



The Beacon

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

Volume 40, Issue 7

July 2020



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SVUUS EDITORS:

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| July 5: Patriotism: Caring for All and the Individual | Sinammon Wolfe
Hospice Chaplain |
| July 12: Climate Action and Social Justice | Zack Stickney |
| July 19: Title: Localscapes: Landscape for Where You Live
Localscapes is a design style created for Utah that can create landscapes with a traditional appearance while requiring just one third (or even less) of the water consumed by the typical yard.
Cynthia Bee, Outreach Coordinator
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District | |
| July 26: Racing Myself: Learning about critical race theory | Rev. John Cooper and Sutton Morgan |

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

MINISTER

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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

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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

In May of 2019 I shared with the Leadership Council that my personal mantra is Attract, Manifest, and Thrive. This was my vision for the people of South Valley as I stepped into the role of Board of Trustees President. I invited Rev. Bob LaVallee to share his observations about our leadership and he shared that his greatest concern for the people of South Valley was the sustainability of our leadership teams. This was legitimate; many leaders were weary ready to step down. Some did.

I view this as a natural ebb and flow of our spiritual energies- the yin and yang of life experiences, and the need for renewal. The Board and the Leadership Succession & Development Committee worked hard this past year to honor these needs and to fill vacancies with people looking for ways to serve. On June 27th our Board of Trustees held the annual Board Transitions & Orientation meeting where outgoing and incoming members gathered to share best practices and to elect new officers.

Sophia Hawes-Tingey is the new Board of Trustees President. Zach Stickney has accepted the position of Vice President and Leadership Council Chair. Scott Renshaw will only be serving on the Board for one year but has experience in serving in many South Valley leadership roles, so he has volunteered to Mentor our new president and vice president. Sarah Nicholson is our new Treasurer and Bubbles Emerson will continue as our Secretary. Denna Wright and Juergen Korbanka will continue as Members-at-Large. This team has tremendous potential to bring vision, skill, energy, cohesion and love to our beloved community!

South Valley's Personnel Committee has been lead by a single individual for many years, and now Bill Dobbs has stepped down. Please welcome Mac Lund as our new Personnel Committee Chair. He has a wonderful team, including Luci Malin, Melissa Venable, and Sinnamon Wolfe. These folks will be helping us welcome our new settled minister, Rev. Lora Young, and to provide steady guidance as she becomes acquainted with our congregation and steps into her role as our minister.

South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society has come through some rough waters with many changes in staff these past two years. Thank you for your steady support and let us join together to celebrate our leaders and new beginnings!

~Ann Scarborough, ex-officio Board President

Messages from the Board

When the COVID19 coronavirus hit our beloved South Valley community, many changes had to be implemented, including closing our building. We had to stop gathering in person for our Sunday services, and this was shocking. None of us in our entire lives had experienced a loss like this.

However, we have had a staff member laboring quietly behind the scenes, and I want to lift up his incredible commitment and devoted service to our people. James Carlson, our Custodian, has been working for SVUUS for 19 years! He has been actively involved longer than most of our members and friends and has worked for us longer than any of our ministers. Because of this, he has a deep affection for our community!

Since we have not been holding services or events in our building, James has been working on projects that require more time-intensive investments. Many years ago, when South Valley participated in Family Promise, hosting families experiencing homelessness, a shower was installed in the Annex. For several years that space has been used only for storage and, in fact, last year when we searched for the framed document honoring our Welcoming Congregation status, it was located in this space! Well, guess what? That shower has now been completely cleared out and restored. One day, when our building reopens, this will be especially useful for hosting youth groups and out-of-town guests.

When our Building and Facilities Committee was agonizing over the cost of repairing or replacing our irrigation system, James said, "Well, I can do this. I know how." And this project has been completed, saving the grass before it completely died out, and preserving the front-facing appearance of our community. This was completed without extraordinary expenditures.

Our Director of Religious Exploration, Rebecca, and our Office Administrator, Cindy, urged me to lift up all that James has been doing. They work at the building occasionally, so they have observed all the improvements he has completed. There are now several hand sanitizer stations placed around the sanctuary; Cindy's office is being repainted for the first time in many years, and James has implemented new disinfecting procedures to his usual cleaning routine to protect the health of our at-risk employees.

