

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 33, Issue 11

November, 2013

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November Theme: Vocation & Calling

November 3rd: "Day of the Dead"

Rev. Patty Willis

During this intergenerational service, we will honor our ancestors through storytelling and song. This will be the debut of the children's choir and we will honor a long-loved tree that has died. The past often gives us a window into the future and gives us clues as to what we are called to do.

November 10th: TBA

Lay led service

John Cooper will speak at today's service.

November 17th: "A Voice Calling in the Night." Willis

Rev. Patty Willis

In all religions, there are narratives of vocation and call. Do you remember Samuel of our Hebrew scriptures? Let's take a new look at vocation through the eyes of Buddhism. What do you hear calling in the night?

November 24th: "The Bread Ceremony: Is There Room at Our Table?" Rev. Patty Willis

In this intergenerational service, we will gather to celebrate the harvest. This is our way to give thanks to the Earth that has given us so much. As we break bread together, we will ponder who is welcome at our table? How can we expand our welcome?

The South Valley Annual Auction is coming soon!!

Plan to attend on November 9

See Page 3 for all the details.

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTER

Rev. Patty Willis Cell #: 801-633-0709
Email: minister@svuus.org

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Laura Renshaw (President) 801-619-0814
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Office Hours:
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REGAL COUNCIL

Robyn Taylor-Granda (Chair) 801-597-6711

CARING CIRCLE

Denna Wright (Chair) 801-274-0756
Email: dennalee1968@gmail.com

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

From the Minister's Desk

Dear All,

I am writing this with a mind full of the tall trees that preside over our walks in Liberty Park. Their changing leaves are beginning to float around us and press themselves to the sidewalk when it rains. It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since we were busily preparing for my ordination. I will always be thankful for the loving energy you put into making the sanctuary and social hall beautiful the night after the Auction! This feels like a time of harvest. Yesterday, the smell of roasting tomatoes replaced the scent of plums and apricots. This pantry-filling behavior must be programmed in my DNA for I feel such a sense of accomplishment looking at the rows of Kerr jars filled with sauces and jams.

This month, we'll be exploring our monthly theme of vocation in worship services and our small group ministry "Branches." We will also be talking about "vocation" when our prayer shawl ministry meets to knit. This is the perfect topic for our group that is feeling "called" to knit shawls that will offer comfort. What is your vocation within our congregation? What do you feel called to do? What do you see yourself doing? Finding out the answers to these questions is the best way to discover a way to enjoy participating in community life. During our Community Chat on October 27th, we began talking about stewardship. Stewardship in its most basic meaning is about how we take care of what we have including gifts and possessions. The Parable of the Talents is a story about stewardship. In order to be good stewards, we must use our talents. Our talents are at the heart of our vocation. In fact, I think that our talents often give voice (this is the root of the word vocation) to how our lives connect with the web of life. We know when we have found the right place when we feel a deep gladness. Frederick Buechner wrote that, "Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need."

On Saturday morning, November 2nd, from 9 a.m. to noon, I hope that you can gather to create a mission statement for this year. You can prepare by thinking about what we have done and what we are already doing. This is a short list of what I discovered and felt very proud:

We seek to bring healing to our community and the Earth around us through our gifts of time, talents and treasure, by:

- feeding the homeless (HYRC) and poor (Crossroads)
- working towards non-discrimination in schools and work places with special attention to LGBTQ youth, and those living with mental illness (NAMI)
- advocating for children and youth with autism and ADHD.
- advocating for Marriage Equality (Interweave)
- providing an oasis for religious transition (Religious Transition group)
- working to reduce our carbon footprint as a community and as individuals. (Solar power and Clean Air Challenge and possibly Green Sanctuary)
- advocating for laws that will bring us cleaner air and take our planet farther from danger. (CORC)

At the beginning of October, I began talking to committees about their Wellness Checks. These are forms that ask people how they are doing and also about the correctness of their address and information in the directory. If you have not filled one out, please send me an email, and I'll send one to you. I just sent one out via the list serve so you might even check your email first. I look forward to knowing how you are doing. I will be listening to where your heart is calling as the colors of autumn deepen around us.

