

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

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February 2013

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is [www.suuf.org](http://www.suuf.org), where the Newsletter can be read & Sermons can be heard. 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**

**February 3rd:** *"Ask a Witch"* Trish Ladd and Karen Naves

When you hear the word 'Witch', what do you think of? A mean lady? An old woman on a broomstick wearing a pointed hat? A wise woman communing with nature? Most people these days, upon hearing about Wicca, make many assumptions, some right and some wrong. In reality, Wicca--as with the many other Earth-Centered spiritual traditions we count among the sources of our UU Living Tradition--represents a very diverse community of practitioners. So we invite you to come join us this Sunday, and learn more about Wicca from real, practicing witches.

**February 10:** *"Gay, Straight and In Between"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In a celebratory conclusion to the Unitarian Universalist Association's *30 Days of Love*, we will revisit what it means to be a welcoming congregation. Rev. Frank's reflection will review the natural processes of human sexual development and why we UU's are committed to the full inclusion of persons of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual orientation, and all "others" in our human family who have been victims of discrimination and exclusion.

**February 17:** *"Making the Dream Come True"*

Do you have a dream? Have you ever made a dream come true? What is involved in this life changing process? Come hear Debbie Wingard, Ed Davis and Jill Reiss share their journey in making a personal dream come true in their lives. The Close Enough Band will provide the music. After service, the congregation will be divided into groups and begin envisioning a future for Summit. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Let's make our dreams for Summit a reality! Food will be provided.

**February 24:** *"We've Got the Power!"*

The power for living a life dedicated to the pursuits of goodness, beauty and truth is available to you and me...but sometimes we just don't know how to find that power, much less draw upon it. Rev. Frank will invite us to search for and discover our individual and collective power for living well together in our stressful, mundane and often mixed-up world.

**—ATTENTION—**

*The Scene at Summit's March 2013 edition  
deadline will be *Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>*.*

*No "if, ands, or buts."*

## FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:



your gentle breath  
kisses the skin  
of this just discovered  
spring within  
spiriting  
fragrant petals  
from afar  
that fall  
and trace  
and skim  
my quiet  
sure  
face

their touch  
charges every nerve  
with mystic surges  
driving  
diving downward  
like death's erotic  
howling pall  
to meet  
and break  
and dissipate  
with sweet love's awakening  
lost  
in burgeoning bubbles  
boiling upward  
from the source of all

they rise and break into whole air  
free  
complete and aware  
blessing us  
to see  
everywhere  
open hearts  
in a moment

of perfect embrace

Namaste, ~ Rev. Frank

## FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

*From the Denominational Affairs Committee*  
(or *Denominational Connection Committee*, still deciding)

Last month's newsletter described the newly established Committee and what its purpose is. Our main mission is to be a link to connect Summit's congregation with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Member Congregations.

Here is a partial list of the benefits that are available by being a Summit member of the UUA:

- ◇ Each Summit member gets a free subscription of the quarterly *UU World*, a magazine that was founded in 1819. It is an informative collection of articles about UU life. It tells us the latest social justice issues that UUs are involved with in action and study, has stories written by ministers and lay people, beautiful poetry and art, and a section for use by children and families. Also on the web at [uuworld.org](http://uuworld.org)
- ◇ UUA.org website is rich with resources about social justice, RE, Sunday Service elements, sermons, UU books, study actions voted on at General Assembly (annual UUA meeting) for congregations to research, study and take action. So much more. It's worth reading.
- ◇ Congregations can apply for Grants and Scholarships.
- ◇ Pays partial salary for our District Executive and leadership training and certificates for Directors of RE.
- ◇ We send delegates to democratically conduct denomination business at the UUA at GA and District meetings.

Important upcoming events and dates for planning ahead:

District Assembly (April 24-26, San Jose, CA), for the first time a Regional Assembly (added districts in No. CA, Oregon, and Washington).

General Assembly (June 20-24, Louisville, KY). Our membership count tells how many delegates are allowed. There are costs involved: registration, hotel, transportation. There are scholarships available through the GA planning committee and Summit. Ask a Board Member or a member of the Denominational Connections Committee for deadlines, costs and how to apply to be a delegate and obtain a scholarship. For more information: [uua.org/ga/](http://uua.org/ga/)

Watch for displays and more announcements from DCC in the coming months.

