

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 34, Issue 11

November, 2014

November Theme: Creation



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November 2nd: "What Can We Glean from Our Religious Ancestors? Who Led the Way to this Place?"

Can looking into the past "hallow" the present?

Rev. Patty Willis

November 9th: "The Enlivening Power of Creativity: Is this the Spirit that moved through the waters to create land?"

Is this what moves through our community and gives us life?

Rev. Patty Willis

November 16th: Navigating the Road Ahead: Change is a part of life.

Rev. Nancy Bowen will be exploring the inevitability of change and all the possibilities it holds for our community as we move into the future.

Rev. Patty Willis

November 23rd: "Abundance is a State of the Heart."

As we break bread together, let us ponder how we keep abundance in our life together.

Rev. Patty Willis

November 30th: "Seeing Through Social Action"

Lay-led Service

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTER

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Email: minister@svuus.org

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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REGAL COUNCIL

Kris Berg 801-414-3051

CARING CIRCLE

Denna Wright (Chair) 801-274-0756
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SVUUS Web Site

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.

To send a message to the list, simply address it to svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com

From the Board of Trustees

Autumn is now taking a firm hold on the Salt Lake Valley. The leaves have changed color, even though they still cling to the trees with the tenacity of a determined bidder at the church auction. The days are getting shorter even as the Monday Menu offerings expand to include an intriguing array of educational offerings. And even as outdoor temperatures approach freezing the church is abuzz with activity and the warmth of community.

The Board too has been active, recently passing a fundraising policy which aims to increase the sense of community by asking fundraisers to share a portion of the money raised with the congregation at large. While the guidelines are flexible, if you're planning to raise money you might want to check out the full policy on the Web at <http://www.svuus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Fundraising-Policy-SVUUS-2014.pdf>.

Our new co-presidents, Lory Schantz and Cynthia Dobbs, have been involved trying to keep tabs on the wide range of activities at South Valley. Following the recommendation of the Finance Committee the loan for the solar panels has been paid off in full. This has been an important step in moving South Valley toward a more ecologically sound and earth-friendly policy which is in sync with the national UUA drive to make us all more respectful of the interconnected web of all existence.

The Mountain Desert District (MDD) is composed of geographical "clusters". South Valley is in the Utah-Idaho cluster and this year we will host the annual cluster meeting. It will be at South Valley this November 14-16.

Finally, a Congregational meeting will be held at the church this fall. We don't always have a Congregational meeting in the fall, the main event is usually in the spring when new officers are elected and the budget is approved. This year, however, we want to approve our new mission statement and also have the congregation decide on some important proposed amendments to the bylaws.

That's just a brief look at a few of the activities going on at the church. For a more complete view read the rest of the Beacon and visit the South Valley Website (<http://www.svuus.org/>). The view of activities is as rich as the fall colors in a Utah mountain valley, as varied as the yummy foods on Thanksgiving table, and as exciting as anticipating the coming winter holidays.

Phil Quigley, Treasurer



From Our Minister
November's Monthly Theme: Creation

Creating a Place in the World for All

At the beginning of October, the impossible became reality once again: same-sex marriage has come to Utah to stay. As I said to a Salt Lake Tribune reporter: I feel that this is a modern day miracle. Only a few days later, I was on a plane to attend the wedding of our niece in Washington, D.C. While a burly taxi driver from Ethiopia was driving us to the rehearsal dinner, he told us of the America that he loves. This is a land of opportunity, he said over and over again. It is also a place where he could sleep deeply at night without fear that the police would pull him from his bed and take him to prison and worse. He had plenty to tell us in the close to an hour we spent together in the taxi. Our friend, Darius, who was sharing our taxi, said something like, "Yes, that is our America."

