

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT
Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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March 2012

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is www.suuf.org, where the Newsletter & Sermons can also be read. Mail should be sent to the office at the above address.

Office hours: Mon. 9:00 am - noon, Tue. - Fri. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

March 4: "*The Wizard of SUUF*" The Summit Players

This Sunday we will be discussing proposed priorities and plans for the last half of 2012 and the first half of 2013. All members are encouraged to come, learn about Summit, enjoy music by the *Summit Recorder Consort* and pianist Karen Follingstad, and engage in our open Circle Discussion after the service which will be led by lay leaders of our congregation.

March 11: "*The Rise of Corpor(n)ations*" The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In recent generations corporate interests have shifted away from concerns for the welfare of human society. This evolution is evident in the establishment of corporate personhood and money as "free speech" here in the U.S.A. Where are the powers and principalities who serve "Mammon" taking us? Today's reflection will invite us to consider how common folk like you and me can reclaim and exercise our spiritual, moral, and political power to challenge and change the status quo.

March 18: "*The Spirituality of Route 66*" The Rev. Don Stouder

Sometimes when we travel, we allow ourselves to wander off the beaten path and discover things we thought we had lost. In this sermon, Rev. Don will talk about such an experience he recently had. Weaved among the experiences with cultures and religions, perhaps we can all learn to see better that which is almost always right in front of us.

March 25: "*Life on the Border(s)*" The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

How are we at living along the borders that define and segment our lives? To help punctuate Summit's "Immigration as a Moral Issue" class that runs throughout March until April 6, this Sunday's reflection will draw upon Rev. Frank's experience as a participant in a UU-sponsored service/learning/reflection event entitled "Human Rights on the Border," happening March 15-18 between Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico.

—ATTENTION—

The Scene at Summit's **April 2012 edition**

deadline will be Monday, March 26th.

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

Amid the buzz of activity and service here in our fellowship, I would like to highlight three upcoming events in the Summit community.

First, many of our members will enter or reaffirm their membership in our fellowship's Covenant Groups, because they find there a depth of sharing and community that is supportive and sustaining. I would

encourage all our members and friends to consider enlisting in or helping to form a Covenant Group. Contact Board member Pat Bryning if you are interested in signing up.

Second, March is the month of our annual stewardship drive. Trained member volunteers reach out to all our members and friends in order to engage in personal conversations that will help set the course of our congregation in the coming Fiscal Year, 2012-2013, which will begin this July 1st.

When a Visiting Steward contacts you, please be open to scheduling a visit with him or her. The steward will ask you how you think Summit is doing, share suggestions you might have for improving our fellowship, and invite you to pledge your financial support to Summit for 2012-2013. All of this information is most important, as it defines our mission and budget objectives for the year. Without this input from you, Summit would be confused, penniless and ineffective!

Third, on Saturday, April 1st, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. I will be offering a seminar sponsored by our fellowship's Caring Committee for members, friends and caregivers entitled, "How to Support People Who are Experiencing Grief and Loss." All members and friends of the Fellowship are welcome.

In all your relationships with others, in your caregiving, and in your charitable support, I encourage you to draw upon the resources and opportunities at Summit that can help you be the change you want to see in the world!

Namaste, **Rev. Frank**

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

Message from the President

I grew up in Nebraska, and March was always my least favorite month. All the fun was over. Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day, were all in the past. It was usually Lent which meant no more candy, a lot more church, and the Stations of the Cross. What boy wants to keep track of the five sorrowful mysteries?

Then, there was the weather. Things would thaw one day, and then freeze the next. It seemed that there was frozen mud everywhere, and nothing was growing yet. No football or baseball and only distant Easter, as the next break from school.

I think how lucky I am now, living in San Diego, where everything grows and blooms in March. The herbs we grow in pots look and smell better than at any other time of year.

