



Volume 38, Issue 12

December, 2018



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Dec. 2: "Dear America, How Ya Been?"	Rev. John Cooper
Dec. 9: "Whose Jesus is it?"	Rev. Bob LaVallee
Dec. 16: "White Supremacy Teach-in"	Rev. Bob LaVallee
Dec. 23: "All Ages Service – TBD"	Rev. Bob LaVallee
Dec. 24: "Christmas Eve Service"	Rev. Bob LaVallee
Dec. 30: "Resolute: Our Work in 2019"	Rev. Bob LaVallee

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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Rev. Robert LaVallee
minister@svuus.org
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SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
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CARING CIRCLE

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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

Appreciating What We Have and Differentiating Want from Need

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt made his Four Freedoms Speech on 06 January 1941 he mentioned one of the freedoms as “Freedom from Want”. His meaning was that all persons have the right to an adequate standard of living. The concept presupposes that with a guaranteed adequate standard of living, other basic human rights will fall into place.

In economic terms, FDR’s use of the word ‘want’ is incorrect; he should have used ‘need’. A ‘need’ is a basic requirement for economic viability and stability, such as food, clothing, housing, education, and health insurance, whereas a ‘want’ is anything beyond those basics. Can any of us say we really need to go out to dinner once a week? How about those vacations, ‘extra’ pairs of shoes, a new cell phone every year, private schools, and toys?

Why did I start with this boring background? The origin arises from all the natural disasters the year 2018 suffered through. Every time I hear about the people disrupted and displaced by these events I think of their right to have “freedom from want/need”, and in too many cases, the basic human right of being alive.

My mind then quickly drifts to my family’s situation. While we are choosing which newly released movie to see in the theatre, where to go for summer vacation, how to invest our retirement assets, and which restaurant to try out, there are people and families who barely had their basic needs met before these catastrophic events, and who now have nothing at all. It is a humbling thought, and one that continues to drive my utilitarian philosophy to simplify my world.

Being a part of this community and serving on the board has helped me feel like I’m doing something to help those denied their basic needs, both within our community and in the world at large.

While this missive may sound a little sobering – and maybe a bit of a downer for the holiday season – it is what has been on my mind of late, and I truly mean it as an inspiration to continue our work helping those in need.

May you all have a happy holiday season.

Paul Carlson

SVUUS Board Treasurer



From Our Minister

Happy December everyone -

It's been a whirl, as usual. In all that has happened, I never had a moment to linger on a significant anniversary: the Kristallnacht. On November 9 and 10, 1938, civilians and paramilitary forces conducted a pogrom against Jews throughout Germany, including Austria. The German authorities looked on without intervening. 91 people were killed, almost 300 synagogues were destroyed, and 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and placed in concentration camps.

80 years is not much time, and there are people living among us who can offer first-hand accounts. But who needs to hear about something that happened generations ago to know that hate is alive and well now? We can go to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. to look at history and also know that in 2009 a white supremacist entered that same museum with a rifle and killed museum guard Stephen Johns before being wounded by other guards. Who needs a museum?

Who needs a museum when white men marched in Charlottesville with torches and chanted "Jews will not replace us?" Who needs a museum when the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh becomes the next small Kristallnacht? We continue to live in times when people are targeted because of their religion. This includes the two Unitarian Universalists who were killed during worship services at the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville.

This widespread violent hatred baked into segments of American society is no less than a spiritual crisis. And if it had an easy solution, it wouldn't be a crisis. It's confusing; I have zero tolerance for anti-semites AND I want to understand how they got that way. The Quaker theologian Parker Palmer tells us that at the heart of all activism, progressive or conservative, lies heartbreak.

I'm reminded of a time when the Buffalo chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice came out to do a counter protest against a recruitment rally by the militia group The Three Percenters. They are a right-wing, anti-government, gun fanatic organization. Depending on who you ask, they may or may not be a hate group.

It was a cold day as we walked into Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo, a dozen or so white anti-racists. Across the square stood a dozen or so of the militia, all carrying variations on the American flag, including a history-bending combination stars and stripes and confederate stars and bars. We had our Black Lives Matters signs. We stared at each other for bit. Then after a ten minutes or so, a man walked from their group towards us. I braced myself.

The man came up to me and extended his hand. He said "We're all just out here using our rights of free speech, so I wanted to come and say hello." As we shook he told me his name was Ray. I asked Ray about his rally and he lingered, and eventually his group trickled over towards us. Then the darnedest thing happened: We slowly broke up into small groups and talked about why we were there. Not everyone, mind you, but most of us.

These folks, mostly men, were rural and working class. It was apparent that they didn't have access to good dental care. They talked about corporations and conspiracy theories, immigrants and governments, and above all, about feeling left behind. We were standing in the Rust Belt, one of America's abandoned places, and they were right about that part at least.