Two days later, walking up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the events and encounters of the past week came together. Having our relationship to each other honored under the laws of the United States, in the state where we live, makes me share in the taxi driver's belief that America is a land of opportunity. Suddenly and unexpectedly, the United States of America feels like my country, in a way that it never has before. Earlier that day, we had spent hours at the National Portrait Gallery at an exhibit of how different groups in the United States had won their human rights to vote, to marry, to work and to flourish. We saw exhibits and footage on the rights of women, the disabled, migrant farm workers, Native Americans, LGBTQ people, African Americans, and Japanese Americans. We were inspired by heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., Harvey Milk, Eleanor Roosevelt, Eunice Kennedy Shriver (the woman who started the Special Olympics), Cesar Chavez and others. The huge energy that has gone into gaining basic human rights for all Americans, and thus making them Americans in a real way, was palpable in that exhibit. Later, when I was standing at President Lincoln's feet looking up into his calm face, I became aware of all the people who had contributed to my new found joy at being an American citizen. I believe that the law would not have changed in Utah without the work that this congregation has been doing for the past two decades (or is it even three?). I'm sure that there were many times when you felt as I have that coming out or standing up for your LGBTQ friends was having no effect. It was. And, there is still much left to do. The work that we are doing through investigating restaurants, their payment policies and working conditions seems like a small step in the face of growing poverty in this country. This will change lives. When we had breakfast at the Salt Lake Airport, I asked our server about her working conditions. She openly told me that she receives only a little over \$2 an hour plus tips and that did not constitute a living wage. I remembered someone I met who knows the owner of that restaurant. When I get settled back into my work, I need to make a phone call and talk with him about fair compensation. Salt Lake City and its surroundings are our place of influence and that influence doesn't stay here, it spreads into the world. I know that for sure. What is the vision you have of our work in the world? What can we as Unitarian Universalists do to help more people receive the privileges of life in this great country? What opportunities do we enjoy that we can share with others?

In love and community,

Rev. Patty

From the Worship Closet

I took the worship assignment to write this article because the word of the month was "Creation." I imagined writing "In the beginning 'the big bang created...'" instead of the biblical "In the beginning 'God created...'" I was ready to explain the formation of the elements in the stars, and the more recent discoveries of dark matter and dark energy without any need of referencing "God."

"However, since then I've thought of the more purposeful ongoing creation of community--especially ours. To me, "community" opens the way to primary, three dimensional, relationships. In our computerized world, relationships lack personal touch. I see people opting for secondary, utilitarian, relationships and primary relationships fading away. Two recent sermons Rev. Patty gave were "Forming Friendship – Lessons from the Little Prince and Emerson and Thoreau – 9/28/2014," and "Treasure from My Birth Religion — What I Gained from Growing Up LDS – 9/21/2014." I was very touched by both of them.

For me, the sermons had a subtext centered on the continuing creation of community. The little prince is one of the truest friends. Despite their personality differences, Emerson and Thoreau were friends. You can take treasure from, and be friends with folks of your birth religion. (By the way, the LDS Creekside Ward in Kaysville will be singing with us in "Songs of the Earth" on Temple Square on November 9th At 7:30 PM in the Assembly Hall.) I have over simplified both sermons which are on the SVUUS web site which you can watch (or remember). In these sermons, Rev Patty risks showing her deeper vulnerable self. Besides making me feel closer to her (primary relationships again), she models how we can be in right relationship, or better relationship (more primary type) with each other by revealing that vulnerable side. I need to risk more self disclosure in my relationships. I think Rev. Patty did this on purpose because she has a "developmental" minister responsibility.

This is why I go to church services. Worship means "worth shaping," and I want to change and be in better relationship with both older and newer friends. Please consider this article as an invitation, from me, to allow yourself to be changed by our worship, "worth shaping," services. Who knows, we may create South Valley to be an even better community than we already are.
In community,

Jan Vanderhooft, Worship Committee

From the Transition Team

Creation= Creating Loving Community

The word of the month is "Creation." The Transition Committee (in the past known as the Committee on Ministry and the Ministerial Relations Committee) members are Jan Vanderhooft, Sara Allen, Sandra Roach, Patty Willis and Luci Malin. We thank Paul Barron for his extraordinary service as Chair of the Committee for the past 2 years. The committee's job is to work with the congregation and the minister to ensure we have open communication about our expectations regarding the direction and health of our community. We ask you to tell anyone of us if you have a concern about any aspect of our church community. We want a community where everyone feels safe to question and ask for what they need.

