



Volume 35, Issue 1

January, 2015

January Theme: Adventure on the High Seas

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January 4th: "What Will You Do with Your One Wild and Precious Life?"
 Brenda Voisard, Lay Leader

Members of the congregation from each decade of life will share their thoughts and insights.

January 11th: Packing Our Bags for the Journey Rev. Patty Willis

What do we need and what can we leave behind? As we begin this new year together, we will engage in a ritual of beginning.

January 18th: Learning to Navigate on the High Seas Rev. Patty Willis

What are the tools that we can use to keep us going in a good direction? How do we find our true north?

January 25th: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Patty Willis

What can we learn from the way that Martin Luther King Jr. found his bearings in a place of confusion and pain?

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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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

The new year can bring renewed energy to turn over a new leaf, try something new, or look at things differently. With that in mind, your Board of Trustees here at South Valley believes this is an appropriate time to pursue conversations leading to a call for a permanently placed minister. We will be working with the Stewardship Committee to develop a process of meeting in small groups over the coming weeks. This will allow you to speak your heart and let leadership know your wishes and concerns. During this process, we will also be reviewing, renewing, and reporting our community's developmental goals to assure we have a plan for success.

In November, the Board was fortunate to welcome Mac Lund to fill a Board opening that will last until elections at our congregational meeting in May. Mac has a deep and broad knowledge of our community, and he brings his characteristic warm and supportive energy to our gatherings. Please thank Mac for stepping up without hesitation. In December, we finalized our Mission Mantra and our Mission Statement, and voted to revise four separate parts of our bylaws. We thank those able to attend to allow us to conduct this congregation business.

Later this month, Monday Menus will return to our calendar for the fourth session. I treasure this opportunity to gather in fellowship with my South Valley friends for soup and religious enrichment, and I'm deeply thankful to be among others who feel they are students of life, striving to grow their knowledge and deepen their understanding of life and spirituality. Child care is available during class time, and the schedule will have offerings for all ages and beliefs so check the announcements in the Sunday bulletin, the website, the listserv, and Facebook page for classes available on any given Monday.

We hope you share our enthusiasm as we prepare to determine our path forward in the new year.

Christine Hirrill
Board of Trustees Member at Large



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From Our Minister

Preparing for the Journey

Around three years ago, this congregation was in a place of transition and during that time, the Board was charged with articulating the goals that could lead to a sustainable future. In June of that year, they began conversations with me about being the minister at South Valley for four years in order to help facilitate those goals. It's now two and a half years later, and for the most part, these goals have been reached. And, as you have probably learned from your personal life, in order to keep goals alive, we must keep revisiting them and sometimes redoing them. As I am writing, the Board and Transition Team (newly naming themselves the Ministerial Relations Team) are preparing for gatherings during which, along with breaking bread together, you will be talking about how you feel about the direction we are heading and what you see in the future. In the process, you will be considering how to rework these goals. These "Have a Voice in Our Future" gatherings, beginning in early February, offer you a chance to share your vision of the future with the larger community.

We have a month to prepare to embark on this journey of discernment. What do we want to take with us? I believe that what we can never have too much hope. Hope has mysterious properties like one of those microfibre sweaters that doesn't wrinkle or stain: It never becomes a burden and can even lighten the rest of our load. And, what can we leave home or even throw out? What first comes to mind are "assumptions." Can we go into this with "beginner's mind," curious as to what we may find and unburdened by assumptions that come from the past? What do you want to take with us and what would you like to let go?

As a congregation and as individuals, we are religious explorers. That means that even though we have physically occupied our beautiful building on Highland Drive next to Kentucky Fried Chicken for years, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually, we have gone on many collective and solo journeys---always returning to this place. The congregation has changed over the years. New people have come in our doors and beloved members have moved to other places or left this world. Some people spend much of their lives with us and others are with us for only a week. Ministers have come and gone. People have fallen in love here and others have divorced; children have been born and we have had deaths.

Who are we right now and where are we going? As we begin a new year, we are being challenged to sit together and envision what we want in the years ahead. For those of you who come to us from denominations that are governed from the top down, participation in these groups is a precious chance for you to bring your voice to the table. By diving wholeheartedly into this process and listening deeply to one another, we will be stronger and more resilient travelers for the voyage ahead.

