

# The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 34, Issue 8

August, 2014

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## August Theme: Liberal Theology



### August 3<sup>rd</sup>: “Norbert Capek’s Hope”

Rev. Patty Willis

Reverend Capek was the founder of the modern Unitarian Church in the Czech Republic and created our annual Flower Communion held on Easter across Unitarian Universalist congregations. This gathering of flowers symbolizes the uniqueness of each individual, and the coming together in communion to share this uniqueness. Reverend Capek died in 1942 in the Dachau concentration camp, which Reverend Patty visited this summer on a study of Unitarian Universalist history in Poland.

### August 10<sup>th</sup>: “How Could Anyone Follow Hitler?”

Rev. Patty Willis

What does Hitler's popularity teach us about human nature? Rev. Patty gives the sermon requested by Jan Vanderhooft, who won the opportunity to hear a sermon on a topic of his choosing at last year's annual auction of goods and services.

### August 17<sup>th</sup>: “Liberal Theologies”

Rev. Patty Willis

Rev. Patty speaks on the UUA monthly theme of Liberal Theologies.

### August 24<sup>th</sup>: “South Valley – Liberal Theology in the Salt Lake Valley”

Lay-led

Congregants speak about SVUUS history and stories of those who have been part of this congregation.

### August 31<sup>st</sup>: “Sharing Stories in the Sanctuary”

Lay-led

While many members of our congregation will be attending services at our annual South Valley Campout, the rest of us will recreate the same “Open Air” service in the Sanctuary. We'll have musical numbers, hymns and a story too.

## LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

**\*\*For urgent issues please call the main office or the Caring Circle (listed further below)**

### DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTER

Rev. Patty Willis Cell #: 801-633-0709  
Email: [minister@svuus.org](mailto:minister@svuus.org)

### SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lory Schantz (Co. Pres.) 801-572-2586  
Cynthia Dobbs (Co. Pres.) 801-979-5951  
Edward Granda (Vice Pres.) 801-633-3760  
Torrey Longteig (Secretary) 801-558-5923  
Phil Quigley (Treasurer) 801-942-0049  
Tom Kimball 801-835-8742  
Christine Hirrill 801-493-9316

### TRANSITION TEAM

Paul Barron (chair) 801-298-2973  
Sara Allen 801-619-6373  
Mel Gundersen 801-739-2452  
Jan Vanderhooft 801-943-3879

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723  
Email: [admin@svuus.org](mailto:admin@svuus.org)  
Office Hours: M-F 1:30 -4:30 p.m.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liz Martin (Director) 801-604-2973  
Email: [dre@svuus.org](mailto:dre@svuus.org)  
Office Hours:  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Other hours by appointment

### REGAL COUNCIL

Kris Berg 801-414-3051

### CARING CIRCLE

Denna Wright (Chair) 801-274-0756  
Email: [dennalee1968@gmail.com](mailto:dennalee1968@gmail.com)

### SVUUS Web Site

[www.svuus.org](http://www.svuus.org)

### SVUUS-NEWS Email List

South Valley maintains a news listserv to facilitate announcements and other communications for the congregation.

If you wish to sign up to receive messages, send a request to Lyn Worthen, listserv administrator, at [lynw@xmission.com](mailto:lynw@xmission.com).

To send a message to the list, simply address it to [svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com](mailto:svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com)

## *From the Board of Trustees*

Dear Beloved South Valley Community,

As we begin this new fiscal year at South Valley, we have good reason to look back and celebrate our accomplishments. For a long time we have been concerned about increasing our membership and improving our financial stability. We ended this last year with a burst of new members and we actually met our financial goals for our pledge drive. Thanks to all you members and friends for honoring and fulfilling your shared ministry and stewardship!

Joe Gates, a longtime member here at South Valley, said that he has never seen one minister take such an active interest in the pledge drive as Reverend Patty has done. What's more, we are inspired by Reverend Patty's sermons, her active pastoral care, sitting at the bedsides of our sick and dying, and lending a wise and sympathetic ear to the distressed. Her presence here raises our spirits and calls us anew to shared ministry.

Our previous Board President, Laura Renshaw, has completed her term. We appreciate her calm listening, her active leadership, and her skill at helping us to accomplish what we needed to do. We thank all Board members who have served and left during the past year.

