

The Torch

APRIL 3, 2017

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Upcoming Services

April 2, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

Reflections on the Principles

-First UU High School Youth

April 9, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

“Teaching Children the Hard Stuff”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

This Sunday is also our child dedication service. If you have not yet signed up for your little one to be included, call our DRE, Julie Miller.

April 16, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

Easter Sunday

“Let Miracles Touch Your Life”

-Celebrate Easter with the Chancel Choir and the Revs Tom Goldsmith and Matthew Cockrum

Thank You from the Pledge Drive

-submitted by Dylan Zwick

Our pledge drive is well underway, and as of the morning of Sunday, March 26th we have received 159 pledges for a total pledge of \$380,184. We're off to a great start, but we still have a long way to go.

Thank you so much to everybody who has pledged. Your support and generosity make this church and everything we do possible.

Thank you, *John and Nikki Blackburn*, for again letting us use your beautiful home for the Saturday Soiree.

Thank you, *Maria del Mar Gonzalez*, for helping to cater the Saturday Soiree and for all your work on Celebration Sunday.

Thank you, *Steve and Sandy Harty*, for the delicious food you provided on Celebration Sunday.

Thank you, *Marti Major*, for all your help in planning and executing Celebration Sunday, and for your continued help with the pledge drive.

Thank you, *Julia Rossi*, for your help writing Torch articles, making Celebration Sunday a success, and your continued help with the pledge drive.

Thank you, *Ed and Teresa Dieringer*, for tasty mimosas.

Thank you, *Judy Miller*, for all your help with the beautiful food layouts.

Thank you, *Java Jive (Jim Thornburg, David Owens, John Major, Todd Seymour, Mary Tull, Stacey Cole, Jessica French, and Becky Heal)* for your great performances.

Thank you to the coffee committee and the ushers for all your great work on Celebration Sunday, and every other Sunday!

Thank you, *Rebecca Heal*, for all your work on the Celebration Sunday invitations, all your work on the pledge committee, and all your work for this church.

Finally, thank you, everybody, for being a part of this church and making it the wonderful institution that it is.

The Pledge Drive for the 2017-2018 Church Year is in Full Swing! Please stop by the pledge table after each service on Sunday to fill out your pledge card.

This text only, limited version of “The Torch” is produced for the convenience of those with limited or non-existent internet availability. To receive “The Torch” by email, please sign up for the online version at <http://www.slucuu.org/news/the-torch>.

All Torch articles are also published as separate news items in the “Latest News” section on the front page of our website.

Reverently Yours (Rev. Tom Goldsmith)

Oh the burden of being the "greatest" nation on earth. We Americans hear that brag so often although it seems to rely on alternative facts. We tell ourselves we're the best in education worldwide although that's patently false. We tell ourselves we have the best medical care in the world while our infant mortality rates soar pretty high. The only true category where we're legitimately on top is military might. A lot of good that has done us over the years.

But there's a whole different category for measuring nations that centers on "happiness." It's a curious distinction between being the greatest nation on earth or the happiest. I'd opt for happy every time.

While the U.S. has been on a trend of getting sadder over the past decade as it is becoming richer, Norway has emerged on the top rung of the happiness ladder. The U.S. is fourteenth. Norway's secret to happiness may surprise many Americans: It's about community. The schools, health care, police, in fact all of the nation's bureaucracies treat people with respect, which makes everyone feel as part of the same community. That's a concept that doesn't even register with Americans. It's about trustworthy relationships among people. Our level of distrust has become commonplace. It is our nightmare. We are not a happy people.

The top five happiest nations are: Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and Finland. They offer free education and free health care, which allows for a much saner work-life balance. These nations offer a safety net for the poor instead of America's current perversion of creating more tax cuts for the wealthy. America's poor are neglected, even blamed for their plight.

The happiest nations, and Canada is ranked seventh, excel at Democratic Socialism. They have perfected Bernie Sander's campaign platform. I guess all Bernie wanted to do was make America happy again.

I don't think anybody knows what to do with this kind of information. For many of us, I imagine, happiness is not one of the categories we'd consider for measuring a nation's success. But basically, is there anything more important for

instilling pride in one's nation? It's like looking at a mirror. The reflection doesn't show stock portfolios, bank accounts, or financial planning. But a mirror does reveal worry lines, sadness, as well as a joyful countenance and contentment. A mirror shows whether or not you're happy. It's tough to hide.

The happiness statistics make clear that we reflect neither trust nor gladness. We still claim being the greatest nation on earth although it's becoming increasingly unclear what that means. Happiness on the other hand makes it clear that the people are actually enjoying life. When was the last time we even thought about the American population enjoying life? It's not even on our radar. We have a long way to go to be a nation of happy people. Don't let the simplicity of the concept fool you. It may be the most important factor to consider.
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Religious Education Announcements

OWL (Our Whole Lives)

Our award-winning comprehensive sexual education program will begin for first and second graders this Sunday at the 11am service and continuing through May 28. One parent or guardian will need to attend this class with his/her child. A suggested donation of \$25 is requested to cover the basic costs of teaching this class.

