

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

Vol. 22 No. 9

September 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

Sept. 2: *"Chop Wood, Carry Water--and Stand Up for Your Brothers & Sisters"*

Mark Weedman and Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

On this Labor Day Sunday, our Property Steward Mark Weedman will lead us in reflecting upon the nature of work. In our stories, readings and meditations drawing from the Buddhist tradition, we will recognize and give thanks for those whose labor provisions our lives, and remember the champions of the labor movement, including the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice of San Diego County.

Sept. 9: *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds Us Together in Love"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Come join our annual Ingathering Service as Summit Members and Friends celebrate beloved community in song, story, and play, and begin our new year of Religious Exploration.

Sept. 16: *"Beyond Belief: From Dogma to Pragma"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Our Living Tradition has placed much more emphasis on "Right Action" than "Right Belief." Historically, this has enabled our Universalist faith to continue growing and evolving when other religious communities have found themselves fixed in mindsets and traditions of the past. Come learn what makes us distinct from other religious communities descended from Jewish and Christian roots, and how it is that we can be a community of believers and non-believers together.

Sept. 23: *"I Woke Up This Morning And There Was No Summit!"*

Big deal or no big deal? Do you think "OMG" or "Oh, well"? This Sunday, four Summitarians will respond to the idea of a world without Summit. Why now? Because this service kicks off the beginning of envisioning Summit's future and what better way to start than to ponder the need for Summit's existence. So please join us to hear more about how this visioning process will evolve. Summit needs you. Let's make this community an extension of each and everyone of us!

Sept. 30: *"Transforming Conversations: Voices of Animals in the Interdependent Web"*

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, Palomar UU Fellowship

All animals, humans included, have a unique voice. We are used to hearing the voices of other humans, and many of us enjoy the 'sounds' of birds chirping or kittens purring. What might it be like if we truly listened to the voices of other animals? How might we be transformed? In this service, Rev. Beth will explore how the interdependent web of all existence pulses with many voices and how we might be in conversation with them. A version of this sermon won the Albert Schweitzer Reverence for Life Sermon Award, and is based on Rev. Beth's doctoral work. Rev.

Beth is the president of UU Animal Ministry, formerly UFETA. This service is in preparation for Summit's "Blessing of the Animals" celebration on the following Sunday, October 7th.

—ATTENTION—

**The Scene at Summit's October 2012 edition deadline will be
Monday, September 24th.**

From the minister's Rolltop:

"In spiritual community, we are committed to building a compassionate, just and sustainable world." ~The Mission Statement of Summit UU Fellowship

This year we will break in our new mission statement, using it as a guide in our congregational planning, programming and outreach.

There has been a small, good natured, and understandable controversy over the use of the word spiritual in describing our mission. In the past, some of us have held largely negative associations with people and organizations identified as spiritual. However, it seems that the majority of people in our congregation either like the word, or are indifferent enough to vote in favor of its use. And so here it is, right up front, integral to our collective identity and direction.

Because I'm interested in encouraging all of us to understand and use our new mission statement, I would like to suggest that the word spiritual can be embraced and understood in ways that are quite appropriate for guiding and shaping our life and work as Unitarian Universalists. Webster's defines the word spiritual as anything "of, relating to, consisting of, or affecting the spirit" or "of anything relating to sacred matters." This, of course, then raises the questions: "What is spirit?" and "What is sacred?"...and invites a deep and rich conversation about who and whose we are, what we are doing here, and what is important to us.

When some of us hear the word "spiritual" we immediately think it must refer to something supernatural--ghosts or invisible gods and such. We tend to automatically associate spirituality with metaphysical beliefs and superstition. Throw in the fact our UU Living Tradition largely rejects any notion of the supernatural, then it is no small wonder that some of us are uncomfortable with the language of spirit.

All the same, you and I too often give up on words like spirit and spirituality. We do this because we have seen and experienced how the words have been used wrongly to abuse, exclude, or take advantage of us and our fellow beings. But in running away from them, we abandon our religious heritage and, beyond that, abdicate our rightful claim to such words and the potential power they hold in informing the cultivation of virtue and moral activity.

Etymologically, the word spirit comes from the Latin word spiritus, which in its most basic and natural sense, means "wind" or "breath." In the context of our Living Tradition it refers to that which animates living being, including the capacities so wonderfully evident in the phenomenon of consciousness itself.