Of course, there is the additional excitement of Summit's annual pledge campaign! How much can we raise? Will the overwhelming appreciation of our community result in a burst of generosity? Will we be able to offer our settled minister fulltime salary for a fulltime position?

You can share in this excitement. You can answer that phone call, meet with your steward, and respond enthusiastically with your pledge. I'm sure you'll discover, even March Madness doesn't compare.

Pachem,
Pierre Vaughn

SUUF Community Classifieds

We've hung a bulletin board in the hallway next to the Greeting Room for members and friends to post their business cards, services, and/or notices of items wanted or for sale. Please be courteous with your postings and remember to take them down in a timely manner.

Board of Directors Meetings

Third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Library at Summit. Observers are welcome. Minutes from recent meetings are posted on our website: www.suuf.org

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Children's Religious Exploration News

It is hard to believe that March is here. The winter rains are past and the hills are starting to turn green in the back country. The weather is warming and my kids are enjoying the spring hiking temperatures. This is my favorite time of year in San Diego County, not too hot, not too cold – it is just right! This month marks the Spring Equinox. It is a time of balance and the point at which growth begins in earnest.

It feels like our Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) program has also reached a place of balance and is about to begin a new period of growth. Summit's Children's Program is so much more than childcare while parents are at church; it is a ministry to foster the spiritual growth of our youngest members. In addition, several new families started attending last year for our Children's programs and have now become members of Summit. This is a very exciting time for our community!

Our Children's Program has a solid foundation, growing in attendance and community involvement. This year we started using four UU curriculums, refurbished the classrooms, had a fantastic Winter Holiday service and fostered new intergenerational friendships with Forever Friends. We have built all of this through the work and dedication of many Summit volunteers including over 30 teachers, advisors & assistants and committee members. Thanks to the generous financial donations of many-- through gifts and fundraisers-- we have had the resources to make great things happen this year.

Looking forward to the remainder of this year and beyond, we are preparing for new programs including Coming of Age, Our Whole Lives for 4th & 5th grade, Spirit Play Montessori based classes for PreK-2nd grade, and possibly Hogwarts Summer School - Year 2 (back by popular request).

In February, with Rev. Frank's encouragement, the Children's Religious Exploration, (CRE) Committee and I began working on our plans for next year's CRE program. For the first time we put together a comprehensive "Dream Budget" for the program and presented it to the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. We call it a "Dream Budget" because to realize it completely would require a \$5,400 increase in our program expenses for the next fiscal year, which is quite ambitious indeed. This amount would include expenditures for the curriculum & teacher support, classroom supplies, professional development, communication and childcare. In addition to the increase in program funding, there was also a recommendation from the CRE Committee to increase my position as Director of Religious Education (DRE) from 20 to 25 hours a week. The overall proposal represents a large increase over last year's CRE budget, and may well represent expenses our Fellowship is not yet able to cover. Even so, with CRE's planning we now have some idea of what it would take to run a more effective and comprehensive religious education program given our size and our vision for the future, and we will have some idea of

just how possible the CRE's "Dream" really is, based upon how successful our upcoming Summit Pledge Drive will be.

If you value our children's religious education at Summit, please join me in making a pledge to Summit in March. The final 2012-2013 SUUF budget, which will be voted on by the congregation in May or early June, will greatly affect our ability to implement our vision for Children's Religious Exploration. The proposed CRE dream budget will be presented to our members and friends during the Stewardship Campaign for all to consider. (Email me if you would like a copy in advance.)

This year has been a year of change and growth in our Children's Religious Exploration program. It has been an effort of love and dedication on the part of many who have worked together to reach this point. Continued support and nurturing will keep us on the path of "growing future" Summitarian UU's. Thank you to all who have been part of our program this year. Through your ongoing support Summit UU Fellowship's Children's Religious Exploration Program will fulfill its mission: *"to create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for creative exploration of the UU Principles as well as world religions, deep thinkers and scientific thought. We aim to nurture compassion and critical thinking, to install a passion for social action, and to develop each child's sense of place in the larger Summit and global communities."* This is the vision that we have for our children, the children of Summit.

