

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 36, Issue 4

April, 2016

April Theme: Freedom



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April 3: "Imagine Our Nation"

Are you feeling a new wind blowing in this country? A week ago, people who had never voted stood for hours in the cold rain in order to make their voices heard. In this moment of hope, what are you imagining for our nation? How will we use this precious freedom that is ours? Martin Luther King, Jr. showed the special role that religion can play in creating a vision of the future that calls people to hope for real change. Let us follow in his footsteps, and create a dream that will give us the energy we need to be engaged in this democracy!

Rev. Patty Willis

April 10: "Transforming Our Stories"

During the Installation ceremony, my friend, Rev. Gretchen Haley, gave the charge to me to transform our stories. Many people have told me how much they appreciated her words. Let's begin to figure this out together. Prepare by thinking of the story that you bring of your own life and our community.

Rev. Patty Willis

April 17: "Flower Communion with Each Other and the Earth" ALL AGES

Come join in this Unitarian Universalist tradition of honoring how we are each different from one another. When Norbert Capek, a beloved Unitarian minister, looked out at a spring meadow full of beautiful wild flowers, all their difference and beauty reminded him of the people in his congregation. He created this ceremony to celebrate our differences. On this day, so close to Earth Day, may our flowers also symbolize our love and care for the Earth that provides us this beauty year after year.

April 24: "The Importance of Gratitude"

While The Importance of Gratitude has been discussed and encouraged through religion for most of human civilization, a scripted prayer or even belief in a God, is not a prerequisite for feeling gratitude and expressing it. The benefits of taking time to feel gratitude are immense. We will be talking about gratitude beyond prayer.

Jill Eichbauer

From the Board of Trustees

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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SVUUS Web Site

www.svuus.org

SVUUS-NEWS Email List

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

If you wish to sign up to receive messages, send a request to Lyn Worthen, listserv administrator, at lynw@xmission.com.

To send a message to the list, simply address it to svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com

A few Sundays ago I attended one of four spyglass groups and got to listen to and share hopes, dreams, and what we feel is working well here at South Valley. This got me thinking that although I'm relatively new to South Valley, (going on 4 years now) I've witnessed an incredible transformation. After a long process we now have a settled minister. We have something else that was mentioned several times in our Spyglass group, structure. I know that word sounds boring and tedious, but to me it represents the hands of many people rolling up their sleeves and building a strong foundation for our growing community. With structure comes the opportunity for newcomers to plug themselves into committees and activities that are right for them.

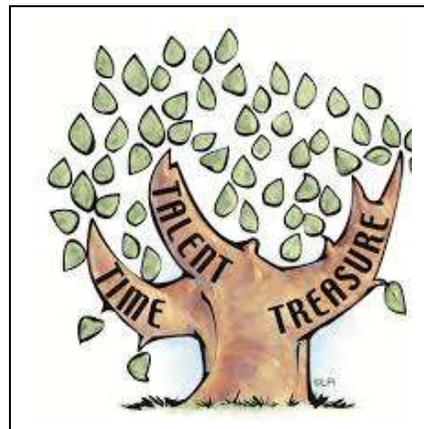
I also had the opportunity to give a talk about why I pledge to South Valley. If you weren't there in a nutshell I said I pledge to make sure we will continue to shine as a beacon of hope for those who need us. Many Sundays as visitors are introduced I hear someone say how this church is exactly what they needed or were looking for. Many come to us after a long and hard journey away from painful experiences. I'm proud to be a part of this community that welcomes all with open arms. I'm proud to drive by our church and see our rainbow flag flying for everyone to see. I'm touched to hear the stories of those who felt rejected by the religions of their past, only to find a home here with us. Our church continues to grow and thrive, and I'm very happy to have found my way to South Valley.

If you have not yet done so be sure you fill out and turn in your 3T card, indicating the time, talents, and treasure you are willing and able to donate to South Valley next year. As we say in our service each Sunday, "we are this church, we are its hands." It's our contributions that have gotten us where we are so far, and it's our continued support that will carry us through the next year and beyond.