Please express your appreciation to James: Jcar2076@msn.com. His steady and reliable service to our community is often invisible and we want to express our thanks for his devotion.

Ann Scarborough/Ex-Officio SVUUS Board President



Messages from the Board continued

Beacon, July 2020

Are Our Finances Sick?



You may be wondering how South Valley is doing amidst the pandemic. Have we been hurt?

The short answer is yes, a little. We are down about 18% in revenue coming in. Part of that is the weekly plate collection, but most of it is a decline in pledge receipts and donations. We will shortly be sending out pledge statements to let you know where you stand on your pledge. If your statement has any errors, let us know right away so we can fix it.

The one fortunate thing is that some of our costs are down. We do not pay as much for heating and cooling since the building is closed. Office supply expenses are down since our administrator goes in only once per week and more business is conducted online. We pay the same for janitorial since we agreed to pay all staff the same as before the pandemic and because James has found lots of other projects to do while he has extra time to do them. See the board article by Ann for more info.

I am writing this on June 30th, my last day as treasurer. I am grateful to Sara Nicholson for agreeing to take that role and I am delighted that Jane Moffet has agreed to help her. It really is a job that requires two people, so I hope that tradition continues. And, of course, I will be there to help when I'm asked.

In closing I will say: give a little bit more for your plate contribution through Givelify, remember to pay on your pledge, and Black Lives Matter!

Phil Quigley

Treasure

Attending Virtual General Assembly...so, how was it?

When Ann asked for a member of our SVUUS board to attend GA as a delegate, I had my reservations accepting the call. After all, I had built up GA in my head, and going online only felt like it might be a cheapened version...would I connect with anyone there? Would the workshops be powerful when not in person? Would it be worth the extra time as a delegate, and would I actually enjoy it? To my grateful surprise, the answer ended up being “yes” on all sides!

As someone who has grown up as a child of the Internet and even taught virtual school this past year, I know good online interfaces and bad ones. Virtual GA was so well built, it just wasn't believable that it was brand new this year. In the entire weekend, there was only one technical difficulty worth noting. That's less than in person meetings! Beyond simple and robust design, good sound, image, and closed captions, the UUA provided us with chat-groups to ask questions and find union. Brenda Voisard, Annika Surles, and I also texted throughout, helping me feel connected to my SVUUS attendees as well. This was a connection I feared missing without sitting physically side-by-side, but instead feel closer to them than ever!

I loved starting my day with daily worship services and hearing diverse words from UUs all over the country. My favorite was the youth-led service...UU Youth continue to be the most impressive people I know. The workshops pushed us all towards social justice and explained matters of the world in such encouraging, inspiring ways. I attended one each day, my favorite being a workshop led by three Black scholars on reparations...and I left fired up to contact my representatives! (You can, too: Ask them to support S.1083 and H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.) As a bonus, these workshops and worship services are available for the rest of the summer, extending GA as long as I want it. That is *more* accessibility than an in-person experience would have held.

General Assembly, though, is celebrated for offering not just worshipful services, but beloved community and the use of the democratic process. Brenda, Annika, and I were delegates for SVUUS, meaning we were able to vote. I'll admit, I entered with trepidation that I would be “wasting my time”, voting on minutiae like rules-about-rules-about-amendments-to-rules. And a few of those existed...but by Saturday, we were voting for powerful things like acknowledging 400 years of White Supremacy, fully funding our Youth programs, and creating a religious response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It felt powerful and holy! I felt part of my religion, part of the UUA, part of my larger world, and proud to represent my congregation!

I also got to experience what our larger UU world is like...and I *love it*. The people hired in the UUA are full of grace, social awareness, love and care, and burning fire for justice. Wow! Just listening to people like President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, our co-moderators, our GA music director, or any other leader talk made me want to be a better person and a better Unitarian Universalist. The inspiration to improve yourself and love others deeper with more passion is the most holy inspiration one can find.