Remind yourself that our community would not exist without *your* time, talents and treasures. Shared ministry takes place whenever we teach our children and youth in REGAL, or instruct our adults at Monday Menus, or contribute food for the needy at Sunday worship, or clean up or repair our building and grounds, or volunteer for committees or any other task.

I feel very honored and excited to be a part of such a great group of people who love this community. After serving as a member of the Board for the past two years, I now have the privilege to be your Board Co-President along with Lory Schantz. Working for South Valley has given me new challenges I never thought I could accomplish, and an ongoing sense of purpose. I am sure that many of you volunteers feel the same way.

It is our goal to listen to you and see how we can better meet our common needs, and to enlist your support in the things that you want done. We thank you all for your support and for trusting us to lead SVUUS.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia Dobbs*  
Co-President of SVUUS



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## *From the Worship Closet*

Some time ago, a visitor to our Sunday morning service arrived very early. Since I had some time, I engaged her in conversation. We were sharing ideas freely, so I told her how inclusive we are of different points of view. I told her of atheists, like me, and pagans who felt comfortable in our congregation. She was livid and said; "I came here to worship God today." Then she stomped out of the church never to return. I felt really bad for accidentally insulting her personal religious views with my "liberal theology."



In Wikipedia, I found that "theological liberalism is an attempt to incorporate modern thinking and developments, especially in the sciences, into the Christian faith. It tends to emphasize ethics over doctrine and experience over Scriptural authority." Theological conservatives criticize this liberalism because it seems to deny that God causes goodness and ethics. This is precisely why I am a religious liberal.

Our worship committee defines "worship" differently. After telling a high school Mormon friend of mine that I was on the SVUUS worship committee, he asked if we worshipped God or what we worshipped in our services. Luckily, we were close enough that I couldn't insult him so I asked, "Why does God need 'worship'? Is He insecure or something?" My friend replied "Of course not!" I continued, "I knew you thought that. I'll bet you probably believe that the church meetings you go to are for the congregants, not to satisfy some need God has." He responded, "Exactly. And, it is even for our benefit that we show gratitude to God through worship." I finished with "We're not so different, you and I. Worship means 'worth shaping.' Church attendance is to help each person shape their own personal values, including gratitude to others. I have just changed who I show gratitude to."

In a recent worship service, Rev. Patty warned us not to "vilify" those who believe differently and put obstacles in our personal paths. Perhaps she said this just for me, to shape my values a bit. I have quite a 'black and white' temperament about some people, their actions, and their ideas. At worship services, I am continually challenged to take actions, which change me the way I want to change. Now, I believe that this is "worth shaping."

*Jan Vanderhooft*  
Worship Committee

### **South Valley Caring Circle**

The members of the Caring Circle provide practical support and/or pastoral care. Please contact the chair of the committee if you need or know of someone who needs our support. To ask for help you may also use the Caring Book by the name tags. The Caring Book is also for joys and concerns; we hope you will share moments from your lives.

### **CARING CIRCLE** Contact Information

Denna Wright (Chair)	801-274-0756
Email: <a href="mailto:dennalee1968@gmail.com">dennalee1968@gmail.com</a>	
Dot Clayton	801-561-4776
Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
Kathleen Luck	801-567-9062

## *From the Transition Team*

*"Time is the coin of your life. You spend it. Do not allow others to spend it for you."*

-- Carl Sandburg

August is a very bittersweet month for a teacher. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to recharge my battery before the next school year, to spend **real** time with my children and friends and to accomplish the many tasks that I put off until the summer months. It feels so good to be productive while spending my time where and how I want to, but this is a brief interlude to the rest of my year. I am also filled with dread that I will lose control of my time and allow others to "spend it" for me as the commotion of a new school year begins. Each year I vow that this year will be different, and each year has been slightly different. Slow progress is still progress, right?

In speaking to my family and friends, I realize I'm not alone in these feelings. Transition time is always difficult and requires us to assess what we want versus what we feel obligated to, so that we can be conscientious in the way that we spend our time moving forward. In the end, I always come back to the idea that I can accomplish more and feel better about how I spend my time when I work as part of a team instead of operating by myself.