In love and community,

Rev. Patty



From the Ministerial Relations Committee (Formerly the Transition Team)

The Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC), previously called the Transition Team, is examining the goals that South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (SVUUS) developed 2 1/2 years ago. These goals were used as part of the criteria we used to select Patty Willis to be our developmental minister for a four-year period. SVUUS as a congregation must now re-evaluate and update our goals so they reflect our current status and our desired future direction.

Are the previous goals still relevant? How might they need to change? What do we want to accomplish as a church community over the next five years? Is our priority social action, financial security, community service, being a beacon for religious liberalism in Utah or something different all together? Is Patty Willis the minister who can help us achieve our goals?

To help the community answer these questions, the MRC is developing a process to help us decide what the current SVUUS goals are. The Board and the Stewardship Committee, along with the MRC, plan to offer a series of small group discussion meetings this spring, so that the SVUUS community can brainstorm, voice opinions and together develop a strategy to guide how we operate over the next 5 years. We want everyone connected with the SVUUS community, whether as a member, friend, visitor, newcomer or old timer, to participate and insure that we discover and consider all possible options before we vote on a direction/plan at our annual congregational meeting in May.

Please contact anyone on the MRC (Jan Vanderhooft, Sandra Roach, Sara Allen, Luci Malin and Patty Willis), the Board, or the Stewardship Committee with your ideas or suggestions about how this process should proceed.

News from Welcoming-Membership Team

Getting to Know U Gathering
Jan. 18 at noon

On January 18, Rev. Patty and the Welcoming-Membership Team will again offer a Getting to Know U gathering for those new to SVUUS. After the service newcomers and visitors are invited to a join with the minister and members of the Welcoming Team. We would like the opportunity to hear your stories, get to know you, and answer your questions about Unitarian Universalism. Childcare will be provided.

Antoinette Rahman
Membership

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
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Religious Education, Growth and Learning

REGAL's Annual Beach Party Potluck
February 1, 2015

Come hula away your winter blues with us! REGAL is sponsoring our 6th Annual Beach Party on Sunday, Feb. 1st, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is also our Kick-Off for the Mystery Pals Program 2015 Sign-up, so come get all the information you'll need to participate this year! We will provide the lei's, limbo stick and main dish if you'll bring your Hawaiian shirts, sunny smiles and side dishes! (Last name A-D Salad/Fruit, E-M Drink/Bread, N-Z Side Dish.)

~Aloha until then!

Coming Soon!
Mystery Pals 2015 - The Adventure of Friendship!

Hello Adventurers!

Do you love traveling to far off lands, being worshiped and saving the day? But want to avoid the unpleasant parts of adventures like getting thrown in a snake pit, covered in insects and becoming the human sacrifice in an ancient ritual. Then you are invited to join REGAL's 2015 Mystery Pal's Program - Adventures in Friendship!

OUR biggest intergenerational program of the year is finally here and Sunday, February 1st, will be the start of our sign up for the adventure!

The Mystery Pals program encourages our members both young and young at heart to connect by fostering communication between the generations. If you are new to the congregation this is a great opportunity to get involved! Mystery Pal Seniors (6th grade to adults) and Juniors (kindergarten to 5th grade) get to know one another while keeping their identities a mystery. Each Senior is matched to a Junior then the Matches exchange communications for three weeks by way of a special Post Office set up at church. We encourage the exchange of handmade gifts, poems, stories, drawings or small toys that help Pals learn more about each other. Everyone then meets their Pals on the third week at the Mystery Pals Luncheon, where they can have fun and get to know each other better!

Mystery Pals Calendar

Sunday Feb. 1 to Sunday Feb.15: Sign up

Sunday March 1: Participants receive the info sheet filled out by their Pal, which will give them clues to their identity.

Sunday March 8, 15, 22: Exchange days at the Post Office in the lobby.

Sunday March 22 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: The Mystery Pals Potluck Luncheon and Pal reveal!

Participants need to come to the REGAL table to on March 6th to pick up their Pal's info sheet, you'll need it to prepare for the first exchange a week later!