I realized after a while that these men had reasons to be angry, but somehow they had ended up blaming the wrong people. There's probably a lot of explanations for that but ultimately wrongful blame is no surprise in a racist and blindly capitalist country like ours. I hated their conclusions but ended up having compassion for their heartbreak. I felt like I could see the faintest outline of a path forward.

I'll never excuse racism, and I'll fight it without hesitation when it comes from places of power. But the Universalist in me clings to the belief that individuals can change, and that redemption is always possible. So I try to tone down my judgment of folks caught in systems they didn't create. Arrogance is a poor posture for teaching, and shame is a poor posture for learning. Maybe we can stop this Kristallnacht before it goes much farther.

Warmly,
Rev. Bob

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 13, at 3:00 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

The Rape Recovery Project. The Rape Recovery Center is a trusted community provider of direct services and primary prevention education in Utah. Today, the RRC provides a vital role during the Code R process in Salt Lake County through their Hospital Response Team, assisting nearly 500 survivors annually. The 24 hour crisis line also continues to be a resource to approximately 1,500 callers per year. Their in-office services include personal advocacy, short and long term counseling, and an array of therapy and support groups, serving over 1,000 clients on an annual basis. Their outreach and education programs reach roughly 2,500-5,000 community members each year by enriching partnerships and offering primary prevention training.

Book Group

Book Group will take a break for the holidays.

Meeting will resume on January 21, Monday of the MLK Jr Holiday weekend. The book for review is Bob Woodward's "Fear" about "Trump in the White House".

Monday Hikers Group

Like to hike? Join us for morning hikes in the Wasatch Canyons for easy to moderately paced hikes. Input on where is always welcome. Contact Rosine Oliver at rhodesignsllc@gmail.com or 801-971-2136 to be added to the email list. I will send out information during the weekend before the hike. Text or email me with questions.

Guest at Your Table

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE boxes--The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to support key human rights issues--is coming next month. Boxes are available downstairs; take one home for your family and help contribute to UUSC's work on important human rights issues, such as helping Central Americans who are fleeing their homes. Boxes should be returned by Dec 31st. See Connee or Denna for more info.

New Initiative for Safe Congregations

The UUA has a program called Safe Congregations that provides guidance for developing policies and procedures to improve all aspects of safety. The SVUUS Board of Trustees voted to set up a short-term Safe Congregations Task Force to do an assessment of our current challenges and to come up with recommendations by June 2019. Tom Zane, Page Speiser, Mac Lund, and Jordan Roberts have graciously agreed to be task force members. We would like to include someone to represent our LGBTQIA community. This commitment will only be from December-June. If you have interest, please contact the Board at trustees@svuus.org.

Opportunities and Announcements continued

FINANCE COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The SVUUS Finance Committee is actively seeking new members to assist in the budgeting process. The primary purpose of the SVUUS Finance Committee is to review the monthly financial data provided by the Bookkeeper and Treasurer in a timely manner, and to provide feedback as needed to the SVUUS Board.

Through the Board, the SVUUS community is then able to make input on financial decisions at the annual congregational meeting. A secondary purpose is to advise the SVUUS Board on any budgetary concerns that may be noted, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the SVUUS Board.

Meetings are held monthly (usually on the 2nd Monday night) and generally last about 60 to 90 minutes. These meetings are commonly held on-line, so that all members can see the reports on their computer monitors. During the March-April budget preparation period, additional meetings are called, generally on a biweekly basis.

We will be electing a new Chairperson for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, as the current Chair's term of office is expiring June 30 2019.

If you are interested in participating, please contact David Norton (davinort@yahoo.com), or Paul Carlson (polymath66@gmail.com)

JANUARY 6 WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday January 6, we will have a Poetry and Music service. The topic is "Epiphanies, Discoveries, and A-Ha Moments". We invite congregants to participate in this service by bringing a relevant song or poem to share. Please contact Mary Norton (harpertara@yahoo.com) to have your selection included in the Order of Service.

Recruiting New Talent!

The Board of Trustees is seeking to fill some important positions. If you have interest in Communications, Worship, or Young Adults, please contact Ellen Payzant on Leadership, Succession & Development (ewpayzant@gmail.com) or Ann Scarborough (annbob.scarborough@gmail.com). These are active committees with skilled team members, who are in need of your unique talent. This community is a great place to try something new, perhaps something you've never done before. Take a risk and ask for more information! The Happenings Hub in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings is another resource where your questions may be directed.

2018 Christmas Gift to the Church: Project Playground

The Jr. High Youth have made a couple of presentations to the Board of Trustees requesting permission to have a fundraiser for playground improvements. It was determined that this is a very good project that we want to support. The Board approved "Project Playground" as the 2018 Christmas Gift to the Church. Stay tuned for more details!

Holiday Donation Drive for Youth Resource Center Snack Foods and Underwear!

The VOA's Youth Resource Center is in need of healthy snack foods and NEW underwear for young men (cotton knit boxers) and women (larger sizes). Donations of high protein, low sugar content snacks (such as nut packets and snack bars) are appreciated. Please bring your donations to the church and place them into a large box located in the foyer throughout the holiday season.