In love and community,

Rev. Patty

South Valley Auction

The year's biggest fundraiser

Donate at
tinyurl.com/2013svuusauction

Saturday,
November 9
6:00 pm

MOVIE NIGHT
SVUUS 2013
Goods & Services
Auction

\$5 for
Kids 13
& under

\$16 for
Adults
& Teens
over 14

Enjoy food,
friends, and great
entertainment!

Come as your
favorite movie
star or
character

Volunteer
to
help out!

From the Board of Trustees

What a wonderful fall this has been! I want to start by saying how much I have enjoyed all of the positive energy at South Valley these past few months. And in spite of being busier than I have ever been, parenting a teen and tween, learning the ropes in a new job, and serving in my second year as Board President, I decided last spring that it was important to make time in my life for some South Valley things that would feed my soul.

The first way I did that was by joining a Branches small group when it started in the early part of the year. I could commit to that: it was just one night a month and only for a few months. And even though it meant one more night a week that I would be away from home, it became an important commitment to me. The chance to deeply listen to others and to be deeply listened to when it was my turn to share became something that I didn't want to miss. And more importantly, it made me realize that I really could make time for something that was just for me.

This fall, when we began offering weekly religious education opportunities for the new Monday Menus program, I thought about how much I had gotten out of being in a Branches group. In my small group, I got to know some new people that I might not have otherwise and I learned a few things about long time friends that I never knew, as well. I enjoyed the peaceful feeling I had from the time of quiet reflection that our small group offered, and I felt my connection to South Valley deepening. So, it wasn't really that much of a stretch for me to know I wanted to be a part of The Artist's Way class that would meet on Monday nights for 9 weeks starting in September. Coming to a class every week means I am out three to four nights per week every week, with other church meetings and nights that I work. It would be easy to say I don't have time for it. But instead I make time for it. This class has been such a wonderful experience. It is changing the way I view the world and view myself and it occurs to me that THIS is what church is all about: transformation!

I have been so happy to see South Valley transforming, as well, to become the vibrant place that it is right now. I love that visitors stand up to introduce themselves and comment on how welcomed they felt coming in our doors. I love that we have adult religious education now. I love how our building is looking nicer and nicer. I love that we have a children's choir and I truly love the beautiful music all of our guest musicians provide, as well as our own choir and pianist. There's a lot going on around South Valley and that is fantastic. As we sometimes say on Sunday mornings, there are many ways to get involved in the life of this congregation and I encourage each and every one of you to find as many ways as you can to do that. I promise you: if your experience is anything like mine, you will get just as much out of it as you put into it.

In community,

Laura Renshaw
Board President

New Member Orientation

November 3rd, 2013: 12:30 to 2:00.

For those of you who are considering membership or have just joined, we will be having a meeting to familiarize you with UU history, ministries of the church, and the responsibilities and privileges of membership.

(A light lunch and childcare will be provided.)



From the Worship Closet



November 24th is the date for our annual **Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service and Bread Ceremony**. Plan now to bring bread that means something special to you and your family for this yearly SVUUS ritual of breaking bread together!

Our theme for November worship is “**Vocation and Calling**.” If you would like to be a part of one of our worship services in November, or would like to join our committee, just ask one of our veteran members: Mary Norton, David Norton, Brenda Voisard, Deon Corkins, Sutton Morgan, Jan Vanderhooft, Liz Martin, Julie Vesely, and Rev. Patty.

Thank you to Lauren Sullivan, Tyler Ashby, Amer and Charles Cecil, Page Kimball and Cheryl Altman who joined our worship team at the recent Committee Fair! And thanks to those other members and friends who expressed interest in doing readings or preparing altars.

