



Volume 37, Issue 5

May, 2017

May Theme: Theological Reflection



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May 7: "The Triple Bottom Line: A New Look at Success and Failure"

On the day of our annual meeting when we are looking back and looking ahead, how can this new business concept help us transform how we gauge success and failure? How can it help us look back at Standing Rock?

Rev. Patty Willis

May 14: "Sanctuary for All Mothers"

We love to sing about mothers and some of us get teary-eyed about our own. In Arizona, I knew of mothers who left a note for their children on the refrigerator: Go to this person's house, if I don't return home. Some people need "real" sanctuary and churches are places that have a tradition of filling this role. Who might need our help? What would this look like?

Rev. Patty Willis

May 21: TBA

May 28: TBA

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 801-599-1953
Jan Vanderhooft, Co-Pres. 801-943-3879
Christine Hirrill, Vice Pres. 801-493-9316
Ann Hess, Secretary 801-577-1678
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Nolan Newbold, Trustee 801-336-8919

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
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Office Hours: Tue -Th 12:00-4:30 pm
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.
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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

Over the past few months I have genuinely enjoyed hearing members of the congregation stand at the podium and share why they are at SVUUS. Although many of us have similar backgrounds, it is always interesting to hear each person's reasons for coming to SVUUS and what it was that made them keep coming back. In the spirit of that theme, I want to take this opportunity to share my story and why I am here.

Like many of you, I was born and raised a member of the LDS church. For the majority of my youth I worked very hard to be a faithful member and do everything that I was supposed to do. At some point in my teens, I started realizing that the things I was taught in church really didn't align with my personal values and morals. As time went on, I found it harder and harder to reconcile those teachings with what I knew was right in my heart. When I turned eighteen I constantly found excuses to miss church and slowly stopped going all together.

For a very long time I was completely anti-church and religion and wanted nothing to do with it. It was only at the gentle urgings of my wife in recent years that I started reluctantly attending various congregations. She was looking for that place of community, which was something I didn't think I needed at the time, until we stumbled upon SVUUS when we moved from Ogden to Salt Lake City in the Spring of 2014. From the moment we walked through the front doors on our very first day, I could feel the love. I could feel the compassion, empathy, and sincere caring from each and every person in that sanctuary. It was a feeling I craved more of so we kept coming back and soon became actively involved in the congregation.

I am here because I feel loved and accepted, and part of a caring community regardless of my spiritual beliefs. While there are many at SVUUS that probably share my Humanist views, there are also many more with varying different views. And instead of using those different beliefs to divide us, we use those different beliefs to bring us closer together, to find the beauty in all of us, and to discover what it is that we all really have in common as human beings. We all come together at SVUUS to share in our determination to make a positive impact in this world. We work together as a community to fight for human rights, for the planet, and for progressive change in our mostly conservative state. I am here because I believe in what we are doing, I feel your love, and I love all of you.

As we are currently engaged in our annual stewardship campaign, I would ask all of you to consider why you here as you fill our your 3T card. For it is only through the generous donations of Time, Talents, and Treasures from our caring community that SVUUS has become what it is today. If SVUUS has become a true place of sanctuary for you like it has for my, please join me in supporting our congregation and helping us continue to grow as a voice of peace, love and justice in the community.

With Love,
Nolan Newbold, Board of Trustees



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From Our Minister

Theological Reflection: Sharing Mine with You - May 2017

As I sit by her bedside or think of my sister Jennifer (she is my brother's wife but we are sisters), I am full of theological questions. Why is such a kind and real and beloved person in so much pain? Is there a way for her and all of us who are grieving to feel comfort beyond words? Recently, these yearnings have been coming out in poems. So, instead of an explanation, I offer you the words that *are* my theological reflection from two years of grief and wondering if there is comfort out there. I hope that you find ways of reflecting theologically---however that looks for you---in the form of poetry, paintings, and silence as you sit by a canyon stream or walk your dog. In my own poetic reflection, I didn't find answers but I did find some comfort. Perhaps that comfort came through giving voice to what was in my heart. "Finisterre" signifies those places on this earth that, before circumnavigation, were thought to be the "end of the earth.". These places are found all over the world.