In Community,

Ann Hess

Secretary, Board of Trustees



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From Our Minister

Monthly Theme: Freedom – The Look and Feel of Freedom

Freedom has many faces. Which ones have you seen? Part of the installation ceremony on March 20th, the Act of Installation, began with these words: “The time has come. In our free churches, the relationship we are about to recognize rests wholly between the people of this church and the minister whom we have chosen... On May 17th, 2015, the congregation of this church freely and unanimously voted to call Patty Willis to be our Minister, and she freely and joyously accepted that call to our continued shared ministry.” During this past year as you have been deciding whether to call me as your minister and I have been discerning whether to stay, we have been experiencing the freedom of Unitarian Universalist polity.

Two days after the Installation, when the Utah Caucuses brought thousands of people out to stand in interminable and unprecedented lines on a rainy, cold evening, we experienced freedom again. In both cases, people felt meaning in showing up. They knew that their one vote would make a difference. We talked with many people in line who had never voted before, and now for whatever reason, suddenly wanted to stand and be counted. Whatever the outcome of the election, I hope that this level of engagement continues.

As a community of faith, we also seek freedom that is more ephemeral: freedom of the heart and mind. The person who most embodies this kind of freedom to me is Etty Hillesum. She is the woman I introduced at the beginning of the Installation as an invisible companion to our shared ministry. A book containing her diary and letters sits by the chair in my home study, with many scraps of paper, dog eared pages, and notes. A Jew and brilliant scholar of Russian living in Amsterdam, her outer freedoms were gradually taken away during the Nazi occupation. Beautifully, in that shrinking space, her personal freedom grew. Even though she died in Auschwitz, she survived the hatred of the holocaust. This is ultimate freedom: to flourish and bloom regardless of our circumstances.

Our own worlds are not limited in the same way that Etty's was. Yet, we each live within limitations due to a variety of circumstances. Learning to live beyond those limitations, to expand when our world feels narrow, will prepare us for the time when aging eventually limits our mobility. May we find ways, as Etty did, for our spirits to expand and bloom like lupines in a muddy field. She watched the lupines grow and bloom in the earth outside the barracks of Westerbork, the way station for Jews headed for Auschwitz and other extermination camps, and her heart grew with love and joy.

Etty's life and writings make me want to hold tightly to the freedoms that we enjoy and must practice by voting and standing in long lines on rainy March evenings. She bids us give voice to our opinions in this democracy. She also bids us grow our inner lives that are beyond the circumstance of democracy and war. May we nurture both kinds of freedom during this year that promises to be a roller coaster to that final voting day!

In love and community,
Rev. Patty



News from the Social Action Council

March - April Offering Split Recipient - Friends of Great Salt Lake

South Valley Social Action Council

In the spirit of serving our wider community, we at South Valley split our Sunday morning offering with a charitable organization whose works align with our values and principles. For March and April we have chosen *Friends of Great Salt Lake*, a local organization that works to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem and increase public awareness and appreciation of the lake through education, research, public advocacy, and the arts. The Great Salt Lake ecosystem is under great pressure from current and proposed water inflow diversions, industrial development, wastewater discharges, and climate change. As lake levels have drastically lowered in recent years, ecosystem, wildlife, air quality, and recreation are gravely threatened.

Some interesting facts about our fascinating inland sea:

- Over 5 million migratory birds stop at GSL each year to feed, nest, and rest
- Lake salinity varies across the lake, and is typically 3 to 5 times saltier than the ocean
- Lake levels met all-time historic lows this past year - currently Antelope Island is no longer an island!
- Gunnison Island hosts one of the largest white pelican colonies on the continent, typically 6,000 - 12,000 nesting adult birds
- A railroad causeway divides the lake into north and south arms, with vastly different ecosystems on each side
- Brine shrimp harvest and mineral extract industries are worth millions of dollars

We are planning an upcoming field trip to the lake with Friends of Great Salt Lake, for all ages, likely to occur in April. Date and time TBD. Watch for details!

Friends of Great Salt Lake - Presentation and Q&A April 3, 12:30 - 1:30 pm after church service

Join us to learn all about the fascinating ecosystem of the Great Salt Lake after church and First Sunday potluck on April 3. The Education Director of Friends of Great Salt Lake will tell us about the history and biology of the lake, and will bring some interesting specimens to look at as well. This will be a nice introduction prior to our field trip (scheduled for April 17). Don't miss this!