Because of this **great new wave of energy**, we will soon be offering training for those interested in being part of Sunday worship services. Look for **upcoming workshops** on creating altars and other parts of worship at our Monday Menus; dates soon to be announced.

Julie Veseley
Worship Committee



CARING CIRCLE Contact Information

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.

Denna Wright (Chair) 801-274-0756
Email: dennalee1968@gmail.com

Dot Clayton 801-561-4776
Sandy Dreis 801-256-0825
Mildred Dahm 801-604-3989
Kathleen Luck 801-567-9062

From the Transition Team

Change

Change is the inescapable theme this time of year. I think it is because our surroundings are in your face and vibrantly visual, followed closely by the stark nakedness of the impending winter. The contrast between what was and what is isn't subtle in nature. Change within our community can be like this, too. For this reason it seems like a good time to reflect on what was and what is in our community and to invite your thoughts about both.

In the past year we have had our share of change:

- In leadership with a new minister and director of religious education
- In the physical properties of our building with a remodeled annex, asphalt patched, a new orientation for our sanctuary, and progress being made toward solar panels
- In religious educational opportunities that are available

And the list goes on and on.

How we respond to change is both personal and communal because our actions affect us, and everyone around us. This is why the transition team would like to invite everyone to share his or her thoughts with us, about what has changed in the past year, so we can further the dialogue about what is or isn't working and what new modifications we should be focused on in the coming year.

After all, "Fear, uncertainty and discomfort are your compasses toward growth (anonymous)," so let's embrace them through healthy dialogue. Let's assume good intentions from everyone involved with leading us through change, and from those willing to question the leadership, so that we can continue to move toward the personal and communal growth that we all seek.

In community,

Sara Allen
Member, Transition Team



Welcoming/Membership Team

WELCOMING and MEMBERSHIP constitute the "front-end" of a broad continuum of life experience at South Valley. We welcome the many guests that visit us, help them find a comfortable place among us, and when they are ready, introduce them to what becoming a member is all about.

We are currently re-visioning our mission, vision and structure. If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, please talk to any of our Sunday worship service greeters, or Welcoming/Membership Team leaders: Antoinette Rahman (arahman@xmission.com), Susan Eyzaguirre (eyzsooz@gmail.com), or Scott Renshaw (scottr@cityweekly.net). We will be holding a retreat in November, date TBA.

Religious Education, Growth, and Learning

Monday Menus:

We are almost finished with the fall series and planning is underway for the next one beginning in January. If there's something you'd like to see, or facilitate, or any suggestions about how this first series went, please let Rev. Patty, Liz Martin, or Christine Hirrill know. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and typically end at 8:00...but don't forget to join us for soup and crackers at 6:00 p.m.!

New Classes for November:

Bridge with Paul Barron (November 4)

Whether you're a beginner or have been playing for years, join us for a friendly card game. We'll have bidding 'cheat sheets' available. Learners may be asked to Kibitz (look over shoulders) so we have 4 playing per table. If there is interest, we'll try to play once a month.

Preparing for Advent with Valerie Holt (November 18)

Laying a foundation and expectation for the coming year: There is so much that we take on in preparation and celebration of the Holidays--that we can often forget these are truly an opportunity to prepare within for a spirit of the 'Holy' days as we choose to celebrate them and the new year before us. Creating a space and ceremony for the year ahead is one the most powerful ways to plant the seeds of growth and joy in our lives. Come prepared to create a 'ceremony' with the group to prepare ourselves for the advent of the coming holiday season and new year.

And don't forget our on-going offerings...

