

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 37, Issue 12

December, 2017

December Theme: Hope



In This Issue:

November Services	1
Leadership Directory	2
Board Message	2
Minister's Message	3
Opportunities	
And Announcements	4
Fiesta de los Reyes	5
Religious Exploration	6
Women's Christmas Party	7
Save the Date	7
Upcoming Events	7
Caring Circle	7



December 3: "Angels among Us: Do Not Be Afraid"

Have you ever had an experience that propelled you into an unexpected world? When we lose control of our lives and must reach out to others, sometimes angels appear. When we keep tight control of our lives are we missing the rush of their wings? What does this mean for humanists, theists, and all manner of believing among us? **Rev. Patty Willis**

December 10: "Lift Your Lamps beside the Golden Door"

When Jews were being targeted by hate crimes during Hanukkah in Montana, the community banded together and everyone put lights in their windows. They were embodying the welcome of the Statue of Liberty envisioned by Emma Lazarus' poem. What are the lights we must now light in our windows? What is the hope for our time? Come and listen to the premiere of a new song! **Rev. Patty Willis**

December 17: "Solstice Service: When did the Sun Revolve around the Earth?"

How did the discovery of the sun at the center change everything? Early astronomers risked their lives to speak their truth. What is the truth of 2017 as we are on the edge of a new year? **Rev. Patty Willis**

December 24: "Together We Stand at the Door of the Inn"

Bring all your stories of migration and join in our pageant of shepherds, innkeepers and many, many angels. The South Valley Children's Choir and a surprise choir of angels and the choir will sing Christmas songs from all over the world. Christmas Eve will bring traditional carol singing and storytelling for all! **Rev. Patty Willis**

December 24 evening service:

Come and enjoy our South Valley tradition of storytelling, caroling and candles lit against the darkness. The South Valley Singers will sing! Make our tradition yours!

Rev. Patty Willis

December 31: "Finding the Light"

Sinamon Wolfe

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

Jan Vanderhooft, President 801-943-3879
Ann Scarborough, Vice Pres 952-994-1790
Ann Hess, Secretary
Cody Pace, Treasurer 801-518-8399
Lorri Quigley, Trustee 801-942-0049
Sandra Roach, Trustee 801-562-9465
Paul Carlson, Trustee 801-201-0906

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Luci Malin (Chair) 801-440-3776
Sandra Roach 801-562-9465
Phil Quigley 801-942-0049
Sheri Lund 801-450-4333

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
Email: admin@svuus.org
Office Hours: Tue -Th 12:00-5:00 pm
Fri 8:00am-1:00 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**

Wow, December is already upon us once again! The days are getting shorter and the nights longer as we approach the Winter Solstice and the end of another year. There are so many holidays happening from around the world to choose from: we have the major ones like Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, along with the lesser ones like Yule, Saturnalia, Omisoka, Festivus and Boxing Day. They all represent and celebrate the same basic concepts so whichever one you choose to celebrate – if any, we are UU after all! – may you enjoy it to the fullest.

The Auction Event was a success again this year! Great auction items and music were in abundance and I was glad to see not everyone dressed in the hippie style – not that there's anything wrong with that! – and remembered that there was more to the 60s than just the last few years. I saw some Jackie O and Mod styles, and I made a rather weak attempt to look early psychedelic, but at least I didn't go through with wearing what I really did wear in the 60s...diapers!

Fiesta de los Reyes

Since I've been involved with this event, I want to make an additional announcement here and to encourage people to spread the word beyond the immediate SVUUS community. So, make sure to mark Friday, December 15th in your calendars! The South Valley Singers and Musicians, along with a new local Puerto Rican group, Musica y Danza Borinqueña de Utah, are performing a Fiesta del los Reyes concert to benefit victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Please don't miss this opportunity to extend and weave the web of our community by joining us at SVUUS for this unique event! Details can be found in the Sunday Service insert as well as here:

<https://www.svuus.org/fiesta-de-los-reyes-to-benefit-puerto-rico/>

And finally, don't let the holiday rush, last minute shopping for gifts, or dealing with the relatives get you down. Just remember the closing song from that classic holiday film, Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' and ♪Always look on the bright side of life♪ while we weave the web of community!

Paul Carlson

SVUUS Board Member & Treasurer-in-Training



Internet Services Donated by XMISSION

From Our Minister

Minister's Thoughts: Hope is the Treasure of the World

December 2017

In 1883, Emma Lazarus, a Jewish poet living in Brooklyn, transformed our Statue of Liberty into the symbol of a radical welcome for all. *"Give me your tired, your poor, she calls, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

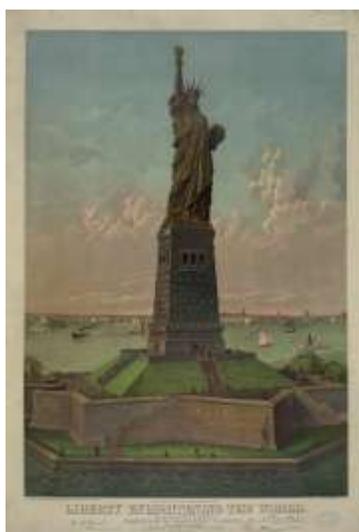
Did your ancestors gaze longingly at this statue on their way to Ellis Island where their suitability to become Americans was determined? Or did your ancestors arrive years before in the cargo of ships coming from Africa, not with a dream but as a commodity of others, to be bought and sold? Or, has your family, like Forrest Cuch's, the Ute elder who spoke to us in November, lived here for millennia, flourishing with a way of life that would clash with the coming settlers. No matter how your ancestors arrived, at some point, they began to hope that this place would shelter their family, give them enough to live a happy life. World history, as our personal family histories, holds constellations of this hope. A year ago, camping at Standing Rock, I basked in the light of human hope, a memory that warms me still. I love that part of the human spirit that rises with the hope of others, that is willing to protect and facilitate the hope of others. The hope woven into our web of community can be seen and felt in the strands that are warm to the touch. They are the most beautiful colors you can imagine. This is the treasure that each of you brings to our community. Your hope that gets you up on Sunday morning and to our services and out to the Youth Resource Center to prepare a meal or outside the library to practice tai chi with people living without permanent shelter, or preparing nutritious meals for your children or sitting with them as they read the same sentence over and over again, or being patient when your loved one with dementia asks a question for the hundredth time. Hope is our treasure. Fan the light of hope in your heart and in the hearts of others. Together we can light the world.

