

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

THE TORCH



Jazz Vespers 2017



Sunday, October 29, 2017

A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald: Ella's 100th Birthday!
Special Guest: Angela Bingham, vocals

Sunday, November 5, 2017

A Tribute to Thelonious Sphere Monk: Monk's 100th Birthday!

Sunday, November 12, 2017

A Tribute to Chuck Berry
Special Guest: Thomas Hopkins, guitar & vocals

Sunday, November 19, 2017

A Tribute to Hank Williams, Sr.
Special Guest: Matt Harding, guitar & vocals
Other Special Guests: TBA

Sunday, November 26, 2017

A Tribute to George Michael
Special Guest: Daniel Tarasevich

Sunday, December 3, 2017

A Tribute to Al Jarreau

Sunday, December 10, 2017

In Memoriam: A Tribute to Those We Lost in 2016 & 2017

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Christmas Cool
Special Guest: Clotile Bonner, vocals

Each Fall Reverend Tom Goldsmith kicks off a new season of Jazz Vespers, a concert series featuring top-notch, local jazz musicians. Jazz Vespers has been running for over 25 years and always plays to a full house. Concert time is 7:30. Please arrive early for our very popular Jazz Vespers series to make sure you get a seat.



THE TORCH

Announcements

Mindfulness Group

Meditation is held Sundays, after the first service ends, around 10:00 am. We gather in the Parlor, up the stairs at the south side of Eliot Hall. Mindfulness practice is shared, then followed by 20 minutes of guided meditation, and closing with loving kindness. All are welcome for the first time, to investigate or to maintain mindfulness practice. For more information, contact meditation@slcuu.org

Artists Discussing Art

On the last Monday of every month Artists gather in the Haven at 7 pm to discuss each others art in progress or recently completed. This discussion is open to all visual artist, watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed media, fused glass, and clay. Bring work to discuss or just come to listen. Bring a light refreshment to share. Please contact Bill Reed at artfair@slcuu.org with questions.

Dinner and Dialogue

Wow, I was out of the country for a few weeks, and in that short time, we had about a dozen people sign up to host dinners in the next year! Thank you so much for your interest and generous hearts. Being aware that not everyone in our community has family members close by to share a Thanksgiving meal with, I would like to encourage anyone who can to host a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Please just fill out a page in the white Dinner and Dialogue binder at the Congregational Life Table, and let me (Darlene Thayne) know what you are planning at suppers@slcuu.org or 801-455-6553. Also, if you are interested in attending one, feel free to contact me or check the book. Thanksgiving is not a time to be alone, so why not coordinate those who would like to spend that day with old friends or getting to know new ones! We will try to make this work. Thanks, again, for such a great response.

Upcoming Torch Publication Dates

- **December 4, 2017 issue**

Submission deadline Monday, **November 27th** by 9 a.m.

- **January 15, 2018 issue ****

Submission deadline Monday, **January 8th** by 9 a.m.

**** Later deadline & publication date due to holidays**

Mail submissions to torch@slcuu.org.

THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Rev. Monica Dobbins
Assistant Minister

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education

David Owens
Director of Music

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator

Board of Trustees

Sue Geary
Board President

Tim Chambless

Jan Crane

Teresa Dieringer

Peter Esko

Rebecca Heal

Don Walton

The Torch is published approximately 12 times per year (once per month).

Next Paper Torch Publication Date

December 4, 2017

Submission Deadline

November 27, 2017 (Monday)
by 9:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after December 4th to ensure timeliness. Events occurring earlier will be included in the online Torch Supplement.

Editor

Stefanie Park
torch@slcuu.org

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Stefanie at 801-582-8687 ext. 202



THE TORCH

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**Every crime will be punished, every virtue rewarded
every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson from his essay, "Compensation"**

Emerson was not particularly original in his personal restatement of the old catchy phrases like: As you sow, so shall you reap; cause and effect; chickens come home to roost; or the basic principle of Karma which makes it very clear that you better think before you act. There's a notion that regardless how clever you think you are, you can't get away with doing bad stuff. It all evens out in the end.