-Jennifer White, Interim Chair

### **The UU Curriculum For Reproductive Justice Is Now Available:**

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are called to answer the chilling political debate on reproductive rights with calls for reproductive 'justice' and respect for the fullness of every person's reproductive and sexual life. The election of the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling," is a milestone opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to live into this call. This curriculum was written to help UUs take on this call to action.

<http://www.uua.org/reproductive/calling/curriculum/index.shtml>.

## **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](http://www.suuf.org)

## **An Update from Summit's Nominating Committee**

The congregation is reminded that the **Nominating Committee** has begun the process of nominating members for the upcoming election of the Board of Directors.

Inasmuch as the Vice President is willing to become President, and the remaining board members have indicated they are willing to serve another term (for which they are eligible), the Nominating committee will nominate **one (1)** new board member (for the position of Vice President).

Members of the congregation are invited to submit their own name as a candidate, or to recommend the name of another member (whom they know to be eligible and willing to assume the duties).

Please do -NOT- recommend anyone without first verifying they are willing and eligible.

Eligibility requirements include membership (in good standing) for two years.

Partners & siblings (etc.) of current Board members; paid members of the congregation; and, those who are currently members of some committees (i.e., Committee On Ministry, Nominating committee, etc.), are -NOT- eligible for nomination.

If you want to submit a name (for consideration by the Nominating committee), contact one of the members, which include: Barbara Sorensen, Mary Dryden, Ed Henry, Jeff Garvey, Mark Bryning (chair)

Respectfully,

Mark Bryning, chair, Nominating Committee

## ***Finance Report Mid-year 2012-13***

At this time, January 16, we are just past the first half of the fiscal year and Summit is doing well on our financial front.

The 2012 Auction has brought in a net income of \$21,728, which covers our budget goal of \$21,500. Currently, there is \$2,528 yet to be collected for auction purchases. This is typical, and I'm confident those payments will come in.

The over-all pledge income is about \$5,000 more than we budgeted for this time of the year. This is also typical due to members sending in more pledge money before the end-of-the-year tax deadline. As April approaches, pledge income usually drops.

Our committees have been frugal and we haven't had any major maintenance repairs (maybe that shouldn't be said out loud!), so expenditures are \$4,000 under budget. The Landscape Committee is working on ways to save on the water bills as well. There are some issues with door repairs, but the roof is still holding! There are

some big expenses coming up with District Assembly, General Assembly, and the property insurance just to name a few.

**Cash balance** is currently \$103,743.

**Restricted funds** \$41,249. (\$ set aside for projects like Walden and UU camp scholarships, Interfaith Shelter)

**Operating cash** \$62,494. (of which minimum reserve cash \$30,000)

Summit is a wonderful and loving community. We've lost some dear members and friends this past year, and some of us are struggling with grief, health, and financial issues. Together in beloved community we will continue to comfort and "be the sunshine" to one another as we hold our ground as a liberal religious community.

- John McQuaide, Treasurer

### *UUA Annual Certification*

Each year by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, each UU congregation certifies their membership with the UUA. The following are Summit's Membership Certification numbers, with the last-year comparison:

	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Children's Religious Exploration attendance	45	50
Avg. weekly attendance	126	139
Non-member Friends	(not reported)	46
Total Expenses	\$217,061	\$235,058
Pledging Income	\$185,312	\$204,065
Number of Pledging Units	109	123
Total UU Members	152	158

At this time of year we also need to adjust our membership roster. During the annual year of 2012, 18 new members joined Summit; 1 member moved away; 3 members resigned; 3 members passed away; 4 have been inactive for more than 1 year and, pending Board approval, will be moved to non-member status (the above chart already reflects this change).

Summit pays dues to the UUA Annual Program Fund based on our membership count. Last fiscal year we paid the UUA \$55 per member for a total of \$8352. The per-member dues for the current fiscal have increased to \$58. We also pay \$24 per member to the Pacific South West District. Last fiscal year district dues came to \$3456. We also contribute support for the San Diego UU Network (SUUN), the SD Cluster of UU Churches. This amount may change pending SUUN planning for the next fiscal year.