African Drumming and Dance with Keshav and Leslie (Nov. 4)

Yoga with Amber (Nov. 4, 11, 18)

Bible Study with Mel (Nov. 4)

Children's Choir, ages 5-12 (Nov. 4, 11, 18)

TED Talks Discussion Group (Nov. 11, 18)

Deep fUUn, ages 12 and up (Nov. 11, 18)

The Artist's Way, closed group (Nov. 11, 18)

Sunday REGAL Schedule

Nov. 3:	Intergenerational Service: Day of the Dead (All ages stay upstairs, child care available in Nursery room for infants and toddlers)
Nov. 10:	Children's Chapel for Sacred Travelers (K-5th): Vocation/Call, Youth (6th-12th): Worship - Vocation/Call, then classes ("Intro to Buddhism" for Junior High, "The Beloved Community" for High School)
Nov. 17:	Regular Sunday Classes*: Butterflies (Preschool) - "I Can See", Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Invitation", Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Finding Balance", Seekers (4th-5th) - "Reflection - Mirror", Junior High (6th-8th) - "Exploring Buddhism", High School (9th-12th) - "The Beloved Community"
Nov. 24:	Intergenerational Service: Bread Communion/Thanksgiving Service (All ages stay upstairs, child care available in Nursery room for infants and toddlers)

* For more information about our curricula and programming, please see our REGAL brochure available in the church lobby, or contact Liz Martin at dre@svuus.org

News from the South Valley Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

No Pancake Breakfast in November

Due to the auction being the same weekend, there will be no Pancake Breakfast in the month of November. Our next breakfast will be on December 8th. We would like to invite you to bring a pet food item to be donated to Best Friends Animal Society of Utah. In exchange for your gift, we will take \$2.00 off the cost of your breakfast.

Element of Earth Ritual

On January 12th we are planning a ritual for the Element of Earth. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kim Lane or Kathleen Luck. More details about the ritual will be in December's Beacon article.

On the fourth Friday of every month, Kim, David and other members of CUUPS are preparing dinner for the homeless youth at the Homeless Youth Resource Center. We are using some breakfast funds to help buy the food.

Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who came to the All Hallows Eve Psychic Fair and Boutique. We hope you had a great time and thank you for your support of the kids and CUUPS.



UUSC Guest at Your Table

There Are Changes in the Air

Yes, there are some changes in store for us during the 2013 Guest at Your Table program. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has created some new concepts of operation. But, there will be no change in their purpose and program to help create a world free from oppression and injustice.

Here is what is happening:

- There will be the usual Stories of Hope booklets. Added to the format this year is a donation form you can fill out and mail directly to UUSC or put in an envelope with your donation and leave in our central receiving box in the foyer. Be sure to fill in the line and note you are part of our SVUUS congregation!
- There is a new handout as well: a colorful Guest At Your Table *bookmark*. On the backside is the UUSC web address: uusc.org/guest. There you can browse, learn and donate.
- As in the past, there will be envelopes available. You can write a check, put it in the envelope, add a stamp and drop it in the mail.
- Finally, they are not providing those colorful bank-type collection boxes for your dining table. BUT, I am hoping to locate some containers that our kids (and maybe some adults?) can decorate and take home for their tables. More details on that later.

The bottom line is that now you have many options as to how you will make your annual gift. And, as is customary, the fund drive concludes right after the New Year.

Please participate in this important social action program! It is for the entire family and does a WORLD of GOOD.

Connee Gates – UUSC Representative

Social Action Committee

Meals for Homeless Youth

We just started a new program to help support homeless youth here in Salt Lake Valley. We began serving meals at the Homeless Youth Resource Center (HYRC) in October, and provided 3 dinners and 2 breakfasts. Thanks to all of you 20+ fabulous volunteers for donating your precious time and resources to make these meals happen.

We plan to provide meals monthly throughout this church year and need volunteers to provide food or funds to purchase food, prepare food prior to serving day, and come to the center to serve and cleanup. The HYRC is located at 655 S. State Street, and time slots for preparing and serving at the center are 8:45 - 10 am (breakfasts) and 3:45 - 5:15 pm (dinners). If you want to get involved in this very rewarding project, please contact Susan Eyzaguirre at eyzsooz@gmail.com

About the HYRC: The HYRC Daytime Resource Center provides basic needs such as meals, laundry and shower facilities, bus tokens, referrals for human services, and ongoing case management. Youth attend classes, receive referrals for human services, work towards completing their high school education, look for jobs, etc. at this center. During mealtimes the doors open to all youth up to age 22 to receive a hot meal.