We want a community where we act in "right relationship" with each other: we expect to be treated with honor and respect. We speak about others with kindness and without intent to hurt one another. Where we offer criticism gently and with a desire to solve the problem. SVUUS is my family, my community and my home. I want to make sure everyone knows why I am so proud to be a member this special and sacred congregation. By working together we will create an even more extraordinary spiritual community.

Luci Malin, Transition Team

From the Facilities Team

Our Fall Clean Up on Oct. 4th was a great success! Twenty volunteers of all ages pulled weeds, raked leaves, cleared the North sidewalk of it's overgrown weeds, up-righted the fence on the North property line, washed the Sanctuary windows, trimmed bushes galore and tore out all of the scraggly bushes crowding the parking spaces at the fence line. The mild weather was perfect for hard work and we even met the neighbor that we share fences with - she told us that our fence is over 40 years old (yikes)! Thanks to all of our volunteers for sharing your time to make our space a better place.

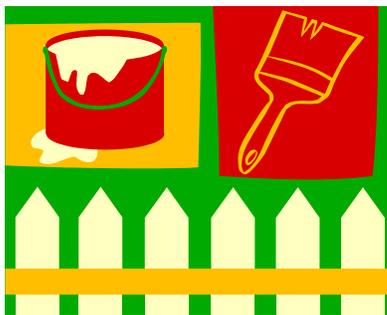
We have a couple more upcoming projects for this Fall. We will start adding concrete bumper curbs in the parking spots along the wood fence to protect the posts and fence from being pushed over.

We will also be removing the chain link fencing and gates in front of the annex building (north side) to provide more parking, allow more space for the snow plow to pile snow and to improve the looks of our grounds. You might be wondering - what about security back there? The reality is that we cannot lock the gate without cutting off access to the ADA ramp for the Annex. Because of that very important access need we will never be able to have them locked. We will be adding motion sensor lighting to the back of the building as a deterrent to trespassing at night.

Some of you may have already noticed the curtains in the Sanctuary have been taken down and the windows have been cleaned inside and out. These are the preparations for a patterned translucent window film to be installed. The film will allow full light in, but the pattern will obscure the views. Rosine Oliver needs about six more volunteers to help complete the project. Please contact her directly at rhodesignsllc@gmail.com.

We are really excited for these changes and look forward to enjoying the improved look and functionality of our building and grounds!

Thanks,
Robyn Taylor-Granda, Facilities Team Chair



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

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Religious Education, Growth and Learning

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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November 2, 2014: All-Ages Service, "Day of the Dead"

November 9, 2014: Regular Sunday School classes

November 16, 2014: Regular Sunday School classes

November 23, 2014: All-Ages Service, "Thanksgiving Bread Communion"

November 30, 2014: Sacred Travels Classes (K-5th) = Children's Chapel
Youth = Regular Sunday School Classes

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP NEWS & ACTIVITIES

11/ 2 - Intergen: Day of the Dead (remember to enter to win a gift card)

11/ 9 - Coffee Shop Sunday at Whole Foods

11/15-16: MDD Western Cluster Mini-Con

11/16 - "Cost of Goods"

11/23 - Intergen: Bread Communion (enter to win a gift card)

11/30 - "Feminism"

*For more information on High School events and classes, please contact Christy Montrone-Burns at cmmontrone@me.com or [\(801\)671-8263](tel:(801)671-8263).