-Sponsored by our South Valley Social Action Council

Monthly Potlucks

Our December potluck will be held on December 9th and will be hosted by the Board of Trustees. The theme is "Family Favorites", so please bring a dish to share. Other themes will be determined, but here are the dates:

January 6th hosted by Welcoming and Membership

February 3rd hosted by the High School Youth Group

March 3rd hosted by the Ministerial Transition Group and the Library

Opportunities and Announcements continued

Chalice Lighters and our Grant Application

Chalice Lighters is a program of the Mountain Desert District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was developed to help congregations fund special projects. When you become a member of Chalice Lighters you agree to be contacted three times a year, asking for a donation of \$20 (or more). This is a wonderful way to support other congregations in improving their programs and facilities.

SVUUS has completed a grant application, requesting \$9800 to help us complete our 2017 Project Welcome, which will fund handicapped-accessible entry doors for the front of our church. This improvement will help us create a welcoming facility that will comply with ADA standards,

Our funds raised in 2017-2018 will cover the installation of the ramp and entry doors to the Annex. The installation has been delayed due to the tariffs imposed, which have led to an aluminum shortage. We are waiting for all the materials to be shipped.

If you are not already a Chalice Lighter, please consider joining! Membership forms are available by the Visitors Table and at the Happenings Hub.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE December 2, 2018

South Valley's Library Book Sale will be a one-day event on Sunday, December 2, during the social hour after church. So, two things need to happen:

Donations Needed!

First, we'd love to have you clear your bookshelves and donate your "rejects" for our sale. Especially popular are children's and youth-oriented books, activity kits and games. Our adult shoppers like good reads and music plus interesting books that you perhaps acquired after hearing a sermon or learned about on your favorite media. You just never know.

Shop, Shop, Shop!

Then, please come and shop on that Sunday morning. We often clean out our shelves as well, so there should be a great selection of offerings. You may be able to find just the right thing for a gift for that special person or a good read for yourself on a cold winter night. Put it on your calendar, December 2nd. And, remember, we appreciate and need your donations.

Project Welcome Update

I know many of you have been wondering about what is happening with Project Welcome — last year's fundraiser for our new signs and a new ramp and accessible door for the annex.

We have two new signs on the front of the building and that part of the project is now complete. The Board has been actively working on moving the ramp and door project forward. During this time of transition some of the vital information about the project was not recorded or was misplaced. We have now pulled together all of the financial records regarding the Project Welcome fundraiser as well as detailed information about what needs to be purchased and what labor needs to be contracted in order to begin the actual work. The total amount raised in last year's campaign was \$12,000. The new signs cost about \$3,000. The Board approved the ramp and annex door part of the project at our last board meeting and we are contacting vendors now. Work should begin in the next few weeks.

I will be publishing updates and more information in future issues of Happenings and in the Order of Service as the project moves forward. I take seriously the importance of living up to our commitment to those who donated to make sure this project happens. Please contact me or a member of the Board of Trustees if you have questions about Project Welcome.

Thanks for your patience.

Lorri Quigley, President
Board of Trustees

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

12/2/2018

High School (9th-12th graders): A Place of Wholeness - Hope
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Your God Project
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Intro to Unitarian History
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Seeing Others with Awe
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Book of Ruth
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

12/9/2018

High School (9th-12th graders): A Place of Wholeness - Nurturing the Spirit
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - The God You Don't Believe In, the God You Do
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Intro to Universalist History
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Do unto Others
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Hare's Gifts
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

12/16/2018

High School (9th-12th graders): Bagels with Bob
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Stillness, Silence, and Meditation
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Intro to Universalist History
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Holidays and Holy Days: Yule
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Holidays and Holy Days: Yule
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

12/23/2018

Holiday Service
 ALL-AGES Worship

12/23/2015

High School (9th-12th graders): Coffee House Sunday
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): PJs and Movie Day
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): PJs and Movie Day
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Children's Chapel with Liz
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Children's Chapel with Liz
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesdays will return on January 16th. This ministry needs YOU to succeed! If you have a talent or passion you'd be willing to share with our community (for one week or many!), please contact Liz Martin liz.martin@svuus.org or Rev. Bob at bob.lavallee@svuus.org. In the works are offerings like Young Adult OWL, Yoga, and G Suite Tutorial.

Special thanks to Brenda Thomas, Jen Stewart, DaNika Carrillo, Katie Cavicchio and Russ Martin for offering classes this past session. And to Sheri Lund for assisting the last four weeks with cleanup!

Save the Date

January	6	Poetry and Music Service
January	6	Potluck hosted by Welcoming and Membership
February	3	Potluck hosted by the High School Youth Group
March	3	Potluck hosted by the Ministerial Transition Group and the Library

Upcoming Events

December	2	Library Book Sale
December	9	"Family Favorites" Potluck hosted by the Board
December	24	Christmas Eve Service

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

Temporary – Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
Email: admin@svuus.org

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