Emerson, however, proved somewhat original in applying these aphorisms to a moral plane where they became a sort of "multiplication table, which will always balance itself." As in the above quote, "Every crime will be punished, etc."

Compensation remains for Emerson a foundational law of the universe. Unlike religion which mollifies our consternation about life's unfairness with retribution in the hereafter, Emerson insists we don't have to wait that long. Instead, justice is served as surely as the fruit and seed are inseparable. He warns, though, that it may take some time for justice to be served: "Persons and events may seem to stand for a time between a man and justice. But this is only a postponement, for sooner or later the man must pay."

I doubt that Harvey Weinstein, Bill O'Reilly, or Bill Cosby have read much Emerson in their time. Perhaps they would then have understood that the laws of compensation could never overlook the rape culture they fostered. Regardless of their status, influence, and ability to pay tens of millions of dollars in settlements, no one escapes the fact that every crime is punished. No one can rewrite the laws of the universe.

I sometimes wonder if Emerson is merely expressing his faith in justice, regardless how slow it may be in coming. Or whether or not he insists that the inevitability of justice is assured, that retribution resides in the law of compensation. Otherwise the universe would be unbalanced. Sins are writ large; everyone must pay.

The "#Me Too" has clearly demonstrated that our entire culture has been submerged in an assault on women, mostly with impunity. But every crime will be punished. It has taken us so long to finally come to terms with this transgression because of the very pervasiveness of objectifying women. It has become the norm, but not in the eyes of the universe. Justice will bring down the pigs.



The odd thing for me in all these recent "revelations" about powerful men wielding their clout for their own perverse satisfaction is that they still don't get it. If money can't buy women's silence, then men feel that money can buy lawyers' incrimination against female victims. Powerful men today still believe they can trick the universe into functioning unbalanced.

This is an interesting time for us all as we bear witness to the universe righting itself. It has been a long, slow, and painful process. But now the oppression of women can potentially right itself and prove Emerson correct again: "Every wrong redressed."

We don't know at this time how widely justice will extend. Might Donald Trump personally discover Emerson's claim that retribution is the universal necessity? Trump may want to start reading some Emerson, or at least glance at the teaching of Karma. The law of action and reaction when applied to the moral plane can bring down anyone. Powerful men have their moments, but the universe and its laws always win out at the end. TRG



THE TORCH

Assistant Minister's Corner

Rev. Monica Dobbins

Earlier this year, many of us watched in shock as Jeff Sessions, despite his long history of racism and hateful conservatism, was nominated to the office of the nation's Attorney General. His confirmation hearing, however, gave us a moment of hope, as his fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren spoke against his confirmation. She quoted the words of Coretta Scott King, who in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1986 wrote that Sessions was unqualified to serve in the Justice Department due to his abysmal record on civil rights.

As she spoke, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell invoked a Senate rule against impugning the character of a colleague, and warned her to desist. The Senate voted along party lines to silence her testimony. But – as we all now know – she persisted:

"Senator Warren was giving a lengthy speech. She had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. **Nevertheless, she persisted.**"

"Nevertheless, she persisted" became a rallying cry for feminists around the world: women who have been silenced by men in power, women who give voice to the injustices that affect them and keep them in second place, women who refuse to uphold the status quo.

Women who make noise, who persist despite the explanations and warnings, have forever been called "difficult": "What a difficult woman.... Why does she have to be so difficult?" And not just women, for that matter: people of all genders who are marginalized by social groups are called "difficult" by those who benefit from the systems that marginalize those systems, especially when they cannot see their place in sustaining the oppressions.

We Unitarian Universalists are people who champion freedom, fairness, and liberation – and yet, we sometimes find ourselves in the company of "difficult" people. Yes, they can be found around us at work, at school, in society – but let's look closer to home too. Right here where we worship, here in our church family, where we presume to share the same values and principles: do we have "difficult" people in our church?