So how might we Summitarians more comfortably think of and use the word spiritual as we live and work together to fulfill our mission? Here are a few possibilities to consider:

- To be spiritual does not require that one believes in something supernatural. Indeed, as our Transcendentalist forbearers stated in the strongest possible way, that which is sacred is revealed and discoverable in nature; it is not something separate from or above it, or foreign to it.
- To be spiritual is to be dedicated to all that animates, ennobles and enriches the spirit of humans and other beings, the spirit that is centered in, and marvelously evident in, the phenomenon of consciousness itself.
- To be spiritual is to be concerned with the sacredness of life and this earth our home.
- To be spiritual is to hold a vision for the world that is not yet, and which must yet be.
- To be spiritual is to be involved with all that promises to further our evolution toward a world where compassion, peace and justice reign.
- In other words, to be spiritual—to borrow from Gandhi—is to commit ourselves to being and becoming the change in the world that we want to see—a change that clearly manifest in the tangible experiences of daily living.

So sisters and brothers of the spirit—energies manifest in flesh and blood and bone, as well as those energies manifest in thought, emotion, memory and hope—let us without ceasing bow to that which is sacred in each other and all of life.

Namaste, Rev. Frank

From our Summit Leadership

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

There is a lot of business to report, which was conducted at the Board retreat and meeting on August 18th.

First, with regard to budgetary items:

Financial Reserves: The Congregation has had an informal policy of maintaining reserves of unrestricted funds at \$30,000. This is the number which we hoped to begin each new fiscal year with. In most years, we would fall below that level at various times, then go above it following the auction, and end up at that figure on or about July 1st of each year. This, at least, was the goal. In the last two fiscal years, we have actually done much better in increasing our reserves. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, our members are generous and committed. This last year we collected 98.5% of the amounts that were pledged. Also, we had many new pledges, as well as auction income, which exceeded the amount budgeted. Finally, the Finance Committee is to be credited for making realistic estimates of our income expectation.

Payment on mortgage principal: Our current written agreement on our mortgage acquires interest at 6%. The treasurer reports that this is a very good rate for a commercial loan. In addition, this agreement requires principal payments of approximately \$10,000 per year. In 2010-2011, we were able to make this payment only by using part of the Moores' bequest.

Beginning this last fiscal year, we have had an oral agreement to pay only about half the principal for a three year period from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2014. This would result in us being approximately \$15,000 behind as of July 1, 2014.

Unforeseen expenses during the fiscal year: The bylaws require that an annual budget be presented to the Congregation for approval. It does not say how to handle expense items which come up during the fiscal year and after the budget has been passed. Two examples have already occurred. We had only \$800 budgeted for the installation, and the task force involved requested an additional \$1,000. The Board approved this request. This is still a very modest budget for installation. The Board also approved a “Visioning Process” to help further communication, congregational input, community building, and strategic planning. By next May, we hope to develop a five year plan. The ad hoc committee requested a budget allocation of \$1,000. This was also approved by the Board.

The Board therefore approved the following recommendations of the Finance Committee: Unrestricted financial reserves are to be targeted at \$45,000, and the Congregation is to be notified if the reserves ever fall below \$30,000 at any time during the fiscal year. (We currently have approximately \$50,000 in unrestricted reserves, pending the principal payment outlined below.)

Use a portion of the surplus from this last fiscal year to pay the mortgage principal of approximately \$5,000-\$6,000, which was deferred under the oral agreement. We will also put the deferred payment for the current fiscal year into a restricted fund. This will be paid next July 1, so that we will be current on all principal payments.

The Board can vote to spend up to \$5,000 of the reserves, (about 2% of the annual budget) on items that arise during the fiscal year. Any amounts above that will be submitted for Congregational approval.

Thanks, Pierre Vaughn

Denominational News (go to UUA.org for so much more information)

There is SO MUCH going on with Unitarian Universalists it is difficult to keep you updated on everything you might be interested in so here are some tidbits and resources:

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the UU Association (UUA) have recently joined in a collaboration to create the College of Social Justice (UUACJSJ). UUSC roots go back to WWII and is/was (not sure of status now) an associate member of the UUA. To learn more about UUSC’s justice and humanitarian work, its history and its success visit website <http://uusc.org/>.

