

# The Beacon



WELCOME

*South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society*

Volume 37, Issue 10

October, 2017

## October Theme: Hospitality



I WAS A  
STRANGER  
AND YOU  
WELCOMED ME

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#### **October 1: "Befriend the Wolf: Blessing All Creation"**

The life of St. Francis. The life of St. Francis continues to bid us to take care of this Earth and have a new attitude towards the web of life. On this day, we are inviting people to bring their pets to the service.

**Rev. Patty Willis and Liz Martin**

#### **October 8: "Generosity of Heart: A new way to look at letting go"**

Philosopher Martha Nussbaum's groundbreaking work on anger forgiveness helps us understand this ancient practice and go beyond it to a practice that can liberate us from the past.

**Rev. Patty Willis**

#### **October 15: "Working Within a System"**

I am the changer and the changed.

**Brenda Voisard and others**

#### **October 22: "Teach Your Children Well"**

How can we teach our children to overcome the systemic racism of our world? This is what we are called to do as parents. This is the legacy we want to leave on this Earth. Come and discover small and large steps towards this healing.

**Dr. Debra Daniels with Rev. Patty Willis**

#### **October 29: "Day of the Dead Intergenerational Service"**

On this day we will celebrate our ancestors of blood and spirit who went before us.

**Rev. Patty Willis and Liz Martin**

## From the Board of Trustees

### Message from the Board

October is probably my favorite month as the days begin to get shorter and the weather begins to get cooler. As a church we have many events that take place in October. Last Sunday was our blessing of the animals, and while I was not personally there with my dog, I know he felt very blessed. Our community fair is going to be held this year on October 28th and will be a fantastic time to meet with each other and the larger community for costumes, booths, and even a blood drive. October 31st for some is considered the last day of the year, and is a sacred time to contemplate the events of the year and honor our ancestors.

Our board retreat was held on September 30th, at which time we spent a great deal of time talking about our expectations of each other, the expectations our congregation has for us, and our expectations of ourselves. Our theme was weaving the web of community, and we spent time talking about what we as a board can do to assist in weaving this web. Something that was mentioned several times was the need for small group events, such as small group ministries, circle suppers, and board hosted suppers with different members of our congregation intended to bring us closer together as a community. Look for more information about this in the weeks to come.

After the mass shooting that took place yesterday in Las Vegas I am feeling especially grateful for this community, and for our minister, who speaks words of both comfort and commitment. I am grateful for the solace I find in this faith, as well as the challenge to do what I can to work for social justice. I know I can turn to my minister for words that will spur me to action as much as comfort me. As a UU I feel I am continually asked to look at what I personally can do to bring about change. Whether it's change in my community or change in the world at large. I know I will be valued for my individual contributions no matter how small, and I know I will be affirmed and accepted for who I am, no matter how imperfect.

May we move forward together as we deal with the tragedies of our times, and may we always carry with us the warmth of love, the light of truth, and the energy of action.

In Community,

Ann Hess  
Board Secretary



### 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

Jan Vanderhooft, President 801-943-3879  
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Liz Martin (Director) 801-604-2973  
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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 & Community Email Lists

South Valley has two email lists, one for official announcements and the other for communications within the congregation.

If you wish to sign up for either or both of these lists, please visit: [www.svuus.org/our-community/online/](http://www.svuus.org/our-community/online/)

To send a message to the list, simply address it to: [news.svuus.org](mailto:news.svuus.org)



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## *From Our Minister*

Minister's Newsletter for October, 2017  
Monthly theme: Hospitality

### Hospitality and the Stranger at the Door

When Lou and I were traveling in June, I often woke up in the middle of night with ideas and thoughts about this and that. Disliking having my sleep interrupted, I ignored this voice and tried very hard to silence it. I tried melatonin, lavender on my pillow and meditation and the harder I tried to go to sleep, the more persistent the voice became. One morning, an idea came to me: what if I listened to the "night voice?" From that night, when I woke up, I jotted down the ideas that were coming to me. Surprisingly, after writing, I fell quickly back to sleep. One of the ideas was to call our doctor in Salt Lake City and set up an appointment for a physical. It was during that appointment that our physician discovered what ended up being cancer. I am glad that I decided to listen.