Peace, Mary Carter-Vail
Director of Religious Exploration for SUUF
Summitdre@gmail.com

Adult Religious Exploration

"Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" Study Group

Our next regular meeting of our 2011-2012 Study Group of Karen Armstrong's book Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life is March 22nd, 2012. These workshops are open to anyone, however it is expected that attendees will arrive on time and have read the book before participating in discussion.

The dates for the remaining meetings are: Thursdays- April 19th, May 24th, and June 14th, at 10:30 am to noon and 6:30-8:00 pm

Groups will meet in the Summit Meeting House/sanctuary.

Contact Linda at summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net or call the Summit office at 619-562-0833 to register.

"Immigration as a Moral Issue:" Six Fri. evenings beginning on March 2nd, 2012

The course will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 PM and will be facilitated by Mar Cárdenas and others, and is sponsored by Summit's Social Action Committee.

The course starts with a worldwide look at migrants and refugees, and then we will focus on the economics and legal issues related to migration to the United States.

We will conclude with a faith community perspective on immigration.

You will receive an email a week before each session with the assigned readings. Please read them **before** class each week.

March 2nd – Understanding the Causes of Migration

March 9th – History of Immigration into the United States

March 16th – Economics of Immigration

March 23rd – Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights

March 30th – Who Benefits from a Broken System?

April 6th – Seeking Solutions

Please contact Mar for more information.

To register, please call the Summit Office at 619-562-0833 and leave a message for Linda Peck, Office Administrator or give your name and contact info to the Office Volunteer.

Religions of the Axial Age (800 BCE to 200 BCE) will continue-

In a short 600 years, the philosophic foundations of the major religions were independently developed throughout the world. This series of five presentations will explore those from Eurasia, South Asia, and East Asia.

April 16: *Hinduism and Jainism: India*, presented by Jai Ghorpade

May 20: *Buddhism: India*, presented by Neal Biggart

June 18: *Confucianism and Taoism: China*, presented by Neal Biggart

July 16: *Assessment of Current Religious Attitudes*, presented by Jai Ghorpade

Third Monday each month, 7:00 pm to 9:00pm in the Salon

Writers Workshop/ Lois Santalo: This group meets every Tuesday morning, 9:30 to noon, in the Salon.

Memoir Writing Group / Lois Santalo: Friday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, March 17st, 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Summit Library. Come play with words and discover the poet within. All levels of writing experience welcome. If you have any questions please call Margo Mariana. No registration necessary.

If you have questions about the ARE classes, please contact Margo Mariana.

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

Caring Committee

We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page, 619-660-9690, and JoAnn Swanson, 619-465-7279, are the "ride coordinators" for our committee. If you need assistance with transportation to Summit or appointments, call them, preferably a few days ahead of time.

Loving Hands Ministry meets Tues., March 6th, at 1:00 p.m.

If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us in the Salon. The Loving Hands Ministry works on blankets for Linus Project, dishcloths for Crisis House, comfort shawls for Summitarians in need of comfort, and is always open to new ideas for outreach projects. Contact Laurel Bernstein.

Social Action Corner - *Service Is Our Prayer*

Summitarians helping out in East County:

A reminder- food collection basket: Crisis House is in need of food pantry donations, which have decreased in recent years even as the need has increased. Please remember that a basket is always present

in Summit's greeting room to receive your canned and boxed food items- why not pick up one or two extra items this week while doing your grocery shopping, and drop them in the basket on Sunday?

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

Immigration: February's Social Action Sunday focused on immigration issues, particularly of undocumented immigrants. "Immigration as a Moral Issue" was selected at the 2010 General Assembly to be the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Come get informed! Mar Cárdenas will be teaching a six-part course at Summit, sponsored by the Social Action Committee, entitled "Immigration as a Moral Issue." The course will meet on Friday evenings beginning on March 2, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. To register, email Mar at or call the Summit Office at 619-562-0833.