The UUA/UUSC College of Social Justice is not an “actual” college, like SDSU. I believe the vision is to encourage more UUs to become involved in not only service projects but involved in social action that could lead to changes for a more just world. In a continuation of promoting these experiences, being offered right now is service-learning trips to the southwest U.S. and the borderlands of Mexico. The purpose is for UUs to learn firsthand about the complex struggles of the immigrant community (Summitarians including Rev. Frank have taken trips) and then bring back to the congregations ideas to engage in immigration justice in their own community. Visit the website <http://uucsjsj.org/> for more on UUA/UUSC CSJ info.

Borderland Trips: February and May 2013. Visit website <http://uucsj.org/trips/> for a pdf bulletin on these trips and information on all the trips being planned nationally and internationally.

Immigration as a Moral Issue is the most current (2010-2014) Congregational Study/Action (CSAI) being studied along with the CSAI Ethical Eating. Visit www.uua.org/justice for in depth information and resources on immigration and the other justice work being done by the UUA. One new project (has no official name yet) in San Diego County and Orange County is an interfaith visitation program that is involved in local immigration justice. Some UUs are being trained to become "friends" with inmates at privately owned detention centers where undocumented people are held. Watch for future news about this important effort.

Lastly, for this month's news: our Pacific Southwest District of UU congregations is growing! Annually hundreds of UUs from California, Arizona and Las Vegas have gathered at an assembly. In April 2013, for the first time, our PSWD is combining with Northern CA, Oregon, and Washington congregations for an assembly in San Jose, CA. Watch for future news on this!

In case you are already getting excited about going to the UUA General Assembly 2013 (maybe even being a Summit delegate), for now know that it will be in Louisville, KY in later June.

Submitted by Jennifer White, Denominational Diva/Liaison

The Directory

The Summit staff and leadership make every effort to protect the contact information of our members and friends of the congregation. We have recently become aware that the directory of members and friends may be in the hands a non-member and want our members and friends to be aware of this.

Should you be contacted by someone who claims to be related to Summit and whom you don't know personally please let us know. In the meantime, please do not give any personal assistance or information to such a person or persons.

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

The start of the school year is upon us already. Summer just flew by and was filled with planning, preparation and training for our new fall Religious Exploration programs. Here is a recap of our summer programs and a peek at what we have planned for the 2012-13 year.

Summer of Fun & Fantasy!

This year we had two summer offerings in CRE. For our youngest children, pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade, I wrote a curriculum using the works of Eric Carle. He has written many books, beautifully illustrated, that offer ideas to explore that are a good fit with our UU principles. Some titles that we have explored included *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *A House for Hermit Crab*, *The Grouchy Lady Bug* and *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, eleven all together. We focused on one title each week, did activities and had discussion based on the theme offered by the book. *A House for*

Hermit Crab taught us about making new friends and living in community – the story was used as a guide to create our classroom covenant. At our class on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* we had real caterpillars and chrysalis to observe as we learned about the life cycle of these amazing insects. For *The Grouchy Lady Bug* we talked about strong feelings like being angry and how we deal with them in a positive way. The book *10 Little Rubber Ducks* was inspired by the dumping of 28,000 rubber bath toys in the ocean. We learned about the impact of discarded items on our oceans and talked about caring for the earth. Children created lots of bright beautiful artwork and for our end of the summer party will be making gluten free pancakes. Our average attendance for this program each Sunday has been 8 children with 3 adult leaders.

Our older children and teens returned to **Hogwarts Summer School Year II** by popular request. We once again worked with Anna Fowler to pilot her fun program and added some lessons of our own. We repeated popular lessons like “Wand Making” & “QUUdditch” and added others like “Potions II” and “Kitchen Witchery”. The summer ended with the “Second Annual Summit QUUdditch Cup” game played in the Sanctuary and a Hogsmead Party and OWL test for wizard proficiency. This has been a very popular program and has children and youth encouraging their parents to get up early on a summer Sunday to come to Summit. Our average weekly attendance for this program was 17 children and youth and 3 adult leaders with two record days of 21 students!

With both programs, summer CRE attendance has averaged 25 students & 6 adults each Sunday. That’s amazing for summer Sundays!

