



Volume 38, Issue 10

October, 2018

Theme: Grieving



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SVUUS EDITORS:

Beacon-admin@svuus.org

Happenings-
SRoach05@msn.com

Website & Listserv
russell.e.martin@gmail.com

Oct. 7: "St. Francis Sunday / Animal Blessing"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

Oct. 14: "The Blessing of Letting Go"

Sinnamon Wolfe

Oct. 21: "Be a Man"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

Oct. 28: "Honoring Our Ancestors / All Souls Day"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER

Rev. Robert LaVallee
minister@svuus.org
 801-327-2241

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lorri Quigley, President	801-635-8900
Ann Scarborough, Vice Pres	952-994-1790
Judith Mehr, Secretary	801-870-2260
Paul Carlson, Treasurer	801-201-0906
Jan Vanderhoof, Trustee	801-943-3879
Lorelei White, Trustee	801-889-7737
Denna Wright, Trustee	801-274-0756

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

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

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**

Hi ! I am a new member of your Board of Trustees and would like to tell you a bit about myself and my Unitarian Universalist journey.

Unitarian Universalism has been my religion of choice since 1971 when my husband, Bob, and I became members of First Church. After we moved to Park City, we helped grow a UU fellowship there from 1989-1996. Now I'm a dedicated, tried and true SVUUS member, since 2009—having experienced being a part of a large congregation, a small fellowship and a medium sized community! I have served on the Caring Circle, numerous yard sales, Social Action and the Leadership, Succession and Development Committees. My favorite committee, though, is the Library Committee.

We have a great opportunity with the arrival of Rev. Bob to continue to assert ourselves as a caring and compassionate church--supporting each other and serving those who need us in the Salt Lake City community.

I'm proud to be a Unitarian Universalist and to be a member of SVUUS.

Denna Wright
 South Valley Board of Trustees



From Our Minister

Hello Dear Ones:

Content warning: Sexual Assault

This week, as I prepared the letter for the Beacon, I was ready to write a note about worship at South Valley, about why we do it and how, and to state my appreciation for this congregation's openness to change and experimentation. I was ready to write a nice, safe letter. I can't do that today.

Today, Friday September 28, I write to you filled with a holy rage and a profound sadness. The affairs of the moment bring us face to face with what we've long known: women live in constant awareness of their vulnerability to emotional and physical attack from men. Women live in constant awareness that if that attack happens, they may not be believed when they report it and they will likely be discredited and disparaged for speaking up. Women live in constant awareness that their assailant is unlikely to suffer any consequences. We've known this for a long time, and it is still true. This is something that I cannot accept.

As a person who identifies as male, it's hard to know exactly what to do with all this. Some women I respect are saying that for right now, men should shut up. Given the men that I've seen who are going out of their way to demonstrate their lack of empathy for survivors, I think those women have a point. Others are calling for men to step up as allies. I aim to do that, but I also worry that my support will come off as virtue signaling, making a show of being a "good man" without any real will to change either myself or this misogynist country. I know too well my own past complicity with sexism to hold myself up as an example for anyone.

I think that this is a moment for everyone, but especially men, to go deep into reexamining their attitudes and actions. Let us acknowledge that rape culture exists on a continuum from an unwanted gaze or remark, to an unwelcome touch, to outright assault. The idea that connects all those things is consent, or more to the point, the lack of consent. We (again, men especially) need to think about the times where we engaged in actions (gazes, comments, touches) that were done without consent, and also when we allowed those actions to happen in our presence. This latter part is critical.

I don't know what to do next, and frankly it's not for me to say. I want to listen to women and follow their lead as an ally. That feels like a good start. If folks feel like this is new ground, I'm happy to share resources that helped me better understand the situation. Just email me at minister@svuus.org.

I write with rage and sadness, but I also write with inspiration. I'm inspired by Dr. Ford, and all the victims (some men, but overwhelmingly women) who overcame their shame and their fear to share one of the worst moments of their life in hope that we as a society can learn and do better. One of the signs of spiritual maturity is the ability to experience an awful loss or pain and to use that experience to help the world grow and heal. The courage of these women is a lesson to me and to all of us.