Antelope Island Field Trip -- April 17

Don't miss this trip to Antelope Island where we will explore the wonders of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem together with Friends of Great Salt Lake. We will meet in the parking lot at church at 1:00 pm, and will regroup again on the east side of the Causeway at 2:30 pm where we will meet the Education Director of Friends of Great Salt Lake who will lead us on a great adventure on the island. (The "Causeway" is the very west end of Antelope Drive, which you can access off Exit 332 on I-15 in Layton. (We will regroup on east side of Causeway in the parking lot next to the restroom, near the guard shack.) Bring water, healthy snacks, sunhat, sunscreen, bug spray, binoculars if you have them, small container to catch brine shrimp, towel to dry off your feet, water shoes or sandals, a camera (evening light and sunsets are often spectacular), etc. (Yes, we will be invited to wade out into the salty water!). This trip is for ALL ages! Bring your family and friends. RSVP at the Happenings Hub. Questions? Contact Susan Eyzaguirre at eyzsooz@gmail.com

Ethical Eating Book Discussion - Animal, Vegetable, Miracle - A Year of Food Life

Join us as we read this non-fiction book of renowned novelist Barbara Kingsolver that chronicle's her family's experience eating only local foods for one year. This year-long experience leads them through a season of planting, pulling weeds, expanding their kitchen kills, harvesting their own animals, and joining the effort to save heritage crops from extinction. The book includes chapters by Barbara Kingsolver's husband that include reports on the science and industry of food, and her daughter who adds her youthful perspective on cooking and food culture. This book makes a passionate case for deeply respecting our food and the hands that produce it, and putting diversified farms back in the center of the American diet. Book discussion groups will meet during Monday Menu in April, exact dates TBD.

From the Worship Closet

"[We] look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want - which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear - which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor - anywhere in the world." -- Franklin Roosevelt

What a wise man FDR was! Please join us this month as we dig deep into the idea of freedom and work together to discover what it means to us as individuals, congregations, nations, and the world.

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

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, April 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.

Women's Group

April Women's Group Gathering

Attention all South Valley Women Group!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 17th at 6 PM for our next Women's Group Gathering. It will be at the home of Cindy Anderson. 12321 South River Vista Drive in Riverton (approx. 1040 West, enter from 1300 West).

Our topic will be "Getting To Know You". As our congregation grows it seems we don't ever have enough time to get to know each other better. Here is our opportunity to share with the group exactly who we are. In about 3 minute or less, come prepared to share with the group just who you are. Include something about yourself that no one would know. (Example: I was a Belly Dancer)

All South Valley women 18 yrs and older are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. I need to get a head count so RSVP me at cdobbs56@gmail.com ASAP.

Thanks,
Cynthia Dobbs
Women's Group Coordinator

Welcoming and Membership

New members

ANN SCARBOROUGH



Hello, my name is Ann Scarborough, and I am happy to be joining the SVUU community! My husband and I recently moved back to Sandy to reunite with our daughter and her family. We are native Minnesotans, but Bob's job transfer brought us here 2001-2003. A different career opportunity drew us back to Minnesota, but we always intended to return and now we have!

We have been married for 42 years and have 3 children. Our son, Justin, was born with profound brain injury and lived 3 ½ years. Adoption brought us 2 lovely daughters, Maria and Autumn. Maria, who lives in Sandy, has 3 stepchildren, 2 daughters, and 4 grandsons living in California. Autumn is still living in Minneapolis. Needless to say, travel is one of our favored pastimes!

I'm a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Family Social Sciences & Public Health. After training as a Massage Therapist, I owned 2 practices in Minnesota. My most recent venture was a Wellness Center that featured 7 different holistic practitioners. I am currently seeking employment in administrative work. My passions include social action and service projects, environmental activism, reading, hiking, gardening, bird watching, and spending quality time with friends/family. I, also, love and support the arts.