- Linda Peck, Office Administrator

# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

## **Children's Religious Exploration News**

What is Children's Religious Exploration? It has been observed that we UU's are very fond of using terms that we think define what a group is doing but may in fact leave much unsaid. Children's Religious Exploration (aka CRE) is the umbrella under which the programming for children and youth is created here at Summit. It is more than "Sunday School" or childcare while a parent is at the service. The idea behind CRE is to create an opportunity for our young people to explore their spirituality and their Unitarian Universalist faith. One of the many goals of our CRE program is to provide a safe environment for this exploration that includes opportunities to question, learn and grow with the hope of raising lifelong Unitarian Universalists. This is accomplished not by one person but by a community committed to the journey. Summit is such a community.

Mid-January, our volunteer Religious Exploration Teaching Teams were invited to gather for our midyear planning meeting. There are 33 dedicated volunteers on our CRE Teaching Teams that make our Children's programs possible each Sunday. Each teaching team enjoyed a meal of homemade soups, kale salad and fresh bread as they had the opportunity to talk about how the year was going so far and to work on new ideas. The groups then worked to fit together a schedule that would cover spring classes while accommodating busy personal schedules. These planning meetings are what help our Children's Religious Exploration program to run smoothly. Thank you to all of the team members who worked on the spring schedules!

The first weekend in February our Fellowship will host a Renaissance Module. These Modules are training units created through the Unitarian Universalist Association for religious educators. Religious education professionals can take these trainings for professional development and work toward becoming credentialed. This training is the Administration Renaissance Module for religious education. Summit will have 14 Religious Educators, from California, Arizona and Michigan, on campus for fifteen hours of intensive training. This is an exciting opportunity for us to share our wonderful space with others from around the denomination.

One of my goals as a religious educator has been to learn so that I can bring more to our program. So far I have had the opportunity to participate in trainings on UU Identity and the Spirit Play program. My plan is to continue to learn new skills by participating in training opportunities with the goal of credentialing. Each spring at our district, and this year at regional assemblies, the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) provides additional training opportunities by bringing in professionals to share needed skills and providing networking opportunities for us to share our successes and challenges. These opportunities are invaluable as they provide me with the skills and inspiration necessary to support our teachers, families, children and youth through creative programming, curriculum and events. I look forward to continued professional growth to support our growing community.

### **CRE Events in 2013:**

*Sr. High OWL @ FUUSD starts – Jan 20 & 27 – Parent Orientation*

*Feb 2-April 13 – OWL Classes*

*Administration Training Module for Religious Education Professionals on Feb 1 & 2, 2013*

*Children's Religious Exploration Committee Meeting Feb 3 @ 12 noon*

*Interfaith Shelter—March 23 – April 6*

Youth Service – April 14

Rainbow Salad Bar – April 14

Bright Blessings,  
Mary Carter-Vail / [Summitdre@gmail.com](mailto:Summitdre@gmail.com)  
Dir. of Children's Religious Exploration

## **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, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

**Poetry Workshop:** Cancelled for February, will resume in March. 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.

### **~ Delving Deeper Into Our Living Tradition: Am I a Humanist?**

This class will meet three times. At each gathering there will be a presentation by Rev. Frank and a discussion of Mason Olds' book, *American Religious Humanism* (Revised Edition), University Press of America, 1977. The next meetings will be on Thursdays, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Each class will meet on those dates at 10:00-11:30 a.m. and be repeated in the evening, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Copies of Olds' book can be purchased on Amazon.com.

### **~ Spiritual Praxis Group: Starting with the Four Agreements**

We meet on the Second Tuesday (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>) of each month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Rev. Frank will be facilitating an experiential group for people who are interested in UU-friendly spiritual practices. The group will begin with an in-depth study and application of some of the practices behind Miguel Ruiz's best selling book, *The Four Agreements*. Warning! This group will be intense and personal and only of interest to people who are wanting to go deep and find a greater degree of personal freedom in their lives.

### ***Meditation - Wed., 8:30 a.m. -Salon; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. -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.

### **Spirituality Focus Groups are Happening at Summit:**

Rev. Frank has been hosting Spirituality Focus Groups here at Summit to help him and our community learn more about the religious, spiritual, and philosophical backgrounds, interests and practices of Summit Members and Friends. If you have not yet participated in one of these focus sessions, hang on, because you will be invited to do so sometime this winter.

## 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., February 5<sup>th</sup> 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 at for more info.

### **Social Action Corner - *Service Is Our Prayer***

Helping Others in East County and Beyond

#### **Summitarians acting locally:**

**January SAC collection:** Our annual Peanut Butter and Jelly collection yielded two big boxes of PB&J! These staples have been delivered to Crisis House to provide many low cost, high protein meals for families in need.