Summer UU Camp

Thanks to the support of the fellowship, we were able to provide half scholarships to eight children and youth to attend a week long, sleep-over, at UU Camp at deBennville Pines. This camp in the San Bernardino Mountains is owned and run by the UU Pacific South West District. Each summer (and winter), they offer week long camps for Elementary, Middle and Senior High UUs. Summit made it possible for two students to attend elementary camp (my son was one of them). Both boys came back with new UU friendships and a deepening of their UU identity. (This was especially appreciated by my family as the week that Colin was having this wonderful experience, my husband was having his surgery.) Our teens had a BLAST at Senior High Camp. They made friends with other UU teens all over PSWD and some have even had road trips to visit each other after camp. It is these experiences that, along with participating in a youth program, will build their UU identity and create lifelong UU’s. Again, the support of Summit UU Fellowship of the youth Rainbow Salad Bar and Camp Scholarship Fund made these experiences possible for the children and youth of our community. They are all excited to return this winter for Winter Camps!

Coming this Fall.....

Last month I detailed our new curriculums. You can find out more by visiting the CRE section of the SUUF website. Here is what we are offering:

- Prekindergarten to First Grade: Spirit Play
- Second & Third Grade: Moral Tales
- Fourth & Fifth Grade: Tool Box of Faith
- Middle School – Building Bridges
- High School Youth Group – YRUU

Teaching Teams have been created for each program thanks to all of you who said “YES!” to returning or to trying something new. None of this would be possible without you!

Back to CRE Night - Save the date

Back to CRE Night – Friday, Sept 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm – learn more about your child’s program and meet other parents and teachers.

Nursery

Due to increased interest in childcare during the service for young children we are currently working on a plan to re-open the Nursery later this fall.

Children’s RE Inter-Generational Social Gatherings:

- Ice Cream Social & BINGO – August 24
- Halloween Party – October 26
- Holiday Party & Ornament Making – Dec 14
- Spring Easter Egg Decorating – March 15
- End of the Year Picnic – June 16

Dates are subject to change based on space availability & volunteer participation in organization.

In addition we have plans for four Inter-Generational Services, a Youth Service and the Holiday Play. This year we hope to offer Our Whole Lives to our 4th & 5th Grade group and Senior High. The Youth Group will be working on plans to return to camp and visit other local UU youth at the cluster Cons. (Weekend sleepovers at other churches). We are also hosting a PSWD-LREDA training module in early February. This will bring RE professionals from all over the region to our Fellowship! More is in the works as time, energy and volunteer enthusiasm allows.

Children’s Religious Exploration Committee (CRE)

All of this activity and planning is made possible only with the participation of our CRE Committee. The committee, chaired by Elinor Weed, is composed of parents, teachers and others from Summit interested in providing a well-rounded religious exploration program for our children and youth. They support the Director of Children’s Religious Exploration with planning and by volunteering to work on projects or to just help out. We are looking for more committee members so please let Elinor or Mary Carter-Vail know if you want to be part of the team. Children’s Religious Exploration is a ministry to the children and youth of Summit UU Fellowship. It is our gift to the future generation of Unitarian Universalists. This is important work that we do. Your help and support is paramount to the success of this effort. Thank you for your continued dedication to this effort.

Peace, Mary Carter-Vail / Summitdre@gmail.com\
Dir. of Children’s Religious Exploration for SUUF

Adult Religious Exploration

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

Memoir Writing Group / Lois Santalo: Friday, September 14th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, September 15th, 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Summit Salon. Come play with words and discover the poet within. All levels of writing experience welcome. If you have any questions please call Margo Mariana at 619-465-7909. No registration necessary.

Rev. Frank Invites You to Read and Discuss a Book:

I have recently been encouraging people to read a recent work by moral psychologist Jonathan Haidt, entitled *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (2012). If you are interested in how and why Liberals and Conservatives think differently, and up-to-date research that challenges us to communicate more effectively with those who live on a different part of the religious and political spectrum from us, then I recommend it. I will be leading some lecture and discussion classes on this book in late September, October, and November, after the national election. There will be classes both in the morning and evening so that more people will have the opportunity to participate, so stay tuned for actual dates and times. If you would like to participate in the classes, please read and become familiar with Haidt's research and his interpretations of the question represented in the book's title.

Warning: While this book has definite implications for how we live out our UU Principles and Purposes, it will probably not be of much interest to you unless you like to think about and discuss some of the more profound questions having to do with religion, psychology, and philosophies of human nature, community and spirituality.

While you are at it, you can go to yourmorals.org, and have fun responding to some or all of the many questionnaires. Haidt and colleagues have been using this website to do research and to help people see where they fall on the liberal-conservative spectrum, as he defines it. Haidt's book is available on Amazon, in both Kindle and book format.

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

Why meditate? "It's like coming home." 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.

