

The Beacon



South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 35, Issue 2

February, 2015

February Theme: Companions on the Sea

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February 1: "The Value of Community"

South Valley has a long tradition of survival and flourishing through many changes and it's our sense of community and connections with one another that takes us through.

Luci Malin, Chair of the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC)

February 8: "Watch Me Fly"

Find out why a woman whose husband was assassinated during the Civil Rights movement would entitle her autobiography with those words. The life of Myrlie Evers Williams, the wife of Medgar Evers, bears witness to the transformation of fear into love. Her story bids us be courageous companions on the sea. Since the opposite of fear is love, overcoming our fears may be a way for us to proudly hang our "Standing on the Side of Love" banner again in front of our building

Rev. Patty Willis

February 15: "Standing on the Side of Love"

As fear leads the world into danger, how can we stand for love? How can we go beyond fear to heal the divisions in this city and in the world? What are practical ways that we can practice love in the face of fear?

Rev. Patty Willis

February 22: "Abundance: Finding the Connection between Gratitude and Joy"

Why do we give to our community? Instead of fearing hell, we are hoping for a way to change the world.

Rev. Patty Willis

From the Board of Trustees

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

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REGAL COUNCIL

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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

Board Thoughts (No, no. not that kind of bored...)

The Board is delighted to see that Mac has quickly settled into his role as a new Board member and has already been an enormous help. Still, we miss Tom with his independent thinking style, but we appreciate all he has done for our community. We hope that when he has more available time we will be able to work with him again.

We are all enjoying the success of our fundraising for new carpet for the main floor and stairs of the church. The contributions from so many people and the willingness of many to help with the old carpet tear-out has made success possible. The process of removing the old carpet and installing the new will disrupt church life for a few days, at least on the main floor, but in the end it will be well worth it.

Recently the Board was surprised by the strong interest in the policy limiting commercial activity on the listserv. Still, it provides an opportunity to involve others, and particularly the communications committee, in reviewing the policy and refining it to better suit the needs of the congregation. It was delightful to see so many people attend the meeting about the listserv rules and share information and opinions about how to refine the policy. One idea is to have two listserv's, one for official church business and another for "community business" such as a member offering event tickets they couldn't use to anyone who could use them. However, some people pointed out that when multiple listserv's were tried in the past they were not successful. Others pointed out that was some time ago and it might be successful now. The Board reviewed the situation in the Board meeting and will proceed as follows: we will issue a clarification of just what is affected by the policy and publish it on the listserv, then an ad hoc committee will be formed to study the issue and make a recommendation. As always, feedback is needed to arrive at a policy that will suit the needs of all.

Also in January a joint meeting of the Stewardship committee and the Ministerial Relations committee (formerly called the Transition committee) explored ways to combine their efforts by holding small group meetings both for the pledge drive and to discuss the minister position. Currently Rev. Patty is serving as a developmental minister and the congregation will be looking at maintaining her in that position or issuing a call for a permanent minister. In the meetings we will share our ideas, thoughts and feelings about our ministerial leadership which we hope will produce to a consensus judgment. In the meetings we will also talk about the pledge drive and, by the way, NOW is not too soon to be thinking about your pledge for next year!

South Valley is a truly democratic organization managed by the members of South Valley for us and future members, friends and visitors. Your ideas are the fuel that keeps us moving forward.

--Phil Quigley
SVUUS Board of Trustees



From Our Minister

February's Monthly Theme: Companions on the Sea

Scars and Healing

Each of my hands has a dark red spot, one is smack in the middle of my lifeline and the other is to the side on the pad of my palm. The skin on those areas is darker and shinier and smoother. I didn't have these marks until late in the afternoon of December 2nd. I was walking quickly in the darkness along a sidewalk in Sugarhouse, excited to get home because in only about an hour, Lou and I would be leaving for the Governor's Mansion to attend a special holiday gathering. About two blocks into my walk, all of a sudden, the heel of my shoe got caught on an uneven bit of the sidewalk, and I was flying. The energy that was propelling me home sent me up into the air. I put my hands out to break my fall and they hit first, scraping along the concrete, my full weight driving them along. I lay on the sidewalk for a few seconds. Someone walked by me and said nothing. That hurt. Little by little, I moved my legs and arms, finding that my hands and one knee felt a lot of pain but nothing seemed broken. I tried to remove tiny bits of gravel out of the open places in my hand and with my unwounded fingers, I felt around for the contents of my purse that had also gone flying. In the end, we didn't go to the Governor's Mansion. My hands continued to bleed even after Mary Lou bandaged them. How could I avoid shaking hands? And, I was feeling lightheaded and finding it hard to stand up. It was a sad, disappointing night. That week and the weeks to follow, all over the world, much graver tragedies swirled around us. Demonstrations continued over the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner and others. Terrorists killed Jews, Christians, Muslims and I'm sure some atheists, even though they were not designated, and huge crowds of people marched in solidarity and grief. A young transgender youth killed herself and Emily Smith, one of our youths organized a vigil at South Valley. Our wounded world keeps trying to shift towards healing.

