graciously offered a renewable resource to sustain a very greedy species.

So who's observing our behavior? Especially as resources dwindle is anyone mindful of our failure to proceed in some semblance of logic and kindness? And I don't believe the gods will refill our supplies. In fact they're nonrenewable resources for which we scramble, wanting to ensure every last kernel for ourselves. I just read a good piece in *Orion* about a fellow named Daniel Quinn who identifies two types of cultures: Takers and Leavers. Our modern society in America is a classic "Taker" culture which changes the landscape and forces the Earth to bend to our will. "Leaver" cultures use what nature offers, live sustainably, and do not cause their own extinction. An example of our western mindset goes back to Jamestown where the 104 British

settlers had only one mission: To find wealth for their underwriters, the shareholders of the Virginia Company of London, and ship it post-haste back to the mother country.

At the end of one year, sixty-seven of them died, mostly from starvation. And yet the land offered fruit and nuts and berries and greens and fish and game. The Powhatan Indians were absolutely fine and strong and robust. But the settlers considered themselves above nature and saw the New World as a place to exploit and gather riches to take home. The article reminds us that Western mythology casts the Takers as winners and the Leavers as losers. Well yes, the Takers are far richer. And the article ends with the admonishment that we need wisdom and knowledge in order to survive into the indefinite future.

Just like those birds on my back porch. I see their dilemma so clearly. Why don't they? A smidgeon of wisdom would carry these feathered creatures a long way. But what does wisdom really do? We see our dilemma clearly but can't stop in spite of ourselves. Our accumulations have become the albatross that will take us down. Takers as losers becomes the new paradigm in our lifetime. Will we follow that course in time? TRG

### Endowment Fund News

A gift have been given in the memory of:

*Betty R. Greenhalgh*

By: June Orme

Gifts may be directed to the Endowment Fund as a tribute or a memorial. The Endowment Fund is invested to increase the value of these gifts which in turn supports the mission and work of our church in perpetuity.

## Board Walk

Just over a year ago, I became a member of the Board of Trustees. During this fiscal cycle and church calendar, I have witnessed a full rotation of what it takes to operate and run the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City. Running any organization well is a not an easy task. And operating and sustaining First Church requires the heroic efforts of many volunteers, dedicated members, and supportive staff.

Russ Menk, our talented leader and divinity school aspirant, has reiterated his focus and leitmotif-- "stewardship" for First Church. What does it mean to shepherd a church forward into increased sustainability and viability? How do we communicate with parishioners so that they feel vested and involved in the process? How do we create greater community within this valley? A church is greater than the sum of its activities and most particularly its fundraising activities. It is far more than annual pledge drives, or capital campaigns, or will and bequests, or our upcoming auction in November. We are "stewards" of the church. What does stewardship look like as we envision First Church for the next 10, 20, or 100 years?

As stewards of First Church it means more than just approving budgetary issues, or overseeing annual Church meetings, or navigating through problems that arise during the Church year. It means sustaining a mission and vision to enable First Church to grow, flourish, and meet the changing needs of an ever more urban Salt Lake City. It means bridging the religious divide but also having the resources, the physical presence of ongoing growth, and the ability to attract and sustain a more secular congregation seeking a community of ethical enlightenment and "right living".

We are Stewards of a Living Tradition that began in the 1890's in Salt Lake City. Unitarian Universalists belong to a way of religion that challenges the orthodoxies of our era. We believe that operating with integrity and conscience in the here and now is preferable to yearning for an imagined "heaven" later on. As David Thoreau states: "one world at a time, my friend, one world at a time!" We have championed the right of access to birth control and abortion. We have opposed legisla-

**Julie Swaner**  
First Unitarian Church Board of Trustees

tion that is homophobic, and we have taken on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, along with the ACLU, for the illegal actions of the loss of our Main Street block. We have been inspired to fight for many notable social justice issues that have made a significant difference in the lives of individuals living along the Wasatch Front. Stewarding is caring for something of worth.

We recognize that we all carry a responsibility for stewardship—embracing generosity as a guideline to sustain the life and work of our church.

Now you can ask yourself: *What is it about this church that brings me here? What makes me want to support it with my time, talent and money?*

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Salt Lake challenges us to embrace a larger circle of social responsibility than we could as single individuals. Together we offer a bolder voice for justice than we could alone. In our consumer society, we stand as a "contrast community" that strives to support religious diversity, seeks to understand and bring economic justice, and is willing to ask difficult questions to find greater societal meaning.

For me, stewardship means caring for our resources and growing our outreach. Yes, that means financial support and caring for our facility and programs with our time. It also means caring for the body, mind, and soul through training and education. It means finding ways to bring our message to the world, affirming the worth and dignity of all, and finding common ground when people differ.

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

-Saul of Tarsus to the Philippians (chapter 4, verse 8).