The latest statistics concerning the population served by the HYRC are: 33% identify as LGBTQ; 23% report having been in the foster care system; 66% report having at least one mental illness; 60% experience abuse before becoming homeless, 40% afterward; 33% are parents.

Social Action - Café Justo Coffee

One-pound packages of delicious Café Justo Coffee will be for sale following worship services in the social hall November 10 and 17. Help us address immigration issues at their root by supporting this Mexican Farmer Coop that grows, roasts, packages, and distributes their delicious coffee. The coffee is fair-trade plus, certified organic, and grown sustainable. Prices range from \$10 (for the popular Arabica) to \$15 (for the delicious 'designer' bean, Marago).



Leadership Succession & Development Committee

What is Your Calling?

One of the goals of the Leadership Succession and Development Team at South Valley is to find and groom future leaders for our many church opportunities. This begins with newcomers learning about and feeling welcome to participate in all of the activities that are happening here every month. Then we want to encourage everyone to find a way to share their time and talents. This may include assisting in the REGAL program, teaching a class, serving on a committee or helping with an event. Becoming involved in these opportunities is the best way to really feel a part of life at South Valley. Eventually, we hope that you will feel a calling to serve as a committee chair or member of the Board of Trustees.

In brief, we hope to find out what your gifts and passions are and help you find a role that feeds you. Bonnie Blosser, the director of lifelong learning at the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, Kans., writes a blog. In it, she states "If someone is being fed—i.e. being energized by what they are doing—they are less likely to burn out or disappoint. If someone is being fed, they are less likely to burn out or fade away." This doesn't necessarily mean that you should match yourself with something you are already good at (a grade school teacher volunteering to teach RE for example). It may be something that you are interested in pursuing something that might seem to be a bit of a stretch (e.g. an engineer serving on the membership committee).

So we encourage each of you to find your calling at South Valley. Learn about the different committees and activities and get involved!

Lorri Quigley
Leadership Team

SOUTH VALLEY CHALICE READERS

Join us this year as we read and discuss stimulating books that deepen our spirituality and call us to live up to our UU principles and values. We will select one book per season, and then meet for a discussion during one of our Monday Menu UU evenings. All books will be available at our South Valley Library for loan. Contact Susan Eyzaguirre (eyzsooz@gmail.com) or Connee Gates (jandcgates64@comcast.net) if you have questions, future book suggestions, or would like to help facilitate discussion groups.

2013 Fall Read- *Bridges out of Poverty* (by Ruby K. Payne, Philip DeVol and Terie Dreussi Smith)
A number of compelling quotations from *Bridges out of Poverty* were given to a group of us SVUUS volunteers during a recent orientation at the Homeless Youth Resource Center. Many of us have lived privileged and insulated lives, and this book provides humbling insight into what it is like to live in the constant-survival mode of poverty, outlines the "hidden rules among classes", discusses the culture of poverty, and provides a framework for us to help those in need. Discussion to be held in late January.

2014 Winter Read - *Behind the Kitchen Door*, by Saru Jayaraman

We are invited to read *Behind the Kitchen Door* along with thousands of other UUs as the 2013-14 UUA Common Read selection. The book describes how restaurant workers live on very low wages and how poor working conditions, including discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens, affect the meals that are served to us. We will reflect on our own dining-out practices and the lives of those who create and serve our meals. Discussion group anticipated in late March.



From the Women's Group

Girls-Night-Out Birthday Dinner

ATTENTION LADIES
Our November Dinner will be at

Layla Mediterranean Grill
4751 South Holladay Blvd.
Wednesday, November 6th at 7:30.