Environmental: It is no longer allowable to dispose of your used household batteries in the trash- so rather than letting them accumulate in your garage, now you can bring them to Summit and we'll dispose of them for you. Look for the collection basket in the greeting room.

Financial: Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate – March 18. Put Your Money Toward A Great Cause – Purchase Fair Trade coffee and chocolate! You can also place a special order to make sure you never have to go without. Summit's teens are now running this program- if you have any questions, please contact Gary Baldwin.

Time: Social Action Sunday: The third Sunday of the month (March 18) is Social Action Sunday. Please join us on that day for the next **Social Action Committee meeting** in the library at 8:30 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome! Questions? Contact Rosemary Morrison.

Mark Your Calendar And Volunteer For The Interfaith Shelter At Summit! Our congregation will be hosting the Interfaith Shelter for one week starting Saturday, April 7. We will need help with feeding, chaperoning and transporting our Shelter guests. In the next few weeks, look for Task Force members with sign up sheets for the various tasks involved in making this activity a success. Let's lend a helping hand to those less fortunate. Thank you from the Interfaith Shelter Task Force.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

- ♥ Please remember Tom Biggart in heart and mind as he recuperates from pneumonia.
- ♥ Gloria and Fred Gelineau are staying close to home while Fred continues to recover from his illness. Cards and calls would be welcome.
- ♥ Remember Elly and Mike Dotseth as they continue to deal with Mike's illness and upcoming layoff.

Who will next be caught Standing on the Side of Love?

Who would you like to nominate? If you would like to recognize someone for their loving and faithful service in our Fellowship, please send an e-mail to member Donna Daum describing who and why you would like to have them publically acknowledged during Community News time during Service on the 2nd Sunday each month. If you don't have email, pick up a form in the office or Greeting Room. You can leave them in the office or snail-mail them to Donna.

Summit has two membership directories;

...a paper edition and an edition on Summit's website (www.suuf.org). To make the directories identical, members and friends listed in the paper edition must register personally on the website. If your name is in the paper edition and you have not registered, please do so. If you are registered on the website and your address, phone number, or email address has changed, please update it. *It is important to keep the website directory up-to-date as Members and Friends often use the directory when contacting other Summitarians.* Instructions for registering and updating your information can be found by selecting Member Login on the website.

LaMar Rogers, Web Editor

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

Book Club

Please join us in discussing our next book, "*Hunger Games*" by Suzanne Collins at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 6th in the Salon. Teens are encouraged to join in on the discussion! Contact Gwen Baldwin if you are interested or have questions.

Choir Notes...

Choir practice meets at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights. If you have questions contact Jill Reis, Choir Director, at 619-244-6965, or jillerinr@gmail.com.

Earth Centered Spirituality Group

The **ECSG** will meet on Monday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Salon. This month's topic will be an overview of the basics of candle magic and how to develop your own spells, tailoring them to your specific need. Please feel free to join us. Bright Blessings

Freethinkers

On Monday, March 19th, at 7:00 pm we will present the documentary film "*I AM*" by Hollywood comedy director Tom Shadyac (Ace Ventura and others) finds him conversing with prominent philosophers and spiritual leaders about what ails our world and how we can improve it. Shadyac finds insights and inspiration from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, historian Howard Zinn, philosopher Noam Chomsky and other luminaries. Carol and Wendell Rawlins find this film has answers to what Ayn Rand and current economists have done to our culture.

Hiking Club

I would like to invite you to join our hike on Sunday, March 11th. Come and enjoy the great outdoors together with fellow Summitarians. We will be meeting at 12:15 pm in front of the library at Summit. More details on the hike will be posted in the weekly Enews 1-2 weeks before the hike. For more info please contact Kerstin Crowe via email or phone.