My only sorrow was the lack of crowd interaction; I missed hearing the roar of applause after a moving lecture, the hushed silence in the face of injustice, the voices of a thousand UUs singing with me. But those small things were nothing compared to the joy of the weekend...one that I hope to repeat in years to come. Next year's GA will be held in Milwaukee, WI, and the UUA plans to offer online attendance as well. The only question is...will *you* fly out east, or opt to go virtually and log in for a weekend of holiness and beloved community?

Alaina Hendricks

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, July 23, 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

Has been cancelled for July and August. Will resume in September.

SVUS Offering Split Recipient for July-August

Hi South Valley Members and Friends,

Our South Valley Social Action Council has selected Black Lives Matter Utah as our worship service offering split recipient for July and August! With race being such a hot topic right now, and with so much going on daily, we will be keeping you updated on some of their current efforts.

Coming right up, they've obtained the necessary permits to paint the State Street with "Black Lives Matter" in front of the City and Council bldg, likely next week. :-)

Pasted below is an excerpt from an email from Black Lives Matter Utah that includes a link to an article by the Deseret News about them. So stay tuned, and as we continue to meet remotely, don't forget to submit worship service offerings on Givelify! (As a community we will be giving 50% to Black Lives Matter Utah in July and Aug.) In Community,

Susan Eyzaguirre
South Valley Social Action Council Chair

Excerpt from an email I received today:

Here is a little article about Black Lives Matter Utah that came out today. This was a cool interview and we appreciate KSL and the Deseret News for giving us a voice. We don't like the picture but oh well lol

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/6/29/21307639/black-lives-matter-utah-founder-racism-police-brutality-protests-rights?fbclid=IwAR0fRijinl289PO1GiDN1xePpy369qM-dKhFe4WG-w9IAqJ36W2NWgOpMd0>

CUUPS News

CUUPS is suspending the collection of pet food and articles until we get an idea of when we can meet in person at the church so said articles can be collected. Watch the Beacon for details, but we will most likely attempt to aim for October as the time to collect these items.

Please contact Mary Norton at harpertara@yahoo.com with questions or suggestions. It is impractical at this point to attempt to go to the homes of all who might be collecting food and articles. If you would like what you have collected picked up because of the storage issues, please let Mary know.

Be a Part of the South Valley Team!

Want to contribute more to the South Valley community? Here is your chance to be part of our congregation's leadership team! We will have a vacancy in the Welcoming Committee Chair position in August and we are looking for someone to take over. This is a valuable role with low stress! As Welcoming Chair, you help recruit and coordinate volunteers to greet visitors and do whatever you feel is best to help make our congregation more welcoming. You do NOT have to be a current member of the Welcoming Committee, and you will be thoroughly trained before taking over in the fall. If interested, please contact Natalie at cole.natalie7@gmail.com or at 801-698-2245.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Summer is here! We're having a lot of fun meeting on weekdays, and exploring topics that are most exciting to each age group. Check out the breakdown of what we're offering in the months of July. If your family is registered for RE, you'll receive biweekly emails with event reminders and links. If you haven't been getting this, or need to register, let me know!

World Travelers: Pre-K to 5th

Explore world cultures and history through a UU lens.

Tuesdays (June 30th, July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th)

7:15-7:45 PM

Games and Gems: 3rd-8th

Talk about what it means to be UU in 2020, then play some games!

Thursday July 2nd, 9th, (skip 16th), 23rd

7:15-8:15 PM

High School

The Hate U Give Discussion Group

Read the book (reach out to me if you need help getting a copy!) or watch the movie then come together to discuss

Thursday July 16th

7:15-8:15 PM

To be scheduled for High School: Hogwarts Escape Room Rematch, General Assembly Updates and Brainstorms

Wants to get in on the fun? Volunteers are welcome all year round! Reach out to me any time.

I'm excited to begin my second year at SVUUS, thanks for all your help getting the lay of the land during my first year!

Rebecca Britt

she/her

Director of Religious Exploration

dre@svuus.org (801) 214-8340 (receives texts)

Save the Date

Upcoming Events

July 21 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

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