

The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society



Volume 40, Issue 6

June 2020



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SVUUS EDITORS:

Beacon-
admin@svuus.org

For information on the
Happenings email newsletter,
the web site or our email lists,
please contact
communications@svuus.org



June 7: Multi-UU Congregation Pride Service

10:00 a.m.

June 14: A Joyful Goodbye-Rev. Karen's last service followed by a virtual reception

June 21: It Takes a Village: Honoring those who've made us who we are, including fathers, and a farewell to John Bergquist

Speakers: SVUUS Congregants

June 28: SPECIAL WORSHIP TIME 11:00-12:00 Service title "SVUUS joins the largest annual gathering of UU's in worship"

UUA General Assembly worship service

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER
Rev. Karen Madrone
minister@svuus.org
801-810-6184

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ann Scarborough, President	952-994-1790
Bubble Emerson, Secretary	
Phil Quigley, Treasurer	801-201-0906
Denna Wright, Vice President	801-274-0756
Juergen Korbanka, Trustee	801-979-3020

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
Email: admin@svuus.org
Office Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 12:00–5:00 pm
Friday 8:00–1:00pm
*Third Tuesday of the month 2:00–6:00pm
** Third Wednesday of the month 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Rebecca Britt (Acting Director) 801-214-8340
Email: dre@svuus.org

CARING CIRCLE

Ines Korbanka 801-979-3020
Email: ikorbanka@yahoo.com

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.

To send a message to the list, simply address it to: community@svuus.org

From the Board of Trustees

Hopeful New Beginnings

There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.

Leonard Cohen

As a long-distance runner, Spring and early Summer are my favorite times of year. Temperatures are moderate, trees and flowers are starting to blossom, the air is rich with fragrances (and pollen), and birds are chirping. It feels like the world is waking up from its hibernation.

It may be difficult to focus on the beauty of our natural world when facing yet again a "new normal" has become the "new normal!" COVID-19 has thrown all of our world's upside down. We very quickly learned about social distancing, avoiding crowds, wearing face masks, and washing our hands religiously (Proof that you CAN use the word "religiously" in a UU newsletter and get away with it ☺).

It is counterintuitive to show that you care by keeping your distance, to get closer together by isolating, to show solidarity and support by covering most of your face, and to "get through this together" while enduring isolation. Yet, that is what we are all doing. And we are not doing this alone. For a moment, the world's boundaries and differences have become more permeable as all of humanity is working towards one unified goal. World leaders collaborate (with some notable exceptions) to fight this pandemic and differences are set aside for the moment.

The unifying force of a common goal and principles is amazing!

Similarly, as I tune in on Sundays via Zoom, it is amazing to see all of the different congregants and experience our community. What a diverse group with different backgrounds, beliefs, and aspirations. Yet, all unified by the principles of UU and the goal that we can get through this together while staying apart.

Despite all this chaos and the many, in my lifetime unprecedented, adjustments to daily life, this last month our SVUUS congregation also celebrated looking forward to a New Beginning. On May 3rd, with an amazing attendance of 100 members, we **UNANIMOUSLY** called Reverend Lora as our new Settled Minister. I don't know what's more impressive: whether Reverend Lora decided to come to Salt Lake after a grueling selection process that only can be called "extreme vetting" or that a group of 100 UUs agree on anything unanimously! Either way, our long and challenging search for our Settled Minister has come to a celebratory end. Having a Settled Minister is one New Normal we all can get used to! We are all looking forward to get to know Rev. Lora and her family, to integrate her in our community, and to see her blossom, providing the strong, dedicated, compassionate, and visionary leadership we desire.

Another New Beginning was marked by our Congregational Meeting that was held May 17th. We made changes to the bylaws, elected new members for board and committee roles, and passed a budget for 3 months. The 3 month budget approach was taken to allow for the changes possibly necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic (might be another "new normal").

As we, as part of a global community, work together to face unprecedented challenges, our SVUUS community looks forward to **Hopeful New Beginnings!**

Namaste
Juergen Korbanka

Report from the monthly Board Meeting

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 14th**, when we will be having a Zoom Farewell Worship Service & Reception for **Rev. Karen Madrone**. We want to give her a warm sendoff after serving us during our second year of Interim Ministry!

