

The Beacon



South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 37, Issue 2

February, 2017

February Theme: Generosity



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February 5: "Generosity and the Inter-connected Web of Life"

What is our connection with children who are homeless? We are being urged to pay attention to the most vulnerable of our population. What does that mean?

Rev. Patty Willis

February 12: "Standing on the Side of Love"

Our youth will talk about racial justice. Our youth's perspective on racial justice.

Rev. Patty Willis

February 19: "Strengthening Our Roots"

Our UU congregations do not stand alone but rather steeped in a deep tradition of covenantal cooperation. Gather with us to learn more about how we're connected in ways you might not even imagine and how that enriches our spiritual journeys, together.

Rev. Shelley Page

February 26: "Considering the Immeasurable of Our Community Life"

There are many gifts that we bring to our life as a community that we can't measure. The concept of Sacred Economics gives us a window into a new way of looking at the give and take of world economics and our own abundance of immeasurable gifts. What are the immeasurable gifts you have received and given?

Rev. Patty Willis

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

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
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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
Office Hours:
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
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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 & 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/

To send a message to the list, simply address it to
news.svuus.org

From the Board of Trustees

Message from the Board

Time for Action

In Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes" it was the child that spoke the truth that everyone else saw but refused to acknowledge. SVUUS is not a child but we are a small community when compared to other big religions. Like a child SVUUS is younger as a community than many older established religious congregations. Like a child we speak truth as we see it. Why would I bring this up?

As in the story no one wanted to admit they couldn't see the weavers "special cloth" or the "magnificent finished clothing" on the Emperor for fear they would deviate from the norm and be ridiculed. We must speak the truth as we see it, not worry about the "norm" or ridicule for speaking truth.

Our Third Principle asks of us to seek truth. Unfortunately, today a large segment of our society has accepted a political normalization of deviance from American Values and Principles. We must expose the truth even if it means those that have deviated from the norm may be ridiculed like the Emperor.

Political normalization of deviance has become the hallmark of our current President and his administration. We must be the "child" that speaks the truth and exposes the deviation. This current deviation goes against most if not all of our UU Principles.

We may be small and young but we have the loving synergy of SVUUS. There is strength in numbers. We have enormous strength and we must use it now for good. Look at the number of members who have participated in recent events and the positive energy it has brought all of us. We must build on this and be the change needed for our State and Nation.

Get involved with the many opportunities we have at SVUUS. Check out the Order of Service, peruse our website, come to Wellspring Wednesday, start a class for us, share outside opportunities or organizations, invite others for any activity you are involved in, and invite others to SVUUS so they have a sanctuary, support, and community. These must be our norms and there must be no deviance.

In Community, In Strength, In Truth, With Love,
Mac



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From Our Minister

February, 2017

Monthly theme: Generosity

Generosity: Can We Ever Have Enough?

Dear All,

I am writing to you of generosity as I begin nine days away. At this time, I ask for your generosity that allows me to rest my mind and heart for nine days and walk with my beloved without being distracted by the goings on of the world and our community. Another word for what I need right now is “spaciousness.” Lou tells of a time when her parents went away on a trip, leaving her in charge of watering their front yard, part of which was a hillside. The afternoon before her parents return, she heard from a neighbor: “Lou, your hill is in our backyard!” She had forgotten to turn off the hoses and the hillside had slipped down into their neighbor’s yard. The next twenty-four hours she spent waiting for her parents’ return were pure torture. Her father, a strict taskmaster, who like many fathers of that time, including my own, believed that children should be kept in line and punished when they disobeyed, returned and surveyed the damage and never said a word to Lou. Perhaps he knew that the punishment that Lou was giving herself was enough. That mysterious moment of generosity stayed with Lou and even when her father was strict and unyielding she kept that memory of the time that he was generous-hearted enough to provide spaciousness for her human imperfection. Do you look back on the past day, week, year, decade of your life and beat yourself up about mistakes you have made? Together, could we declare like the Catholic church, a Year of Jubilee during which our mistakes are all forgiven? In some faiths, people struggle to receive the forgiveness of God and we have all experienced that need for the forgiveness of others. Let us include in this Year of Jubilee, our forgiveness for ourselves as well. I believe that is where the practice of forgiveness begins.

Generosity will make the air around us rich with sustenance for ourselves, our loved ones and the people in our world. One friend, considering the political situation in this country, told me that she was going to get into good physical shape. I’m going to try to do that too. Additionally, a practice of generosity towards ourselves, our loved ones, and even our enemies, will also sustain us when we face the difficulties arising now. Generosity will provide enough room in our lives for love and laughter and the hard work of parenting and stepping up to make our voices heard in the world. Let us surprise each other with our generosity when anyone makes a “mistake” or forgets something or when I say something with which you do not agree. Let our community be spacious enough for all of who we are. And, when we let our generosity slip, let us reach out with an apology.

