

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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May 2013

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

May 5th: "Proof of the Afterlife" Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Our UU Principles call us "to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science," that would prevent us from engaging in "idolatries of the mind and spirit." Because we humans so easily fall into either superstition or scientism, practicing this principle is often more challenging than we would like to believe. With this in mind, Rev. Frank will invite us to reflect upon the possible value and limitations of Eben Alexander M.D.'s recent New York Times bestseller *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*, and other attestations of Near Death Experience.

May 11th: **Mother's Day!** Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle

May 19th: "Buddhist Practice: Personal Perspectives" Summit Members and Friends

Summitarians Valerie Sims, Bernard Samtoy, and Vic White will join Rev. Frank in sharing about their understanding of Buddhist teachings and practices. Come prepared to be inspired and challenged to think more deeply about how you are walking your own spiritual path.

May 26th: **MUSIC SUNDAY!**

Our annual **Music Sunday** on May 26th is nearly here! Come and support your fellow Summitarians and experience beautiful music at this unique and cherished service. If you would like to participate in this service, all you need to do is provide the specified information below to Jill Reis, jillerinr@gmail.com by 10:00 p.m. on May 13th.

- 1) Title and Composer/Lyricist of song;
- 2) Performers' names (if you're submitting a duet or group performance);
- 3) Instruments included (singer soloist, guitar duet, wind quartet, etc.);
- 4) Duration of each piece submitted (5 minute maximum);
- 5) If you will need a piano accompanist

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday June 2nd, 2013: All Summit members are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting immediately following Sunday Service. Among other things we will be voting to elect our leaders and ratify our budget for the fiscal year 2013-14 (which begins on July 1).

Attention- *The Scene at Summit's* June 2013 edition

deadline will be *Monday, May 27th.*

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

Update on The Walden Project

"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not themselves be realized."

–Attributed to American Architect and Designer Daniel Burnham (d. 1912)

In case you hadn't noticed, the tiny house is back in our parking lot. Progress on the building continues. Aesthetics Committee member Gwen Currie began considering colors for the metal roof and planning Walden's exterior look. Last weekend a work crew installed the toilet chimney flue, finished the sub-roof and cut and curbed the openings for two skylights. After that, Wendell Rawlins and Bob Dryden began installing the electrical wiring and locating the switch boxes.

New Summit Friend Sean McCrea started wrapping the exterior sheathing with a waterproofing barrier over which external paneling will eventually be placed. Soon we will be sealing the interior sub-floor, installing the fascia and windows.

On the communications front, Trish Ladd changed the project's domain name from *Walden 2012.org* to *TheWaldenProject.org*. To find out more about the project, its purposes and timeline, I encourage you to visit the website. There you will find some updated photographs and information. In the days ahead, we will be continuing to prep the website for a more public launch as we move toward readying the house for actual habitation. *TheWaldenProject.org* is directly linked with our *SUUF.org* website.

Summit's Walden is already capturing the attention of neighbors and passersby. In recent weeks congregational members and staff have found themselves in spontaneous conversations with people who stopped to look at and inquire about the tiny house. I have no doubt that this project is going to bring tremendous attention to Summit in the years to come. We've had some preliminary conversations with representatives of a local park and a nature conservancy about parking the tiny house on their property for a while. And recently a local Santee resident dropped by to invite us to reside on his property in downtown Julian.

It is my hope that I and other volunteers will begin living in the Summit Walden house before year-end. As this happens, we will blog about the experience, among other things, reflecting upon:

- values related to voluntary simplicity,
- philosophical and spiritual issues related to the necessities of housing and shelter, and
- personal, small-scale applications of green technology.

Thanks to the Spirit Level Foundation and the UU Funding Program, funding for the project is almost complete. We have yet to receive just over \$1000.00 of our original funding goal of \$32,000. The money raised has been collected without any general appeals to members of our fellowship and has in no way impacted giving to our fellowship's general operation.

With The Walden Project already beginning to surf a developing international wave in small space living, and linking it to our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Values. Imagination and enthusiasm are being stoked. For a congregation of 163 members, this is an accomplishment nothing short of amazing!

Keep spreading the good news about Unitarian Universalism at Summit Fellowship!

Namaste, ~ Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday June 2nd, 2013:

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From Your Office Administrator

Hi Everyone,

I am back and busy getting caught-up! I just want to let you know the new directory will be available this month!! Really! We'll post the notice in the enews when they can be picked up. Remember, the first one is free to members and friends and any there after are \$2.00 each.

