

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 38, Issue 1

January, 2018

January Theme: Justice



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January 7: "Mountain Priests Traveling to our doors"

Each year we spent in Japan, during the coldest part of the year, Zen priests made the rounds of neighborhoods in prayer. Bob Speiser, a Zen practitioner for many years will join with Rev. Patty in a meditative journey into Buddhism in story and music. Mary Lou Prince will surround us with her koto music.

Rev. Patty Willis

January 14: "A Wild Patience that Can Change the World"

Martin Luther King, Jr., in the Birmingham Jail.

Rev. Patty Willis

January 21: "What can we do and how can we not do something: Child Homelessness"

Thinking of our sixth Unitarian Universalist principle of respect for the interconnected web of life, how can we lift up those who are suffering the most from the widening divide in this country between the very rich and the poor? We join churches all over the state considering the homelessness of children on this day. Sanctuary movement workshop after church.

Rev. Patty Willis

January 28: "Light In The Darkness: Imbolg marks the Pagan tradition of Spring"

How do we plant the Seeds of Personal Justice in our lives and bring the light of our truth to others?

Various sharing by congregational members

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER

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Email: minister@svuus.org

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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REGAL COUNCIL

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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

As I sit at my computer to write this, the hustle and bustle of the Christmas holiday is past and the New Year is yet to begin. I always look forward to this in-between time, a period of relative peace in my life and a moment to pause and reflect. I find myself thinking a lot about the theme the Board of Trustees has chosen for our work this year – weaving the web of community.

What does it mean to “weave”? The dictionary provides several definitions -- to produce by elaborately combining elements; to make a complex pattern from a number of interconnected elements; to unite in a coherent whole. This is the work the South Valley community has been doing this year.

We held a successful auction which gave us an opportunity to unite in financial support of our congregation while having a great time. We sponsored a community fair to reach out to the broader community. We have held circle suppers to get to know each other better. We made scarves and put together hygiene kits to let people who are homeless know someone cares. Our congregation joined the Sanctuary Network and we are learning how we might help people who face being deported. Reverend Patty continues to reach out to many groups as she finds ways to connect their elements with ours and intertwine them into this intricate pattern we are weaving.

There is still much to do as the New Year begins. We will continue to hold circle suppers. The stewardship campaign will begin and we will be challenged to think about how we can offer our time, our talent, and our treasure to support South Valley. And there will be many more opportunities for community service projects.

Our 7th Principle is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. “The web of trusting relationships grows from people sharing food, helping others with everyday tasks, and joining together to recognize, help, involve and entertain one another. What matters to the quality of community life is the number of people who regularly connect, build trust, and get involved with one another.” (UUA website)

Our weaving continues.

Lorri Quigley
Board of Trustees



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From Our Minister

Minister's Newsletter for January 2018
Monthly Theme: Justice

The Discomfort of Justice

In the midst of the turmoil around the death of Michael Brown and the upcoming announcement of a decision by a grand jury in Ferguson about whether to prosecute Darren Wilson, I wanted to hold a vigil. My intent was to stand with the people of Ferguson that seemed on the edge of erupting into a war. When I told my friend, Pastor Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson about this vigil, I said, "I'm holding a Vigil of Peace." She said, "The vigil needs to be for Peace and Justice." The deep injustice of the past years in Ferguson could not move into peace without justice. It would have been so much simpler for us to gather in the sanctuary and pray and send our intentions for peace. It was just plain uncomfortable to hold both our hope for peace and our acknowledgment that justice would be a long, hard process before any real peace. In 2018, more than ever, we are each called to our own work of justice.

The road on which you will walk is for you to find, for this road is different for each of us. We each inherit a particular history of genes and the facts and fiction of our lives and our ancestries: joyful and traumatic. My parents gave each of their children the name of an ancestor. My name connected me with the strong pioneer women of my mother's side of the family, one who came into the Salt Lake Valley in a covered wagon and another who loaded her possessions onto a wagon (which she called a buggy) and made the trek to northern Wyoming where she and her husband started their life together. My Wyoming pioneer Patty accompanied my life from birth into my mid-twenties. The year that I left the LDS church, she died at 104 years old. About ten years before I returned to the United States, I began a process of coming to terms with my name, working through her grandmother Patty's diaries, finding the many gifts and tendencies that we shared in common. As I searched for my own peace and a deeper justice around what felt like abandonment, I found other narratives that had been invisible to historians and had remained gaps in family history: the places my ancestors' lives crossed those of indigenous people. In my desire to come to peace with my ancestral name, I came face to face with a work of justice. As my eyes opened to the history of indigenous peoples and how the presence of white settlers, including my ancestors, caused destruction, I began to long for a way of reconciliation.

During my time in seminary, a work grew out of my ancestor's diary that wove the stories of indigenous peoples with hers. At the same time (very much like my ancestor would have done), I knitted shawls that reflected her journey, the sun through the prairie grass, the beautiful night sky, and the orchards that gave her joy. When I discovered that my ancestor had fed soldiers on the way to the Bear River Massacre during which up to 450 members of the Northwest Band of the Shoshone were killed, I contacted a storyteller from the Northwest Band of the Shoshone, Patty Timbimboo Madsen. Lou and I sat with her and her sister Gwen and listened to them speak of their band and the massacre. I returned often to Brigham City and one day, I brought with me the shawls that I had knitted for them, one that was aqua for Gwen and I gave Patty the one I had knitted out of the Abenaki healer Molly Ockett's life. With these shawls I gave them letters of reconciliation, expressing my sorrow at the part my ancestor's played in the suffering of their people.