Our Music Director, **John Bergquist**, will not be continuing with us after June 30th. Please plan to attend the **June 21st** worship service to honor his two years of service with us. His beautiful voice has enhanced our worship services, and we have witnessed the wonderful development of our South Valley Singers under his direction. John has adapted well to providing music for our online services, and we have appreciated his professional technical assistance. He has a bright future ahead of him.

The Board voted to keep the SVUUS facility closed until the August Board meeting on August 18th. A SVUUS COVID19 Coronavirus Task Force will be researching the local conditions and coming up with plans for Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that we reopen safely. Their recommendations will be provided to the Board of Trustees. By August Rev. Lora will be able to participate in this planning.

The Board voted to continue paying our staff their full wages through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, as we received a PPP loan-to-grant of \$7000.

At the second Congregational Meeting on May 17th, the following new leaders were elected:

The Board of Trustees

Scott Renshaw (1 year term), Juergen Korbanka (2 year term), Sarah Nicholson, Sophia Hawes-Tingey, and Zachary Stickney (all 3 year terms)

The Endowment Committee

David Norton was elected to serve a 3 year term as the Endowment Committee Chair. **Leadership Succession & Development**

Ellen Payzant was elected to serve another 3 year term.

Others have volunteered, or accepted invitations, to serve on our committees:

Personnel Committee

Mac Lund, Chair; Luci Malin, Sinnamon Wolfe, and Melissa Venable. Juergen Korbanka has agreed to be the Board Liaison to the Personnel Committee. George Melling will serve as the Senior Legal Advisor whenever legal issues need to be researched.

The Finance Committee

Jane Moffatt, a new SVUUS member, will be serving on the Finance Committee, and has interest in assisting the Board Treasurer (A new concept recommended by Rev. Lora).

The Membership Committee

Laura Renshaw will become the chair, and Sandra Roach has agreed to serve.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Trustees,
Ann Scarborough/SVUUS Board President

From Our Minister

Dear South Valley friends,

I'm sad to say that this is my last column for the Beacon! Can you believe our year together is almost at an end?! In our year together we have learned and grown in many ways. This year at South Valley saw you all have a second Interim Minister and a new DRE, Rebecca Britt. The two of us joined your already existing staff of Cindy Martin, Administrator; John Bergquist, Music Director; and James Carlson, Custodian. Together your staff learned how to work together with our different skills, abilities, and temperaments. I feel confident that your staff is well situated to carry forward into SVUUS' next phase of ministry with Rev. Lora Young in August.

You should be very proud of your board and the search committee. You have strong lay leaders who are willing to learn, try new things, and ask difficult questions. They always keep South Valley's best interest in mind when making decisions. They have served you well during this year, especially during the pandemic. Each of these teams of leaders have been fantastic to work with!

Over the course of this year I have experienced your warm welcome and your support of me as a newly ordained minister. Ministering together with you has been a joy. I have observed your resilience, strength, and fortitude against formidable odds.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SVUUS this year. You will always be in my heart.

In faith,
Rev. Karen



(From Rev. Karen's 1st order of service with us)

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, June 18, at 3:00 p.m. 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.

Sacred Seniors

You are invited to join me (Cindy Martin) for a time to: Check in, Pray, Meditate, Uplift and Heal. Continuing June 5th and 19th at 1:00 pm via Zoom URL <https://zoom.us/j/530807620>.

SVUUS Offering Split Recipient for May - June

Here at South Valley it is our practice to share our worship service offering split with a charitable organization that shares our values and principles and is making a difference in our larger community. For May and June, we have selected the **Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund**. This organization, founded and operated by indigenous community organizers, is responding to the health crisis by raising funds and organizing delivery of groceries, water, and health supplies directly to vulnerable Navajo and Hopi elders and their families.

Their mission is to "help the elderly (especially those raising their grandchildren), the immunocompromised and mobility impaired, single parents, and struggling families by helping them buy groceries, water, health supplies, and necessary items so they and their vulnerable communities can be protected from exposure to the virus." As of mid-April they had received over 1600 requests for help. With high rates of diabetes, asthma, and heart disease, many Native American Elders are at great risk of infection. Grocery stores and healthcare centers are few, and many homes do not have running water or electricity. Learn more at: www.navajohopisolidarity.org

CUUPS News - CUUPS will continue collecting pet food cans until such time as the church is reopened again. Thank you in advance for your help to the shelter during these uncertain times.

