

# The Beacon



## AUTHORITY

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 36, Issue 1

January, 2016

### January Theme: Authority



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#### January 3: "How can we transcend fear? This is the Work of 2016"

In this election year, fear is being used to distract people from the true problems of our day: Climate change, poverty, education, hunger, health care. And, then there is the fear of who is going to be elected?! How can we dispel fear and then even transcend it? This is our work for the new year. Bring your fears to our service and the will to send them packing.

**Rev Patty Willis**

#### January 10: "What will I do with my one wild and wonderful life?"

**Members of the community**

#### January 17: "White Privilege: Learning to See the Elephant in the Room"

How can we transcend this barrier to Beloved Community, a concept held dear by Martin Luther King, Jr.?

**Rev. Patty Willis**

#### January 24: "Where Do We Find the Authority to Speak Truth to Power?"

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to speak with courage for peace and justice in this world. From where does our authority come? Where do you find authority when you are called upon to speak out?

**Rev. Patty Willis**

#### January 31: "Ethical Eating"

## *From the Board of Trustees*

### 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](mailto: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  
Email: [dre@svuus.org](mailto:dre@svuus.org)  
Office Hours:  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Other hours by appointment

#### REGAL COUNCIL

Kris Berg 801-414-3051

#### CARING CIRCLE

Dot Clayton (Chair) 801-561-4776  
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#### SVUUS Web Site

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

#### SVUUS-NEWS Email List

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

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

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

Humans have been celebrating the beginning of a new year for at least the last 4,000 years. The Babylonians held an elaborate 11 day festival in late March each year which included the renewing of vows and the setting of resolutions. The Egyptians celebrated the annual flooding of the Nile with a two week festival each August. The European Pagans celebrated the beginning of their new year at the end of each October. The Chinese held a month long festival in late January or February depending on the cycle of the moon during that year. The Muslim new year being tied to astrological events, adjusted earlier each year by 11 days. Luckily for the ball droppers in New York, the Romans came along and decided that everyone else was wrong and moved the whole celebration to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

It is with a spirit of carrying the best of myself and adding in a bit of who I want to be that I greet this new year. I am hopeful and excited that our community also seems to be meeting this turn of the calendar in this fashion. We have much to be thankful for from this past year and many signs that our love, acceptance and outreach is making a difference in the greater community. We also experienced our fair share of heartache and frustration this past year and were able to pick each other up and shoulder each other's load. We did this without a second thought, because as friends and members of this community, this is what we do.

Regardless of when you choose to celebrate the new year, I put forth that all of us should take up the challenge in 2016 to bring with us the best that we have, shed the things that are weighing us down and make this next year one of growth and improvement for ourselves and the church community as a whole. Much has been accomplished since a group of brave and intrepid individuals dared to dream back in 1983 of what we have today. Much more is required of us if our children are to look back from the future with the same sense of wonder and amazement. The journey ahead will be worth it and I know that I can confidently stride forward, because when I falter, my community will be there to lift me up.

Happy New Year to all of you!

In love and community,  
Cody Pace  
Board of Trustees Member



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## *From Our Minister*

Monthly Theme: Authority

Where does authority come from?

One of the aspects of serving this community is that I never know who will write and want to talk with me. I am talking with an imam one day and someone who is trying to survive addiction on another. In my office, I have been the witness of many human hearts. I've listened to some of the ways that we are different from one another in belief and way of life and I've heard the beating of hearts that reminded me of our shared humanity. A few weeks ago, a young pastor from an evangelical church wrote and asked me for an appointment. He had read about our community on our website and had read more that I had written on my website and had questions. One that kept sticking with him and caused me to pause was, "How can you say what you say?" In the context of our conversation, he was asking me from where my authority came. In the church of my ancestors, all of the men of my family had certificates of ordination to a priesthood and with that ordination came a kind of tree that showed an unbroken line of people being ordained all the way back to Adam. The authority came through this unbroken line.

When I was ordained as a minister in the sanctuary of this church, there was a time of blessing led by Brenda Voisard when the people closest to me (Lou, my parents and brothers and sisters) put their hands on my shoulders and head and then little by little all the people attending reached someone near them in an unbroken circle. The blessing came through all of your hands to me. You were the ones ordaining me and blessing my ministry. In that act and other covenants or promises that we made, I felt called to be faithful to my inner wisdom and act in your best interest even when that could possibly be unpopular.

That was not the whole answer that I would give to that pastor's question. I further believe that our inner voices are honed through living deeply and learning from our mistakes and successes. My inner voice has been created through suffering and joy and by a spiritual practice of listening. As I look around my office and think of the huge library of books that I have devoured during my lifetime, I would also say that the wisdom and teaching of others is part of my authority as is the way my parents taught me the importance of compassion and kindness. As parents know, their authority depends on how well their own lives align with the values they espouse. We don't need to be perfect--besides it is impossible anyway—but we need to be trying to be faithful to what we know to be the best way to act in the world. Authority disappears when we stop seeing it as something that we must earn every day in our interactions with our loved ones, our dogs and cats, birds, neighbors, clerks in stores, drivers on the freeway, church community, greater community, nation and the Earth. Our faithfulness gives us that authority to share with others the stories of when we fell and got up again or fell and were picked up again, or did something well, or did something badly and didn't hide it.

