

# The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

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March, 2014

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## March Theme: Prayer



### March 2<sup>nd</sup>: "Searching for Words for Our Prayers"

Rev. Patty Willis

Last year, a member of this congregation who I believe considers himself to be an atheist told me that he prays with his family at every meal. "There are things that can be said in prayer," he said, "that cannot be said in another way." Many of us left prayer when we left the denominations of our youth. Let us explore ways to claim prayer with words that fit out new beliefs.

### March 9<sup>th</sup>: TBA

Lay-led Service

John Cooper will be the guest speaker.

### March 16<sup>th</sup>: "Stories from the Other Side: The UU Bridge Brigade Celebrates Their Return"

Rev. Patty Willis

In recent months, a group of young adults has formed as the UU Bridge Brigade. Many of the members of that group attended Religious Education classes at South Valley and then went out into the world. Let us welcome them back and listen to the wisdom that they bring with them. During part of this service, the adults will go down to enjoy Religious Education downstairs in an Upside Down Sunday.

### March 23<sup>rd</sup>: "The Vernal Equinox and the Search for Balance"

Rev. Patty Willis

At this time when light is balancing with darkness and daffodil buds are piercing the earth, let us consider how we can find balance. This is a time of transformation when the Earth is waking up and Persephone is returning from the Under World. How can we cherish those fleeting moments of balance in the reality of change?

### March 30<sup>th</sup>: "Interfaith Prayers for Peace: Stories from Palestine, Syria and Jordan."

Rev. Patty & Matt Rhode

Matt Rohde, a gifted guitarist and linguist will join Rev. Patty in telling stories of hope from that place we call the Middle East. Let us listen to stories and music that will open our eyes to places and people who are far away.

## 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](mailto:minister@svuus.org)

### SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Laura Renshaw (President) 801-619-0814  
Tom Kimball (Vice Pres.) 801-835-8742  
Phil Quigley (Treasurer) 801-942-0049  
Edward Granda (Secretary) 801-633-3760  
Cynthia Dobbs 801-979-5951  
Lory Schantz 801-572-2586  
Torrey Longteig 801-558-5923

### TRANSITION TEAM

Paul Barron (chair) 801-298-2973  
Travis Potter 970-618-9619  
Sara Allen 801-619-6373  
Mel Gundersen 801-739-2452

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Temporary Admin 801-944-9723  
Email: [admin@svuus.org](mailto:admin@svuus.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liz Martin (Director) 801-604-2973  
Email: [dre@svuus.org](mailto: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

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

### CARING CIRCLE

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

[SVUUS Web Site](http://www.svuus.org)  
[www.svuus.org](http://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](mailto:lynw@xmission.com).

To send a message to the list, simply address it to

[svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com](mailto:svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com)

## *From the Board of Trustees*

In the spirit of gratitude, the members of the board of trustees would like to thank each member for their individual contributions of time and talents. Each member is an important and integral part of South Valley. Without each one of you, South Valley wouldn't exist.

Keeping to this spirit of gratitude the board has committed to thanking individual members that have dedicated themselves to keep South Valley a thriving and vital part of the greater community. We will do this either privately or publically, depending on the nature of the contribution. Thank you again for all that you do.

*Eddie Granda*  
Board of Trustees

## *From the Transition Team*

### Gathering in Community

The unpredictable nature of March in Utah is something I have always loved. I never know what the weather will have in store for us from day to day, but there are always glimpses of the beauty the Wasatch Front will exhibit in the months to come. As the days begin to lengthen, I find myself looking for reasons to leave my house and extend out toward friends and community.

This early spring season also brings great demands on my time. My children and I are busy with culminating school and community activities. However, I tend to look forward to this busyness as a break from my winter solitude. This is the time that I renew my relationships and commitments.

This is why it makes sense to me that we hold community gatherings at this time of year, during our pledge drive. I enjoy the opportunity (and excuse) to spend time with old friends and develop new ones while recommitting myself to South Valley. If you feel like I do this time of year, then you are in luck! There are many community gatherings scheduled during this month at varying times and locations. I really hope to see you at one.