Samaritan Fund

Dear SVUUS family,

Many of you have been personally, economically impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Some of us have not felt the same economic pain because we have jobs that can be done remotely. And yet, we got stimulus checks anyways.

We know what it feels like to suddenly lose a job or to find your income suddenly impacted in a drastic way. In this crisis we have been lucky, but we have not always been the lucky ones. For this reason, Joel and I decided to donate half of our stimulus check money to the Samaritan Fund at SVUUS to help other families in our community who are not so fortunate.

I am reaching out to all of you to consider whether you are in a similar position to us, safe in our economic position. If so, I encourage you to make sure that other families in our SVUUS community are taken care of through a donation of part of your stimulus check to the Samaritan fund. You can make a donation through Givelify using the memo: Samaritan Fund Donation for COVID-19 Relief.

The Caring Committee will continue to administer the fund throughout the summer during the time we are between ministers.

Wishing we could all be together,
Maria Andersen

Connee Gates

Clara Barton Sisterhood Award

A few months ago, Rev. Karen approached me with information about an award that is presented annually by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation. It is called the Clara Barton Sisterhood award. The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created in 1979 to honor UU women aged 80 or over and to recognize their significant contributions to the life of our religious association and women's organizations. Rev. Karen asked if I would be willing to nominate a special person from our congregation for this award. I enlisted the support of our Library Committee and we are pleased to announce the newest inductee into the Clara Barton Sisterhood is Connee Gates!

We would have loved to present Connee's award certificate in person in front of the entire congregation but since that was not possible, the library ladies arranged to meet in Connee's driveway on May 15, wearing our masks and practicing appropriate social distancing of course.

Please join me in congratulating Connee Gates as the newest member of the Clara Barton Sisterhood.

Below is a copy of the letter from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation that accompanied Connee's award. This letter and Connee's picture will be posted on the UUWF website, www.uuwf.org, where Connee will soon be pictured as a 2020 inductee.





Milwaukee, WI 53222 www.uuwf.org Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
3322 N. 92nd Street uuwf@uuwf.org

May 17, 2020

Dear Connee,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society has chosen to honor you by enrolling you in the Clara Barton Sisterhood of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.

The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created by a vote of the 1979 Biennial Convention to honor UU women aged 80 or over and to recognize their contributions to the life of our religious association and women's organizations. As one of the newest members of the Clara Barton Sisterhood, you join over 740 other women (so far!) who have been honored for their commitment, generosity, and service.

You are being honored, in part, for your active membership in your congregation. Those who enrolled you in the Sisterhood provided us with this overview of your service to your faith and wider community:

Connee was part of a small group of UU members from First Church in Salt Lake City who began in 1981 to explore the feasibility of having a second UU church in the southern part of the Salt Lake Valley. A quote from *South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society: A History* states, "When I look back on the early years, I recall many without whose work we would not have survived ... Connee Gates probably worked harder than anyone else to ensure we survived, doing whatever needed to be done to keep us going."

Connee has served in many capacities at South Valley over the years. She has served as President of the Board of Trustees, the Religious Education Director, editor (and creator) of the *Beacon*, the church monthly newsletter, and in many other positions. But perhaps her greatest dedication, once the survival of the Society was certain, was to the creation of a church library.

A tiny library was begun in 1982 with a few donated books. Connee was the first librarian. There were many ups and downs over the years and several times it seemed that the dream of a church library would be abandoned. But through all this Connee was the one person who was there when the library was first envisioned, who helped draft the original document formalizing the existence of the South Valley library, and who - through all the moves and challenges - was there to support and sustain the continued existence of a church library even when most of it was stored in boxes in her garage. When the South Valley UU Library finally was given a permanent home in the remodeled social hall, the new library was dedicated as the Connee Gates Library. The plaque reads, "In grateful recognition of Connee Gates for establishing and sustaining a library at SVUUS."