Many congregants (like me) may be contemplating their return to South Valley after a busy summer and likely are grateful for time well spent but they may also be contemplating the changes that come as the church year begins with new committee assignments, new classes for our youth and new teaching roles for many.

As we all transition into this church year, I hope we can be inspired to ask for and give our time to this community in a conscious manner so that we can continue to sustain one another and our commitments without losing ownership of our personal wants and needs. South Valley means so much to so many of us. Like all of you, I choose to spend my time here and to be in this community as part of a team that continues to be more and accomplish more than any of us can do alone.

In community,

*Sara Allen*  
Transition Team



## *Religious Education, Growth and Learning*

### Sunday REGAL Schedule

- Aug 3: Ages 5+: "Wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures": Isaiah: Exile and Hope  
Ages 12+: "The UU Principles & the Simpsons": Principle 7: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. (The Wife Aquatic, S18E10)
- Aug 10: Ages 5+: "Wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures": Creation  
Ages 12+: "The UU Principles & the Simpsons": Bonus! Evolution vs. Creationism (The Monkey Suit, S17E21)
- Aug 17: All Ages: Field Day
- Aug 24: Ages 5+: "Wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures": PJs, Popcorn, & Movie Day: "Prince of Egypt"  
Ages 12+: "The UU Principles & the Simpsons": PJs, Popcorn, & Movie Day: "The Simpsons Movie"
- Aug 31: LABOR DAY CAMPOUT

\* For more information about our curricula and programming, please see our REGAL brochure available in the church lobby, or contact Liz Martin at [dre@svuus](mailto:dre@svuus).

### *News from the South Valley Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs)*

We are looking forward to starting up a new church year. This year will be exciting for us. We are planning many interesting Pagan centered events this year. The highlight will come at the end of March when CUUPS will host a retreat with Christopher Penzcak in Lava Hot Springs.



On the second Sunday of August, we will have our last of the summer Sunday Sundaes. Build your own with all your favorite fixings. We have sugar-free and non-dairy options. They are just \$3 per person or \$7 per family. As always, all profits are split 50/50 between the church's general fund and the other half is designated for the retreat in March.

#### **Save the date for these upcoming events**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** - Come out to Murray Park for Pagan Pride Day. Walk around the booths and say hello to us there.



**October 25<sup>th</sup>** - All Hallows' Eve Psychic Fair, Boutique and Day of the Dead Dance. We will be offering readings, soap making, and many other booths at this annual event. We have the kids trick or treat through the fair after they finish with the REGAL carnival. If you are interested in being a vender, please contact Kim Lane. We will end the day's events with a Day of the Dead Dance. We hope you will join us to turn the Wheel of the Year!

## *News from the Social Action Council*

### **Used Laptops Needed**

Altaf and Antoinette Rahman are collecting any used laptops you may no longer need. These will be refurbished and donated to Interethnic Health Alliance for use by school children in remote communities of Uganda.

Several years ago Dr. John Shavers, Board Chairperson of Interethnic Health Alliance, spoke to us during a service about his organization's work in Uganda conducting public health seminars for women on AIDS challenges, family planning and micro loans. IHA has also equipped schools with textbooks, tools and solar panels. Dr. Shavers recently returned from Uganda after installing several of the laptops refurbished by Altaf. He reports that the students are now using them to learn how to write.

Note: The hard drives on these laptops are not needed and can be removed or discarded before donating them. Please contact Altaf at [altaf@xmission.com](mailto:altaf@xmission.com) or Antoinette at [arahman@xmission.com](mailto:arahman@xmission.com).

Interethnic Health Alliance is a 501(c)(3) volunteer non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. For further information about this organization go to <http://interethnichealthalliance.org/>.

### **Worship Service Offering Split for July and August: Cottonwood Canyons Foundation**

Here in the Salt Lake Valley, we are incredibly fortunate to have beautiful forests, mountain lakes, and majestic peaks right at our doorstep. The delicate watersheds of these magnificent canyons provide a significant portion of our drinking water in the Salt Lake Valley, and outdoor recreational opportunities are just minutes away. However, the national forest lands of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are some of the most highly visited in the nation and are under many pressures resulting from human uses, such as economic development, transportation, recreation, and water supply.