*Sara Allen*  
Transition Team

## *From the Minister's Desk*

### *Legacy of Prayer*

One of the many blessings of living here in the Salt Lake Valley is that my parents live only three hours away. When they drove down for the performance at the Tabernacle, they brought photographs of my childhood. In one of them, I was kneeling next to my brother, our hands clasped above the bedcover, and I could almost hear our whispered prayers. This was the nightly ritual of my childhood. My father told us a fairy tale, we had family prayer and then when we went to our rooms, we had our own private prayers with our parents hovering above us. Until my mid-twenties, I couldn't go to sleep without kneeling by the side of my bed (even at motels with questionable carpets) and talking with God. My great-grandmother Patty spent much time each day, before she fell asleep either at night or before her afternoon nap, praying for all of her family and friends. Each night, my parents, grandparents and great-grandmother asked God to protect and bless all of us. In my mid-twenties, when I left the church of my ancestors and came to reject my image of an all powerful God who sternly ruled the earth from the sky, I lost prayer. For years, I felt the lack of kneeling by my bed. My encounter with Buddhism started me on the road to a meditation practice and then about twenty years ago when we moved to a house in the middle of forest land and woke to the sound of birds, I returned to prayer. Much had changed. I no longer believed in a god in the form of a human who was judging all my actions. I believed in what I saw in the changing light of the forest, the wind that could bend bamboo forests to the ground and lightning that woke up the sleeping rice in the fields. And, I believed in the mystery that lay beyond those manifestations. To me, what I could see in nature was only the beginning of an infinite mystery that was larger than the star-filled sky above me. What is your history with prayer?

Being among you has deepened my understanding of prayer. It was one of you who said to me that he prayed with his family not because he believed in God. Through prayers, he was able to say things to his family that he couldn't say in other ways. He could ask for blessings of good health and he could give thanks for the blessing that each child was in their home. He could speak those words that are hard to speak in any other way.

At the beginning of this church year, Lorri Quigley came to me with the idea of a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Since September, four or so of us gather one afternoon a month to knit or crochet together and share our projects. During that time, we speak of things that are close to our hearts. We ponder questions and we also think about who might need a shawl. We knit or crochet our heartfelt hope for wellbeing and healing into shawls, baby blankets and lap throws. We have disbursed over ten so far. When a finished shawl arrives at my office, it isn't long before someone comes to me or I hear of someone who needs its comfort. It is wonderful to be able to give this real embodiment of the love of our community when I sit and listen to someone's cares.

Now, after a year and a half among you, it is my prayer that you continue to grow in joy and love. I pray that you will be safe from harm and that you will reach out to each other when times are hard. I pray that our hope in making a difference in the world will grow and that the evidence of our work (see our new solar panels!) will be so overwhelming that we will often stop and think of all we have done and smile. May we find ways of expressing our hope to each other. May we open our hearts to strangers and may we always know that our presence matters here. In March, we will be deepening our prayer life with a prayer circle, a meditation circle, and a new prayer shawl circle that meets in the evening. Details are coming!

In love and community,  
*Rev. Patty Willis*

## *From the Worship Closet*

The worship committee would like to thank Mary Norton for being our long-time chair and to announce that Brenda Voisard will be transitioning to chair this spring/summer. Mary's attention to detail and thoughtful analysis has created a structure on which we can continue to build wonderful worship services. We hope she gets to enjoy attending services with David and little Leo without always being responsible! And speaking of David Norton, he has also served a critical role in gathering sound techs for our services, and will continue to do that for a few more months and then will also step down, with Jan Vanderhooft taking that position. Thank you to David for organizing and training sound folks, and for those who have stepped up to help in that crucial area.

We continue to invite anyone interested in helping with worship committee or sound booth to contact those of us mentioned above to find out more. There is a worship committee meeting on March 20th that is open to interested parties as well. Please feel free to let us know when there is something you'd like to suggest – [bvoisard@comcast.net](mailto:bvoisard@comcast.net) or 801-273-8536 for Brenda and of course we are happy to stop and talk after services, too.