Now, over a month after my accident, I'm looking at my hands and only finding dark shiny places where those nasty holes had been. My hands are healing. I have scars on my feet from a large rusty nail that went all the way through my foot when I was in my thirties. I have another one on the side of my foot from a nail in my childhood. And, sometimes, I have twinges in my heart---experiences seem to touch places that have been broken. As we grow older, our hearts and bodies bear the evidence that we are living our lives. When I arrived in Salt Lake City to serve as your minister, I found that many of your hearts had been wounded through years of community life. Now, two and a half years later, I sense that much healing has taken place. Is my sense about this true? How are your hearts? I wonder if these dark spots on my hands will remain like my other scars. Our past is written on our bodies and in our hearts. After healing, our scars remain to remind us of the courage we exercised in loving deeply enough to be hurt. Our scars can show our well-lived lives. It is my hope that healing has come to most of us and that our scars may be a source of compassion as we serve each other and the greater community. Part of our discernment around my being your long term minister is about whether this community and I are a healthy combination. Together, are we moving towards greater wholeness?

During February and March, we have an opportunity to engage with people of many faiths and I believe that this is work towards healing the greater world. Lou and I are marking our calendars to make sure that we attend events at mosques, temples, and churches all over the Salt Lake Valley. In those places of worship, you will find humans like yourselves, who have been wounded and carry scars. They, too, have stories of hurt and healing and still find worth in being part of religious communities. For the schedule, please go to www.interfaithroundtable.org. I hope to see you there.

In love and community,

Rev. Patty



BIG EVENT 2015: "Charting Our Voyage"

Save the Date! Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015 @ 6 – 9 p.m.

Join us as we kick off the spring 2015 pledge canvass campaign with our annual Big Event, a free celebration open to all congregants. We'll look back playfully at the church year just completed, and forward to the wonderful opportunities ahead for fulfilling our mission. Child care activities will be available.

- Catered dinner
- Entertainment
- "State of the Church" address
- Inspiration
- And maybe a few surprises

Please RSVP—sign up at church on Sundays, or email rachelmdoyle@gmail.com to allow for an accurate count for planning dinner arrangements. See you there!

Contact for entertainment:

Keshav
David Lane
Resound
Joe
Choir/Lou?

From the Worship Closet

Have you ever noticed how, on occasion, there seems to be uncanny connections between unconnected parts of your life? Well, it has happened to me in connection (pun intended) with this article. Since I am a member of the Worship Committee (please consider joining it) and the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC), this makes just one Beacon "connected" article for both committees this month.

Recently, Rev. Patty, on behalf of the Transition Team, asked me to join the Transition Team, the ministerial committee for developmental ministers. Since Rev. Patty has been with us well over two years, she is involved in the process of making appointment requests which are ratified by the board. Our chair, Luci Malin, felt that the transition time is really over and if that is true, what are we doing as a committee? That's why we just changed our name to the Ministerial Relations Committee, because that is what we do: we make sure that any concerns or happiness is relayed to our minister.

In our many meetings, we discussed everything we do in our church from worship to stewardship to various ministries. At our last meeting, as we were re-thinking our goals as a congregation, we discovered the central goal of the South Valley community is summed up in one word -- "connections."

Meanwhile, the Worship Committee took on a sailing theme for 2015. February became "Companions on the Sea," another connection. Next thing I know, the Stewardship Committee wants to link the Big Event (February 28th) to our several ministries, encouraging members to give of their "time, talents, and treasure." The MRC joined in with introducing "spyglass" (going along with the sailing theme) groups at the Big Event to get input and connect all South Valley members in the direction we should go as a community.

I hope everyone involved with this community joins in and makes more or different connections with South Valley. We are "companions on the sea" of life. Let's take advantage of the community we have and notice all the connections we make.

In community,
Jan Vanderhooft

Finance Committee

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

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

We at CUUPS are looking forward to an exciting next couple of months. On the 8th of February we will have a breakfast after the service. This will be a burrito breakfast. Come and enjoy it with us.

Coming up on February 15th, at 12:30 we will be having what we are calling Witchy Workshops. We will have the Soap Lady there to make soap. We will be making bath salts, reverse tie die shirts and other crafts. Each activity has a small fee. Please come and create with us.