When someone begins to get labeled as "difficult", it's important to keep in mind that difficult people have almost always had difficult lives. Every person you meet is carrying a burden that they don't show to the world; do we dare to imagine that our beloved church may not be helping to carry the burden, or may actually be making the burden heavier? No institution is perfect, but the best institutions are those that have practices for checking out their "blind spots", their unexamined prejudices and the ways in which they may be perpetuating injustice without even realizing it.



We can also adopt practices of pastoral care which help to lift these burdens. It is our duty as members of the church to adhere to our shared covenant of relationship to one another – engaging in and encouraging direct communication, and discouraging gossip and anonymous complaining. It is also our duty to prevent healthy boundaries from being violated, and harmful or uncovenantal behavior must never be excused as someone "just being difficult". However, we must also listen to others with a mind to believe them, even if it sometimes means we ourselves are implicated, even if it means we ourselves have to change or make sacrifices.

Elizabeth Warren certainly isn't the first persistent truth-teller in history to be told to sit down and be quiet: in ancient times, these truth-tellers were often called prophets. While we may no longer believe in prophets who receive direct messages from God, we still have prophets among us, in the form of truth-tellers who make us uncomfortable as they point out injustice. Let us rejoice and be grateful! There's no better gift than honest feedback, even if it's uncomfortable. It makes us better and stronger, and gives us the courage to be persistent in our own prophetic pursuit of justice



THE TORCH

Religious Education

Julie Miller, Director of Religious Education

Gratitude

We talk about it. There are lots of clichés about it. We focus on a major U.S. holiday—Thanksgiving. Many of us say “we’re grateful” but what does that really mean? Often we treat gratitude as contentment. As in, I’m grateful for my family. Or the years we’ve had together. Or my health. Good people. Good deeds.

In actuality, I’m learning that true gratitude involves action. To be grateful is a verb. So, to be grateful for my health, for example, requires action. Preventative medicine. Choice of diet. Daily exercise.

Let’s dissect a “day in the life” for a moment. List three or four people or things you are most grateful for in a typical day. How much time do you allocate to errands, housework, TV, electronic communication, childcare? How many of these acts and obligations are you actually grateful for!

I think gratitude comes down to how you choose to live your life. More to the point, it’s a sort of acknowledgement...taking time to remember all the gifts and good fortune we truly have.

And therein, perhaps, lies the true meaning of Thanksgiving. To tie the spirit of this holiday to First

Church, know that you are welcome here. We are an open-minded and progressive community.

We promote social justice. We celebrate diversity. Our fellowship supports the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of our children. We encourage the exploration of religious experiences throughout our congregation—not only among our adults, but also through religious education for our children and youth.

As your Religious Education director, I view RE as a cooperative adventure. We express gratitude for the volunteers who provide childcare, for the volunteers who teach, and for all those who bring wisdom and experience to our families.

As we move into a somewhat hectic holiday season, reflect on the pursuits most dear to you.

In Service,
Julie Miller, Director RE



RE Notes, News & Upcoming Events

- Sunday October 22 - RE children participated in the Anti-Racism/White Supremacy Teach-In
- Thursday October 26 - Our Halloween Party was a howling success. Great costumes, way too sweet treats and a fun sing-a-long at Friendship Manor. Kudos again to Junior Choir director David Owens, Amanda Esko, Lissa Lander and our dedicated parent volunteers.
- We participated in the Refugee Resettlement winter coat drive. Thanks to all the families who helped!
- November 5 - Sandwich Sunday. Children make 40 lunches for youth living at the Volunteers of America (VOA) Teen Shelter.
- November 5 - Daylight Savings time ends. Art curricula begins in Sunday School.
- November 6 - Family Fun Night in Eliot Hall. All families are welcome to join us, 6-7:30pm.
- November 26 - Service Project Sunday. Traditional RE classes are suspended.
- November 17, 18, 19 - Our Whole Lives (OWL) Training in Salt Lake City. Several UU congregations will participate.