Generosity sustains us and lifts us up for the path ahead. May we make this our practice especially with difficult people including ourselves!

In love and community,

Patty

Welcoming New Members



Bob Speiser



Page Speiser

Page, the youngest of four children, was born in Rochester, Minnesota, where she grew up. From an early age she had an interest in nature and the outdoors. Later, as a young adult, she explored the lakes and rivers of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and northern Wisconsin, having great adventures leading trips for teen girls. Her first career was an unexpected one, working in St. Paul with adolescents in juvenile court.

Page and Bob met through an outdoor club at the University of Minnesota. They married a year later, when she was thirty years old. Page joined Bob in central Illinois, where she earned an MSW at the University of Illinois in 1983. She worked on the local crisis team for most of a year, and then moved with Bob to Provo. There, Page immersed herself in the study of marriage and family therapy and the Italian language, completing a second master's degree at BYU, this time in 1990. Then she worked in outpatient counseling, leading to the goal of private practice, which she began in 1994. After Bob retired, the couple moved to Salt Lake in 2011. Page continues to enjoy the work of helping others, as a Gottman-certified couples therapist and specialist in trauma. Her hobbies include practicing Qi Gong, developing her skills on the ukulele, singing, and training the couple's second standard poodle, Cobalt, for obedience competition.

Bob was born and raised in New York City, the son of a poet and an artist. After college there, he began, with steady purpose, to move west, first as a research mathematician and devoted college teacher, later as a researcher and activist in education. Like Page, Bob shares a deep love for the outdoors. A Zen student much of his life, he helps co-ordinate a small but dedicated group here at South Valley. Loving music, Bob plays several period wind instruments, especially a Baroque flute. He also loves to write. Loving the world, Bob has been an activist for climate and social justice. Coming to South Valley, both he and Page look forward to joining forces with like-minded, caring, active people, people who are not afraid to look our present situation in the eye and work for needed change.

News from the Social Action Council

Jan - Feb Offering Split Recipient

Our worship service offering split recipient for January and February is the Oceti Sakowin Camp, a unified encampment of Water Protectors dedicated to peacefully and prayerfully protecting critical resources from the Dakota Access Pipeline that threatens sacred sites, drinking water, and the honoring of a treaty with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Though the Army Corps of Engineers recently denied the necessary land easement needed to drill beneath the Lake Oahe, the pipeline company (Energy Transfer Partners) remains committed to the current route. Our donations will help the Water Protectors maintain their presence at the site through the harsh winter as they work to preserve sacred Sioux sites, critical water resources, and the dignity of the Sioux people.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 17, 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.

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

South Valley's Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will be offering a series of three very special fundraising dinners in preparation for our semi-annual retreat with renowned author and lecturer Christopher Penczak.

Dinner in the Dark – A darkened and blindfolded four course meal

January (exact date TBA) - \$30 - Remove that most important of senses and your others become heightened. We don't want to give away the menu, but be assured of the highest quality and variety. Fun for the entire family (child friendly menu upon request).

7 Course Meal

February (exact date TBA) - \$50 - We will pull out all of the stops. This luxurious meal will include a selection of wine, appetizer, soup, salad, sorbet, fish or poultry, a main course with vegetable, and a dessert.

Christopher Penczak will be offering a weekend seminar on his book "The Plant Familiar" at the Aura Soma center in Lava Hot Springs, ID on March 23 - 26.

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 for more information.

Opportunities and Announcements

Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesday Classes

NEW: Indivisible - Are you looking for ways to make the most impact in our current political climate? Join Christy Montrone-Burns and Bob Burns to read the new national guide *Indivisible*, research referenced links and discuss a plan of action. <https://www.indivisibleguide.com> Please print a copy to bring to class or bring your computer, pad or smart phone. Begins January 25 and runs for three sessions.

CONTINUING CLASSES:

Strategy Games with Paul Carlson
"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" with Ann Hess

COMING UP:

Feb. 1 - DIY Handmade Valentines! Hand make a valentine for someone special. Create one card following a suggested design using supplies and tools provided. No charge unless more than one card is made. Additional cards \$1 supply fee per card. To assure sufficient supplies please RSVP directly to Christine Hirrill at ckhirrill@outlook.com or sign up at the Happenings Hub. This workshop is for adults and teens. Younger participants are welcome if accompanied by someone over 12.

Feb. 8, 15, 22: Soup making with Liz Martin.

Sign up for classes after church at the Happenings Hub or email colecasto@comcast.net

NOTE: Joining Minds and Hearts: Learning from the Wisdom of Standing Rock with Rev. Patty Willis has been discontinued for the time being.