I began my life in a German-Lutheran family; however, my mother came from a long line of Quakers. When my husband and I married, we chose to compromise and find a new spiritual home in the Methodist church. (Bob and our daughter, Maria, are members of Hilltop UMC in Sandy.) Always searching for deeper and more authentic ways of expressing my faith, I feel fortunate to have discovered SVUU.

FITZGERALD PETERSEN



I'm originally from a small coal mining town called East Carbon, Utah. I moved to Salt Lake to go to the University of Utah after military service and never left. I am a firefighter/paramedic as my career. I volunteer for the poor, primarily the homeless and I have done that for over 29 years. I'm a photographer as an additional duty at work. My wife Francie is a photographer editor for a local newspaper in Tooele. My greatest appeal about joining the SVUUS is the people I have met in the few months of attending, and the focus towards others in it's teaching. I love the 7 Principles. I am grateful to be a member and I thank you.

SHAUNI ROBERTS

I was raised in a tiny town on the Arizona-New Mexico border that had to stop lights, not fast food restaurants, one grocery store and one movie theater that played one movie at a time. When I was 14, my family moved to a slightly larger northeastern Arizona town (Pinetop-Lakeside), where I attended high school. I met Jordan there and we started dating the night I graduated from high school. We had a long distance relationship for nearly four years! While he was gone on his LDS mission to Brazil we sent handwritten letters to each other every two weeks. Meanwhile, I studied music at Eastern Arizona College and then transferred to Northern Arizona University, where I graduated with a degree in elementary education and a specialization in bilingual-multicultural education/English as a Second Language.

When Jordan and I got married, I was teaching 6th grade and he was beginning classes at the local community college. Our first child, Jaren, was born a little over a year later and we moved to Phoenix so that Jordan could finish his degree at ASU. Soon after our second child, Maddie, was born Jordan was accepted to the UA-Phoenix College of Medicine. While he was in medical school I stayed home with our children and we spent a few years living on student loans. Even though I had always planned to be a stay-at-home mom, the reality of spending all day, every day for years with my small children was enough to spark a feminist awakening.

Questions and discussions with friends about traditional gender roles set off a chain reaction that led to doubts about LDS church history claims, shifted my political views and turned my conservative world view upside down. After several negative interactions with friends and leaders at church I decided to stop attending. I immediately started attending the UU church in our neighborhood in Arizona and a couple of years later Jordan joined me. In March 2015, Match Day ceremony complete with confetti, a flash mob and a letter delivered by zip line, we learned that Jordan had been accepted to the St. Mark's Family Medicine Residency and we had three months to prepare to move to Salt Lake! We moved here in June 2015 and thoroughly enjoyed the novelty of going outside during the summer without frying. I began substitute teaching in the fall. We started attending SVUUS right away and love the feeling of community it has given us. We're looking forward to a few years here and hopefully many more!



Religious Education, Growth and Learning

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

4/3/2016

High School (9th-12th graders): UU Values in Society
 Junior High (7th-8th graders): Coming of Age
 Seekers (5th-6th graders): Amazing Grace
 Trailblazers (2nd-4th graders): Love Will Guide Us
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World
 Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

4/10/2016

High School (9th-12th graders): Coffee Shop Sunday @ Beans n' Brews
 Junior High (7th-8th graders): Coming of Age
 Seekers (5th-6th graders): Amazing Grace
 Trailblazers (2nd-4th graders): Love Will Guide Us
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World
 Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

4/17/2016

All-Ages Service Upstairs: Flower Communion

4/24/2016

Junior High (7th-8th graders): Coming of Age
 Seekers (5th-6th graders): Amazing Grace
 Trailblazers (2nd-4th graders) & Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): CHILDREN'S CHAPEL with Liz
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Celebrating Me & My World
 Nursery (Infants and Toddlers): free play

Monday Menus

Monday Menus*

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. Please contact Sinnamon Wolfe (sinnamon.wolfe@cst.edu) or Liz Martin (DRE@svuus.org) or Rev. Patty (Minister@svuus.org) with your ideas!

*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 choose from different classes/discussion groups/activities to enrich our personal and community journey!



Opportunities and Announcements

Library Spring Book Sale -- April 17

Yes, South Valley's Library Spring Book Sale will be a one day event on Sunday April 17, during the social hour after church. So two things need to happen:

Donations Needed!