Prayer at Finisterre

I am not knowing,
as if beyond me,
if I opened my eyes,
I would see nothing.

The end of the Earth,
a line of cliffs and then only
air.

When artists looked carefully,
they saw the shapes of
dragons
and the adventurous young
still seek
to ride the edge, stand on it,
and feel its sharp ridge
underfoot
like a tight rope
stretched between two strong
trees.

Help, please!

I have not asked before.
Give me Your hand!

I jump and lift off.

Now, you can let go,
I say when I have found the
current,
birds around me.

Wishing for wings,
my hands and arms and legs
testing
how their movement can take
me
to the right or left,
up or down.

This is the study of a lifetime
of experiments on hapless
subjects.

I am glad to do it right now.

I, the scientist and the
subject,
the artist and her work.

All is at play:
The density of bones and
content of my blood,
the sturdiness and thickness
of skin
and my heart pumping blood,
rich in oxygen to outlying
fingers, toes and scalp.

I am alive!

For those moments aloft,
knowing that birds will hold
me,
if necessary.
And, ah!
The wind itself full of the
same oxygen
receiving mine like tiny sparks
of life
that have begun to shine
around me like stars.

I am wind, and bird, and sun
and shade of clouds.

The bones within me,
like flying dinosaurs
in the airspace of museums,
know the secret of flight.
The trick will be
landing and finding

a writing instrument
before they forget.

Within them now is a formula
never replicated
only born.

I shouldn't even try,
I am thinking,
for I remember Icarus falling
into the sea.

As long as we keep flying
all will be well.
I am Peter on the sea,
I know this,
walking farther than anyone
expected

until he figured out
how he was doing it.

I falter,
hardly noticeable but
alarming the birds.

It is time.

I need your hand again.
I have reached the limit
of my own landscape.
Take me back to solid land.

Ah, I hear you say,
there will be a forgetting
of formulae and theories
about lift and velocity.

With deep regret,
giving up in my mind's eye,
a wall covered in plaques and
prizes,
and thunderous applause,
my hand once more in Yours.

The shore appears.
My landing pad
there and waiting.

The last moments,
wind around me,
blood, sinew, and bone aloft,
are pure joy of flight.

Amen

In love and peace,
Patty

SVUUS Board of Trustees Announcement

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 7, 2017, beginning at 12:30 - Childcare will be provided

This year's annual congregational meeting will be held after the service on Sunday May 7th. SVUUS members and friends are strongly encouraged to attend in order to meet the voting quorum requirement. Congregation members will vote to adopt a budget for the coming year and to elect new members of the Board, Endowment, and Leadership Succession and Development Committees.

The Leadership Succession and Development Committee is happy to announce the following candidates for 3-year terms:

Board of Trustees: Ann Scarborough, Lorri Quigley, Sandra Roach and Sandra Xyone

Leadership Succession and Development Committee: Denna Wright

Endowment Committee: Christine Hirrill

More information about these candidates is in this April Beacon. One of the most important responsibilities we have as members of a UU congregation is electing members to serve in our leadership positions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 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 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 for more information.

Welcome New Member



JEN SCHWARTZ

Dr. Jen Schwartz, PhD, CFLE, has been working with families in various ways since 1993. As an educator, she has worked with children ages 4-18 in both traditional and non-traditional settings. As a Life Coach, Dr. Jen has coached individuals and couples in many areas of life, including relationship issues, running successful businesses, creating life goals, and getting out of debt. As a Family Life Educator, she has counseled individuals and families on topics ranging from looking for an ideal relationship to planning for children; from handling tantrums to empowering teenagers; and from preparing for marriage to powerfully ending relationships.

Attachment parenting, blended families, and alternative education are some of the fields of Dr. Jen's research and experience. Her primary doctoral research involved looking at birth stories from both narrative and artistic expressions. She is especially interested in empowering women's childbirth experiences, and believes that having empowered, informed births is critical in empowering women as mothers.

Dr. Jen is the founder of Segó Lily School, Utah's only school for self-directed learning in a working democracy. She has created workshops for adults including Trust-Based Parenting, From Scarcity to Abundance, and Healing with Sound.