**February canned food drive:** Summit is pairing with the Santee Food Bank to provide canned food for local residents who have trouble making ends meet. SAC will be collecting canned goods throughout the month of February, with a goal of collecting 500 cans! Please bring a couple of cans with you when you come to Summit to help us toward this goal.

#### **Summitarians acting globally:**

**Kiva update:** Founded in 2005, Kiva is a non-profit organization connecting online lenders to small entrepreneurs in order to alleviate poverty. Since becoming a Kiva member in July, 2009 with an initial loan of \$350, Summit's microloans have supported women living in twenty-eight countries spread across the globe, including: Latin America, Africa, Central Europe, the Balkans, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and the South Pacific. Summit's loans have been used in the eight economic sectors of: agriculture, arts, clothing, food, housing, manufacturing, retail, and services. Summit has made 51 Kiva loans to date, totaling \$3,225. As money is repaid to us, it is used to make new loans in \$25 increments.

To learn more about how Kiva assists microloan recipients in creating better lives for themselves and their families., please visit [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org).

#### **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.

**Social Action Sunday: The third Sunday of the month (February 17th) is Social Action Sunday.** You are welcome to 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**

♥ Please keep Jai and Suzanne Ghorpade in your hearts and minds. Jai is recovering at Villa Las Palmas, 622 S. Anza, El Cajon. He is mostly non-responsive but it is good to have friends talking to him. The doctors say to keep your conversation simple and short.

♥ I am sad to report that Virginia Natwick, long-time member of our beloved community, passed away at her home on Monday, January 7th, sometime in the afternoon. Every indication was that her death was swift and peaceful. A memorial service celebrating her life and work will be held in our Sanctuary on Sunday, February 3, at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. -Rev. Frank

♥ Hal and Pat Summers invite you to our 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 2nd from 2:00 - 4:30PM in the salon at Summit. Come when you are able. No program planned. Light refreshments. No gifts please. RSVP to *Evite* or call: 619-589-0755.

### **Hiking Group**

We're planning our next hike and would like to invite you to join our hiking group and take pleasure in the great outdoors. On Sunday February 17th at 1:00 p.m., we'll be hiking Kwaay Paay Peak in Mission Trails. Time permitting we may also go along parts of the Oak Canyon Trail. If you would like to join us and are not yet in our group e-mail, please e-mail us at [k.crowe4@cox.net](mailto:k.crowe4@cox.net). We will send out an e-mail with more detailed instructions before the hike. Hope to see you there, Kerstin Crowe and family

### **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.

### **Another Way to Be Enlightened:**

This newsletter is our monthly *Scene at Summit*. If you would like to receive Summit's weekly eNews, or to contribute, contact Pam Kerr at [Suuf\\_volunteer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net) with your article by Wednesday evening.

\* Please include the day, date, time, location, and contact information.

\* If you have a picture to include, send it in!

Editor: Pam Kerr, [Suuf\\_volunteer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net)

### **Classifieds in the eNews!**

There are changes in the format and content of our weekly eNews. First change: We're adding a new "Classifieds" section, at the end. (Scroll down if you want to read it. Don't scroll down if you're not interested.) Here, you'll find services offered, items for sale, interesting events in the community, non-

Summit-related announcements, etc. Email your submission to [suuf\\_volunteer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net), and I'll print it in next week's eNews. (Note: It will appear only once. If you want it to appear each week, you'll need to re-submit each week.) **Deadline:** Submit your item Wednesday evening of each week.

## **SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS**

### **Book Club**

Hey there sports fans,

I'm sorry I didn't get this out more quickly... The next book on our agreed-upon list is *Helious Legacy*, by Alexander Okeefe. We'll meet in the Salon at 7:00 pm. I hope it's a fast and exciting read!! -Elly

### **Choir Notes...**

Choir practice will now start at 6:30 and go to 8:00 pm. If you are interested in joining, please email or text Jill Reis, Choir Director at [jillerinr@gmail.com](mailto:jillerinr@gmail.com) or 619-244-6965.

### **Economics and Current Affairs Program ...**

Meeting 21 February, 2:00 pm in the Salon: We will see a video provided by Google of Robert Reich explaining to leaders in Silicon Valley why and how he thinks the government must step in to improve the economy and make more jobs. He is a leading economist from UC Berkeley who served as Secretary of Labor under Bill Clinton. This is a serious presentation of our economic position and options.