Also in February, we have our annual Chocolate Feast on February 22nd following the service. This is a potluck. Please bring a chocolate dish to share, savory or sweet, something to dip into the chocolate fountain and your place setting. You may use the dishes in the kitchen, but we ask that you clean up after yourself. Gourmet hot chocolate will be available for purchase.

Finally, in March 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.

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: dennalee1968@gmail.com	
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Kathleen Luck	801-567-9062

Ministerial Relations Committee

Our time with the Mountain Desert Executive Director, Nancy Bowen, on the Nov 15 weekend helped us understand the options for our future ministry at SVUUS. Rev. Patty Willis came to us as a developmental minister. This is different from the interim ministry we have experienced during the last few years. The Interim Ministry program allows a Minister to serve for one or two years only at a given congregation. After that period, she /he must leave.

Developmental ministry is a new program through which the Board determines a set of developmental goals that they and the minister will focus on for a specified period of time. The congregation hires a minister for a limited term to work with them on those goals and there is a possibility of calling that person to settled ministry if the minister is willing. The SVUUS Board of Trustees signed a contract with Rev. Patty in June of 2012 for her to serve a developmental ministry for 4 years. With developmental ministry, we as a congregation, have more possibilities than we had with our interim ministers:

1. If the minister agrees, and Rev. Patty did during our last Board gathering, then we can open ourselves to the possibility of extending a call to her, with a vote at our annual meeting.
2. Another possibility would be extending the developmental ministry for another year to continue work on our goals.
3. Yet another would be a mutual decision (no vote needed) through the small group gatherings (explained below) to keep the contract as it is. In that case, Rev. Patty would help us find a minister during her fourth year with us. During that time, she would also be in search for a different congregation.

Now that we are entering the 3rd year of our contract with Rev. Patty, we will begin a period of discernment about which of these options is best for us. Our first step will be gathering in small talking circles (8 to 12 members) to talk about the shared ministry of the past more than two years. Together, we'll be answering the following questions: How is our developmental ministry going? Do we want to re-think our goals? In the process of that discussion, if there is overwhelming support for our shared ministry of the past years, and the way that Rev. Patty is helping us fulfill those goals, then we would have a vote at the annual meeting about calling her to be our settled minister. She has indicated that an important part of her discernment is around the way we respectfully engage with one another, and speak of her, as we answer these questions.

The Transition Committee and the Board are planning these events to facilitate our discernment as a congregation. What is your vision? This is not only about whether you want Rev. Patty as your minister, we want to know what direction you want to go as a congregation. It is vital that you (every SVUUS member and friend) participate in talking circles that will begin gathering in January. These gatherings give you a chance to be proactive in the future of our congregation. It is our hope and Rev. Patty's hope that these circles are rich gatherings for the expression of vision, brainstorming and gratitude. Maybe they could even be joyful! Please contact a Board member or a Transition Committee member: Sarah Allen, Jan Vanderhooft, Sandra Roach, or Luci Malin if you have any questions.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Annual Beach Party Potluck - 2/1/15

REGAL's Annual Beach Party Potluck

Come hula away your winter blues with us! REGAL is sponsoring our 6th Annual Beach Party on Sunday Feb 1st from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. 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!

~Aloha until then!

A-D Salad/Fruit E-M Drink/Bread N-Z Side Dish

Religious Education, Growth and Learning con't

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 meet their Pals on the third week at the Mystery Pals Luncheon, where they can have fun and get to know each other better!

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 12:00pm to 2:00pm: The Mystery Pals Potluck Luncheon and Palreveal!

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!

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

February 1, 2015: Regular Sunday School classes

High School: TBD

Junior High: "Speaking of Fair"

Seekers & Trailblazers (2nd-5th): "Footprints: Treading Softly on the Earth"

Pathfinders (K-1st): "Tango"

Preschool: "Helping Others"

February 8, 2015: Regular Sunday School classes

High School: Coffee Shop Sunday at Beans & Brews

Junior High: "Right and Wrong"

Seekers & Trailblazers (2nd-5th): "Do No Harm"

Pathfinders (K-1st): "Bless This Meal"

Preschool: "A Special Jigsaw Puzzle"

February 15, 2015: All-Ages Service, "Standing on the Side of Love"

February 22, 2015: Regular Sunday School classes

High School: Third-Wave Feminism

Junior High: "To Tell The Truth"

Sacred Travels (K-5th): Children's Chapel with Liz

Preschool: "Feeling Sad"

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Monday Menus

YOGA: Marinda is back. Come sweat away your worries, build your physical and mental strength, and make new friends! Wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat. Extra mats available if needed. Every Monday (location TBA).

Beer 101 Con't

Monday, February 2 – Let's make beer!