Child Dedication Sunday, April 9, 9am & 11am services

On this Sunday, we will gather as a congregation to confirm our dedication to the youngest members of our First Church community. This event is for infants, but if you have other children who have not been dedicated, feel free to request their inclusion in this Service. You'll need to complete a form, which is available in the Infant/Toddler Room (Room 109) by this Sunday April 2, and return to Lissa Lander or Julie Miller. You may also send an e-mail to reassist@slcuu.org with the following information:

- Full name of child
- Names of parents or guardians
- Date & place of birth
- Names of siblings
- How long you have been a member or friend of First Church
- A sentence or two about your child's personality

Please indicate if you would like to attend the 9am or the 11am service.

Collecting for Refugees

We are teaming up with the IRC to collect gently-used games, toys and NEW stuffed animals for the refugee children who have come to Salt Lake City in recent months. These items are being accepted now through Easter Sunday. There is a box outside the Little Chapel for donations. A "mystery" Easter Egg Hunt is also scheduled on this date (April 16) at our 11am Service for the youngest members of our community.

Annual Church Arts and Crafts Fair

-submitted by Marcia Scott (Performance Arts Chair) and Bill Reed (Visual Arts Chair)

April 22, 2017 - 5:00 to 10:00 PM

The 2017 Fine Art and Crafts Festival at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City will be held on April 22 from 5 pm to 10 pm. The festival will include over 25 local artists and will include performances by

- Tablado Flamenco
- Java Jive
- Utah Aerial Arts
- Quatro Amici

This is a free family-friendly fun event with light refreshments and entertainment provided. Funds are raised for the church thru a 25% commission on sales of the art...so please come and enjoy the festivities, and if the mood strikes you, buy local art by local artists.

Environmental Ministry News

Direct Action Workshop

Friday, April 7, 2017

Potluck: 5:30-6:30pm, Workshop: 6:30-10:30pm

Location: Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church, 569 S. 1300 E., SLC

RSVP by Email to green@slcuu.org or via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1617390828275111/>

Presented by: Wasatch Rising Tide; Hosted by: Environmental Ministry

In this workshop, we will explore the role of civil disobedience and direct action in creating social change. Together, we will explore the histories, strategies, tactics, and techniques of direct action in social justice movements. Learning will happen

via role-play, discussion, and analysis. Throughout we will access our hearts, minds, and spirits for the work of creating a more just, livable, and sustainable world.

Congregational Briefs

UU Movie Group Our next movie group outing will be on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. The movie will be determined one week in advance and an email will be sent out on Thursday, April 13. Contact Helen Stanhope at 801-550-2852 or theatre@slcuu.org if you want to be on the email list or if you have any questions.

UU Theater Group Please contact Helen Stanhope at 801-550-2852 or theatre@slcuu.org for questions or for ticketing information. Below is a list of scheduled activities for the group. Also, **Helen will be retiring from her post after the August Shakespeare Festival. If you are interested in taking over the Theatre Group, please let her know.**

- April's Play -- *Hand to God* at Salt Lake Acting Company. Saturday, April 29. Dinner at the Oasis at 5:00
- May's play -- *Will Roger's Follies* Pioneer Memorial Theater at U of U -- Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00. Dinner to be determined.
- June's play -- *Saturday's Voyeur* Saturday, June 24. Tickets will be purchased in early April as it sells out quickly. Cabaret style so bring your picnic dinner and wine to share to the theater. I will make a pitcher of margarita's to share.
- July's event -- Grand Teton Music Festival and camp trip -- July 13 - 16. Information will be coming soon about music performance etc.
- August plays -- Cedar City Shakespeare Festival -- August 2 - 6 -- some people come for the entire series, others come for just a long weekend. Discount hotel rooms available at the Stratford Inn. Go to bard.org for more information and contact Helen for questions.
- October plays -- Fall Cedar City Shakespeare Festival -- October 13 - 14. Again, go to bard.org for more information. Still have discounted rooms at the Stratford.

Dinner and Dialogue Due to the amazing and generous support of so many of you, our Dinner and Dialogue events have been going very well. It seems that we are getting to know each other

better! Please feel free to host a dinner (or lunch or brunch if you wish) on a date and time of your choosing in your home, or sign up to attend one. We have newcomers and old-timers alike participating, so be sure to look over the white binder at the Congregational Life Table in Eliot Hall to see what might interest you. You can contact Darlene Thayne at suppers@slcuu.org or 801-455-6553 if you need any assistance on this. Let's get acquainted!

Mindfulness Group Every Sunday, meditation is offered as a time to pause, practice calming our thoughts and setting an intention to be mindful in our daily life. Guidance for developing meditation practice is shared along with suggested websites and reading. The community supports our intention to experience the benefits of being mindfully aware so that we may cultivate and live with calm, peace and ease. All are welcome. Sundays Following the end of the first service, in the Parlor.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

April 1st: Swing Dance Fun-raiser 7pm at Holladay City Hall (4580 South 2300 East)

April 2nd: Info Session for newcomers following each service

April 7th: Environmental Ministry Direct Action Training

April 9th: Child Dedication Sunday

April 10th: Torch submission deadline 1 pm

April 16: Easter Sunday

April 22nd: First UU Arts Fair

Each Sunday: Sunday Services at 9 and 11 am; Meditation Group in Parlor after 9 am service

Each Wednesday: Chancel Choir rehearsal at 7:30 pm

First Monday of each month: Family Fun Night

2nd Monday of each month: Board of Trustees Meeting; 5:30 pm in Room 201

2nd Tuesday of each month: Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm in the Haven

2nd Wednesday of each month: Young Adult Group 7:30 pm in the Haven