Connee has also been recognized for her work with the Utah Chapter of the Girl Scouts of America. She has served as State President of the chapter and has mentored young Girl Scouts in achieving their Gold Award, the highest Girl Scout honor. For these many accomplishments, and her life of dedication to service, we feel Connee Gates is a most worthy recipient of the Clara Barton Sisterhood Award.

No one is more deserving of this honor than you are, and I am delighted to welcome you to the Clara Barton Sisterhood. On behalf of the UUWF membership and board, I send my congratulations.

In Sisterhood, Claire Sexton, President

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 24-28



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

G A SPEAKERS

"*Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!* is the theme for General Assembly June 24-28, 2020. We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world."

The SVUUS delegates who will be representing our faith community this year are Alaina Hendricks, Annika Surlles, and Brenda Voisard. Rebecca Britt, our DRE, will be attending as well. However, this annual General Assembly is open to anyone- and this year it will be easier (and cheaper) than ever before because the entire event will be online; the cost is \$150. You may select which sessions interest you! Here is the link to the event: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. If you attend, please share your feedback with our community!



Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz is a historian, writer, and professor emeritus in Ethic Studies at California State University. She is author or editor of 15 books, including the award-winning and 2019-2020 UU Common Read selection *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Her most recent book is *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. Forthcoming in 2021 from Beacon Press is *Not "A Nation of Immigrants": Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion*.



Dina Gilio-Whitaker

Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes) is a lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos, and an independent consultant and educator in environmental justice policy planning. Dina's research focuses on Indigenous nationalism, self-determination, environmental justice, and education. She also works within the field of critical sports studies, examining the intersections of indigeneity and the sport of surfing. Dina is co-author with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz of Beacon Press's [*All the Real Indians Died Off and 20 Other Myths About Native Americans*](#) (2016), and her most recent book, [*As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock*](#), was released in 2019.



Jean Mendoza & Natalie Martinez

Jean Mendoza, Ph.D., M.Ed is co-adaptor of An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People.

Natalie Martinez, Ph.D., K'awaika-meh (Laguna Pueblo), is the author of the educator's guide for An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People.

They will reflect critically on stories European Americans tell about Indigenous Peoples and the impact of those stories on readers and listeners.



Howard Bryant

Howard Bryant is a senior writer for ESPN and is a correspondent for NPR's Weekend Edition. He has won several awards for his writing, and has been twice-nominated for the National Magazine Award for commentary. His books include [*Full Dissidence: Notes from an Uneven Playing Field*](#) and [*The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism*](#).



Robyn Henderson-Espinoza

Transqueer Activist, Latinx Scholar, and Public Theologian, Robyn was named one of 10 Faith Leaders to Watch by the Center for American Progress. In *Activist Theology* author Robyn bridges the gap between academia and activism for the sake of political liberation and social change for marginalized communities. Dr. Robyn travels the country doing activist theology and continues to write for both the academy and the public square.



Rosemary Bray McNatt & Elías Ortega

Amid the many challenges facing progressive faith in the 21st century, what role will our seminaries play? Rosemary Bray McNatt, president of Starr King School for the Ministry and Elías Ortega, president of Meadville Lombard Theological School will reflect on their unique roles not only in preparing religious leaders, but in shaping Unitarian Universalist thought and practice.



John Buehrens

John A. Buehrens was the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001. His latest book, *Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice*, provides one of the most extensive portraits of the Transcendentalists to date and helps explain why they continue to fascinate and inspire us.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning



Religious Exploration happens all year long! Online offerings will continue, and we expect to offer a regular weeknight class for kids, an all-ages book club, story time, and some cool things for the youth!

In addition, activity packets for many ages will be available to be mailed out (or possibly picked up at SVUUS) at different points in the summer, to encourage exploration away from a screen!

Stay tuned for details!

Rebecca Britt
she/her/hers pronouns
Acting Director of Religious Exploration
(801) 214-8340

Please note my typical work hours fall on Sunday, and Tuesday-Thursday

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

An Intentionally Diverse Religious Community

6876 South Highland Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Save the Date

Upcoming Events

June 14	Farewell Worship Service & Reception via Zoom
June 24 – 28	General Assembly - online

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

Chair: Ines Korbanka (801) 979-3020 or
ikorbanka@gmail.com

Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
Mel Welliver	801-963-8258
Peter Verschoor	801-649-7609