Take care! Linda Peck

Santee Street Fair– Summit Booth, May 25th 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

We are now calling for volunteers to “person” Summit’s booth during this community event. Please email Shannyn Fowl, if you are able to volunteer time at the booth or help at the plants party on Thursday, May 23rd.

From your Legislative Ministry Team (LMT)

- SAC Sunday offering on May 19th will go to Summit's Legislative Ministry Team. The amount collected will be shared with the California Legislative Ministry agency (UULM CA), and will be used by Summit's LMT to help defray costs of sending Summit members to Justice Trainings and justice actions in other areas.
- UULM CA is joining with hundreds of UUs and numerous immigration justice groups, advocates and community members in Sacramento on May 20 for a day of action. This will include an interfaith procession, rally, lunch and legislative visits. Please consider joining these groups for this important action. If you've never participated in legislative action before, not to fret! Prior training will be available through an online conference call on April 30 or May 6. Contact Linda Ullrich for information about registering: usbornebooks4u2@san.rr.com.
- Southern California's Justice Leader Training will be taking place at Camp deBenneville in Nov. This is a great program for anyone interested in taking their compassionate calling to another level - that of

action for justice and equality!

- For anyone interested in acquiring more information about immigrant detention issues, a local UU and interfaith group coordinates tours of Otay Detention Center, as well as the opportunity to be a visitor to detained immigrants. Please contact Angela Garcia Sim to be placed on her email list: agarciasim@aol.com.

Sponsored by SUUF Denomination Connections Committee.

Save This Summit Date: Saturday, July 27th

When: 1:00 – 4:00 pm and **Where:** SUUF Sanctuary

What: UUA General Assembly 2013 Ware Lecture

Presenter: Dr. Eboo Patel

Dr. Patel is founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core, an international nonprofit involved in building interfaith understanding and cooperation. He was appointed by President Obama to the Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and serves on the Religious Advisory Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations.

After the showing of the Ware Lecture, there will be a discussion of **Sacred Ground**, by Eboo Patel, published by Beacon Press.

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

Summer of Creativity

Summer is coming and planning has started for our summer RE program. This summer Summit will be a place for fun, exploration and creativity on Sunday mornings. Opportunities for creative exploration are needed as most of these programs have vanished from our schools. Our summer activities will have two creative tracks to choose from: Art Camp and Chalice Theater. Both will be for mixed ages so read more below to see which would be a good choice for your child.

Masters Art Camp

This is a new program created to expose children young and old to art; to give them opportunities to create art of their own. Each week they will learn about a famous artist, see examples of their works and get an opportunity to create a piece of their own using similar materials and methods. Areas that will be explored include still life, portraits, landscapes, watercolor, sculpture, multimedia, architecture and digital art. Classroom space will be transformed in to an art studio where children can make a new piece each week or choose to spend multiple weeks on one great work. Works created this summer will be featured in an end of the summer gallery show in the classrooms. This program is appropriate for all ages.

Artist and Art Enthusiasts Wanted! Volunteers with a passion for sharing and encouraging creativity are needed for Masters Art Camp this summer. Each week teaching team's will work together to support students as they explore the world of art and artistic expression. Traveling this summer? New to teaching Religious Exploration? No problem! Just help one or two Sundays. Lessons and materials are ready for you and we partner experienced volunteers with new so you can get to enjoy creative time together.

Chalice Theater

Our resident theater director, Nancy Howe, will be leading a summer long theater program. Chalice Theater is an active program of instructive stories through drama that explores what fable, folklore, legend, and sacred stories have to say to us about peacemaking, self-esteem, thankfulness, name-calling, determination, truth, recklessness, and generosity. Our acting troupe will be learning the art of stage craft and storytelling using a reader's theater format. They will be working to create a very special performance for Summit at the end of the summer. This program is recommended for children with basic reading skills.

Theater Help wanted for this summer program. Adult's needed to support our director and theater troupe. Come be part of the fun this summer and play, laugh and create big smiles.

The summer schedule is ready to be filled. If you are interested in being part of either program let me know. Together with Summit's children and youth, we can get creative this summer!

Bright Blessings, Mary Carter-Vail / 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, May 10th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, May 25th, 10:00 am in the 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.

Spiritual Praxis Group: Starting with the Four Agreements

We meet on the Second Tuesday (May 14th) 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 Still 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 soon.

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., May 7th 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:

Interfaith Shelter- SAC's April collection benefited the Interfaith Shelter; specifically, to provide financial support for Summit's intention to be a host congregation again next year! Your generous contributions of \$628 will allow us to provide beds, three meals a day, and many other services and necessities for our future guests. Thank you for your enthusiastic support!