In July and August we are splitting our Sunday Service offerings with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, a local organization that works diligently to preserve the environment of our Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons of the Wasatch Front. The CCF works continuously to improve the environments of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons through education and stewardship programs, and provides avenues for individuals and groups in our larger community to take part in preservation efforts. Their stewardship programs are aimed at solving existing problems by working with partners such as the National Forest Foundation, various ski resorts, Friends of Alta, Save our Canyons, SLC Public Utility Dept., etc. Their projects range from native plant restoration, mapping of invasive weeds, and restoring and maintaining popular trails. Educational efforts include sponsorship of the Wildflower Festival (July 25-27), and ongoing family nature programs at Silver Lake (Brighton). The CCF is working diligently to ensure these spectacular canyons continue to provide clean water and recreational opportunities for generations to come. Please give generously.

Learn more about this fabulous organization at [www.cottonwoodcanyons.org](http://www.cottonwoodcanyons.org)



## 22nd Annual SVUUs Labor Day Campout!



Altamont Campground, American Fork Canyon, Fri. Aug. 29th-Mon. Sept. 1st, 2014

**Registration:** First paid/first reserved. Any vehicle is \$30.00. There are no hookups/non-electric. Day use \$10.00. Covered main pavilion main area with fire pit(s). Anyone camping overnight must complete a **Registration Form** and submit it to SVUUS along with payment. Checks made out to SVUUS and applications may be mailed to Deon Corkins, 543 E Cobblestone Drive, Midvale, UT 84047.

**Activities:** Hiking trails. Timpanogos cave. Alpine loop drive. Cascade springs. Fishing in a few small lakes a short drive away or the creek. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Sunday service followed by a potluck lunch. Bring board games, chess/checkers, badminton, horse shoes, etc.

**Safety:** High altitude (7,400 feet), bright sun & cold fall nights! Bring sunscreen, bug dope, jacket, hat, gloves, etc. First aid kit provided at the main site, but SVUU does not perform first aid. Children are the total and full responsibility and in the care of the parents/adults bringing them. Please consider the environment, use bio-degradable soap and pack out all trash.

**Campground:** Check in 3 PM Fri. out by 2 PM Mon. Tents can be spread thru-out. ADA accessible restrooms (sorry no showers this time). Dogs allowed/but must be leashed. This is inside the canyon, cell phones will not work at this campground due to canyon walls.

### Registration Form

Responsible Party Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Vehicle(s) @ \$30.00 per each vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Day Use: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby understand that I am attending an outdoor activity which will include hazards specific to camping in the outdoors including but not limited to inclement (storms) weather, sunburn, sleeping outside, wild animals, bugs, open fires, open water, and other possible hazards found in the outdoors. Children are the total and full responsibility and in the care of the parents/adults bringing them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Registration:** Contact Deone Corkins at [daffodil@xmission.com](mailto:daffodil@xmission.com) or 801-599-4316

**Other/Logistics:** Contact Lewis Galway at [lewisg@xmission.com](mailto:lewisg@xmission.com) or 801-915-1290

(Continued on next page)

**Location & Directions:** From Salt Lake City, Utah, travel south (about 35 miles) on I-15 to Alpine-Highland exit 284. Travel east on Highway 92 approximately 13 miles through American Fork Canyon, then veer right at the split in the road, on the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway and go 3 miles south. Campground is on the left. Map is on page two. It's approximately an hour to drive to the campground.

Campground info:

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/altamont/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70122>

For more information on the area, click on this site and make sure to watch the video!

[http://www.utah.com/byways/alpine\\_loop.htm](http://www.utah.com/byways/alpine_loop.htm)



## *Grocery Card Program*

The Finance Council has decided to change grocery card sales from every Sunday to once per month, the second Sunday of each month to coincide with the CUUPS Sunday Sundaes. The next opportunity to purchase grocery cards will be on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

However, if anyone needs cards on another Sunday; we'd be happy to oblige. You can ask a Council member (Joe Gates, Phil Quigley, Derek Larson, David Norton, Lee Cowley, or KC Tabor) and we can arrange for an individual sale.



### Save the Date

Aug. 10	CUUPS Sunday Sundaes
Aug. 14	Women's Group 7:00 p.m.
Aug. 29 – Sept. 1	Annual Church Campout

### Upcoming Events

Sept. 6	Pagan Pride Day, Murray Park
Sept. 7	Ingathering Service 10:30 a.m.