

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 36, Issue 2

February, 2016

February Theme: Evil



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February 7: "Pro-Future is Divine, Anti-Future Is Evil"

Rev. Patty is preparing the children's story and the choir will be singing.

Michael Dowd

February 14: "Standing on the Side of Love Service: How can we get involved in Black Lives Matter?"

What are our connections with this movement that is sweeping the country? When Liz Martin took the high school class to a youth conference in Denver, they became involved in civil disobedience. Come and hear the details and what that means to us here in Salt Lake City.

Liz Martin and the high school class and Rev. Patty Willis

February 21: "Discovering Abundance: Growing Our Gratitude and Generosity" topic by Chad Smith for Rev. Patty Willis.

Have you noticed a growing sense of abundance in our community? Where is that coming from and how can we keep that growing? Is it possible that an attitude of scarcity have unintended but evil results?

Rev. Patty Willis

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From the Board of Trustees

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER

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Email: minister@svuus.org

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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REGAL COUNCIL

Kris Berg 801-414-3051

CARING CIRCLE

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

"Time flies when you're having fun". Are we all having fun? I know I am. Since becoming a part of this wonderful community 15 years ago I have had the pleasure of watching the huge transformation our congregation has gone through. I have seen us grow, and grow to the point today that we are about to bust at the seams! I have seen wonderful programs develop and new committees formed. I have seen a transformation come about in our beloved building, which I am especially grateful for. Our sanctuary has been beautified, we have new carpet, remodeled bathrooms, and we about to get a new sign out front! I attribute a lot of this to Rev. Patty's ministry, and to all the dedicated members and friends who have headed her words and stepped up to the plate in making this a home for many like-minded people. And may I say that our youth are an amazing and wonderful group of young adults! Their leaders truly care about them becoming very diverse citizens and have done amazing things under their leaderships. My hats off to all of you for your dedication.

I cherish the relationships I have here. Coordinating the Women's Group gives me the opportunity to connect with the wonderful women here and to be able to meet our newcomers and bring them "into the fold", so to speak. (So now, here is my chance to put in a plug for our Women's Group Gathering on Feb. 16th. Be there or be square, ladies!) Not to exclude the men, I thoroughly enjoy interacting with all of them as well. I can call many of them my friends. Being a tenor/bass in the choir I am surrounded by them and they are all awesome!

As we move into February we have busy months ahead of us. Our Big Event on Feb. 27th which is the kick off for our Stewardship Campaign. I have the privilege of organizing the Big Event this year and am excited to have us all gathering with enthusiasm and to see even more amazing things happen with our new pledges.

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.

In Community

Cynthia Dobbs

Board of Trustees member



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From Our Minister

Monthly Theme: Evil

Finding and Releasing Our Connections with Evil: The Work of a Lifetime

I was first introduced to evil as a young child listening to the fairy tales my father told us nightly, gathered around him on our living room sofa. It was deeply satisfying that evil was vanquished and goodness prevailed in fairy tales. I didn't mind when people who had done awful things received horrific punishments. I encountered photographic evidence of evil for the first time much later in junior high school when I saw films of the concentration camps in Poland and Germany of piles of dead bodies being buried in mass graves and people who were so thin that it was unimaginable that they had survived. These scenes were etched so deeply in my mind that later, I studied the holocaust in earnest and examined all the different groups that had been targeted by Nazi racism. Among those targeted was the liberal Unitarian minister Norbert Capek. Many members of our community would have been targeted because I believe that many of us would not have fit Nazi perceptions of social norms. The plan enacted by the Third Reich against all of these targeted groups was evil. When Hannah Arendt, a 20th century political theorist who is also Jewish was asked to cover the trial of a Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, she made discoveries. Her intelligent eyes and ears saw the "banality" of the evil that he had carried out. He was a bureaucrat who processed paperwork, the results of which many of us saw in those junior high school films. Of his role, he said, "*I was one of the many horses pulling the wagon and couldn't escape left or right because of the will of the driver*". Have you ever felt your personal connection with evil in such a way?