Library Committee

Lifelong learning books at Summit Library!

Our latest newsletters and e-news are reporting a great number of wonderful educational groups, classes, and topics. We've got the "Compassion" reading group, the discussion on "Aging", the "Freethinkers" are studying the history of modern religion, and the ongoing "meditators" and "earth centered Spiritualists."

Visit the library's following sections for your reading pleasure: Aging , History, Meditation, Religion (Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Other, etc.), Spirituality, and more. Check them out!

For people who want to avoid reality, please select from our expanded fiction section. Seek and ye shall find !!

Joanna Jones for the Library Committee

Meditation - Wed., 8:30 AM -Salon; Sunday, 8:00 AM -Sanctuary

Why meditate? "It's like coming home." Meditation is pausing to join to that which feels missing, and enlarges or completes us when we find it. We meditate to find, to recover, to come back to something of ourselves we only dimly and unknowingly had and have lost without knowing what it was or where or when we lost it.

Meditation is a practice, and needs to be practiced, like anything worth doing. We sit in chairs, in meditation and/or silent prayer for the concerns of our hearts or of others who have asked to be remembered. You needn't be experienced. We are lifted by the shared intention and spiritual energy of one another.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We meet in the library at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. PFLAG is an international organization (www.pflag.org) created by families and friends to gain understanding of and support for our gay loved ones.

Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families, and friends through support. Our role is to be good listeners, to share some of our experiences when appropriate, and to acquaint them with other resources. For more info contact Bob and Mary Dryden.

Piano Club

If you like to play piano, and for others to listen as you do, please join us at a Club member's home. Contact Ed Davis or Roy McDonald for information and this month's location.

Summit Gift Shop Now Open! Check out what's new!

Perhaps you've noticed the 2 tall, glass shelves in the Salon. They house a variety of items for sale, with profits going to support Summit and all its many efforts. Summit artists and crafters will be supplying a steady supply of gift items and cards. Currently, there several of Lois Santalo's books available for \$10 each. Payment is on the honor system -- just slip your money through the slot at the top of the locked wooden cashbox.

Diane Slagle is coordinating the "shop." Artists and crafters who are interested in contributing items, please e-mail Diane.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hear here! The next event in the Salon, Saturday, March 17th, is **Storytelling with Fred Laskowski!** As a Marriage and Family Therapist working in the public schools, Fred's storytelling abilities enliven and enrich his interactions with the students. He has been featured at numerous public and private storytelling events including the Sam Hinton Folk Heritage Festival, and the University of San Diego Adult Storytelling Concert Series. Before there was the written word, the storytellers were the keepers of the

history of the people. In many cultures, storytellers were considered the most important people in the village. Before there was science, the world was described through story. Early man understood that if you lost your stories, you lost a piece of yourself. Fred loves to tell stories from around the world, from folk tales to true tales. He especially likes to tell stories of magic, mystery, and transforming power. His program of stories of peace and non-violence in a tumultuous world is particularly relevant today, at this particular event Fred will be focusing on (dazzling us with) stories of Ireland. More information to follow in the enews.

Circle Dinners *Build Community!*

Circle Dinners *Welcome New Members and Friends!*

Circle Dinners are *fun!*

Dear Summit Members and Friends,

Do you want to get know people at Summit better but find Sunday Café just isn't enough? Do you long for a night out and away from your kids? Maybe you would like your kids to get to know other adults at Summit outside of CRE? Do you like good food and interesting conversation?

Have you ever been to a Circle Dinner? Oh, you ask, "What are Circle Dinners?"

Circle Dinners are potluck dinners intended to build community among long-standing and new members and friends of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. They align with UU principles affirming human worth, dignity, compassion, and acceptance of one another. Circle Dinners provide a welcoming and informal environment to get to know others in the Fellowship by sharing a meal and conversation. All members and friends are welcome to participate.