During our Christmas Eve morning, we will become participants in a great tapestry of hope, bringing each of our family histories of needing welcome and listening to the stories of others. Let us open our hearts and minds to the people whose stories, different from our own, are also imbued with hope. May we hold their hope with care and may we weave a world that facilitates the hopes of all. May the door of our church shine into the world like that of the Statue of Liberty. May we each lift our lamps and shine!

p.s. Mary Lou is now writing a song from the words of Emma Lazarus that the South Valley Singers will premiere on the 10th of December.

In love and community,

Patty



Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 14th, 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.

November - December Offering Split

Hurricane Maria Community Relief & Recovery Fund

In the spirit of serving our wider community, we share our Sunday morning Worship Service offering with a charitable organization whose works align with our values and principles. For November and December we will donate half of our Sunday worship offerings to the **Hurricane Maria Community Relief & Recovery Fund**, created to help the most vulnerable communities that have faced the worst destruction and have fewer resources to aid in their recovery. All donations to this fund (100%) will be used to support immediate relief or long-term rebuilding for the Puerto Rican communities hit hardest by the storm. Aside from initial emergency funding, grants from this "Maria Fund" will be decided by a committee made up entirely of Puerto Ricans. In addition to delivering critically needed supplies, this organization has already given grants to local Puerto Rican organizations that are providing immediate relief supplies and services, while laying the foundation for an equitable rebuilding.

Volunteers Needed

To help with Streaming the Sunday Services. Please contact Ann Hess at annhess360@gmail.com . Thank you.

Circle Suppers

The Circle Suppers Revival!

The theme for South Valley UUS this year is "Weaving the Web of Community". We have had many requests to bring back the Circle Supper groups that met regularly for many years, so this revival is beginning now. We are reaching out to people to host these small groups, and the intent is to have one Circle Supper meet before the end of December, with the same group meeting a second time before March 2018. If you would like to volunteer to host, please contact Lorri Quigley at lorriquigley@msn.com.

The Board welcomes feedback from the community, so please share your ideas and suggestions as you experience these Circle Supper groups. If you are not contacted for a group and WANT to participate, again, please contact Lorri. We don't want anyone to feel left out!

Fiesta de los Reyes

Songs and storytelling by South Valley musicians

to celebrate and benefit Puerto Rico



Friday December 15th 7:30 PM

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

6876 S. Highland Drive, Salt Lake City 84106

All donations will be sent to:

The Hurricane María Community Recovery Fund

Religious Exploration, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

December 3:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "Helping Others"
Pathfinders (K-1st) - Children's Chapel
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Children's Chapel
Seekers (4th-5th) - Children's Chapel
Junior High (6th-8th) - Holiday Unit - "Birth Legends"
High School (9th-12th) - Spiritual Practice, Singing

December 10:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "A Special Jigsaw Puzzle"
Pathfinders (K-1st) - Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice
Seekers (4th-5th) - Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice
Junior High (6th-8th) - Holiday Unit - "Hanukkah"
High School (9th-12th) - Youth UPstairs and Pizza with Patty

December 17:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "Snack"
Pathfinders (K-1st) - Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice
Seekers (4th-5th) - "Children's Chapel/Xmas Pageant Practice"
Junior High (6th-8th) - Holiday Unit - "Winter Solstice"
High School (9th-12th) - Winter Solstice with Junior High

December 24:

ALL-AGES SERVICE (everyone upstairs): Christmas Eve

December 31:

Butterflies (Pre-K) - "Feeling Sad"
Pathfinders (K-1st) - New Years Activity
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd) - New Years Activity
Seekers (4th-5th) - New Years Activity
Junior High (6th-8th) - Money Unit 1 - "Money, the Taboo"
High School (9th-12th) - New Years Activity

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-RE2017>



Annual Women's Group White Elephant

Christmas Pot luck party - December 9th Saturday 6:00PM

Home of Janis Ries
2367 East Catalina Drive
(about 7 blocks from Church)

Boxes of white and red wine will be provided, also vegetarian store bought lasagna

Please RSVP and let me know what you might bring. Appetizers, veggies, salads, desserts, egg nog, did I say desserts? Wear your beautiful or ugly Christmas sweater or Pajamas or whatever festive thing you want.

Save the Date

January	15	Book Club
March	3	The Big Event

Upcoming Events

December	3	First Sunday Potluck
December	9	Annual Women's Group White Elephant
December	10	Program Fair for Recruitment
December	14	Prayer Shawl Ministry
December	15	Benefit Concert for Puerto Rico
December	16	Whitmore Library Service Project (Prayer Shawl)

South Valley Caring Circle

The members of the Caring Circle provide practical support and/or pastoral care. Please contact the chair of the committee if you need or know of someone who needs our support. To ask for help you may also use the Caring Book by the name tags. The Caring Book is also for joys and concerns; we hope you will share moments from your lives.

CARING CIRCLE Contact Information

Dot Clayton (Chair) 801-561-4776
Email: ibedotclay@comcast.net

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