The role we play in this world and its suffering looks quite different from those films of the holocaust. Mostly, the evil to which we are connected is enacted out of our sight. Our connections are revealed when we find out that the designer of our favorite T-shirts, does their manufacturing in a factory in Bangladesh where workers were burned to death because of dangerous conditions. Many people become vegetarians and then vegans because their eyes open to the connections between food that they eat and suffering both of the animals themselves and of the Earth as a whole. Everyone I have met in our community is concerned with their connections with suffering. Some of us are concerned with the suffering of the Earth due to climate change and are trying in a variety of ways to stop being a part of the suffering. Whichever part of this connection you want to change, this is difficult work. When our eyes open to the ways we are connected with suffering, it is easy to become miserable ourselves. Part of why our community is important is that we can encourage each other to keep trying to do those things that even seem to make a small difference. There is an expression in Japanese: one drop, a large river. Don't let people discourage you from your work to counter evil and don't judge others. I used to feel quite smug living on our nine acres in the desert in a homemade of eco-friendly materials until I discovered that our carbon footprint was bigger than some much wealthier Americans living in a Fifth Avenue high rise apartment. Let us learn from one another and be curious about what we have discovered about how to live more aligned with our values.

Disentangling ourselves from our connections with evil is a life work and be prepared for surprises!

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

From the Worship Closet

A wise man once said "Only a Sith deals in absolutes." The opposition of good and evil is one of the most enduring dichotomies in our culture, and our tendency to judge in absolutes of one extreme or the other is, in my opinion, the source of most conflicts, both in our personal lives and in the wider world. It seems fitting, then, that February is both the month where our worship theme focuses on the idea of evil, as well as the month we launch our 2016 Standing on the Side of Love campaign, a campaign focused on social change through love centered action. Standing on the side of love requires us to look evil in the face and see in it not only the countenance of our neighbor, but the reflection of ourselves and our own internalized prejudices and privileges. It requires us to understand both good and evil exist in all of us, and that good can outweigh evil, if given the knowledge and opportunity. It requires us to see the good in those that have harmed us and try to cross the bridge that divides our experiences from theirs.

Can this bridge be crossed? If so, how? Can we be brave in the face of evil without falling to fear, anger, and hatred? Join us for our February worship service and we'll explore these questions together!

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

We at CUUPS are looking forward to some great chances to have fun and show love to others in our community. On Sunday, February 7th, we will be hosting the annual CUUPS Chocolate Feast pot luck after the service. Please bring a dish or something to dip in the chocolate fountain, or drinks. You will also either need to bring dishes yourself or plan on washing the church dishes that you use.

In April we will have the Egg-ceptional potluck on the first Sunday also, so be planning an egg dish or another dish to bring then.

We are really excited about our upcoming plans for May 1st, May Day or Beltane. We are planning to have a mini-medieval festival outside and inside. We will have a fire pit and "ale" (Martinelli's). We will have medieval food and costumes are welcome. This event will be a fundraiser for us to bring Christopher Penczak to Lava Hot Springs. Please come and celebrate the coming of spring the old fashioned way.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 18, 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 lorryquigley@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 for more information.

Womens Group Gathering

Women's Group Gathering
Tuesday, February 16th at 7 PM
At the home of Jen Stewart
1076 South 500 East

Our topic for February is:
Clean the clutter, Clear your Mind

Jen has a lot on her plate with 4 kids but is a very organized person. She will be sharing with all of us just how to clear our homes of clutter and how it can clear your mind, as well. If the imminent arrival of spring has you itching to crack down on clutter, go ahead and scratch. There's no time like the present to tidy up, toss out and tackle to-dos.

Light refreshments will be served.

All South Valley women 18 and older are invited. PLEASE RSVP to Cynthia Dobbs at cdobbs56@gmail.com.
Come and meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

Welcoming Membership Team



New Member

Sarah Anderson grew up in Southern California and loved the beach and sunshine. She moved to Salt Lake City when she was sixteen and has been here ever since. She studied Behavioral Sciences with an emphasis in Social Work and graduated from UVU. She wants to continue her studies soon. She loves hiking and the outdoors. She has a dog, Cherish, a pitbull and a Siamese cat, Cleo. She finds South Valley a relaxing place to be. She currently works as a technical account manager for a telephone software company. She enjoys being involved with the community.



Monday Menus

Join us at 6:00 pm for a light vegan meal and fellowship. At 6:30 pm members from the community offer classes. If you are interested in offering a class please contact Sinnamon Wolfe at sinnamon.wolfe@cst.edu.

Save the Dates!

The Religious Exploration Committee is hosting the March First Sunday potluck! We will be having a Beach Party!

Come hula away your winter blues with us on Sunday March 6 from 11:30pm to 1:30pm. This is also our Kick-Off for the Mystery Pals Program Sign-up, so come get all the information you'll need to participate this year!