THE TORCH

Refugee Winter Wear Clothing Drive

First Unitarian Church stepped up to the plate. On Sunday, Richard Anderton delivered 13 large trash bags of men's, women's and children's coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and socks to Uptown Unit 563. Thank you to Nancy Rasmuson for sorting and bagging donations, Richard Anderton to lifting, carrying and delivering to storage and the RE Team for getting the word out to RE families. It takes a village.

The Caring Network

Thank you to all members and friends who have volunteered to participate in The Caring Network!

The Caring Network will offer its FIRST training on Monday, December 4, from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m. in Eliot Hall. The topic of the training will be: How to Help When You're Not Sure How To Help.

This training will be a potluck dinner as well, so please bring a dish to share. All Caring Network participants are invited to attend!



RE Halloween Party
October 26, 2017
Photos by Ken Kraus



THE TORCH

Refugee Resettlement Committee Hannah Awards

Submitted by Jan Crane

As part of the program at the Refugee Resettlement Committee Volunteer Dinner tonight the following special recognition of volunteer efforts was made in the form of "Hannah Awards," (recognition comparable to an Oscar, Emmy, etc.) Use of the name Hannah was inspired by its' Hebrew translation, meaning "grace" or "favor," to capture the spirit of the RRC volunteer activity. Awards in the form of a prominent letter "H" (suitable for painting, plating, etc), were presented to those in attendance and will be delivered to other awardees later:

- "Walking Wounded Award" to Ron Anderson, who has continued to be active in donation pick up and delivery despite a recently aggravated leg muscle limiting his mobility.
- "Worthy Traveler Award" to Michael Pennie and Doug Roberts, who have traveled the farthest distance recently to be available for hauling duty.
- "Olympic Hopeful Award" to Bonnie Baty and Ross Chambless, for agility and creativity shown in unconventional access to dwellings in household delivery and set ups.
- "Rolling Wonders Award" to Andrea Globokar and Frank Globokar, for set up of the Pedal Project and successful refurbishing and delivery of donated bicycles, new helmets and locks.

- "Basket Bounties Award" to Nancy Rasmuson and Johanna Whiteman, for set up of the Welcome Basket Project and successful delivery of full baskets.
- "Happy Housewares Award" to Carolyn Erickson, Nancy Douglas and Nancy Howard, for skilled Unit 564 household donation related activity.
- "Beverly Hillbillies Award" to Jim Wilcox and Gary Widdison, for creative stacking and hauling of donations through downtown SLC.
- "Spinner of Gold/Successful Prospector Award" to Frank Steffey and Meredith and Robert Peterson, for RRC fund raising, e.g. managing KSL donation sales, etc.
- "Weather Warrior Award" to IRC Volunteer Coordinator Kayla Norman, for braving the first snow storm of 2017 to train IRC volunteers at First Church.
- "Fireman Award" to Richard Anderton, Joe Herring, Gene Mahalko, Will Morris, Mohammed Mushib and John Rasmuson, for response on short notice to urgent RRC activity.

Thank you to Rev Monica Dobbins, First Church Board member Jan Crane and IRC staff Jessica Anderson, Jess Sheets and Kayla Norman, for attendance tonight. And thank you to all RRC volunteers for making a positive difference in many lives.

Upcoming Services

November 5, 2017

"The Inconveniences of Truth"

-Rev Tom Goldsmith will be joined by the Worship Arts Council

November 12, 2017

The Reformation (working title)

-Rev Monica Dobbins

November, 19 2017

Thanksgiving Service: "Breaking Bread"

-Rev Tom Goldsmith will be joined by the Chancel Choir

November, 26, 2017

"living the queer in gods' creation"

-Lynda Garlick, Intern



THE TORCH