When I spoke with my surgeon in our first appointment after surgery (which went very well!), I told her that I was trying to think of cancer not as an enemy but more like a stranger I wanted to befriend. The foundation of this new relationship has been to listen. I was resistant when my surgeon told me that I should take six weeks off to heal but after sleeping for a night and realizing how low my energy level was, I decided to take three and extend those weeks if necessary. Now as I'm entering my third week, I am feeling my energy return and I will continue listening as I go through radiation so that my ministry with you can be sustainable. I have also been learning that simple lesson of mortality. My mind and my heart knew a lot about death but now my realization of mortality seems deeper and life seems more fragile and more full of wonder.

As I return to be with you again, I am grateful for the hospitality you have shown Lou and me since we arrived here as strangers over five years ago. As a community and as individuals, we have gone through a lot: deaths of loved ones, illnesses, graduations, new births, marriages and divorce. I have listened to you in my office, on walks and on the phone and you have listened to us and all that has gone on in our lives. During the past weeks, your notes, chocolates, flowers, edible bouquet, emails, cards and much love have facilitated my healing. I will look forward to listening to you and the new people who have joined us. Together, we will talk about what we have learned, the strangers we have met and the lessons that they have taught us. What have you learned from the unexpected visitors in your life?

In love and community,

Patty



## *Opportunities and Announcements*

### *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, October 19th, 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 service.** 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 Wellspring Wednesday offerings (our community nights), social action opportunities, hikes, committee needs. Contact Susan Eyzaguirre [eyzsooz@gmail.com](mailto:eyzsooz@gmail.com) for more information.

### *September – October Offering Split*

#### **VOA Detoxification Program**

In the spirit of serving our wider community, we share our Sunday morning Worship Service offering with a charitable organization whose works align with our values and principles. For September and October we will donate half of our offerings towards the **Volunteers of America Adult Detoxification Facility**. The VOA is a nonprofit human services organization that helps more than 10,000 people in Utah each year. Detoxification is the first step on the path to sobriety, but is often inaccessible to the homeless or those without healthcare coverage. The VOA offers a solution that makes detox possible for members of this population who battle the chronic disease of addiction. Once physical detoxification is complete, clients are assessed and referred to additional substance abuse treatment programs.

### *Volunteers Needed*

To help with Streaming the Sunday Services. Please contact Ann Hess at [annhess360@gmail.com](mailto:annhess360@gmail.com) . Thank you.

### *Community Fall Festival*

Our Community Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM. This is an event for the entire family, and is a great opportunity to invite relatives, friends and neighbors! Rite-Aid is providing a Flu Shot Clinic from 12:30-2:00 PM. They will have the appropriate flu vaccines for children 3+ years old, youth, adults and seniors. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on site for donations; if you've wanted to take action to help those affected by flooding, here's your chance! This is available from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM; Melissa Hawthorne is our Blood Drive Coordinator.

We are going to have vendors selling their handcrafted items, and service providers offering psychic and energy readings, reflexology, chair massage, and health screenings for vision, blood pressure, and body fat measurements. There will be a Sound & Resonance Science Station, a Snack Station, live music, games, and a Costume Judging Contest with prizes for children, youth, adults, couples, and groups! Come for an afternoon of fun; bring your friends!

## *Opportunities and Announcements Continued*

### *Wellspring Wednesday*

Mark your calendars!  
Wellspring Wednesday's will begin October 4, 2017  
Look for the details coming soon.



We'd love to see these Wednesday offerings become a larger part of South Valley activities. You, the members of the congregation, have so much to offer and we all have this tremendous opportunity to share knowledge, learn and have fun together!

So, please, take the time to tell us what topics or offerings you'd like included in our 2017 Wellspring Wednesday classes. Send us your thoughts and ideas. They could be fun, serious, creative, educational, thought provoking or playful. Use your imagination.

### *Religious Education, Growth and Learning*

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

October 1:

ALL-AGES SERVICE (everyone upstairs): Animal Blessing - Befriend the Wolf

October 8:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "Chalice Necklaces"

Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Covenant"

Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Unconditional Love, a Gift from our Universalist Heritage"

Seekers (4th-5th) - "Questioning (Magnifying Glass)"

Junior High (6th-8th) - UU Unit - "Chalice"

High School (9th-12th) - Coffee Shop Sunday (meet at Beans & Brews)

October 15:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "The Beauty of Nature"

Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Forgiveness"

Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Welcoming Superman"

Seekers (4th-5th) - "Integrity (Compass)"

Junior High (6th-8th) - UU Unit - "Prayers"

High School (9th-12th) - Virtue Ethics - Moderation

October 22:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "The Beauty of Nature"

Pathfinders (K-1st) - Children's Chapel, Singing with Lou

Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Children's Chapel, Singing with Lou

Seekers (4th-5th) - Children's Chapel, Singing with Lou

Junior High (6th-8th) - UU Unit - "Heresy Sunday"

High School (9th-12th) - Sermon and Pizza with Patty afterwards

October 29:

ALL-AGES SERVICE (everyone upstairs): Ancestors and Anecdotes of Loss

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN) and YOUTH!!!