We will provide the lei's, music, 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

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.

2016 Mystery Pals Program!

Blast Off with Religious Exploration's 2016 Mystery Pals Program - May the Friendship be with You!

This is RE's most anticipated program of the year here at South Valley! Mystery Pals encourages our members to connect in new ways by fostering communication between the generations. Mystery Pal "Seniors" (6th grade to Adult) and Mystery Pal "Juniors" (K to 5th grade) are matched up anonymously to make a new friend, while keeping their identities a mystery. Pals exchange letters or gifts for 3 consecutive Sundays at the Intergalactic Post Office in the lobby. They bring their items to the post office before services, and then check again after service to pick up their own mail. Pals finally get to meet each other at our Potluck Luncheon, where they get to know each other better while participating in fun activities.

Registration: March 6th thru March 20
Gifts Exchanges: Sundays - April 10, 17 & 24
Potluck Luncheon: Sunday April 24 12:00-2:00 pm



Opportunities and Announcements

Annual Big Event

The Annual Big Event is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27th at 6 PM. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening as a kick off for our Stewardship Campaign. Our theme this year is "You've Got to Have a Dream."

This will be a semi-formal event.

As usual, expect a fabulous catered dinner, entertainment, a roast for Rev. Patty, as well as hearing from the leadership of our congregation. This is a FREE event, but we need an accurate head count for dinner. There will also be a dinner and child care for children 5 -10 years old in the social hall. There will also be child care for children 4 and under. Please RSVP to Cynthia Dobbs at cdobbs56@gmail.com.

CORC (Coalition of Religious Communities, a multi-faith response to poverty) is hosting a Faith Day for its Jewish and UU members and friends on Thursday February 11 at the State Capitol. (Other denominations have faith days on the other Tuesdays and Thursdays of February.) We will lobby our state representatives to vote for our favorite bills concerning housing and health care. We might also lobby them to not raise the state sales tax on grocery store food if they threaten again to do that. Another special concern this year is regulation of the Payday Loan industry which victimizes poor people with high interest rates and personal financial crises. Very few citizens, except for professional lobbyists and others with personal financial interests, actually visit their representatives during the legislative session so we will have them mostly to ourselves. You will get to meet your district's legislators personally. If you are interested we will meet at 9 AM on 2-11-16 in the Aspen Room of the Senate Building which is northeast of the Capitol Building in the little quadrangle of buildings on the north side. The Senate Building is the one with a cafeteria on the ground floor. The best way to get to the Capitol is to park downtown and take the free #500 bus. Or you can e-mail to me (tuckerred@comcast.net) and park on A Street in the Avenues near 3rd or 4th Ave. I could escort you across City Creek to the Capitol at about 8:30 AM. The lobbying ends officially at 11 AM but you might want to stay for lunch in the cafeteria. If you cannot make it on Feb. 11 you would be welcome at any of the other Faith Days; we are always ecumenical.

Ted Gurney

Donating Miles for Patty's Installation

We are thrilled to be installing Patty as our settled minister this March! As part of this ceremony we will be flying in a few of her mentors and colleagues. In order to facilitate this we are asking for donations of miles. If you have miles to donate please send an email to Ann Hess annhess360@gmail.com. In your email include the airline and number of miles you have to donate. Stay tuned for more news about this special event.

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 \$4,000 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



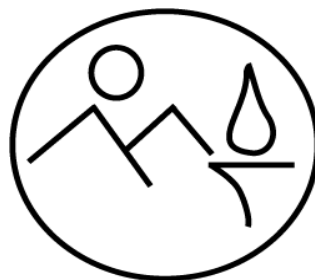
The Finance Council has decided to change grocery card sales from every Sunday to once per month, the second Sunday of each month. However, if anyone needs cards on another Sunday; we'd be happy to oblige. You can ask a Council member (Kristy Jensen, David Norton or Phil Quigley) and we can arrange for an individual sale.

Save the Date

March	6	First Sunday Potluck and Beach Party
March	6	Mystery Pals Program
March	20	Rev. Patty's Installation

Upcoming Events

February	7	First Sunday Chocolate Feast Potluck
February	11	CORC Faith Day at the Capitol
February	16	Women's Group Gathering
February	18	Prayer Shawl Ministry
February	27	The Big Event



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: jbedotclay@comcast.net

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Mel Welliver	801-963-8258
Peter Verschoor	801-944-1653