

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 37, Issue 3

March, 2017

March Theme: Renewal



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March 5: "How do we keep loving?"

When we experience the end of a relationship either because of death or separation, how do we keep loving? And, how do we love enough to give people their freedom of choice?

Rev. Patty Willis

March 12: "Malala and the Transformation of Fear: When the worst happens what is the opportunity?"

Malala says that up until the time a gunman shot her in the face, she had fears. On that day, fear disappeared and she is able to speak her truth to anyone without fear. What would it take for us to get rid of our fears? How do fears appear in us? What would leaving them behind look like?

Rev. Patty Willis

March 19: "Triple Bottom Line"

How does this new concept in business offer hope to the world? Is it aligned with our Unitarian Universalist principles?

Rev. Patty Willis

March 26: "This Wild and Precious Life"

A member in each decade of life tells of her or his wild and precious years.

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

Mac Lund, Co-President 801-273-0462
Jan Vanderhooft, Co-Pres. 801-943-3879
Christine Hirrill, Vice Pres. 801-493-9316
Ann Hess, Secretary 801-577-1678
Cody Pace, Treasurer 801-518-8399
Cynthia Dobbs, Trustee 801-979-5951
Nolan Newbold, Trustee 801-336-8919

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Luci Malin (Chair) 801-440-3776
Sandra Roach 801-562-9465
Phil Quigley 801-942-0049
Lory Schantz 801-856-7834

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
Email: admin@svuus.org
Office Hours: Tue & F 1:30-4:30 pm
Mon. Wed. Thu. 1:30-5:30 pm

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.
Other hours by appointment

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

My SVUUS Family and Friends,

This is a remarkable time of transition in our weather, our discourse, and our community. The temperature outside is inching up as we approach spring, and plants are slowly waking up to greet the sun. Our minds are engaging in activism in our new political arena, and our social hall is receiving some very welcome updates and improvements.

What is your vision of our community in the coming months and years? The Board often discusses our duties and responsibilities in relation to our independent and collective vision. We continually endeavor to address gaps and opportunities we see around us. There are programs and groups in place at SVUUS that started out as a mere hope or idea. This would not be possible without a vision AND the efforts of many.

This is the time of year for the annual stewardship campaign. Ideally, we can connect our vision with our action and determine how we can contribute our "Three Ts" of Time, Talent, and Treasure in the months ahead. These three legs of a stool hold up our programs, support our vitality, and poise us for growth and continual improvement. We hope that everyone will fill out a Three T form to tell us how your passion and vision aligns with ways to be engaged and have an impact in our community.

Respectfully,
Christine Hirrill, Board of Trustees Vice-President



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From Our Minister

Can We Begin Again? Let's Have a Practice of Renewal

March 2017

Monthly Theme: Renewal

I love plum trees for blooming in February. An old gnarled plum tree grew on the other side of the pond below our house in rural Japan. February was the time of the "Dai Kan" or Big Cold when temperatures hovered below freezing and blizzard after blizzard hit our village. Just as we finished clearing the stone steps, three more feet would fall. We kept watch on the snow-covered branches of the plum tree and on one of those rare days when the sun came out (one year we only had one day of sun in six weeks), dark buds appeared like a miracle. Then suddenly, even if the sun didn't show up, those buds burst into bright pink blooms. The blossoms were evidence that the Earth hadn't died under the weight of several feet of snow and that the cycle of the seasons was undisturbed. We quietly began to feel a little more energy ourselves and put on our snow shoes and made a bee line to sit under that tree. One year on one of those energized walks, we heard frogs like they were laughing under an ice covered pond. Life was returning.

My life has its own times of winter, spring, summer and harvest, both as an individual and in my relationships with others. Together as a community, we have experienced all of these seasons too. I have found within me, out of sight, those urges towards growth and dormancy and I have also often found the need to "make" spring happen whether it was in tired relationships or my own tired heart. If you are a gardener, you know what I mean. You must put a plant in the window, or under a special light that encourages growth. That is how florists have such a bounty of tulips and hyacinths long before they sprout in our gardens. Even people of communities that care about each other and people in relationships as long as Lou's and mine, need to figure out what that "sun" is for them. For Lou and me, it is sometimes getting ourselves to "lighten up." A dog is very helpful with this because dogs do not like lugubrious people. We find ways to laugh. We also sit and talk about what is hard right now but not to each other, we face out into the room. We find a way to feel gratitude for anything. That practice has helped us manage to find renewal for 34 years.

As a community, let us look for ways to be grateful to one another. During February and March, we should probably stay away from critiquing what we think the other is doing wrong. When you have trouble, consider sitting and listening. I will take this advice too.

For our Stewardship Campaign this year, our theme is "Building a Sanctuary." Our first year in Japan, I discovered that the Ise Grand Shrine, an amazing architectural masterpiece, was rebuilt every twenty years. In some ways, with our stewardship campaign, we are rebuilding our sanctuary each year. We are renewing our commitment, our feeling that our presence, our work as a liberal religion, a beacon of acceptance and hope is worth our effort. At this time, each of us renewing our commitments of time, talent and treasure, is like seeing those plum blossoms bursting out of a branch that seemed dead. We give each other hope. Our renewal inspires renewal.

May we find renewal as we build our sanctuary, star by star,

Patty



You are invited!

*The Social Hall
will be complete, so
this will be the
Grand Opening!*

*Come join the fun
and see what the
“surprise” is!*



THE BIG EVENT

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 6 P.M.