Finally, this issue is not an abstraction; there are people in this congregation, who sit with us on Sunday, who have experienced this directly. My prayers are with the survivors among us. If you need support, consider calling the Rape Recovery Center at (801) 467-7273 to be connected with a trained staff member.

How I wish I could write a nice, happy letter today, but wishing won't make it so. It's time for us to do the work called by our Unitarian Universalist values. I believe in you.

In love and anger,
Rev. Bob LaVallee

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, September 20th, 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.

September - October Offering Split

At South Valley it is our practice to split our worship service offerings with a charitable organization that shares our values and principles. For September and October we will give half our offerings to American-Nepali Students' and Women's Educational Relief (ANSWER).

ANSWER is a nonprofit, non-partisan, non-religious organization that currently empowering over 600 low caste children and youth by providing them 12-15 years of education (through college) with careful academic and career counseling. They provide guidance, oversight, direction, and medical coverage for their entire families. Their thorough recruiting process results in a very high success rate, and their pay-it-forward program spreads their impacts even further. Their mission is to educate children from the lowest castes and provide them with real lifelong careers so that they will become the vanguard for real positive change in Nepal. For further information about this fabulous program visit www.answernepal.org

Book Group

Our next Book Group meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 8 in the Social Hall at 7: PM. There will be treats. We will be reviewing "The Overstory" by Richard Powers. There are some copies from Whitmore Library to borrow at the Happenings Table.

Women's Learning and Sharing Group

Please join us for our second Women's Learning and Sharing Group meeting Sunday, October 14th at 12:15 pm in the Senior High room. We will be watching the movie Iron Jawed Angels, a historical drama about the American women's suffrage movement. A brief discussion will follow the movie. Please bring your own snacks and drinks, and snacks and drinks to share if you wish. Please contact Natalie Cole with any questions at cole.natalie7@gmail.com or 801-698-2245.

Monday Hiking and...

South Valley was the place for finding hiking partners in the past. We had a very active hiking group for a long time. Of course when we were renting the building and meeting at 4 PM Sunday mornings were a great time to get out into the canyons. Since weekends are crowded in the canyons I have taken to going up on Mondays but don't want to hike alone. KC and Christine are joining me. We'd love to have others come as well.

We'll alternate Canyons and hikes each week. On days we go up Millcreek Canyon I will bring my dog. These need to be odd numbered days so the dogs can be off leash. Mornings work best with the heat. If another day of the week works better for you, let's talk. Let me know if you are interested. I will add you to the email list. I am sending out info on the weekend before. Text or email me with any questions.

Thanks,

Rosine Oliver

801-971-2136

rhodesignsllc@gmail.com

Opportunities and Announcements continued

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS begin September 26th

Beginning September 26th, our weekly gathering returns for its 6th year!

From 6:00-6:30 p.m. enjoy a light soup dinner (vegan and gluten-free) and socializing. Then from 6:30-8:00 choose from different classes/discussion groups/activities to enrich our personal and community journey!

Seeking the Holy Together: Group Spiritual Direction September 26 - October 24

Led by Rev. Bob LaVallee

Quaker theologian Parker Palmer compares the soul to a naturally shy animal that can only be coaxed into showing itself if the watcher is calm and patient. Spiritual direction is the gentle practice of slowing down and paying attention to the presence of the holy. (As an agnostic humanist, I'm fond of saying that I am always sniffing around for the holy in whatever form it takes. Participants may decide for themselves how the "holy" may manifest.)

In this five week course, we'll explore a variety of approaches to group spiritual direction. Using exercises and texts from ancient traditions and modern, we'll journey together in search of the divine among us. All theologies are welcome; however, participants should be prepared for extended periods of stillness and silence. In order to maintain a degree of intimacy, the group size will be limited to 18 participants.

Gazing at the Male: Masculinity Film Series October 31-November 14

Led by Rev. Bob LaVallee

Films and film-making are dominated by men, but it's rare to watch films with the specific intent of unpacking masculinity. Rev. Bob will curate three films that speak to the social constructs of masculinity and maleness. Participants are welcome to join for one movie or all three. Viewings will be followed by an optional facilitated conversation. The first film will be Buck, a documentary about "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman.