NOTE: Information about REGAL classes for January was not available at time of publication. Look for weekly class information in the Happenings newsletter and on the South Valley web page.

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

We are happy to be starting 2015. We can't wait until March when we will be going to Lava Hot Springs. Christopher Penzcak will be leading the seminar on his book *The Mighty Dead*. We still have a few spots available for those who want to join us.

But coming up earliest in the new year will be our first pancake breakfast of 2015. It will be on Sunday, January 11th. This will be our usual breakfast. We could use help with the breakfast, so if you are free to help in any way either before or after the service, then we would appreciate it.

In February we will be doing Witchy Workshops. We had to reschedule these from December. On Sunday February 1st, after the service, we will be making bath salts, soap, tee shirts, and other items. Come join us as we create something new in the spring.

News from the Social Action Council

WORSHIP SERVICE OFFERING SPLIT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY: STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

For January and February, we will be splitting our Sunday offering with Standing on the Side of Love, an interfaith public advocacy campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. The campaign emerged in 2009 to challenge exclusion, oppression, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity. At this time of great unrest, when our communities are increasingly threatened by the prevalence of acts motivated by fear and hate, Standing on the Side of Love works with local communities to equip them through various methods to counter this fear and hate and empower them to influence attitudes and make changes in public policy. For more information, please visit <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/about/>.

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.

Finance Committee Seeking New Members

Happy 2015 to all.

The SVUUS Finance Committee is actively looking for new members. This committee meets once a month, usually 7:00 PM on the 2nd or 3rd Thursday. Our main job is establishing the annual operating budget for SVUUS, and monitoring our monthly income and expenses to make sure things are proceeding along as planned. We are coming up on our "busy time" for preparing the budget for the 2015-16 Church Fiscal Year which starts on July 1. Many hands make light work.

Persons interested in joining the Finance Committee need to be detail oriented, and have a very basic understanding of how to balance a checkbook. It's really a pretty simple process: we need to make sure more money is coming IN than is going OUT, which is the same general principle that any business or family checking account needs to follow. And if we're spending more than we are bringing in, outgo>income, we need to let the Board know this. Advanced degrees in global macroeconomics are NOT required for doing this!

Currently the Finance Committee has five members. Most of us have served on this committee for a very long time, and we really want (need) some new members and new ideas. Please contact myself or Phil Quigley (SVUUS Treasurer) if you'd like to join us.

David Norton
Finance Committee

South Valley Choir

In 2014, the South Valley Singers brought music to the worship services on Sundays and extended their reach into the community by singing at various locations throughout the year. Here is a look back at a busy year for our choir:

- January:** Granger Community Christian Church for the Martin Luther King commemoration
- February:** The Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square
- April:** South Valley UU performance of *Songs of the Earth* by Rev. Patty and Mary Lou Prince, a benefit concert for Save Our Canyons
- May:** Salt Lake AIDS Foundation dinner
- September:** Clean Air Rally at the Salt Lake City County Building
- November:** Assembly Hall on Temple Square performance of *Songs of the Earth* with the choirs from First Unitarian Church and the Creekview Ward in Kaysville

Joint performance with First Unitarian Church Chancel Choir for the Mountain Desert District Cluster Meeting
- December:** Winter Concert December 14th with the Salt Lake Encore Chorale, a benefit concert for the Samaritan Fund of SVUUS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24

Meditation Group

Come and experience how a practice of meditation can benefit your life and the life of our community.

Do you have a meditation practice or have always wanted to begin one? If this sounds like you, gather with us from Sunday, January 18th, from 9 to 10 a.m. before our service, in the Senior High Room. We will begin with a short check in, have a reading from a Buddhist source and then move into a time of silent meditation. This will be done in two cycles with a few minutes for stretching in between.

If you need childcare in order to attend, please email Rev. Patty at minister@svuus.org.



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 January 11th.

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

Save the Date

Jan. 11	CUUPS Pancake Breakfast
Jan. 18	Meditation Group, 9:00
Jan. 18	Getting to Know U Gathering, noon
Jan. 22	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 2:00

Upcoming Events

Feb. 1	REGAL Annual Beach Party Potluck, 12:00 – 2:00
	Mystery Pals kick-off
Feb. 1	CUUPS Witchy Workshops