**"What does stewardship look like as we envision First Church for the next 10, 20, or 100 years?"**

*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.*

# RE: News for the Village



## RE Newsbits

### Ingathering Sunday

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 20 minutes prior to the start of your service on the front of the church lawn for our RE parade. church year. Kids, parents, and teachers please meet on the front lawn of our church 20 minutes prior to the start of the service for the RE parade. This means, be out in front of the church at either 8:40 or 10:40



### Make RE Parade Banners on 9/2

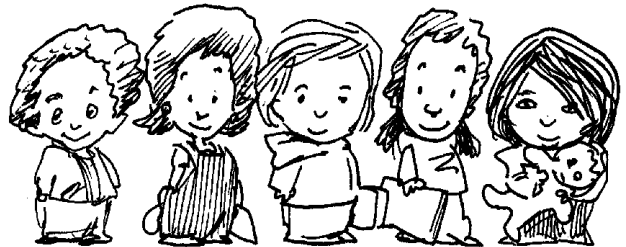
On Sept. 2nd the kids will be making banners to carry during the RE Parade at Ingathering. There is only one 10 am service. However, Tom is back and the sermons look GREAT! So please come, help with the banners and reconnect with friends.

### Help is still needed

We still have a few unfilled RE Volunteer spots. We are needing substitute teachers, snack prep, and RE table workers at both services. Remember we are the village and it takes all of us sharing our talents to create this great program.

## Our First Village Potluck - Mark your calendars!

Friday, October 19  
**Halloween Celebration**  
6-8 p.m. in Eliot Hall



Principle Focus: #1 Everyone is Important

Join us for an evening of spooky, creepy, fun! Along with your dish to share, bring a pumpkin for carving. There will be a carving contest with prizes for everyone. We will also hear special Halloween stories and play games.



### RE Contact Info

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

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

## September 16th Offering - What's On Our Plate?

The newest social justice project, recently approved by the board, will give the non-pledge offerings in the collection plate, once a month, to a local non-profit agency. The agency will be different each month and will be selected from suggestions by the Social Justice Council and the congregation.

Sunday, September 16th, will be our first collection; and the Salt Lake CAP Head Start Program at the Hartland Apartments will be the first beneficiary. Head Start is a comprehensive preschool and family program serving families who are living in poverty. Head Start receives some federal funding; however, Utah is one of six states that does not provide state funds for any Head Start program. Private donations, therefore, are critical to the success of Utah Head Start programs.

The donations received on September 16th will go to one of Utah Head Start's most needy classrooms housed in the Hartland apartment complex. The Hartland is home to many of Utah's new refugees; the Head Start program in the complex is dedicated to providing high quality education for preschool children, as well as medical, dental, and social services. This classroom currently serves approximately 30 children per year, most of whom are from six African tribes. Others come from countries such as Mexico, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Croatia etc.

Our church is already supporting families in this population through our volunteer work at Mountain View Elementary School, the school that children from the Hartland complex attend. Our church also provides needy families in the broader refugee population with donated household goods. We know first hand the enormous needs of these families and children.

For the September 16th plate offering, our donations will help provide dental services and supplies to the Hartland Head Start children. Each child receives both physical and dental screenings each year. While the program is committed to providing all corrective services necessary, it is desperately in need of funds to help it do so.

Please give generously when the offering is taken on September 16th. Remember to bring an extra check or a generous cash donation for this very worthy cause. (One note: single checks cannot be divided between church pledge payments and the Hartland social justice project.)

Watch the Torch for information regarding "What's On Our Plate?" in October. At that time, we will also report the results of our September collection.

Thank you in advance!

*-Submitted by Judy Smith*



## Sunday Edition Book Table Update

The new Church year is beginning and it's time to staff the book table for another year. If you're interested in helping at the Book Table during the social hour, now is your chance.

Each person takes one Sunday for one service a month. Contact Rick Gregory at 582-7783 or rfg@csolutions.net for details.

Also, if you have specific book titles that you believe other members and friends would be interested in, send the title and author information to Rick at the above e-mail address. Special book orders may also be submitted - just make it clear that you wish to purchase the title, e.g., "Please Order."

*-Submitted by Rick Gregory*





# September 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday service One service only 10 a.m. (see pg 8)	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Ingathering Sunday Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m. (pg 8)  Building B-day celebration after both services (pg.1)	10 Torch Submissions Due (noon)  Board of Trustees Meeting	11	12	13	14 Food Co-op orders due	15
16 Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m. (pg 8)	17	18	19	20	21	22 Food Co-op pick up 9:30 - 10:30
23 Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m. (pg 8)  Activities Fair After both services	24	25	26	27	28	29

## 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 Lindsley at 583-8566 or [RNLINDSLEY@MSN.COM](mailto:RNLINDSLEY@MSN.COM).



## Activities Fair

On Sunday, September 23 after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services we will hold our annual Activities Fair.

This fair is dedicated to ways in which **YOU** may become involved in the life, work, and shared ministries of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City. Our Unitarian Universalist congregation comes alive as our members and friends participate in the life of our church community.

Our religious direction is founded on a belief in “congregational polity”, which means that our lay leaders, our committee and team members, our volunteers, and all those who participate in our groups, programs and activities, **ALL** help to determine the shape and direction of our congregation.

If you would like a table, please contact: Julie Swaner, [jswaner@sa.utah.edu](mailto:jswaner@sa.utah.edu) 801-519-9018

### 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

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
OF SALT LAKE CITY

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## Sunday Services

### Sunday, September 2nd

10:00 a.m. only

#### **“Sicko: Medicine and Spirituality”**

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

### Sunday, September 9th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

#### **“The Thinkery”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

### Sunday, September 16th

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

#### **“The Doors of Perception”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

## 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 at 6 p.m.  
Utah Museum of Fine Arts