

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 35, Issue 11

November, 2015

November Theme: Covenant

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November 1: First Sunday---“Celebrating Our Ancestors”

Rev. Patty Willis

An Intergenerational service to remember those who have gone before. What have they left us? Is there meaning in death after all?

Workshop #1: UU History, Part 1 taught by John Cooper.

Workshop #2: What we learned at the Parliament of World Religions. Come and share and listen.

November 8: “A Covenantal Religion: What do we promise one another?”

Jordan Roberts, congregational member

November 15: “Being a Witness to the Border: What Are We Called to Do?”

Rev. Patty Willis

Through my experience on the border, I hope that you will be able to walk in the shoes of migrants crossing from Central America and Mexico into the United States. What if you saw the world through their eyes?

November 22: “Bread Communion: Is There Room at Our Table?”

Rev. Patty Willis

Why do we close our tables? How can we make room?

That evening, the Inclusion Center Thanksgiving service will be held in our sanctuary, featuring the South Valley Singers.

November 29: TBA

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER

Rev. Patty Willis Cell #: 801-633-0709
Email: minister@svuus.org

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Office Hours: Tue & F 1:30-4:30 pm
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liz Martin (Director) 801-604-2973
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Office Hours:
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Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

REGAL COUNCIL

Kris Berg 801-414-3051

CARING CIRCLE

Dot Clayton (Chair) 801-561-4776
Email: ibedotclay@comcast.net

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

With autumn just around the corner in the Valley it gives me the thought that this year is almost over. Where did the time go? I can't believe that it is Goods and Services Auction time again. This will be my 14th year co-chairing the auction. I have loved (almost) every minute of it. Otherwise, I guess I wouldn't keep at it! It is my hope that we can break records this year in the amount we raise. It has been around \$18,000 for the last several years. I put it out to all of you that we reach for \$20,000 this year. We can do it! Remember, the donations we raise from the auction is a big part in helping to sustain our church throughout the year.

The Board too has been active, as well. Our new president, Eddie Granda, has been involved to keep tabs on the wide range of activities at South Valley. I have enjoyed all of the positive energy at South Valley these past few months. The chance to deeply listen to others and to be deeply listened to when it was my turn to share became something that I didn't want to miss. And more importantly, it made me realize that I really could make time for something that was just for me. I have been so happy to see South Valley transforming, as well, to become the vibrant place that it is right now. I love that visitors stand up to introduce themselves and comment on how welcomed they felt coming in our doors. I love how our building is looking nicer and nicer, the beautiful music all of our guest musicians provide, as well as our own choir and pianist. Now, here is my plug for the choir. Please join us. Mary Lou is a gift to our community and you will not find a better choir director!

There's a lot going on around South Valley and that is fantastic. I have started up the Women's Group Gathering again and look forward to those times when we a women came gather and share what is important to us. Hey, that reminds me.... when are the men going to form their own Men's Group? There are many ways to get involved in the life of this congregation and I encourage each and every one of you to find as many ways as you can to do that. If your experience is anything like mine, you will get just as much out of it as you put into it.

In community,

Cynthia Dobbs
Board of Trustees member



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From Our Minister

Monthly Theme: Covenant

“Chalice Circles to Share Our Light with Each Other”

In the sermons I write for worship services, I share with you my thoughts and musings around questions. Some of those questions have come from you, such as last week and “What is the goal of Unitarian Universalism?” a topic suggested by Phil Quigley. Last week, during the “Story for All Ages” time, I asked what you and our youth and children thought of this question and received some wonderful insightful answers. I often wish that there were time in our service for you to share as well, but with over a hundred people in attendance, this isn’t viable. There is a way outside of our services: In January, we will begin a practice of sharing in small groups that involves our whole congregation. These gatherings of from six to twelve people can happen at the church or in homes around the valley. For 90 minutes, the group members check in, listen to some readings and then after a time of reflection, each person has an opportunity to respond to one of the questions and then the process of readings, questions and sharing is repeated. While one person is responding, the others are listening - not thinking about an intelligent response! For those of you who have experienced this, you will remember how wonderful it is to have that opportunity. Mysteriously, without the back and forth of conversation, connections deepen. A circle that is already going is our Prayer Shawl Ministry that meets on the third Thursday of each month.

I’m introducing these circles now while our monthly theme is “covenant” because these groups are built around a covenant as is our congregation. The covenant established by this congregation is printed on every order of service. This is the promise that we make to each other and is what we show people when they say that Unitarian Universalism is that church where anything goes.

Love is the spirit of this congregation and our service to the world is love in action. We covenant to build a religious community that is guided by love, sustained by respectful relationships and committed to action to make a better world. We celebrate this common purpose whenever we gather and do our best to abide by this covenant.