### **Freethinkers...**

*"Spirit Possession, Trance & Ecstasy--What is Going On?"* Summit member, Ed Henry, retired Professor of Anthropology at SDSU, will give this presentation. Please join us on February 18th at 7:00 pm in the Salon.

### **Earth Centered Spirituality Group – IMBOLC Celebration**

It is time again to light the candles and celebrate the height of winter. **Imbolc** (also known as Candlemas) is when we recognize we have been through the longest night and are now in the depths of winter looking forward to spring. Join the Earth Centered Spirituality group in the Salon on Saturday, February 2nd, 6:00 p.m. to celebrate this holy day. Please bring a non-breakable vessel to drink from and a snack for afterwards.

### **I'm Not Done Yet! (a.k.a. INDY) ...**

Will meet February 26th, 2013, at 2:30 pm in the Salon. We are delving into ways to feed and train our memories with a short course on DVD. This will be followed by discussion about healthy eating, etc., all directed toward improving and maintaining our memories. Bring your concerns, ideas, and knowledge to share.

### **Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays**

We meet in Summit's library at 7:00 pm on the second Monday (Feb. 11) of each month. PFLAG is an international organization ([www.pflag.org](http://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 February 21st, at 3:00 at a Club member's home. Contact Ed Davis or Roy McDonald for information and this month's location.

### **Tai-Chi Anyone?**

**Sponsored by the Meditation Group:** Join us for Tai Chi every week on Thursday mornings at 9:30am in the Salon. With 14 easy-to-learn positions, this "Meditation in Motion" improves circulation and balance, relieves stress and creates deep relaxation. Easy to learn and easy to practice, it's great for all ages. Any questions, please contact Lynn ManyFires.

### **UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship**

As a reminder, we are continuing to explore the chapters "Exaltations: The Book of Psalms" (page 84) and "Frustrations: The Wisdom Literature and Job" (page 95) in the Buehrens text. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 17th at 5:00 pm in the SUUF Library. The homework assignment was to 1) choose a favorite Psalm to share, and 2) continue to be aware of references to the Bible in news and popular media, and bring those observations into discussion. To that end, I have forwarded a piece by President Jimmy Carter that touches on #2.

Some other items of interest; First, Lynn asked a question last time about what language the psalms were written in, which I answered incorrectly. They were written in Hebrew, though copies have been found from antiquity that are in other languages. I have found this to be an excellent article on the Psalms, please check it out:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalms> I did not know, for example, that the Psalms are a part of the Islamic Holy Canon, called the Zabur.

Two other articles of interest:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom\\_literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom_literature)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Job](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Job)

Even if you do not have access to a copy of Buehrens' book, I encourage you to check out these articles. They will add much to your understanding of these texts with a minimal amount of time.

Finally, I want to touch on our sharing bread and wine (juice) as we conclude our class each month. I have intentionally stayed away from much ritual surrounding this, as I do not want anyone to feel excluded. I may try to weave some into this practice in a very inclusive way. Remember, when we share this table fellowship I invite you to make your own meaning of this observance. For me, it is a powerful reminder of Jesus' radical inclusion. Everyone is welcome at the table. What does it mean for you?

Till next time, Namaste. Don Stouder

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Reproductive Justice**

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. from Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> and for six consecutive Fridays ending April 5, a UUA developed course entitled Reproductive Justice will be facilitated by Donna Daum. It is designed to help us all be rooted us in our religious history and theological callings. The six-week curriculum outlines:

- 1) the distinctions between reproductive “health,” “rights,” and “justice”;
- 2) opens awareness of reproductive oppressions; offers opportunities to learn about ourselves and each other as sexual and reproductive beings;
- 3) and equips us to move forward, out into the world, with integrity and vision.

The following subjects will be covered:

Week 1: Introduction: What is Reproductive Justice?