Jen was born and raised in Texas, but moved to Utah soon after graduating from UT-Austin. She is the mother of 3 amazing boys and one incredible non-binary teenager, and step-mom to another 4 awesome young people. She lives with her partner in South Jordan, Utah, along with her mother, a crazy but loving dog, 20 chickens, and a resident peacock who has been an inspiration on her own personal journey.

Jen is running for Utah State House in District 50 (South Jordan) in 2018, on the Democratic ticket.

(Note: Her mother is Caren Smith, a member of SVUUS and a UU for many years in congregations around Texas.)

Nominations to the Board of Trustees

Lorri Quigley

Lorri has been a member of South Valley since 2002. She was introduced to Unitarian Universalism by her children who began attending the South Valley youth group when they were in high school. Lorri was impressed by the youth program and decided this is where she might find a spiritual community.

Lorri has served on a number of committees during her years at South Valley. Most recently she was chair of the Leadership Succession and Development Committee from 2012-2016. Lorri has also served on the library committee, transition team, stewardship team, communications committee, and the personnel committee. She taught in the RE program and was instrumental in starting the prayer shawl ministry at South Valley.

Lorri and her husband, Phil, have been married for 48 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. Lorri has a Master of Education degree in special education and certifications in elementary education, distance education & technology, and library science. She taught at the Utah Schools for the Deaf & the Blind for 21 years, then served as a program director at the school for 18 years before retiring in 2009. She currently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees for the Utah State Library Division.

Sandra Roach

I have been a member of South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society for 27 years. During this time I have held several leadership positions, beginning in the early 90's by serving an un-finished term of a board member on the Board of Trustees. Also in that decade I chaired the (now defunct) Finance Council, the annual auction, and twice ran the (at that time) annual church yard sale.

I helped organize and produce our big party that ushered in the new century on New Year's Eve, 1999. I have been active in organizing and participating in circle suppers off and on for many years.

I became involved with the Mountain Dessert District (MDD) in the early 2000's and served as a liaison for all the UU churches in the MDD for two years. Because of this work I also became involved with the UUA in Boston and worked with the Education Department, helping write a training manual for UU churches to use in presenting Growth Workshops. I also traveled to several MDD churches and co-facilitated some of these workshops.

For South Valley, I have used my teaching skills to facilitate a few adult education classes, such as A Sense of Place, Voluntary Simplicity, and John Buehren's Understanding the Bible.

In 2003 I served as chair of the Rev. Sean Parker Dennison's Installation service and chaired his sabbatical task force in 2006. I also worked on the Twenty-fifth anniversary celebration in 2008. For several years I served on the Welcoming Committee and have organized several worship services for our summer programs.

More recently I have served on the Leadership Training and Succession Committee, as chair, and currently serve on the Committee on Ministry. I am the editor of the weekly Happenings.

Ann Scarborough

Hello, my name is Ann Scarborough and I am honored to begin serving on the Board of Trustees at South Valley UU. My husband and I moved here in July 2015 to be near our daughter's family. You know how grandchildren exert a gravitational pull on their grandparents! The rest of my family are members at Hilltop United Methodist Church in Sandy, but I chose to follow my heart and have planted myself happily in your community...

I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a self-designed degree in Public Health, Family Social Sciences and Humanities. Seeking health and wholeness for myself and others, I pursued a career in Massage and Lymphatic Therapy. I owned 2 businesses, Shalom Therapeutic Massage and Dynamic Journey Massage & Wellness, both located in Minnesota. It has been a wonderful and gratifying career which I plan to resume when I retire. Currently I provide customer service for a nonprofit agency that services student loans.

Nominations to the Board of Trustees continued

Bob and I have enjoyed parenting three children. Justin was born with profound disabilities and blessed us for only 3 ½ years. Our daughter, Maria, lives here in Utah with her husband, Mike, and two daughters, Talia and Gabriella. Autumn lives in Salida, Colorado and visits whenever she can. We have three additional grandchildren and 4 great grandsons through marriage that provide endless entertainment!