The covenant for small groups is made by the group on the first meeting and is read at the beginning of each gathering. Often, the covenant is around confidentiality. We don’t share what we hear in the group, we take with us what we learn. Often, the group also promises to listen to one another and not to try to “fix” each other and to attend unless truly impossible. Through the months, the covenant can change with things added or taken away. At each group, there is always an empty chair inviting a new person or persons to join - showing that the group is never closed. These groups are building blocks of our community.

At the end of each Sunday service, before we extinguish the chalice, I ask that the light of our community go with you into your lives and relationships. Since these sharing circles are a way of reminding us of that light and kindling the light, they will be called Chalice Circles. Albert Schweitzer, who is a spiritual ancestor of our faith, wrote that “at times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.” These circles offer a way beyond our Sundays together to give and receive hope from one another.

Come and join me in this opportunity. I’m asking you to begin carving out these 90 minutes during your month. I promise that this gift will refresh your life and will become an important part of our shared ministry together.

In love and community,

Rev. Patty



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

All are welcome to come and commune with the ancestors while the veil is thin!

***Come Celebrate Samhain with our South Valley CUUPS group-Sunday, Nov. 1, 7:00 pm
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society
6876 S. Highland Drive
Cottonwoods Heights***

Please bring a dish to pass following the ritual.

***Blessings of the season,
Leslie Hugo***

News from the Social Action Council

RESPONDING TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE

Worship Service Offering Split Recipient for Nov and Dec 2015: UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund

As the world faces the greatest refugee crisis since World War II, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) have jointly launched a special emergency response. UUSC crisis response teams are reaching out to the most vulnerable people caught up in this humanitarian crisis, particularly women and children. Donations to the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund will go directly to UUSC partners operating on the ground in countries receiving refugees. UUSC is focusing on ensuring the safe passage of refugees seeking safety and helping refugees access their rights in host countries.

For more information on this fabulous program visit: <http://www.uusc.org/donate#sthash.IOHJGT4M.dpuf>

From the Worship Closet

SVUU's theme for November is "Covenant." Unitarian Universalist covenantal tradition traces its heritage back to the Cambridge Platform first adopted in 1648. Unitarian Universalism is founded upon congregational polity, meaning that our church communities govern themselves, without the firm direction of an ecclesiastical hierarchy. To do that, we covenant with one another to uphold common principles and agreements. For us, covenant describes how we want to be with each other, provides us with common ground to walk upon and sets the context for building beloved community. Another interesting reflection about covenant is that it is not just about individual congregations; it also governs how our churches relate to one another and how our national organization is governed.

SVUU has its own covenant which is printed below, and on the Order of Service each week. Each year our society reviews this covenant, and everyone has the opportunity to suggest changes and to vote on accepting this covenant. This month, consider reviewing SVUU's covenant or reading it for the first time. How are your personal actions upholding this covenant? How are the actions of our society as a group upholding this covenant? Where is there room for improvement? Together I hope to explore our covenant with SVUU and reaffirm its place in our lives.

In community,
Jill Eichbauer (special thanks to John Cooper for co-authoring and for his helpful insights on "covenant" and "polity.")

SVUU Covenant: Love is the spirit of this congregation, and our service to the world is love in action. We covenant to build a religious community that is guided by love, sustained by respectful relationships, and committed to action to make a better world. We celebrate this common purpose whenever we gather, and we do our best to abide by this covenant.

Monday Menus

From 6:00-6:30 p.m. celebrate Meatless Mondays by enjoying a homemade soup (vegan and gluten-free) and sharing potluck accompaniments. Then from 6:30-8:00 p.m. choose from different classes/discussion groups/activities to enrich our personal and community journey! Past offerings have included: Yoga, Bridge, Family Board Games, The Artist's Way, Bible Study, Social Justice Reading Group, Compassionate Communication, Paganism 101, Children's Choir, Glacial Geology, Science & Religion series, Beer Making 101...

Monday Menus NEEDS *you* to succeed! Have a passion or talent you can share with your SVUUS community? Lead a Monday Menus class offering! It can be a single night, or a series; whatever suits you and your topic. Contact Liz or Rev. Patty with your ideas! (DRE@svuus.org or Minister@svuus.org)

- November 2:** Paganism 101 facilitated by Mary Norton
Yoga with Peter Ries
Building Your Own Theology facilitated by Chris Gearheart
Chess Club and Strategy Games
Young Adult Café
- November 9:** Paganism 101 facilitated by Mary Norton
Yoga with Peter Ries
Chess Club and Strategy Games
Building Your Own Theology facilitated by Chris Gearheart
Young Adult Café
- November 16:** Paganism 101 facilitated by Mary Norton
Yoga with Peter Ries
Seeing Who We Are
Chess Club and Strategy Games
Young Adult Café
- November 23:** Chess Club and Strategy Games
Yoga with Peter Ries
Seeing Who We Are
Young Adult Café