First, we'd love to have you spring clean your bookshelves and donate your "rejects" for our sale. Especially popular are children's and youth oriented books, activity kits and games. Our adult shoppers like good reads and music plus interesting books that you perhaps acquired after hearing a sermon or learned about on your favorite media. You just never know.

Shop, Shop, Shop!

Then, please come and shop on that Sunday morning. We often clean out our shelves as well, so there should be a great selection of offerings. Put it on your calendar, April 17. And, remember, we appreciate and need your donations.

Your library committee

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.

Gifts Exchanges: Sundays - April 10, 17 & 24

Potluck Luncheon: Sunday April 24 12:00-2:00 pm



Pathway to Membership Class: April 3rd after the service

Do you wonder about UU history and how our congregation works? Come and share your story with us and learn more about who we are. Bring your questions and stories. Rev. Patty and Caren Smith will facilitate the conversation.

Opportunities and Announcements Continued

Special Food Drive in March and April - to benefit the KidsEat Weekend Backpack Program

There are children in our larger community that are fed meals during the week at school, but on the weekend find little or no food at home. We are partnering with KidsEat, a small local nonprofit organization, to help provide 300 meals each weekend to hungry children in the Salt Lake Valley. The meals are packed in reusable backpacks and sent home with at-risk children from the Boys & Girls Club, and empty backpacks are returned on Mondays. Food needs include: soups, small peanut butter and jam/jelly, instant oatmeal packets, Mac&Cheese, granola bars, trail mixes, fruit cups, pudding cups, cans of ravioli or spaghetti, cans of chili or pork & beans, rice meals, small cans of tuna fish, etc. (Please avoid sugary treats and chips, and glass containers). Please remember to bring food items every time you come to the church, and place in the box in the foyer.

Donate to South Valley - - - FOR FREE

That's right! If you shop at Smith's Food and Drug stores you probably already have a "Smith's Rewards" card. It is the card that gives you discounts on some things you buy and gives you fuel points for discounts on gas. Well, you can have that card associated with South Valley and Smith's will cut a check to us each quarter that is a % of the purchases you and others make in the quarter.

Smith's no longer allows us to buy the gift cards at a discount and sell them to members to raise funds. Their fundraising assistance is now through the "Community Rewards" program.

So please, call Smith's (now owned by Kroger) at 888-873-4438 to have your card affiliated with South Valley or you can go to <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/update> register your card as supporting South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. If you are not already registered you'll need to create an account (you just give an email and a password), then go to the "Account Summary" section, then to "Community Rewards", chose the charitable organization with whom you want your card affiliated. If you don't have a card this registration will get you one.

Everybody wins! Phil Quigley, SVUUS Treasurer

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.

HELP(ers) WANTED!

Have you recently been in need, or been asked for help by a friend at SVUU? Do you value and enjoy participating in events outside of worship services? Do you feel a personal connection to the many missions of Unitarian Universalism and wish you could be more involved? Have you found meaning, joy and deep satisfaction after helping another person? Do you want to meet more people or learn new skills?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, the Helper's Quorum would like to invite you to join us!

Our group is new and our mission is still in-embryo but we hope to provide a network of support and service for members of our SVUU family. We are open to your suggestions and your needs!

Please email Jordan Roberts (jordan.russell.roberts@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining, or if you are in need of help (with a project, a meal, a ride, a tool, a prayer).

Thank you!
-Jordan



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

	1	May Day Mini-Medieval Festival
May	15	Annual Congregational Meeting
May	15	All Church Luncheon for Bridging Children & Youth
June	11	Annual Yard Sale
June	12	All Church Picnic

Upcoming Events

April	3	Pathway to Membership Class
April	3	First Sunday Egg-ceptional Potluck
April	3	Friends of Great Salt Lake Presentation
April	10	Grocery Card Sales
April	17	Library Spring Book Sale
April	17	Antelope Island Field Trip
April	17	Women's Group Gathering
April	21	Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Mystery Pals Gift Exchanges: 4/10/16, 4/17/16, 4/24/16
Potluck Luncheon: 4/24/16



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

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Mel Welliver	801-963-8258
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