Reading, hiking, traveling, gardening, and music are my favorite hobbies. I have been enjoying the musical concerts offered at South Valley UU and appreciate the music and poetry of our services! The advocacy for justice and for environmental issues are dear to my heart and I am grateful for the passion and involvement of our community!

Sandra Xyone

I was born into a wrong gender back in 1955. Tried to live as a male for 56 years. But I would have times that I liked to be fem. I would always be told that that is not the way a boy should act. My first 7 years were lived in MN. I was a demonstration baby as I was an eleven pound 2 & 1/2 oz baby and therefore very easy to handle. After this short lived career as a porn star I went to school in Minneapolis MN. My mom was divorced as my father had a problem with alcohol back then.

When she remarried her new husband was from Utah. We moved to Utah. We had become Mormons as our new father was one. So I was brought up in a very sheltered life. All through my life there would be signs of my real gender showing through. I learned how to cook and sew by hand. But I had to repress my desires to wear the clothes I longed to be in. I even considered becoming a fashion designer when it came time to choose a career. I served a mission for the LDS church in 1976-1978 in the South American country of Colombia. I was somewhat awakened by the experience as to other ways to think. I became married to a Colombian woman and had two boys. I did so much want to have a girl but it never happened. Spent 9 years married to her and then we went our separate ways. Was single for another 9 years and then remarried to a very controlling person. During my first marriage I served in the US Army for a few years and the National guard for another 9 years. When my last marriage ended after 9 years. I began to question my life and who I really was. I knew that I had to express myself as a woman and came to the conclusion that I should embrace it. When I did I felt so liberated. Gender is the way you think not the way your body looks. I must mention that we are all the same inside. Mother nature has created persons with aspects of both genders, and as one being of such a creation I can say that we need to treat all the same.

Endowment Committee: Christine Hirrill

Christine Hirrill joined SVUUS on Mother's Day with her daughter in 2012. One of her first contributions to our community was a new form of small covenant groups, called Branches, which ran for two years. Next, she was instrumental in creating the Monday Menus program, which recently evolved into Wellspring Wednesdays. She has also facilitated two series of OWL classes (a comprehensive sexuality education workshop series) for 4th-6th graders. Finally, she successfully ran our stewardship campaign for two years.

For these contributions, Christine received our church's very first Outstanding Leadership Recognition for our 2013-2014 church-year based on being a primary visionary and instigator of action in our community. Christine was elected to serve a 3-year term on the SVUUS Board of Trustees in 2014, and is currently serving as Vice-President.

Leadership Development and Succession Team: Denna Wright

Denna has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1970; Denna and husband, Bob were founding members of the Park City Unitarian Universalist Society in the late 1980's. Denna joined SVUUS in 2009 after Bob passed away. She loves this community and feels it to be an integral part of her life.

Her working career was in public service, as a public librarian, and she is still service oriented. In the past few years, Denna has been active with Social Action—delivering food boxes for Utah Foodbank, helping collect food and clothing for other worthy charities and working with homeless youth at the Youth Resource Center.

Denna spent 3 years on the Caring Circle, one year as Chair and four years on the Yard Sale Committee, also helping with several pledge drives and the Annual Auction. Currently she is Co-Chair of the Library Committee and Chair of the Leadership Development and Succession Team.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

May 7:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - The Wonder of Weather
Pathfinders (K-1st) - Using Our Senses of Wonder
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Signs of Faithful Leadership
Seekers (4th-5th) - The Power to Make Change
Junior High (6th-8th) - Discussion - Islam
High School (9th-12th) - Service Planning

May 14:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - Class Party
Pathfinders (K-1st) - Class Party
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Class Party
Seekers (4th-5th) - Class Party
Junior High (6th-8th) - Class Party
High School (9th-12th) - Service Planning

May 21:

ALL-AGES SERVICE (everyone upstairs)

May 28:

Memorial Day Weekend: Child Care/Special Activity (no regular RE)

****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>

Save the Date

June	TBA	Annual Church Picnic
June	TBA	Annual Church Yard Sale

Upcoming Events

May	1	Book Club Meeting
May	7	Annual Congregational Meeting
May	14	Library Book Sale
May	18	Prayer Shawl Ministry



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