Finally, our theme this month is "Prayer", giving us an opportunity to create for ourselves what prayer means to and for us. What has prayer done for you, or not done for you, in your life? Might we all consider prayer differently, and claim it for Unitarian Universalists in whatever manner we choose? For instance, from the book "Earth Prayers" edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon, here is a selection listed as a "Unitarian Prayer" for saying grace (pg. 345):

The food which we are about to eat  
Is Earth, Water, and Sun, compounded through the alchemy of many plants.  
Therefore Earth, Water and Sun will become part of us.  
This food is also the fruit of the labor of many beings and creatures.  
We are grateful for it.  
May it give us strength, health and Joy.  
And may it increase our love.

And after all, aren't our chalice lighting words, and "you are welcome here" words, prayers? When you are filled with joy in the mountains, aren't you praying?

*Brenda Voisard*  
Worship Committee

### **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

Denna Wright (Chair)	801-274-0756
Email: <a href="mailto:dennalee1968@gmail.com">dennalee1968@gmail.com</a>	
Dot Clayton	801-561-4776
Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
Mildred Dahm	801-604-3989
Kathleen Luck	801-567-9062

## Religious Education, Growth, and Learning

### Monday Menus in March

Monday Menus continues every Monday evening in March. 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.! You are invited to bring your own brown-bag dinner as well.

#### NEW CLASS OFFERINGS:

**"Meditation for Everyone"** with Christy Bills. Scientific research now supports what yogis have known for centuries: meditation works. Learn simple techniques that can help you focus, calm yourself, improve brain function and your health. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and up. March 10, 17, 24, and 30.

**"Plain and Simply About Money"**, taught by Jayla Burley-Wolfe. Come join us as we talk about, wonder about, complain about and are grateful about MONEY. Voluntary simplicity is a driving force behind this course, encompassing practices to reduce possessions and live better with less. It can even be a spiritual practice!

We'll start this series by understanding why it's hard to talk about money, and how shame may be playing a role in this. We will talk about our various relationships with money, about being in the present moment, and eventually, about how to manage finances, with some ideas for better money management. We'll talk about being grateful for what we have, stretching what we have, and how to start taking steps toward a simpler, less materialistic lifestyle, with gratitude. Join us as we find comfort, together, in this uncomfortable subject!

Join us starting Monday, March 24th (3-part series)

#### Classes for March

##### March 3, 2014

Reclaiming the Feminine Face of God  
Bible Study (starts at 7pm)  
African Drumming (12+ welcome)  
African Dancing (12+ welcome)

HS Room -Annex #1  
Junior High Room -Annex #2  
Classroom #1  
Social Hall

##### March 10, 2014

Bridge  
Meditation for Everyone (12+ welcome)  
The Artist's Way (closed group)  
Family-Friendly Games (all ages welcome)

Classroom #6  
HS Room -Annex #1  
JH Room -Annex #2  
Social Hall

##### March 17, 2014

UU Tech Tutoring (12+ welcome)  
Meditation for Everyone (12+ welcome)  
Soup Making (12+ welcome)  
Celtic Paganism

Classroom #6  
HS Room -Annex #1  
Social Hall  
Classroom #1

##### March 24, 2014

Meditation for Everyone (12+ welcome)  
TED Talks Discussion Group  
Chalice Readers  
Plain and Simply About Money

HS Room -Annex #1  
Classroom #1  
Classroom #6  
TBD

##### March 31, 2014

Meditation for Everyone (12+ welcome)  
Plain and Simply About Money

HS Room -Annex #1  
TBD



## Sunday REGAL Schedule

### March 2:

Children's Chapel for Sacred Travelers (K-5th): Prayer  
 Youth Worship (6th-12th): - Prayer, then classes  
 "Exploring Mormonism" for Junior High  
 "Workshop 5: Difficulties in Interfaith Work" for High School

### March 9: Regular Sunday Classes:

High School (9th-12th) - "Spreading the Good News"  
 Junior High (6th-8th) - "Exploring Mormonism"  
 Seekers (4th-5th) - "Humor - Sandpaper"  
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Making Peace – Adin Ballou"  
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Acceptance"  
 Butterflies (Preschool) - "I Can Give"