We will be celebrating birthdays in November and December.
Our Birthday Girls are Janis Ries 11/5, Susan Eyzaguirre 11/21, and Liz Martin 12/16.
If I have forgotten anyone please let me know.
All women 18 and older are welcome to join us.

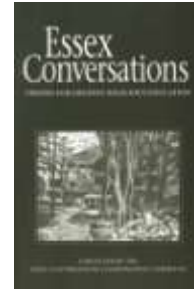
PLEASE RSVP!!

ALSO...
Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7
for our annual Women's Group
White Elephant Gift Exchange and Pot Luck Dinner
at Cynthia's home

Start looking for those unique, crazy, off the wall gifts to exchange.
More information to follow!
If you have any questions please contact Cynthia Dobbs
at cdobbs56@gmail.com, 801-979-5951.

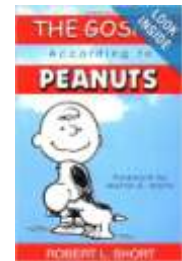
From the Library Committee

Have you ever wondered just what the philosophy of Unitarian Universalism Religious Education is? Well, here is just the book for you. It is designed as a course of a Renaissance Module on RE Philosophy. You can read 31 different essays by well-known UU ministers and leaders on various aspects of this important topic.



You will find a discussions on **what** religious education is, **when** religious education actually takes place, **who** influences it, **where** it happens, **how** we go about it, and **why** we do what we do. The book's title is "**Essex Conversations, Visions For Lifespan Religious Education.**" and it was a long time being compiled. I read several essays and found each one insightful, refreshing and challenging. They open windows to philosophies behind the work and directions offered to our birth-to-death REGAL programming.

The title of the second book discussed here might throw you: "**THE GOSPEL According to PEANUTS**" by Robert L. Short. This book is simply delightful. It includes a large number of actual cartoon strips by Charles Schulz. The author examines insights that can be found in the comic strips and expands his thoughts to beliefs of our times. When TIME magazine reviewed it, the writer says the author "...argues not only amusingly but also convincingly that *Peanuts* indeed has intentional theological significance."



On the back of the book is a quote from Charles Schulz. He notes, "I have been told that quotations from the Bible should never be used in such a lowly thing as a comic strip. This means, of course, that I was extremely flattered when I first heard that Robert Short considered some of my strips as inspirational background for spiritual thinking. I am always amazed that Charlie Brown and Snoopy can prompt some good theological discussions."

Connee Gates
Library Committee

Save the Date

Nov. 2	Envisioning our Mission workshop
Nov. 3	New Member Orientation
Nov. 4	Monday Menus
Nov. 6	Girls Night Out Birthday Celebration
Nov. 9	Annual South Valley Auction
Nov. 11	Monday Menus
Nov. 18	Monday Menus

Upcoming Events

Dec. 7	Women's Group Potluck Dinner/Gift Exchange
Dec. 8	CUUPS Pancake Breakfast

GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

Come downstairs to the Social Hall every Sunday after the service to purchase grocery card coupons to Smith's, Harmon's, and Sprouts Markets.

You can use these coupons for purchases at each store. You can also use them to purchase fuel at the Smith's and Harmon's fuel centers.

Using these gift cards creates additional income for SVUUS as these businesses donate 5% of all purchases back to South Valley.

So if you shop at any of these grocers, please take advantage of this opportunity to help South Valley financially by purchasing grocery cards. Thanks for your support

South Valley Snapshots



Youth at Tibetan Buddhist Temple for Lotus Fest (10/5)



Youth at Tibetan Buddhist Temple for Lotus Fest (10/5)



South Valley Programs Fair (10/6)



Interconnected Web with Animals (10/6)



Monday Menus - Making Sugar Skulls (10/14)



Monday Menus - Making Sugar Skulls (10/14)