Week 2: Inherent Worth and Dignity

Week 3: Reverence for Life

Week 4: Right of Conscience

Week 5: Sacred Sexuality

Week 6: Conclusion: Moving Forward

All adults are welcome and youth are encouraged with the permission of the parents. To check out the curriculum, Google: UUA Reproductive Justice

### FROM WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO UU CLUSTER

#### **Holly Near to Sing at First Church this Spring – One Night Only February 9 (Saturday) at 7:30 p.m.,**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Meeting House  
4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92103 619-298-9978

Singer, song-writer, and social activist Holly Near will give a benefit concert at First Church. You know Holly and her music from her many recordings, from her songs in our UU hymnal (“We Are a Gentle, Angry People,” which Holly likes to call “Singing for Our Lives”), and from her appearance as the prestigious Ware Lecturer at the General Assembly held in Long Beach in June, 2005. She has appeared with many of the great popular singers of our day, from Pete Seeger to Harry Belafonte, and she has demonstrated with feminists Jane Fonda, Christine Lahti, and Eve Ensler. Holly will be in San Diego for one night only, and we are honored that she will be performing in our Meeting House. She will bring her own touring band, and our Associate Director of Music, Dana Decker has been invited to open for Holly with his Hillcrest Sunday ensemble. We will ask \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door for this special concert, with after concert expense going to support our Spirit Level grant for our congregation’s new contemporary music program. Tickets are available [here \(http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/321092\)](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/321092).

## FROM THE COMMUNITY AT-LARGE

**Standing on the Side of Love** is a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world. Join us for the Thirty Days of Love, a period for intentional action, service, education, and reflection running from January 19 to February 17, 2013.

This action is in conjunction with the National Month of S.S.L. When you pledge to take this inspiring journey, each day you receive a new e-mail that enables you to be a "public witness". By following the plan of the Thirty Days of Love you will learn how to express your values and UU values of social justice to others.

The first week of e-mails has been about spreading the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, his vision, his words, his call for a faith in love, justice, and human dignity. The emphasis of injustice is on speaking about the "mass incarceration" of poor people of color, mostly young men who are mostly low-level non-violent offenders. We need to tell others of the high-tech prisons that are part of the system that has created a system in the U.S. of **the highest incarceration rate in the entire world.**

When you go to the website you can see how to pledge (join), how to get educated and how to take action to tell others what you know. You can retrieve the first weeks of the campaign or just pick up on the e-mails through February 17, 2013.

There are so many resources and stories of how other UUs are doing this amazing work for the movement for justice by speaking the truth, getting educated, and organizing for change. The website is: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30daysoflove>

Summit Member, Jack Shu

***will make a presentation***

*Feb. 6, 2013, 7:00 PM*

*at the La Mesa/Foothills Democratic Club*

Meeting held at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa. A social gathering will start at 6:30 with the club's meeting's meeting starting at 7:00. The meeting is open to non-members and there is no cost to attend.

### **Superior Court Ruling- "...a prejudicial abuse of discretion"**

This was the ruling by Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor on a lawsuit brought against the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by the Cleveland National Forest Foundation (CNFF). The State Attorney General intervened on the side of the Foundation and on behalf of the people of California.

SANDAG, representing 18 cities and the County, is responsible for developing and implementing the RTP. This is a massive document which directs over \$200 billion of transportation funds in the county for the next forty years. A new plan is done every four years. In October 2011, the SANDAG Board adopted its 2050 RTP/SCS and certified the Environmental Impact Report for the plan. Under the California Environmental Quality Act, CNFF filed a lawsuit in Nov. 2011. On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012, the court found that SANDAG was in error and must withdraw the certification of the EIR.

The plaintiffs brought up many flaws in the 2050 RTP/SCS. But the court only needed to find one inadequate treatment of the EIR to find that it was not valid. Furthermore the court found that SANDAG's response has been to "**kick the can down the road**" and defer to "local jurisdictions." (when it has the obligation and legal means to address the issue)

At the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Jack Shu, Board President of CNFF, will make a presentation regarding this lawsuit and their ongoing efforts to protect our wilderness and urban environment through better transportation planning. He will explain why this is such an important topic for our health, economy, and quality of life. Even after winning the lawsuit, our region is still suffering. SANDAG is still funding projects with a 1960's mentality which contributes to climate change, more asthma, cancer, unnecessary deaths as well as economic stagnation in our cities. More people need to take notice and demand a change from our elected officials.

Jack will also present an alternative for SANDAG to adopt, the *50-10 Transit Plan*. This plan will help us catch up, building in the next 10 years, a transit network and major rail lines that have been identified by SANDAG, rather than delaying completion into the next 40 years. This will be a call for action on CNFF's *Transit First Campaign*.

For more information on the lawsuit, go to [transitsandiego.org](http://transitsandiego.org) and click lawsuit.