### March 16: Intergenerational Service

All ages stay upstairs, child care available in Nursery room for infants and toddlers

### March 23: Regular Sunday Classes:

High School (9th-12th) - "Spreading the Good News"  
 Junior High (6th-8th) - "Intro to Islam"  
 Seekers (4th-5th) - "Love - Gloves"  
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Building World Community - Transylvania UUs"  
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Learning Together"  
 Butterflies (Preschool) - "I Can Share"

### March 30: Regular Sunday Classes:

High School (9th-12th) - "Spreading the Good News"  
 Junior High (6th-8th) - "Exploring Islam"  
 Seekers (4th-5th) - "Justice - Flashlight"  
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - "Honoring Life - Beatrix Potter"  
 Pathfinders (K-1st) - "The Gift of Spirit"  
 Butterflies (Preschool) - "I Can Wait"

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](mailto:dre@svuus.org)



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

### Breakfast on March 9<sup>th</sup>:

We will be having our CUUPS breakfast on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us after the service for food and fellowship. This breakfast may be either breakfast burritos or some other choice. We will not have a waffle station unless we get some volunteers to man the waffle maker. We are concerned that a child will burn themselves on it.

At the last breakfast a child burned themselves on the hot water, so if you would like hot water please ask us for it. We are trying to keep our little ones safe.

### Coming in April – EGG-CEPTIONAL POTLUCK

On the last Sunday in April, CUUPS will be sponsoring our Egg-ceptional potluck. To help members know what to bring we have assigned groups.

A-H- Appetizer or Salad

I-P- Main Dish

Q-Z-Dessert

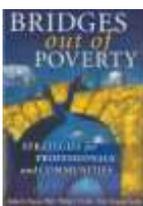
We will provide the drinks. Please either bring your own dishes to use or use the kitchen dishes (but remember to put them in the dishwasher).

Thank you to everyone who bought a cup of hot chocolate at our February potluck.



## *From the Library Committee*

This month we are reviewing the two Chalice Readers books selected for discussion by South Valley's Social Action Committee. Copies are available in our library.



**“Bridges Out of Poverty - Strategies for Professionals and Communities”** by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D., Philip DeVol, and Terie Druessi Smith. As the long title suggests, portions of this book read like a textbook. In spite of this, it is a captivating and interesting read. Susan Eyzaguirre recently wrote in her email announcement about the first discussion of the book, “This is an enlightening and relevant book that applies nicely to the work we are doing at the **HYRC** and for the **Food Bank**, as we have direct contact with young and old who are embedded in the culture of poverty. Most of us navigate our society with middle class eyes, and luckily for us, our world largely operates according to hidden middle class “rules” that we know well. However, those coming from a culture of poverty come from a different world, with different rules and customs. Reading this book has helped me with my own frustrations about poverty and the people that seem to be stuck there, and it offers insight on how we can better understand and help them.” There will be a second discussion scheduled soon as part of our Monday night activities.



**“Behind the Kitchen Door”** by Sara Jayaraman is the second Chalice Readers book selected and again offers an educational yet fascinating read. It deals with the many issues concerning the restaurant industry that commonly discriminates, offers unfair pay and employs unfair labor practices. These actions affect at least 10 million employees. Eating out is a popular activity enjoyed by most all of us. In a non-threatening way, the book offers good suggestions to restaurant-goers about how to help change the atmosphere. Since the destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11 the author has worked tirelessly as co-founder and director of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC). Impressive progress has been happening, especially in the eastern USA. Watch for the announcement of a discussion on this valuable and informative dialogue on an important current day need.

## News from the Facilities Team

Now that Spring is just around the corner, it's time for use to start sprucing up our building and grounds once again!

Last fall we started the "Adopt-A-Space" Program with great success! We will start it up again this spring to keep our grounds looking great through the summer! In case you don't know about this program - we divide up all of the outdoor property and sign up volunteers (individuals, couples, families or groups) to adopt that space. The volunteers then maintain their space and even get a plaque to mark it as theirs!