Attention, Seekers!

Saturday, February 11th from 12:00--2:00 PM "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Unitarian-Universalism but Were Afraid to Ask" Light lunch to share together. Are you curious to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Have you ever wondered how this congregation came to be? Do you think the South Valley UU Society might be the home for you? Join with other seekers in a conversation with Caren Smith, Liz Martin, and Patty Willis about UU history, values, and traditions. This is FREE. Childcare available. RSVP to minister@svuus.org or 801-633-0709.

February 5 Beach Party Potluck

Take a break from the cold and join us for a Beach Party! The Religious Exploration Committee is hosting February's first Sunday potluck on February 5th, which will also be the kick off for our Mystery Pals sign-up. 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!

Opportunities and Announcements Continued

Leadership Council Meeting

Members of the Leadership Council are invited to the quarterly meeting on Sunday, February 5th, in the Sanctuary after service. We will continue discussion about primary church topics including Stewardship campaign and budgeting for next year. Contact Christine Hirrill at ckhirrill@outlook.com with questions.

Documentary showing at South Valley

Documentary produced by a South Valley friend, Zachary Stickney. Zach will be available at the showing on February 11th at 12:30 p.m. to answer questions.

Dog town Redemption, follows the lives of three of these people over the course of seven years: Jason Witt, the ultimate recycling hustler, who often hauls around a shopping cart that weighs over a ton; Landon Goodwin, a former minister who struggles with his own fall from grace; and Miss Hayok Kay, the daughter of a prominent Korean family and one-time drummer for popular 1980s Bay Area punk-polka band Polkacide, but now an economic castaway at the mercy of the streets. Each survives by redeeming bottles, cans, and assorted other recyclables in an area of West Oakland, California nicknamed "Dogtown."

Weaving in the fascinating, complex history of the area for context, the story revolves around Alliance Metals, a bustling recycling center that has divided the West Oakland neighborhood. Residents of new developments view Alliance as a noisy nuisance that attracts scavengers, drug dealers, and criminals. The question of who owns our garbage makes these otherwise marginal characters important voices in a conflict over race, class, mental health, and space in a modern American city. Dogtown Redemption humanizes this other America, one that many of us never see.

Senior High Fundraising Events for GA

Babysitting Saturday, February 11th from 6-10 pm

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day by going on a date?

Need a night out without the kids?

Or are you going to the Otter Creek Concert upstairs??

Let the Sr. High Youth (and advisors) watch your children for you while earning money for their trip to General Assembly!

We have a ton of experience and we will plan fun activities for all ages!

\$15 for the first child \$10 for each additional child.

FOUR hours of childcare!!! That's awesome!

Please feed your child(ren) dinner before coming.

We will provide snacks and drinks.

Please contact Christy Montrone-Burns to make a reservation.

cmmontrone@mac.com

Save the Date!

March 5th there will be a Brunch after the service that will be a Fundraiser for GA for the Youth.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

February 5:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - Special Worship Services
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - Faith in Action project
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Faith in Action project
 Seekers (4th-5th) - Faith in Action project
 Junior High (6th-8th) - Discussion - Catholicism
 High School (9th-12th) - UU Values Through Poetry - Keenly Observing Nature

February 12:

ALL-AGES SERVICE (everyone upstairs)

February 19:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - Wondering About Stars
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - Joy in Nature: Animals
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Signs of Welcome
 Seekers (4th-5th) - The Power of Passion
 Junior High (6th-8th) - Intro to Protestantism
 High School (9th-12th) - UU Values Through Poetry - Who/What Guides Us

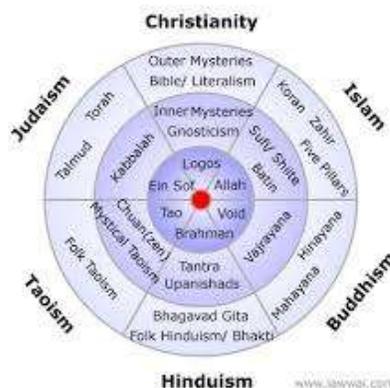
February 26:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - Wondering About The Moon
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - Kindness in Nature
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Worshipping Together
 Seekers (4th-5th) - The Power of Action
 Junior High (6th-8th) - Field Trip
 High School (9th-12th) - UU Values Through Poetry - Finding Our Mission

****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-RE2016>

All World Religion is One Religion



Save the Date

March	5	Fundraiser Brunch for GA Youth
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Upcoming Events

February	5	Leadership Council Meeting
February	5	First Sunday Potluck
February	11	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About UU's
February	11	Dog tow Redemption Documentary
February	11	Babysitting Saturday by High School Youth
February	11	Otter Creek Concert

**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

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