EVERY YEAR we ask you to register your children/youth for our Sunday Religious Education program (it's an important way for us to have accurate current information, track our services, and keep in touch!). Please do this by going to <http://tinyurl.com/SVUUS-RE2017>

## *MDD Gathering and Annual Meeting*



**MDD Gathering and Annual Meeting - October 13–14, 2017** - 7pm – 8:30 Friday - 8am – 4pm Saturday

**UU Church of Boulder** - 5001 Pennsylvania Ave, Boulder, CO 80303, USA

### **Registration Deadlines and Fees**

*Includes all programming as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday* - Early discount by Sept 10 – \$68/adult - Sept 11 – Oct 3 – \$75/adult - Walk in registration \$85 (for adults only) *meals not guaranteed*

### **Register Now**

Keynote by Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

### **“Grown Up Souls: Spiritual Maturity and Religious Purpose”**

Just as we seek to become physically, intellectually, and emotionally mature, so we need to reflect together on what it means to become spiritual adults, no matter what theological identity path we may have chosen to follow. What do the great souls of different traditions have in common with each other, and what can our communities learn from them?

### **Annual Meeting including election of MDD Board officers including, vice president, treasurer and ministerial rep.**

#### Workshops

**“Skills for Smalls”** with Rev. Sarah Schurr, PWR Staff - This workshop offers a basket of skills for congregations of 150 and fewer. Hear the latest thinking about the gift of a small congregation in our faith. From leadership to worship to programs for children – your Congregational Life staff has ideas for you. Rev. Sarah Schurr is the small congregation specialist on the PWR staff team and served as the first minister in a number of small congregation prior to joining the UUA staff.

**“Outreach & In-Reach: Attracting, Integrating, and Nourishing Unitarian Universalists”** - with Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh and Rev. Tandi Rogers, PWR Staff - A sea-change is happening in American religion, and spiritual needs have only grown more intense. Take home tools to help your congregation attract new people, successfully integrate them into community, and nourish their faith for the long haul. Take home ideas beyond membership class or signing the membership book. Learn how you can not only charge new members, but re-ignite long term members. Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh has served as a lay leader and parish minister, and grew up in our host congregation the UU Church of Boulder. She is the Pacific Western Region’s specialist in faith formation and expert in outreach and social media, as well as the primary contact for MDD congregations in New Mexico, Western Colorado, and southern Metro Denver. While working on the UUA’s Outreach Team she developed a toolkit for congregational outreach (to be unveiled this fall) as well as the congregational website template that so many of our congregations use.

Rev. Tandi Rogers is our region’s specialist in emerging ministries and conflict transformation as well as primary contact for MDD congregations in Idaho, Utah, and Southern Colorado. While the UUA’s Growth Strategy Specialist she started the blog Growing Unitarian Universalist and also worked closely with the UU Association for Membership Professionals to develop tools for congregations.

**“A Conversation about Governance in the Larger Church”** - With Rev. Christine Robinson, First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque - This workshop is for leaders in congregations with 300 member or more. We will talk about what governance model you are using, what’s working for you, what’s not, and what you see as the benefits and pinch points. After more than 30 years of ministry at the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, Christine Robinson is beginning this fall as a consultant to large churches in the Pacific Western Region.

**Nearby Hotels:** Boulder – Days Inn - S Boulder Rd Hwy 36 and Boulder Rd / Table Mesa Exit, Boulder CO 1-844-663-2269 / Holiday Inn Express – Boulder - 4777 Broadway, Boulder, CO 1-303-442-6600 / St. Julien Hotel and Spa - 900 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302 1-720-406-9696

### Save the Date

November	12	Leadership Council
November	19	Community Chat w/Rev. Patty and the Board

### Upcoming Events

October	1	Animal Blessing
October	4	Wellspring Wednesdays Begin!
October	13-14	MDD Gathering and Annual Meeting
October	19	Prayer Shawl Ministry
October	28	Bootique and Health Fair

### South Valley Caring Circle

The members of the Caring Circle provide practical support and/or pastoral care. Please contact the chair of the committee if you need or know of someone who needs our support. To ask for help you may also use the Caring Book by the name tags. The Caring Book is also for joys and concerns; we hope you will share moments from your lives.

### CARING CIRCLE Contact Information

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