Circle Dinner participants are asked to sign-up ahead of time and observe the Host and Guest Commitments to ensure a pleasant experience. Families are welcome, though it will be up to the host if they can accommodate parents with children and how many. This will be indicated during sign-up.

Host Commitment

- ▶ Host a dinner for 7-10 (including host/s) people on Circle Dinner Saturday.
- ▶ Make an entrée and coordinate the rest of the meal among your guests, striving to accommodate guests who are vegetarian or vegan or have food allergies.
- ▶ Be welcoming to parents and children if your home or meeting site can accommodate
- ▶ Provide a physically-accessible space for the meal, either in your home or by hosting in the Salon.
- ▶ Be welcoming and have fun!

Guest Commitment

- ▶ Be on time for Circle Dinner Saturday.
- ▶ Provide a dish based on the host's needs.
- ▶ If you are a parent bringing your child/children bring be sure to bring toys, books, videos, blankets or special foods your child might need.
- ▶ Arrange your own transportation to the host's location.
- ▶ Bring an appetite and an open mind and have fun!

The first Circle Dinner of 2012 will be on **Saturday, March 24.**

Sign-ups, to either host or be a guest, begin Sunday, Feb 5th before and after Sunday Service. Please join us and get to know this beloved community better!

Pilar Placone-Willey

The 2011 Auction is still Giving!

Summit's Annual Auction was a great success! If you missed the fun, it is not too late. There are 2011 Auction items still available. To learn more, go to www.suuf.org, click on "Auction", and download "2011Auction-StillAvailable." If you would like to participate in any of these events, please call the office, 619-562-0833 and ask to have your name added to the list. Linda will send you an invoice for the item(s) you request.

Here's a summary with catalog numbers and titles:

These offerings come from Dr. Shannyn Fowl, and have been reduced to \$5 per person. Dr. Shannyn practices Naturopathic Medicine which offers natural healthcare options in lieu of pharmaceuticals and surgery. Naturopathic Doctors (ND) are trained in the medical sciences, standard medical protocols and pharmaceuticals just as their MD colleagues in addition to nutrition, botanicals, homeopathy and many other tools. Finding the cause, using the power of nature and prevention are a few of the tenets that give NDs a completely different way of looking at healthcare for the individual.

#107 *Natural Health Topic of Your Choice* - Sat., April 28th at 10:00 am in the Salon. Topics may include Stress Management, Wellness, the Immune System, your choice!

#115 *Cholesterol & Hypertension* - Sat., March 24 at 10:00 am in the Salon. This workshop will touch on the reasons for cholesterol and hypertension and natural treatment options.

#170 *Osteoporosis & Bone Health* - Sat., May 5 at 10:00 am in the Salon. Come learn how to protect your bones and the natural tools available.

#163 *Night Club Two-Step Dance Workshop* - \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, TBA; In this 2-hour workshop you will learn the easy three step partner dance. "The Waltz" of night club dancing.

#171 *Summer Latin Fiesta* - Sat., July 21 - \$25 per person; You can expect yummy, delectable Mexican food, perfect margaritas, and a dynamite out door party atmosphere at the "party" home of Greg and Stephanie Williams.

#325 *High Tea with Neal & Nancy* - \$35 per person, Memorial Day weekend; Come have tea and scones in the Biggart's beautiful garden setting!

Another Way to Stay Informed

The newsletter you are reading is our monthly *Scene at Summit*.

If you wish to receive the weekly Summit Enews in your email, contact Pam Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net and I will be happy to add you to the email list.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Dr. Frank Willey: 619-562-0833, ex. 203 / UUFrankPW@aol.com

Emergencies and appointments: 619-889-0312

Office Schedule: Tues. - 9:00 a.m. - 12: noon and 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. - 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Children's Religious Exploration: DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, 619-562-0833, ex. 205 / summitdre@gmail.com

Office Admin.: Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net

President: Pierre Vaughn, pv@pierrevaughn.com