Class Descriptions:

"Aligning with the Earth: Exploring a Spirituality of Simplicity" with Rev. Patty

In our service on August 30th around the work of David Suzuki, Rev. Patty spoke about the connection between our consumerism and our lack of connection with the Earth and how that is a driving factor in climate change. Let's explore together each of our connections to consumerism. What drives your shopping? In our growing awareness, we will consider how we can simplify our lives. These ways, different for each of us, could become the core of our own spiritual practices that align us with the Earth. Bring a notebook and prepare to dig deep in discussion and journaling.

"Seeing Who We Are: Taking Steps towards Understanding Racism and Doing Something about It" with Rev. Patty & Susan Eyzaguirre

One of the first steps towards understanding racism in the world is seeing who we are. Through the insights of the book "Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving, we will open our eyes to who we are in the world. What do we bring? (Try to read the book beforehand, but come anyway if you don't have time!)

Paganism 101

Facilitated by Mary Norton
11/2, 11/9, 11/16

You have all seen some of the pagan songs and readings in our hymn book. If these glimpses into neo-paganism have intrigued you, please join me for a more in-depth exploration of this revival of Pre-Christian theology and worship in Europe. We will focus on the major pagan traditions being practiced by descendants of these ancient cultures today, namely Wicca (which is a very 'new' religion which borrowed from several older sources), Celtic Reconstructionist, Norse and Saxon (also called Asatru and Heathen respectively), Hellenic and Eclectic. If you have an interest in any other historical religion, we can discuss exploring them in class.

Monday Menus con't

Yoga in the Sanctuary

Facilitated by Peter Ries

Every Monday

Come enjoy a peaceful yoga practice with us, as we celebrate and embrace ourselves taking small steps to new horizons in our minds and bodies. Always being gentle, we only do what feels right for us, allowing ourselves the freedom to move at our own pace. All are welcome!



Chess Club and Strategy Games for all ages

11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23

Facilitated by Paul Carlson & Liz Martin

Come and learn some new games with us (or share in some familiar ones!), and maybe even pick up a little knowledge about Game Theory along the way. Ages 5 and up welcome. (Child care provided for younger kids)



Religious Education, Growth and Learning

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

November 1, 2015:

ALL-AGES Worship - Honoring our Ancestors on the Day of the Dead

November 8, 2015:

High School (9th-12th graders): UU Values in Society

Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Learning to Lead Worship

Seekers (2nd-5th graders): Love Will Guide Us - Love in our Congregation

Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us - Forgiveness

Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World

Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

November 15, 2015:

High School (9th-12th graders): UU Values in Society

Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Intro to Spiritual Practices

Seekers (2nd-5th graders): Love Will Guide Us - We Are Loved, Flaws and All

Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us - Love Surrounds Us without Boundaries

Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World

Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

November 22, 2015:

ALL-AGES Worship - Annual Bread Communion and Thanksgiving Service

November 29, 2015:

High School (9th-12th graders): UU Values in Society

Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age

Seekers (2nd-5th graders) & Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): CHILDREN'S CHAPEL with Liz

Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World

Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

Junior High Youth and Their Parents!

11/8/2015 - 12:30 p.m. in the Junior High Room

Mandatory informational meeting for all youth and their parent/guardian(s) about the two central programs for 6th-8th Graders this year: Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives (Comprehensive Sexuality Education program). In order to participate, attendance at this meeting is REQUIRED, but attending the meeting does not obligate you to participate...please attend to learn all about these opportunities!



Opportunities and Announcements

FIRST SUNDAY EVENT

Heretics and Saints: Unitarian Universalist History with John Cooper

On November 1st, at 12:30, after our chili-cookoff, gather in the High school room to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history. In this 90 minute gathering will, John Cooper, chaplain and candidate for UU ministry, will open your eyes to the early beginnings of Unitarianism. Learn about Unitarian connections to the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. This is a great chance to deepen your understanding of our UU roots.

The next two First Sundays will be devoted to later eras in our history.

UU SERVICE COMMITTEE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE STARTS NOV. 22.... & 'BANK' BOXES ARE BACK!!

Yes, we have a good supply of those popular boxes to place on our tables during the holidays this year. They're just like the ones we have used since SVUUS got its charter.