Monday Menus

"Meditative Yoga!" Welcome to Marinda, our new and AWESOME yoga instructor! Wear comfortable clothes and bring your own yoga mat. If you want to come but don't have a mat, please call Amy Vetterli: [\(801\) 602-0114](tel:(801)602-0114) (Every Monday) (Yoga usually will take place in the Sanctuary, However, Yoga will Not be in the Sanctuary this week. Location TBA.)

"SCIENCE and RELIGION" with Jan Vanderhooff:

Back by popular demand, Professor Gregory Clark has agreed to return and will give a lecture entitled: "Thinking and Spirit." Professor Clark specializes in neural plasticity in the department of bioengineering at the University of Utah and is an outspoken Atheist. (11/3 and 11/17) (Sanctuary)

"Let Your Life Speak" with Rev. Patty: Do you yearn for something more in your life? Do you feel that you are at a crossroads wondering which way to go? Parker Palmer's work on discernment may show the way. Find out how the answer is waiting deep within your life. (Classroom to be announced). (11/17,11/24).

"Super Fall Soups" with Liz Martin: Tricks, tips, and recipes for making hearty, delicious, plant-based fall soups! We'll work on knife techniques, using spices and herbs, shopping for cost-effectiveness and ethical consciousness, and making your kitchen a FUN space. (Kitchen) (11/3 and on-going).

News from the South Valley Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)

This month the CUUPS pancake breakfast will be on the third Sunday of the month, November 16th. This will be the traditional pancake breakfast with all of your favorites.

In December CUUPS will be doing Witchy Workshops on Sunday December 14th. We will be making bath salts, element candles, soap making, and other natural items.

We are getting closer to the Christopher Penczak seminar on March 27-29 in Lava Hot Springs at the Aura Soma retreat center. Christopher will be speaking on his book "The Mighty Dead". We welcome anyone to this wonderful meditative weekend.



News from the Social Action Council

WORSHIP SERVICE OFFERING SPLIT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER: SAFE AND SOUND

In September and October, we are splitting our Sunday Service offerings with Safe and Sound Utah. Safe and Sound is a program which is working to create a network of LGBTQI+ affirming host homes in Utah which are able to take in a youth during a crisis, a group of counselors who can assist on the path toward family reunification where appropriate, and assist on the path to permanent placement or independence otherwise. Safe and Sound is a program of OUTreach, the organization started by our sister church in Ogden, which now has resource centers nationwide. You can learn more about Safe and Sound and OUTreach at <http://www.outreachresourcecenters.org/programs>.

ANNUAL SOCIAL ACTION KICK-OFF

Sunday, November 9, 12:15 - 1:15 pm

Bring your energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to our annual Social Action Kick-off Event this year, held after church service on Sunday, November 9. Come learn about our ongoing programs, but more importantly let us know what you are passionate about, what kinds of activities and educational events you would like to participate in this year, and how you would like to get involved as we make plans to impact our broader world and nurture the generous spirit of our church community.

South Valley Social Action Council (SVSAC) plans to sponsor events for all ages, providing opportunities to serve those in need, stand up for social justice and care for our beloved earth. SVSAC focuses on three primary areas of emphasis, with a representative for each area:

- **Compassionate Service** - Led by Elaine Totten (Includes hands-on service opportunities such as Meals for Homeless Youth Program, Food Box Delivery program with the Utah Food Bank, and food drives for Crossroads Urban Center, etc.)
- **Social Justice** - Led by Shannon Black (Includes Standing on the Side of Love campaign, LGBTQ rights, advocating for the poor with the Coalition of Religious Communities [CORC], etc.)
- **Green and Sustainable World** - Led by April Abate-Adams (Includes recycling program, "greening" our church yard and building, reducing our own carbon footprints, etc.)

There are many ways to get involved, such as: 1) Participate in one-time events (i.e., food box packing); 2) Sign up to participate in an ongoing program (i.e., Meals for Homeless Youth); 3) Join a planning group (help green our building or put together a worship service).