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 (May 19th) is Social Action Sunday. We welcome you 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.

Summit Interfaith Shelter News- Well, we did it!

For two weeks Summit opened its arms and hearts to the Interfaith Shelter. We hosted 12 adults and one small boy. We were able to use our helping hands for the Shelter and thereby give sustenance to our own hearts and spirits. The homeless guests benefited from our compassion. The difficulties and joys experienced by our guests were intertwined daily with ours. On Saturday, April 6th, the guests moved on

to the next Shelter at the First United Methodist Church in La Mesa.

Our five support churches and community organizations, the El Cajon Kurdish Mosque, the Santee Methodist Church, the Chaldeans, the Philippine Nurses Association and the Chinese Community Church all confirmed that they would be with us again next year.

In an email, Donna Lee writes:

Hi Barbara, Wanted to thank you for your great hospitality last week. We enjoyed the fellowship and networking. It was an easy way to learn about the Interfaith Shelter Network.

Blessings, Donna Lee

Chinese Community Church

Summit was a beehive of activity during these two weeks, yet at the same time our Shelter volunteers were mindful of the safety, security and cleanliness of our Fellowship. We ALL worked hard together!

In February 2011, Reverend Frank gave a workshop during which he quoted the Reverend Curtis W. Reese, in part, with the following words: "in the building of Free and Positive Human Souls."

Repeat: in the building of Free and Positive Souls.

These words sparked an image in my mind, where, "the building of", became a glimpse of a physical building that had many beautiful sparkling windows. I subsequently wrote a poem around this thought.

Here is the last verse:

Earth, our exotic, exuberant home!

Here, 7 billion pairs of eyes awaken each morning, to LIFE,

in hues of amethyst, apple green, cerulean blue, amber, carnelian red, butter yellow,

Deserving to live,

cheering, waving out the windows.

To live, in a building, of free and positive human souls.

This building is Summit, our Interfaith Shelter. Thank you all!

Barbara Brooks Nutter and the 2013 Interfaith Shelter Team.

That's the news! please send comments to Barbara Brooks Nutter.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

♥ From Rev. Frank: **Celebrations of Life for Two Beloved Summit Members have been scheduled.**

-Everyone is invited to a memorial gathering in the Sanctuary for beloved community member Eleanor Simmonds on Saturday, May 4, at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Eleanor's family and friends in heart and mind in the days to come.

-A memorial service will be held for beloved community member Vivienne Jacobson on Saturday, May 18th, at 2:00 p.m. Our sympathies go out to Charles Jacobson and his family in their time of mourning.

♥ Remember D'Arcy Skinner as he recovers from pneumonia.

♥ Our hearts go out to Marian Krauss and her family over the loss of one of her grandsons in March.

Jenny Sarr needs volunteers to help with Sunday Café...

...for the next three months (Just on Sundays). No need to bring anything. Refreshments are provided. She just needs help setting up and cleaning up the salon and putting out the chairs and umbrellas. Contact Jenny or sign up on Sunday, Thanks!!!

Hiking Group

Hello Hikers,

Summer is almost here and it's getting warmer, the Hiking Group will be taking a break. We'd like to thank everyone that joined us for a hike over the last season. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did. 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.

To add your voice to the eNews

Send your item to Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday morning

- * Include the day, date, time, location, and contact information.
- * Send your information in the body of the email
- * If you have a picture include it, if you don't, feel free to suggest one, or leave it up to me

Editor: Pam Kerr, Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net

Classifieds in the eNews!

We've added 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, on-Summit-related announcements, etc. Email your submission to 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

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 or 619-244-6965.

Our annual **Music Sunday** on May 26th is nearly here! Come and support your fellow Summitarians and experience beautiful music at this unique and cherished service. If you would like to participate in this service, all you need to do is provide the specified information below to Jill Reis, jillerinr@gmail.com by

10:00 p.m. on May 13th.

- 1) Title and Composer/Lyricist of song;
- 2) Performers' names (if you're submitting a duet or group performance)
- 3) Instruments included (singer soloist, guitar duet, wind quartet, etc.)
- 4) Duration of each piece submitted (5 minute maximum)
- 5) If you will need a piano accompanist

Freethinkers...

On Monday, May 20th, Neal Biggart will begin a presentation about Sustainable Agriculture and extreme commercialization of the agriculture business, by such businesses as Monsanto, and current thought on GMO. Presently there are 7 billion humans, by 2050 another 2 billion are expected. There will also be information on agricultural toxicology.

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

Will meet May 28th, 2013, at 2:30 pm in the Salon. We are continuing to learn 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.