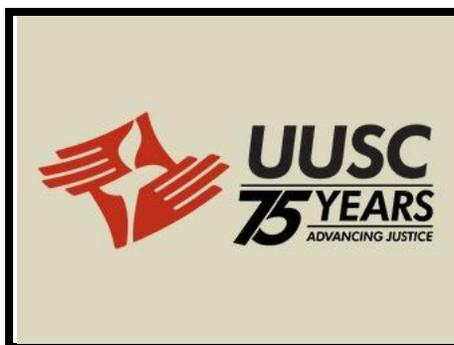
2015 is a special year as well. It is the UU Service Committee's 75th birthday. The program began in 1940 as a courageous effort to save Jewish children from concentration camps and often death. Pictured on the boxes are photos of two of those rescued children (now older adults) along with two individuals representing UUSC's current programs.

New to this? Here's how it works. On Sunday Nov. 22 (bread Sunday) boxes will be distributed along with a pamphlet called Stories of Hope. The pamphlet explains the many ways you can contribute. A favorite way with kids and kids at heart is to keep your box on your table. Then, once a day or as often as you like, you can invite a guest to your table by placing the box on a plate and adding loose change and bills. Discuss how you are helping. The pennies and nickels add up, this continues from Thanksgiving until New Year's when all boxes or donations need to be sent or turned in to a collection box in the foyer.

Keep in mind, email donations, personal checks also are welcome. You can read more about this in the Stories of Hope Pamphlet.

For more questions go online to uus.org and find Guest At Your Table. As it states in the pamphlet:

**It's one of the most precious gifts we can offer anyone caught
in the most dire circumstances – HOPE.**



Opportunities and Announcements con't

Library Book Sale!

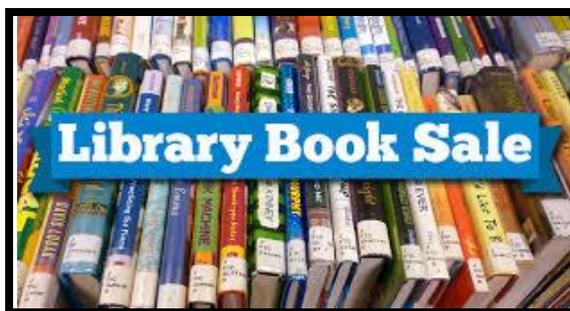
The Library Book Sale is coming up Sunday, November 22.
Look for great bargains in the Social Hall after the service.

Wanted!! If you have gently used juvenile and adult books, CD's, DVD's, audio books, puzzles or games that you would like to donate we would REALLY love to have them for our sale. We will be accepting donations every Sunday through November 21 or you can leave your donations by the library shelves in the Social Hall.

We appreciate your continued support for our book sale! All proceeds go to benefit your Library.

If you have questions, please look for us at the library each Sunday after services or contact Denna at dennalee1968@gmail.com

South Valley Library Committee
Denna Wright and Connee Gates, co-chairs



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Senior High Room. Anyone who is interested in knitting or crocheting shawls or afghans to contribute to the Prayer Shawl ministry is welcome to join us.

If you are interested and have questions, you can contact me at lorriquigley@msn.com.



Opportunities and Announcements con't

South Valley Unitarian Universalist WILD, WILD WEST

Howdy, pard'ner!

It's time to strap on your spurs and join us at the South Valley General Store for the biggest party – and biggest fundraiser – of the year!

Are you new to South Valley?

Welcome! The Auction is a great way to get to know the members of the community – and give you a glimpse into our interests and hobbies. Bid on your choice of great items, or take your pick of the dinners and parties for even more chances to socialize throughout the year!

Are you an Auction Veteran?

Then you know the drill: **Buy your tickets early** so we can stock the chuckwagon! **Sign up to help out!** (Many hands make light work!) **Submit your donations (yes, multiple!)** We want your parties, services, high-quality crafts, and gently-used items in excellent condition (think Plato's Closet quality, not Salvation Army). **Plan your Costume!** Whether it's Stetsons or Steampunk, we want to see *your* version of the Wild, Wild West!

The Pony Express rides again!

Watch your email for more Auction news!

AUCTION

Saturday, November 14th at 6:00

Stop by the Auction booth downstairs during Coffee hour throughout October to buy Tickets and Volunteer to help out!





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. The next opportunity to purchase grocery cards will be on September 13th. However, if anyone needs cards on another Sunday; we'd be happy to oblige. You can ask a Council member (Kristy Jensen, David Norton or Phil Quigley) and we can arrange for an individual sale.

Save the Date		
December	4	Womens Group Annual Christmas Party
Upcoming Events		
November	1	First Sunday Event
November	4	Womens Group Annual Christmas Party
November	14	Annual Goods and Services Auction
November	19	Prayer Shawl Ministry
November	22	Library Book Sale
November	22	Guest at Your Table



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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Email: ibedotclay@comcast.net

Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
Mel Welliver	801-963-8258
Peter Verschoor	801-944-1653