G Suite Tutorial (Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar, and More) October 3 - Led by Russ Martin

Did you know that SVUUS, as a non-profit, gets to use G Suite (formerly Google Apps for Business) for free! G Suite is an amazing, cloud based, collaborative platform that includes email, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, data storage, calendaring, and more. Increased use of this resource would help with the following:

- Easier transition of documents when leaders change
- Realtime collaboration on documents
- No worries about back-ups or data loss
- Universal access to documents from almost any internet-connected computing device

As requested at the most recent Council on Committees meeting, we will be holding this class primarily to teach committee chairs and other church leadership how to better use this amazing free resource. All interested parties are welcome.

Hello Music (Music Together) September 26 & November 14 - Led by Dawn Levingston

Check out a sample session from Hello Music for You and Your Little one, ages 0-5 years. Hello Music offers classes in our building during the week and is excited to share with our community!

At a Music Together® class, your child's growing music skills are supported and challenged in a playful environment. Plus, making music enhances language, cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. Bring your toddler to explore music in a family class at Hello Music!

Yoga for All!**October 24 - November 14 - Led by Katie Cavicchio**

Katie has been teaching for more than 10 years, and is certified in various styles, including: power, restore, yin, and trauma-informed yoga. She's also developed yoga-based curriculums to help teens build confidence, to help people of all ages build strength and endurance, to help survivors heal and begin to feel comfortable in their bodies, and to promote mindfulness and acceptance. This class' direction and focus will be determined collaboratively by the participants and Kate.

Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education for K-1 - with Parents. *Please watch for registration details!*

Wellspring Wednesdays NEEDS *you* to succeed! Have a passion or talent you can share with your SVUUS community? Lead a WW class offering! It can be a single night, or a series; whatever suits you and your topic. (Past offerings have included: Yoga, Bridge, Family Board Games, The Artist's Way, Bible Study, Social Justice Reading Group, Paganism 101, Children's Choir, Glacial Geology, Science & Religion series, Beer Making 101...) Contact Liz or Rev. Bob with your ideas! (DRE@svuus.org or Minister@svuus.org)

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth**SUNDAY RE REGISTRATION TIME!!**

We ask that every participant in our Sunday Religious Exploration classes be registered EVERY YEAR to keep our information current. Please fill out the following registration form, and let me know if you have any questions (dre@svuus.org) <https://tinyurl.com/SVUUS-RE2018>

Sunday RE Schedule**10/7/2018**

Annual Animal Blessing
ALL-AGES Worship

10/14/2018

High School (9th-12th graders): A Place of Wholeness - Roots and Wings
Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Your Autobiography
Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Our Seven Principles
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Faith, Hope, and Prayer
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Beehive
Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

10/21/2018

High School (9th-12th graders): MDD Fall Con at First Unitarian Church of SLC
Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Unity & Diversity
Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Meet Our Congregation
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Another's Shoes
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Animal Homes
Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

10/28/2015

Honoring Our Beloved Dead
ALL-AGES Worship

Welcome to Our New Youth Coordinator, Margo Saito

I am so excited to announce a new member of our Religious Exploration Team here at South Valley, Margo Saito.

Margo will be our (very) Part-time Paid Youth Coordinator, working 5 hours a week to support our Junior High and Senior High programming, both Sunday mornings and during the week.

Margo has a passion for working with youth that stems from her first encounters in a UU community - joining the "About Your Sexuality" class at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City when she was a young teenager.

Margo says that she was instantly hooked being included in that youth group - that they talked about REAL STUFF, and that it was an opportunity to "go deep" for the first time in her life.

Margo has a list of talents and skills and experiences over the years since then that is varied and fun: from studying Plant Science and Theater in college, to remodeling houses, to sharing musical gifts, to volunteering in classrooms and Girl Scouts for her children Piper, Ronin, and Monet. She's also volunteered in RE at both the Boise UU Fellowship and First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.



Welcome, Margo and entire Saito family to South Valley!

<u>Save the Date</u>		
November	10	SVUUS Auction
November	11	Community Chat
November	18	Leadership Council
<u>Upcoming Events</u>		
October	3-31	Wellspring Wednesdays
October	16	Board Meeting

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