Light refreshments will be served. If you cannot join us for this event, please look for us at the Social Action Information Table in the Social Hall after worship services on the 3rd Sunday of each month, or email Susan Eyzaguirre at eyzsooz@gmail.com

MEALS-FOR-HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

Bake sale Fundraiser, November 9

We continue to serve 3-4 meals each month at the Homeless Youth Resource Center (HYRC) located in downtown SLC, and periodically prepare "to-go" dinners during Monday Menu activities for the HYRC Outreach program. We will be hosting a fundraising bake sale on the November 9, coincident with our Social Action Kick-off, to help fund some of these meals. If you are interested in getting involved preparing meals, serving meals, donating food or funds, or helping with our bake sales, please contact Susan Eyzaguirre at eyzsooz@gmail.com

CAFE JUSTO COFFE

South Valley Social Action Council will be selling Cafe Justo coffee after services on the third Sunday of each month in the social hall. Cafe Justo is a coffee-grower coop based in Mexico that is dedicated to fair trade based on transparency, equality, and human dignity. Our support of Cafe Justo aims to curb immigration issues by helping create a viable option for families to stay together in their homelands. Cafe Justo was started to provide fair and just economic opportunities for coffee growers in Chiapas Mexico. The Cooperative owns a coffee roaster purchased with a loan from The Just Trade Center, and can therefore shift profits from large international companies to the coffee farmers. In addition to decreasing poverty in Mexico, Cafe Justo grows coffee using sustainable practices that are USDA certified organic, and provides health care and retirement benefits. When we buy our coffee from Café Justo we send a message that we care about where our goods come from, how our food is produced, and who our purchases benefit.

Opportunities and Announcements

On November 7th, there will be a Performance of “Songs of the Earth” at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square. Our music director, Mary Lou Prince, has organized a 100 voice interfaith choir that combines our own South Valley Singers, with the First Unitarian choir, an LDS choir in Kaysville and a 50 voice children’s choir. Come and support this interfaith celebration at historic Temple Square.

REGIONAL UU MEETING COMING TO SOUTH VALLEY: From Friday evening November 14th, all day November 15th, and culminating in a worship service at South Valley, Sunday morning, November 16th. From Friday evening, November 14th with an awe-inspiring worship service, our Mountain Desert District will be opening a weekend of events, workshops, social justice work and a youth CON (conference) at our very South Valley.

All day Saturday, November 15th, there will be workshops around leadership, stewardship, grant-writing and creative fundraising, spiritual practice, and social action. Experience what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in the larger context of our Mountain Desert District. Prepare to meet new UU friends from Salt Lake City, Ogden, Pocatello, Logan and Idaho Falls. This is a chance to introduce them to our vibrant congregation!

Friday Nov 21 - 8:00 PM Classical Guitar Concert

SVUUS will host a classical guitar duo performance, featuring David Norton and Cindy Spell. David is well known SVUUS members and friends, having participated in Sunday services here for many years. His duo partner, Cindy Spell, is a relative newcomer to the Salt Lake Valley. She holds both the bachelor and master of music degrees from East Carolina University and has done many performances along the Mid-Atlantic seaboard states. Suggested \$10 donation per person. 50% of the money taken in will be donated to the SVUUS Music Fund.

SAVE THE DATE -- FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER NIGHT on December 18, 7:30-9:30 pm, for ages 12 and up.
A signup list will be available at our Social Action Kick-off Event.



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 Pancake Breakfast. The next opportunity to purchase grocery cards will be on November 9th. 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

Nov. 3	Monday Menus
Nov. 10	Monday Menus
Nov. 17	Monday Menus
Nov. 24	Monday Menus
Dec. 18	Food Bank Volunteer Night

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1	Annual South Valley Auction
Nov. 7	Songs of the Earth Performance
Nov. 9	Social Action Council Kick-off
Nov. 14-16	Regional UU Meeting at South Valley
Nov. 21	Classical Guitar Concert