May authority spread through our community as it did on the night of my ordination from hand to hand, from well lived life to well lived life, from young to old and old to young.

In love and community,  
Rev. Patty



## *News from the Social Action Council*

Worship Service Offering Split Recipient for January and February 2016: SisterSong

SisterSong's mission is to strengthen and amplify the collective voices of indigenous women and women of color to achieve reproductive justice (RJ) by eradicating reproductive oppression and securing human rights. SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective was formed in 1997 by 16 organizations of women of color from four mini-communities (Native American, African American, Latina, and Asian American) who recognized that they have the right and responsibility to represent themselves and their communities and the equally compelling need to advance the perspectives and needs of women of color; their purpose is to build an effective network of individuals and organizations to improve institutional policies and systems that impact the reproductive lives of marginalized communities.

For more information, please visit [www.sistersong.net](http://www.sistersong.net)

### *From the Worship Closet*

Authority. What is this? There is the authority of physical effects, like gravity. Then there is the unconscious following we do, like that at a traffic light, little or no thoughts required. There is the authority of our own training, as we go through the aforementioned traffic light, or reach in the dark for the switch by the door in an unfamiliar room.

For some there is the unthinking following of others, 'in power'. For others there is the recoiling from those we think have lost legitimacy.

Many who were born after WWII found this, when their parents generation made a system that sometimes came within seconds of destroying us, and everything that we knew, with nuclear war. We went through a period of being led by those who seemed to not know what they were doing, and might have taken our future away, our current present.

There is the dark authority, Nazi Germany comes to mind, as does certain psychological experiments that show how power and authority can trump human concern, bringing cruelty to the point that both the experiments, and the country involved had to be as quickly as possible terminated.

Then there is the authority of position, where one in the same position as the fictional 'Sheriff Andy' from Mayberry, morphs into one that shoots a man of color, or officer friendly becomes as a member of an occupying army, as in recent news. Situations change, as do people. Images become our thoughts and even directions.

There is 'costume authority', with uniforms, or ecclesiastical garb, gender, or other official class indicators. Some will follow these, like the name tags on office doors.

Dropping names, or quotes, from those who have name recognition, can give to some, a kind of credibility, or social proof. At the same time a person I knew in college walked around with a magazine with the title INTELLECTUAL DIGEST deliberately viable, in a search for social status.

So sits the human comedy. From my own life, I am sure that I know as much as anyone about life, eternity, our purpose here, or the part of religion that matters, as anyone. I also think that no one who is honest knows less, either. Some are better communicators, or know more about religious writings or such, but that is a different game. Studies show that about 40% of clergy do not believe in god, as prescribed. Maybe our humanity wins, after all.

Deborah Dean

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

On the First Sunday in February we will be hosting the Chocolate Feast Pot Luck after the service. This is a wonderful time to experience all things chocolate from sweet to savory.

Look for news in March of our equinox ritual.

CUUPS is planning to bring back Christopher Penczak for a seminar in Lava Hot Springs in March 2017, so look for more information. It was a wonderful event last year.

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 21, 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](mailto:lorriquigley@msn.com).



## *Happenings Hub*

Every Sunday after services. Visit our new Happenings Hub in the Social Hall after each Sunday Worship Service to find out about all of the goings-on in our community.

You will find information and signup sheets for all kinds of activities and volunteer groups, such as Monday Menu offerings (our community nights), social action opportunities, hikes, committee needs.

Contact Susan Eyzaguirre [eyzsooz@gmail.com](mailto:eyzsooz@gmail.com) for more information.

## *Welcoming Membership Team*



I was born into a wrong gender back in 1955. Tried to live as a male for 56 years. But I would have times that I liked to be fem. I would always be told that that is not the way a boy should act. My first 7 years were lived in MN. I was a demonstration baby as I was an eleven pound 2 & 1/2 oz baby and therefore very easy to handle. After this short lived career as a porn star I went to school in Minneapolis MN.

My mom was divorced as my father had a problem with alcohol back then. When she remarried her new husband was from Utah. We moved to Utah. We had become Mormons as our new father was one. So I was brought up in a very sheltered life. All through my life there would be signs of my real gender showing through. I learned how to cook and sew by hand. But I had to repress my desires to wear the clothes I longed to be in. I even considered becoming a fashion designer when it came time to choose a career. I served a mission for the LDS church in 1976-1978 in the South American country of Colombia. I was somewhat awakened by the experience as to other ways to think.