In November and December, I worked on a shawl for Forrest Cuch, a Ute elder who came to speak to us. When I sent him his shawl, I also sent the shawl I had knitted for my ancestor's life with the following letter for the parishioners of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church and Rev. Michael Carney

My name Patty comes from my great grandmother and her grandmother who came to the valley in a covered wagon in the 1840s. I have felt them with me as my heart yearns for reconciliation. The yarn from this shawl comes from many places---from alpacas in Maine to sheep in South Dakota. When I was knitting, I held my ancestor David Sessions (my great grandmother's grandfather) and his legacy of settling these lands that were already occupied by your people. I wove into this shawl his love of making rows to harvest that caused pain he could not understand and the mountains beloved of him and the Ute people, the sun that rises above us all, and the affirming beauty of the sunset. With this shawl I acknowledge the suffering that was caused by the white settlers among whom were my ancestors. I pray for reconciliation and affirm the survival of your people at great odds. May you be well. May you be whole. May God continue to shine on you as the sun.

In love and hope,
Patty Christiena Willis
Rev. Patty Willis
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

When Father Carney, read this he said that it was followed by a silence deeper than any he had heard in the church. At the end of February, we may gather a circle of reconciliation at St. Elizabeth's church. I am hoping that some in our community whose hearts yearn for reconciliation will join me and Lou.

Will you join us or is there another work that calls to you? In our longing for peace, let us do the work of justice.

In love and community, Patty

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 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.

November - December Offering Split

TBD

Volunteers Needed

To help with Streaming the Sunday Services. Please contact Ann Hess at annahess360@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!

Interfaith Event

SVUUS Interfaith Event: *Candomblé* - A Cultural and Religious Tradition from Brazil Come to SVUUS on Friday 12 January for an Interfaith event you won't forget! We will be hosting a *Candomblé Xire* (shee-ray), a cultural and religious tradition from Brazil wherein the community gathers to sing and dance in honor of the *orixás* (or-ee-shas, deities). There will be live music and dance performed by members of *Samba Fogo* and led by a *Candomblé* priest.

Here's a little bit about it from Lorin Hansen, artistic director of Samba Fogo:

(Paraphrased) "Candomblé has, over the years, been extremely stigmatized and even demonized in Brazil, where it was formed under the guise of Catholicism, and under the noses of Portuguese colonizers. It is an extremely beautiful, healing tradition, one that can help us connect more fully with our community, with music, and dance, with our bodies, and with nature. We intend to introduce your community to this tradition by keeping things very lighthearted and welcoming, joyful, cathartic and educational."

Wellspring Wednesday

Wellspring Wednesdays begins - Winter Session on January 10th

Winter classes run from January 10th through February 28th. Each week features a changing Do-It-Yourself (DIY) theme (knit/crochet, card making, makeup techniques, Healing Through Color, Soul Collage with Julie Vesely, and social outreach burrito making) along with these core classes.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven -On the Threshold, facilitated by Ann Hess. This class will reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity. We will also look at the global silencing and brutalization of women that accompanied the rise of patriarchal religion and society. Finally, we will celebrate the exciting new world-view and theology that has emerged in our time, and explore the personal and social changes that may be suggested by that new world-view and theology.

Strategy Games with Paul Carlson - Games from all over the world will be played. Paul will bring multi-player and 2-player games, as well as the very popular co-operative games for those who don't like the competitive aspects of gaming. Paul has over 35 years of experience playing and teaching games so come and learn something new from a professional Gamer-Geek.

A Place of Wholeness, facilitated by Rev. Patty Willis - Spirit in Practice was created to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Spirit in Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. Whether participants follow a path they identify as Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Theist, Atheist, Agnostic, Mystic, and/or any of the other paths we follow in our diverse congregations, the Spirit in Practice workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich their faith journeys.

Another Perspective on Wholeness, facilitated by Cindy Martin - This will run for 3 weeks during a break by Rev. Patty and will examine the perspective of body, mind, and spirit.

Each Wednesday begins with vegan soup served at 6:00 pm, and classes are in session from 6:30 to 8:00. Childcare is provided for class participants. Soup, childcare, and most classes are free. Registration is appreciated, but not required, for most classes (exceptions will be noted each week), and standing classes can be joined anytime during the schedule.

Christine Hirrill is at the Wellspring Wednesday table next to the Happenings Hub in the Social Hall to answer questions and listen to suggestions for future classes after service on Sundays.

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society's Women's Group!

Good news! We are beginning a new SVUUS Women's Group! The SVUUS Women's Group will meet the first Wednesday of every month (as part of Wellspring Wednesday) to share food and discussion. Every meeting will have a theme in which the conversation will be centered around. ALL women ages 18+ are invited.

Join the SVUUS Young Adult Group!

SVUUS Young Adult Holiday Party

All young adults (ages 18-30ish) are invited to attend our annual SVUUS Young Adult Holiday Party! The party will be on January 7th at 6 pm at Patty's house. Please bring something yummy to share and friends are welcome!

Patty's house:
1246 E. Parkway Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

Ask Alaina with any questions: alaina@robhendricks.net

Deepening UU

Come and learn about UU history and how things work in our church. Could there be a place for you? Facilitated by Rev. Patty and Kris Berg. Sunday, January 7th after service.

Women's Transformation Celebration

On January 14th after the service a celebration/ritual will take place in the social space. We will celebrate the many transitions we have gone through or will go through, and look forward to the new year with purpose. This ritual is open to all who feel drawn to attend. If you have questions or ideas email Ann Hess annahess360@gmail.com.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth - **TBA**

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>

Save the Date

March	3	The Big Event
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Upcoming Events

January	7	Food Bank Sunday
January	7	First Sunday Potluck ("Baked Potato Bar")
January	7	Deepening UU class
January	12	Interfaith Event
January	14	Women's Ritual

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
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