The Meditation Group is sponsoring Lynn Manyfires' offer of free Sacred Healing sessions to interested Summitarians, 4 healings per week. This offer is being made in honor of those in our Beloved Community who recently stepped forward on the side of love to help her, and is available through Thursday, September 28th. If you would like to schedule a free Sacred Healing

session or find out more about it, please contact Lynn at 619-659-8284 or at manyfires4@yahoo.com. All are welcome!

Summit Ministries

Caring Committee

We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page and JoAnn Swanson 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., September 4th, 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 for more info.

Social Action Corner - Service Is Our Prayer

Helping Others in East County and Beyond

Summitarians acting locally:

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 for your canned and boxed food gifts. Next time you're shopping why not pick up one or two extra items to drop in the basket?

Summitarians acting globally:

Collection for Esperanza- On August 20 the congregation very generously donated \$360 towards a student's tuition at Colegio La Esperanza in Tijuana! Many thanks to all of you for your generosity in improving the life of a child in need.

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

Environmental: Bring your used household batteries to Summit and we'll dispose of them safely for you. Look for the collection basket in the greeting room.

Financial: Fair Trade Coffee- September 16. Put your money toward a great cause – purchase fair trade coffee! You can also place a special order to make sure you never have to go without. Chocolate is not shipped to us in the warm summer months, however. Summit's teens are now running this program- if you have any questions, please contact Gary Baldwin.

Social Action Sunday: The third Sunday of the month (September 16) 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. Questions? Contact Rosemary Morrison.

Within the Congregation

Member & Friend News

♥ Vivienne Jacobson continues to receive good care at home. She and Charles greatly appreciate the cards and expressions of love and affection they have received from our Summit family.

♥ Paul Vail, husband to our DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, has been recovering well after his heart surgery in early July. He's well enough to be antsy to get back to work! Take care, Paul!

♥ Al Mork and Ferne Gaarder have made it to South Dakota! But not without a couple of changes in their course along the way. Ferne became ill in New Mexico and was hospitalized a day (or two). Al has had some health issues since they arrived. But both are healing and resting up.

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 (or fill out a form, available in the office or the Greeting Room) to member Donna Daum describing who you would like to have publicly acknowledged and why. The acknowledgement takes place during Community News time in the Service on the 2nd Sunday each month.

Did you know Summit has its own Facebook page?

Check it out! (And feel free to add your voice to the mix!) Don't worry -- we'll "Friend" you!! <http://www.facebook.com/SummitUUF> Questions? Contact Trish Ladd, Summit's Facebook guru, at trishzwei@gmail.com.

Bloggers Wanted:

Take note: Summit is developing a new website. We plan to include lots of regular blog entries from different members and committees. Interested? Email slagle.diane@gmail.com with subject line "Blogging."

Another Way to Stay Informed:

The newsletter you are reading is our monthly Scene at Summit. If you wish to receive Summit's weekly in your email, or to make a submission, contact Pam Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net. To contribute to the eNews, or the Classifieds:

- * send by Wednesday evening
- * Include title of Program, Day of the week, Date, Time, Location, Contact information and short description.
- * If you have a picture to include, send it in jpg.
- * Send items in the body of the email, no attachments please
- * Send items each week you wish to see them.

Editor: Pam Kerr, Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net

Summit's Potpourri of Programs

Book Club

Hi Summit Book Club, The book we decided to read this month is *The Monkey Wrench Gang* by author Edward Abby.

We also decided on several book titles for the coming months. They are :

September: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto, Fist Fight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexi

October: *Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain

November: *An Object of Beauty* by Steve Martin

December: *Helios Legacy* by Alexander Okeefe

January: *Evening Song* by Gail Goodwin

Choir Notes...

The 2012-13 year is upon us, which means it is time to sing our hearts out! Choir rehearsals started Aug 22nd, 7:00 - 8:30pm. Our first "Choir Sunday" will be the Ingathering service on Sept. 9th. We will also sing for Frank's Installation Service on Sept. 30th. Other special services this season we will be performing for include: Christmas Eve, MLK Jr. Day, Easter, Mother's Day, and of course Music Sunday! If you are interested in joining the choir, please email or text Jill Reis, Choir Director, ASAP. I'm looking forward to another great year with some of my favorite singers!

Sincerely, Jill Reis

Earth Centered Spirituality Group ...

is hosting a drumming circle on Saturday, September 1st, at 6:00 p.m. in the Summit Sanctuary. Summitarian Trish Ladd is the contact person for this event. Everyone is invited to participate.