In this hands-on class, we will commandeer the kitchen and we will pitch our yeast upon the malty waters!

Taking Back Public Lands-That were never Utah's for the Taking:

You've heard about this issue in the local news. Despite having no financial plan to manage an additional 70% Utah real estate, Utah passed a resolution "demanding" the Federal Government turn over lands within the state borders to state control by the end of 2014. Come Join April Abate-Adams for an informational discussion on how this issue arose and the wisdom behind the idea. (2/2) Taught by April Abate-Adams

UU Polity and Theology:

What have you learned in your life about how churches run? What do you know about congregational polity, annual church meetings, the role of the church board, and the minister in a UU congregation? How does the way we run our church reflect our values and what we believe about the world? Where did our church system come from? What is its heritage? Join us for UU Polity and Theology, a 3-part course where we will explore what we believe about how our church is run, the structure and meaning of congregational polity and how governing our church reflects our values, principles and beliefs about the world. (1/26) (2/2) (2/9) Taught by John Cooper, MS, MDIV

The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering Our Place in Nature:

Based on the book "The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering our Place in Nature" by David Suzuki. Suzuki is a renowned biologist/geneticist and conservationist who "expresses a world view towards which the human species must shift in the 21st century." This important and fascinating class will meet in four sessions. We'll watch a DVD based on the book and hold discussions.

(2/16) (2/23) (3/2) (3/16) Taught By Joe Gates

News from the Social Action Council

SVUUS Standing on the Side of Love 2015 Kickoff

Sunday, February 15th will be our kickoff for our 2015 Standing on the Side of Love campaign. Our focus this year will be on racial justice, with particular attention given to ways to help improve law enforcement's relationship with the communities they serve. After the service, we will be taking a picture with our newly raised Standing on the Side of Love banner, and in the lobby we will have postcards for you to send to your representatives regarding key bills being introduced this upcoming legislative session.

For January and February, we will be splitting our Sunday offering with Standing on the Side of Love

Is 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/>.

News from the Social Action Council con't

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.

CORC

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY - MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Citizen Lobbying for Economic Justice with CORC - Faith Days on the Hill in February

UU Faith Days are: Feb 10 and 26 (9 am - noon)

Let's make a difference during this Utah State legislative session! The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) *FaithDays on the Hill* are an opportunity for people of all faiths to meet and work on social justice issues concerning poverty and homelessness. While there are two days that focus on bringing together UUs (Feb 10 and 26), any person of any faith can participate on any Faith Day (Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout February). Each Faith Day starts at 9 am in the Spruce Room of the Senate building (which is behind the capitol on the east). CORC will bring everyone up to date on issues being followed for that day, identify legislators needing to be educated on pertinent bills, give overall instructions, and assign mentors for newbie's. (CORC knows how to make this easy for us.) From 10 am-12 pm each person will have the opportunity to meet with their personal Representative and Senator if at all possible. (Legislators usually make a priority of meeting all constituents who take time to visit Capitol Hill.) After those visits the remaining time is typically spent educating legislators on immediate pending bills of concern to CORC. CORC, of Crossroads Urban Center, is a multi-faith, non-partisan organization whose primary objective is to advocate for issues that impact the quality of life for low-income and homeless Utahans. Key issues during this legislative session are anticipated to include predatory "payday" lending, servers wages, healthcare (i.e., Medicaid expansion, Healthy Utah), affordable housing, and more. Questions? Interested in carpooling? Contact Susan Eyzaguirre at eyzsooz@gmail.com

Opportunities and Announcements

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 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.

CUUPS Annual Chocolate Feast Potluck is following service on February 22nd. YUM!



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 February 8th. 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

Feb. 1	Annual Beach Party
Feb. 1	Mystery Pals
Feb. 2	Beer Making 101 Con't
Feb. 2	UU Polity and Theology
Feb. 2	Taking Back Public Lands-That were never Utah's for the Taking
Feb. 9	UU Polity and Theology
Feb. 10	Citizen Lobbying for Economic Justice with CORC
Feb. 15	Witchy Workshop
Feb. 15	Standing on the Side of Love Kickoff
Feb. 16	The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering Our Place in Nature
Feb. 22	CUUPS Annual Chocolate Feast Potluck
Feb. 23	The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering Our Place in Nature
Feb. 26	Citizen Lobbying for Economic Justice with CORC
Feb. 28	The Big Event

Upcoming Events

March 2	The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering Our Place in Nature
March 9	Spyglass Groups
March 16	The Sacred Balance-Rediscovering Our Place in Nature
March 22	Mystery Pals Luncheon
March 16, 23, 30	Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square 2014-2015 Unitarian Universalist Common Read