I became married to a Colombian woman and had two boys. I did so much want have a girl but it never happened. Spent 9 years married to her and then we went our separate ways. Was single for another 9 years and then remarried to a very controlling person. During my first marriage I served in the US Army for a few years and the National Guard for another 9 years. When my last marriage ended after 9 years, I began to question my life and who I really was.

I knew that I had to express myself as a woman and came to the conclusion that I should embrace it. When I did I felt so liberated. Gender is the way you think not the way your body looks. I must mention that we are all the same inside. Mother Nature has created persons with aspects of both genders, and as one being of such a creation I can say that we need to treat all the same.

Sandra E Xyone

## *Religious Education, Growth and Learning*

### JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

#### **January 3, 2016: Regular Classes**

#### **January 10, 2016: TBA**

High School (9th-12th graders):  
Junior High (6th-8th graders):  
Seekers (2nd-5th graders):  
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders):  
Butterflies (Pre-K):  
Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

#### **January 17, 2016: TBA**

High School (9th-12th graders):  
Junior High (6th-8th graders):  
Seekers (2nd-5th graders):  
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders):  
Butterflies (Pre-K):  
Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

#### **January 24, 2016: TBA**

#### **January 31, 2016: TBA**

*Save the Dates!*

**Women's Group Gathering, Thursday February 18th, 7 PM.**  
Hostess-Jen Stewart.

#### **Rev. Patty's Installation Ceremony**

From 6 p.m. in the evening of March 20th, Rev. Patty will officially become our called minister in an installation ceremony. Please plan on attending to add your voice and presence to this happy event. Food will be served afterwards and childcare will be provided.

## *Opportunities and Announcements*

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> First Sunday** – Potluck – Bring your favorite dish.

UU History Reformation to the Modern Age taught by John Cooper

What is a transcendentalist? Which chemist helped organize the first Unitarian worship in Britain? Who spread "hope not hell" up and down the colonial coast? Where are the five smooth stones of liberal religion? Which Humanist Manifesto says "No deity with save us, we must save ourselves."?

Want to know the answers to these and more questions? Come join us on January 3 at 12:30 pm for the third installment of Unitarian Universalist History. Please attend even if you haven't come to the previous session!

### **Fundraising Brunch for Heifer International - Jan 10, 12-1 pm**

Join us in the Social Hall after worship service for a delicious brunch to raise funds for Heifer International, a global organization that provides livestock, training, and hope to those in need in developing countries. With gifts of goats, cows, chickens, bees, etc., families are able to become more self-sufficient, and they in turn spread their knowledge and livestock's offspring to other families. We are holding this special fundraiser in honor of long-time SVUUS member Mildred Dahm who passed away in 2014 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Mildred was an excellent cook that frequently sponsored "Heifer Brunches" at SVUUS.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve, and cleanup. Please contact Susan Eyzaguirre at [eyzsooz@gmail.com](mailto:eyzsooz@gmail.com)

### **HELLO SVUUS LADIES!**

It's that time again. Time to welcome in the New Year and celebrate our friendship and our birthdays! Everyone is invited, and the first Birthday Celebration Outing, (celebrating those of us with January & February birthdays) will be held on Saturday January 30, 2016 at 6 pm. We will meet for dinner at Alamexo Mexican Restaurant 268 S. State Street #110, SLC.

At 8 pm, after dinner, for those who would like to keep the party going, we will move a few doors down to The Tavernacle • 201 E. 300 S., SLC • for some sing-along fun!

We need to have accurate counts for the reservations at both places, so please RSVP ASAP by sending me a Facebook message, or by calling or texting me @ [801-336-7919](tel:801-336-7919), or send me an email at [wendylnewbold@gmail.com](mailto:wendylnewbold@gmail.com).

Hope to see you all there!  
~Wendy Newbold~

### **Monday Menus**

Monday Menus will be starting up again on January 11th. If you are interested in leading a class please contact Sinnamon Wolfe. [sinnamon.wolfe@cst.edu](mailto:sinnamon.wolfe@cst.edu)

### **SIGN FOR SOLSTICE – UPDATE**

Congratulations, South Valley community! We have raised enough to begin work on the bathrooms and we are over halfway on the sign. During the next couple of weeks, as the bathroom renovation is underway, the "Sign Planning Team" will be getting together to come up with a design for our sign. We'll unveil this design as soon as we can. Stay tuned.

We only have \$5,000 left of the \$14,000 to raise. Yeah us!!!

We are still accepting donations through our website: <http://www.svuus.org/stewardship/online-donations/>  
Or come down after our service at the Happenings Hub.

In love and community,  
Rev. Patty



## 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. 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

February	18	Women's Group Gathering
March	20	Rev. Patty's Installation

### Upcoming Events

January	3	First Sunday Potluck and Class
January	3	New to UU Class
January	10	Heifer International Fundraising Brunch
January	21	Prayer Shawl Ministry
January	30	Womens Group Birthday Party



### 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

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

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