ECSG has invited Lynn Manyfires to lead a class entitled "Calling on Your Medicine" in the Summit Salon on Saturday, September 22nd, 5:00 p.m., in the Summit Salon. All are welcome!

What Is a Talking Circle?

In Native American cultures, there is a ceremony for those things in our lives which are "left un-said" called a 'Talking Circle'. It is a way for people to share those things left "un-said" in their lives. A Talking Stick (or feather) is passed clockwise to each member of the circle, and that person shares their truth while others listen respectfully. The Talking Stick is then passed to the next person. When each member has had the chance to speak, members are then invited to share their comments or ask questions. The only Rules of a Talking Circle are: Participants are asked to speak honestly and truthfully from the heart; to be brief and to listen attentively, without interruption and to be supportive and encouraging of each other. Contact: Lynn Manyfires. All are welcome! (no politics please)

If you're interested in attending, here are the coming dates:

Oct 20th 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Salon)

Nov 17th 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Salon)

Dec 15th 10:00 am -12:00 pm (Salon)

Jan 19th TBA (Salon)

Freethinkers

... will meet September 17th in the salon at 7:00 PM. The program will be the first part of Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth with Bill Moyers. This video series is a total of six one hour long pieces. The first episode is titled The Hero's Adventure. Following the video we will have a short discussion and then decide if we care to view the remaining 5 pieces at subsequent meetings. Questions-call Bob Dryden.

I'm Not Done Yet!

The next "I'm Not Done Yet!" discussion group will be on September 25th at 2:30 pm in the Salon. If you would like to be on the list for these meetings contact Neal Biggart.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We meet in Summit's 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 on Sept. 20th, at 3:00 at a Club member's home. Contact Ed Davis or Roy McDonald for information and this month's location.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Walden Project!

We'll be Raising the Walls on Summit's Walden House on Saturday, September 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you would like to join that day's work party or join in a community pot-luck luncheon, please call the Summit Office and let us know!

Ready... Set... Auction!

Our annual Services Auction is coming up on November 10, 2012. What would YOU like to offer to the other members and friends of Summit? The Annual Auction is our major social event planner for Summitarians to help one another and play together for the next year! Cook a meal... fix a wheel... sing a song...play along...weed some yards...play some cards... teach a skill... eat your fill...give a ride... YOU DECIDE! Use your imagination!

To learn more, or to volunteer, please contact Elinor Weed.

From Within the San Diego UU Cluster

Exhibit on Margaret Fuller at First Church September 7th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Bard Hall

"Why Margaret Fuller Matters" is an exhibit of ten display panels designed to answer the question of why this great nineteenth-century figure remains important two centuries after her birth, will be presented in Bard Hall during September, sponsored by UU Women and the Art Guild. The Exhibit includes brief sketches of her key colleagues; information about her life, her views on women's rights, education, class, slavery, American Indian rights, religion, and Transcendentalism; and her world view, and her vision of a just world. An opening reception, sponsored by UU Women, will be held on Friday, September 7th from 7 to 9 p.m. in Bard Hall. A brief talk on historical background of the time period covered and additional information about Fuller will be presented at 7:30. Refreshments will be provided. Fuller was a Unitarian and one of the leading Transcendentalists (along with Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott). She also was a well-known literary critic, thinker, journalist, editor, and first ever foreign-correspondent for a US news source.

Unitarian Universalist Men's Fellowship 2012 Fall Renewal Camp Cedar Glen / Sept. 21-23, 2012 at Julian, CA

Race to Nowhere - Why Wealth, Power, and Sex are not enough!

The weekend will include workshops, deep sharing, music and drumming, silence, ritual, songs, laughter, and great food. Fill out a registration form (available in the Greeting Room and office) and send it along to us with an initial deposit of \$25 to hold a spot. It is our policy to support dues paying brothers who may have financial difficulties. For info on scholarship assistance or for questions about this event, please contact Kim Cohn (captainj@lightspeed.net or 858-384-2209) or John Holl (johnholl@cox.net or 619-546-6525). Registration fee includes food, lodging, and all programs and activities. Please respond by Sept. 7, 2012.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Rev. Dr. Frank Placone-Willey: 619-562-0833, ex. 203 / UUFrankPW@aol.com
Emergencies and appointments: 619-889-0312
Office Schedule: Tues. - 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thurs. - 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 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