Here are more short-term plans we will be working on in the coming months:

### OUTDOORS:

- Paint the eaves and gutters
- Re-landscape the front of the building next to the doors
- Plant a new tree in the front yard
- Replace the rotting posts that are holding up our fence
- Re-Stripe the stalls in the parking lot
- Repair more broken pavement on the south side of the building (PAVE RAVE)

### INDOORS:

- Paint both bathrooms
- Replace mirror in bathrooms
- Replace lights in bathrooms
- Replace utility sink in men's bathroom
- Drop the ceilings in both bathrooms
- Add pictures to walls in both bathrooms
- Replace bathroom stall dividers
- Seal the walls in the closet under the main stairs
- Install doors on the basement closet at the end of the classroom hallway
- Refinish and repaint the classroom hallway

If you feel you can help out with any of these small projects, please let us know so we can get you on the team.

We are also looking for long term volunteers for positions to oversee and manage seasonal projects that are greatly needed:

- Coordinate the Church Clean-up twice a year
- Coordinate the lawn care throughout the summer months or the snow plowing in winter
- Manage our Adopt-A-Space Program

So if you're getting Spring Fever already - we have plenty of improvement projects for any skill level!

### *Your Facilities Team*

Cynthia Dobbs Co-Chair  
 Robyn Taylor-Granda Co-Chair  
 KC Tabor  
 Cody Pace  
 Tucker Gurney  
 Jeff Hansen  
 Lewis Galway  
 Lynn Deal

*Discover the Treasure of Friendship  
with REGAL's Mystery Pals Program!*

This is REGAL's most anticipated program of the year here at South Valley! Mystery Pals encourages our members to connect in new ways by fostering communication between the generations.

Mystery Pal "Seniors" (6th grade to Adult) and Mystery Pal "Juniors" (K to 5th grade) are matched up to make a new friend, while keeping their identities a mystery. During March, Pals exchange letters or gifts for 3 consecutive Sundays at the Parrot Express Post in the lobby. They bring their items to the post office before services, and then check again after service to pick up their own mail. Pals finally get to meet each other at our Potluck Luncheon, where they get to know each other better while participating in fun activities.

Mar. 2nd	Pick up your Pal Assignment at the REGAL table
Mar. 9th	First Exchange day
Mar. 16th	Second Exchange day
Mar. 23rd	Third Exchange & Identities revealed at 12:00pm Potluck Luncheon!



Contact Pirate Queen (Robyn Taylor-Granda) for more info at 801-597-6711 or [oldhousegirl@gmail.com](mailto:oldhousegirl@gmail.com)

*SVUUS Spring Yard Sale*

Saturday, June 7, 2014

In the course of THE GREAT SPRING CLEANING that will happen in lots of SVUUS households and SVUUS neighbors' households over the next few months, please keep that date in mind!

As you go through your stuff, and maybe talk to your neighbors about their stuff, make a decision that if it can be re-used and/or have a second life to just put it in a box or bag and hold on to it caringly until June.

When June comes around, you will be grateful that you saved your re-usable treasures in order to contribute to the SVUUS yard sale – that's how it works!

See you in June!

Thanks,  
Yard Sale Committee  
Denna Wright  
Louise Cofield



## South Valley Solar Project

Our solar panels are installed and ready to go! The display monitor will be installed next week. Inspections will follow soon after.



**Day 1: Work has started!**



**Day 2: We have 14 of the 75 panels in place!**



**Day 3: Project completed...And before the rain arrives!**

### Save the Date

March 2	Pathways to Membership, Senior High Room, 12:30 p.m.
March 2	Mystery Pals assigned at REGAL table
March 3	Monday Menus
March 9	CUUPS Pancake Breakfast
March 9	Mystery Pals – 1 <sup>st</sup> exchange day
March 10	Monday Menus
March 16	Mystery Pals – 2 <sup>nd</sup> exchange day
March 17	Monday Menus
March 18	Prayer Shawl Circle, Senior High Room, 1:30 p.m.
March 23	Mystery Pals Revealed! Potluck Luncheon
March 24	Monday Menus

## *South Valley Snapshots*



South Valley youth and advisors attend an LDS service.



The South Valley choir performs in the Interfaith Musical Tribute at the Salt Lake Tabernacle under the direction of Mary Lou Prince.