GAMES!!

This is a spin-off from the brain-training going on in the INDY group. The first gathering will be May 21st in the Salon. We all can certainly use a little more fun in our lives!

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We meet in Summit's library at 7:00 pm on the second Monday (May 13th) 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.

Book Club

The Summit Book Club is alive and well. We meet the first Tuesday of every month in the Salon at 7:00 PM. This month we are reading Willa Cather's "My Antonia" a classic in American 20th Century literature. Upcoming books later this summer are F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Tender is the Night" and James Joyce's "The Dubliners". Hope to see many of you at our next meeting on May 7th. For more information contact Cheryl Smreck or Al Mork.

Piano Club

If you like to play piano, and for others to listen as you do, please join us on May 16th, at 3:00 at a Club member's home. Contact Ed Davis or Roy McDonald, for information and this month's location.

Tai Chi Chih is now available on Tuesdays and Thursdays

...from 8:30am-9:30a.m. Join us in the Salon as we improve our flexibility, strengthen our balance and improve our memories. You'll be glad you did! (*NOTE: We will **NOT MEET** on Thursday, May 2nd
Tai Chi: it does a body good!

UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship

The UU Bible Study Class for Seekers and Skeptics has moved to the third Monday of every month in the SUUF Library from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Led by Rev. Don Stouder, the group explores the historical, literary, and spiritual roots of the bible and how they apply in our culture and daily lives. Currently, the group is following the John Buehrens text titled "Understanding The Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals." Anyone is invited to join the group at any time; we promise to bring you up to speed! For more information, send an email to Don at dstouder@ucsd.edu.

Till next time, Namaste. Don Stouder

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bayou Brothers in Concert with special guests , Katie Thompson as Mama Tokus and Andy Williamson

Friday, May 3rd, 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$15.00

Start with a blend of accordion, keyboards, guitar, bass, drums and rubboard, add three-part harmonies, mix it up with a lot of rockin' Zydeco, blues and R&B and you get the rousing, rollicking, heart thumpin', foot stompin' BAYOU BROTHERS!

This will be a great show for all ages!

Auction 2012! Get Connected! Look for the sign-up sheets in the Salon.
The following events still have openings:

Night Club Two-Step Dance Workshop - \$15. for single person; \$25 per Couple
Offered by light-footed Juana and Mike Page. 8 openings Date: To be arranged.

Summer's Eve SD Harbor Cruise , Evening of Friday, August 23rd

- \$40 ea. person 28 openings

There are still several spaces available on the Summit Fellowship Dinner Cruise!!
(an auction item - all proceeds go to Summit!)

We will depart aboard the Mission Belle from Pt. Loma Landing to enjoy a delicious dinner (ask the folks who've joined us in the past - catered dinner including wonderful chowder, calamari sandwiches to die for - new this year, scandalous dessert) and ride into the sunset.

We'll cruise out of San Diego Bay around Pt. Loma and return as the (almost) full moon rises over the city skyline. BYOB

Contact Roberta Osuyos to reserve a place or inquire.

For the past decade, the UULMCA

has been provided spiritually-grounded justice leadership training, experiential learning adventures and organizing to advance specific issues of interest to UUs: marriage equality, healthcare reform, immigrant and environmental justice.

Now the UULMCA Board is engaging in a listening process to help guide UULMCA's strategic direction and wants to hear from UUs across California. Board members and trained facilitators are going across the state hosting listening sessions. You are invited to add your experiences and input during one of these "Charting the Course of Justice" sessions.

There will be a [Charting the Course event Saturday, May 4th from 9:30am to 12:00pm](#) at:

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

4190 Front St., San Diego, CA 92103

Sincerely, Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Senior Minister & Executive Director

UUA News Alert!!

CBS News recently created a [documentary](#) called *Religion & Spirituality in a Changing Society* to explore the dramatic changes in Americans' religious behavior. They interview UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales and profile [First Parish Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist](#) to better understand what Unitarian Universalism offers to meet the spiritual needs of the growing population of "Nones"- or individuals who have no religious affiliation.

Watch the full video online from [CBSNews.com](#), join the conversation on the [UUA's Facebook page](#), and check your local listings to learn when the program will air in your area.

The changes in American religiosity were documented last year by the Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life, when they released a [poll](#) showing that 1 in 5 Americans do not identify with any religion. Despite this dramatic downward trend in religious affiliation, the number of people who identify as Unitarian Universalist has remained steady and some reports show [growth](#). Rev. Morales has also seen this trend and [written](#) about the unique opportunity this presents for Unitarian Universalism.