The Big Event offers fun, companionship, food, libations, music, and dancing. We'll look back at what we've accomplished, and then ahead to where we'd like to go during the next year. Let's build our sanctuary together!

RSVP admin@svuus.org for your free ticket.
Or find someone with a clipboard!

"More than any other time I can remember, we need sanctuary—and we each have a role to play in building it. Let's gather to talk of our gratitude and our dreams. And then . . . let's dance!" —Rev. Patty Willis

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 16, 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)

Christopher Penzcak 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.

Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesday Classes

Wellspring Wednesday's spring classes are winding down with the following classes. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm for a hot bowl of soup. Classes begin at 6:30. Questions – email colecasto@comcast.net.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Mar 1.

Strategy Games (ongoing)

Mar 1: SoulCollage® with Julie Vesely, a creative and transformational collage process. You make your own deck of cards-or even just a couple of cards! – each collage card represents one aspect of your personality or Soul. Use the cards intuitively to answer life's questions and participate in self-discovery. Joyfully deepen your understanding of the relationships between your personality parts, between you and your family/community/world, and between you and your dreams/symbols/Spirit. Use your cards for inspiration, meditation, and direction. Facilitator, Julie Vesely, loves sharing the creative and spiritual aspects of this insightful practice with seekers and dreamers alike! Join us! \$20 material fee. Sign up at the Happenings Hub in the social hall after church or email Cole.

Senior High Fundraising Event for GA

Baked Potato Bar Sunday!!

Sr High Youth Fundraiser

**We had so much fun last time,
that we thought we would do it again!**

Sunday, March 5th, after the service.

Suggested Donation for Potato Bar

Individual \$7 Family \$15

Vegan & Gluten Free Options

**We really want to go to New Orleans for GA
and we REALLY appreciate all of your support!**



BINGO!!!

**FUNDRAISER FOR
THE SR HIGH YOUTH**

**Bring your family, bring your friends,
bring your neighbors and enjoy an
evening of fun and games!!!**

Saturday, March 18th 7-9 pm
**Babysitting available. Open to people outside of
the congregation. Spread the word!**

(more details to follow)

RISE UP & MARCH ON

Do you find yourself wanting to become more active in issues that matter to you? You may be wondering how to get involved, or perhaps you want to connect with organizations that reflect your values. Join us March 4, 2017 for a fun, informative, and participatory event at the Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus (9750 South 300 West, Sandy UT) where a panel of dynamic speakers will help you clarify WHY you are committed to making a difference, HOW to do so, and WAYS to keep joy and passion in your activism, even when things seem hard.

Proceeds from the event will be shared with participating organizations, including The Legacy Project, Equality Utah, and Planned Parenthood (other will be added as their participation is confirmed).

Lunch is included (vegan and gluten free options available). Doors open at 9am. Conference from 10am-2pm. To register: <https://riseupmarchon.regfox.com/rise-up-march-on>

Greetings to all the special folks in our South Valley UU community:

I thought you might like a short report from someone who was “boots on the ground” in the District of Columbia on January 21st!

I was fortunate enough to travel to Washington for the Women’s March because my daughter wanted to go and invited me to go along. I realized, as I packed for the trip, that it was 1967 when I participated in my first march on Washington to “Exorcise the Pentagon” and try to end the Viet Nam War. Fifty years ago! In spite of years of experiences with demonstrations for civil rights and women’s rights, asking for an end to the death penalty and a beginning of protecting our environment, and so forth, I did *not* anticipate the experience of being on Pennsylvania Avenue last Saturday! It was beyond my expectations and simply incredible.

The levels of commitment and solidarity and, yes, the amount of pure love that was felt during the day as we walked ten miles—a trek that included passing right by the Trump International Hotel—holding our signs, chanting, laughing, crying was (to use a word that has been in constant use recently) unprecedented! I wish I could have bottled the feeling of camaraderie that was obvious and genuine and expressed in so many different ways all day long so I could have brought everyone at South Valley a huge cup! No one was a stranger. I walked amidst a sea of men, women and children, gay, straight, young, old, from all over this country and from all over the world, and we were of one voice:

Women’s rights are human rights.
No person is “illegal.”
Black lives matter.
Science is real.

My favorite two chants of the day were “Welcome to your first day! We will not go away!” and “Tell me what democracy looks like! THIS is what democracy looks like.”

My mini-goal that day was to acknowledge and thank all the media, law enforcement and military I could find. I managed to shake hands with the National Guard presence (who were applauding us as we walked by their armored vehicles), thank CBS, a documentary film-maker and several local D.C. police. And then, the large camera crew we encountered turned out to be CNN. The reporter asked to interview my daughter and me, and we complied. Amazing!

Late that evening, as we talked and cried (and cried some more) about the surprising national and global response, my daughter received a notice that our flight back to Salt Lake had been cancelled. We wouldn’t be able to catch a plane bound for Utah until late afternoon. I used my trusty smart phone and found the nearest UU church and discovered that Terry O’Neal, the president of NOW was speaking there. Wow. Another two hours of being around kindred souls, in a safe and warm environment where the music and the message embraced and buoyed. Amazing!

We have big work ahead of us folks, but I think we are more than up to the task! Thanks for letting me share. Carry on sisters and brothers!

Caren Smith

Upcoming Events

March	4	The Big Event
March	5	Fundraiser Brunch for GA Youth
March	8	Women of Courage Concert-SLCC Campus
March	17	Women of Courage Concert-SVUUS
March	18	Sr. High Bingo Fundraiser
March	18	Women of Courage Concert-First Unitarian
March	19	Interfaith Musical Tribute-Temple Square



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

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