

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

**Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071**

Vol. 23 No. 7

July 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

July 7: *"Exploring the Promises of our Faith"* Linda Ullrich and Jennifer White

The theme for this year's annual UU Association's Assembly is "From Promise to Commitment." UUs promise to heal the world, but how do we commit to do that?

Summit attendees, along with about 4,000 other UUs, were educated about, and went deeper into involvement in, issues related to: Social Justice, Environment, Workers' Rights, Immigration Reform, Ethical Eating, Human Rights, and the UU Service Committee helping people around the world. We also celebrated UU with musical entertainment, ceremonies and services. We engaged in serious discussions and voted as Summit Delegates on business matters with the UUA, making "Immigration as a Moral Issue" a Statement of Conscience, and for "Actions for Immediate Witness."

We will share with you our experiences at General Assembly. Rev. Frank and Jennifer Gorman attended with us but can't be here for this service.

July 14: *"Walking the Rainbow Road"* Rev. Don Stouder

This Sunday is LGBT Pride Sunday in San Diego. We might even be able to hear the celebrations all the way out in Santee. In this sermon, Rev. Don will talk about what it's like to live a life of happiness and integrity while "walking the rainbow road". Without distancing ourselves from the work still to be done, Rev. Don will discuss how far we have all come down that road, as well as hold up all that we have to celebrate together.

July 21: Voices for Children and CASA Ed Henry and Susan M. Smith

Susan, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator, will show a ten-minute video and talk to us about the work of Voices for Children and CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates—who assist and protect abused and neglected children in San Diego County to insure their needs are met in the courtroom, classroom, and community.

June 28: *"Widening Circles"* Christina Shu

What do we worship and in what do we place our faith? Towards a theology of interdependence and sacred relationship.

Another Way to Stay Informed

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

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

*The Scene at Summit's **August 2013 edition deadline will be Monday, July 22nd.***

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

An Update From Christina Shu

We've recently enjoyed a homecoming by Christina Shu. Christina grew up in our congregation, graduated from Harvard Divinity School a few years back, and now serves as Lead Interfaith Chaplain at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Three years ago, Summit Fellowship proudly and enthusiastically sponsored Christina as a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, and she has continued to be a supportive member who stays in touch with us and who returns from time to time to preach to our congregation. She recently wrote and asked if I would communicate the following message to everyone in her Summit family.

~ Rev. Frank

June 4, 2013

Dear Summit congregation,

Greetings from Los Angeles! I have had a busy year of preparation for the UU fellowship process to become a minister, as well as working full-time as a chaplain at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

This June I will be finishing my two year part-time internship at Neighborhood UU Church in Pasadena. During the internship I developed my worship skills through preaching and leading liturgy, taught two religious education classes, supported the work of committees for social justice, new members, religious education and more, and attended the meetings of the church board. I also started and helped to lead a Wednesday night worship service, called Soulful Sundown. I performed my first wedding, observed two pledge campaigns, and spent a lot of time reflecting with my supervisor and an internship committee about myself and my ministry. These experiences gave me a rich understanding of the inner workings of a congregation, with all its dynamic processes and relationships.

Following the conclusion of my internship, I will be preparing to see the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in December. This is the committee that determines whether or not candidates pass into Preliminary Fellowship and can be ordained as UU ministers. I will submit to the MFC a packet with essays about my call to ministry, understanding of UU theology and more, will preach in front of them, and then be interviewed. I appreciate all thoughts and prayers for good luck in this process, and I am deeply thankful for the support and sponsorship from Summit.

Here's one thing I miss about Summit – the closing circle song! On the occasions I have come back to give a sermon, or just sit in worship on visits home to Summit, I find myself near tears when we join hands and sing together. The song reminds me of the simple power of being together in community, and our commitment to return again “to share the glow of standing hand in hand.” I look forward to the next time I sing it with you all.

In faith, Christina

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Back in the day, it was not easy to become a Saint. There were some strict requirements. First, you had to become “beatified,” or blessed. This meant that you must have lived an exemplary life, or that you had died as a martyr, or that you had given up your sinful ways because of a conversion.

Next, there was the miracle thing. One miracle, occurring in your name, would leave you at the beatified state. It took two miracles to become a Saint.

Finally, there was the Devil’s Advocate (Promotor Fidei). The Vatican would assign to an investigator the task of looking for dirt against the potential candidate, or trying to expose a proffered miracle as a sham. This institution was established in the 16th century by Pope Sixtus. The Devil’s Advocate was given the job of opposing God’s Advocate, a man who sought to promote the candidate for sainthood.

This process lasted 400 years, until John Paul II abolished the position of Devil’s Advocate in 1983. In the Catholic Church, this should have been seen for what it was. This was a Saturday Night Massacre. It was like issuing an executive order abolishing the office of Inspector General.

In the end, it caused a big change. Prior to the papacy of John Paul II, there were only 93 canonizations in the 20th century. During John Paul II’s 25 years, there were more than 500. Suddenly, the Hall of Fame is flooded with all these players nobody ever heard of. Most of them don’t even have reliable stats, and you can bet that the two-miracle requirement of our youth is not even mentioned any more.

Now, in addition to ballet dancer, artist, concert pianist, and President, we can reasonably tell the next generation of kiddies that they too, can become Saints.

Thanks, Pierre Vaughn

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday June 2nd, 2013

(In case you missed it):

June 3, 2013

Report of the President on the Annual Congregational Meeting 2013

The meeting was called to order and it was established that there was a quorum, with at least 80 voting members present.

All items presented on the written ballot were approved by overwhelming vote. This included the slate for the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Trustee, the Nominating Committee, and approval of the withdrawal of \$1,115.00 from the Building Acquisition and Improvement Fund to cover items in the annual budget.

The Covenant of Right Relations, without changes, was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The proposed budget, including an amendment offered by the Finance Committee, was also approved without opposition. I have attached the budget proposal and explanatory page which were distributed with the announcement of the congregational meeting. In addition, I have attached the amendment to that budget which was proposed by the Finance Committee and adopted by the members.

As you will note, the initial budget proposal was premised on pledges projected to total \$223,000.00. By the time of the meeting, this total had increased by \$5,800.00, to \$228,800.00. Please review the attachments which specify where this extra money was allocated.

I appreciate the hard work of Jeff Garvey as Chair of the Pledge Campaign. I also appreciate the generosity of our members, who have committed to supporting this congregation. With the additional funds, we were able to increase our RE Director to 23 hours, increase the pay of our property steward, Mark Weedman, and give a modest cost of living increase for our Office Administrator.

At the meeting, several people requested pledge forms from Jeff for the purpose of increasing their pledges. I am requesting that all members and friends consider adding to their pledges. This can be accomplished by requesting a pledge form from the office or from Jeff. Please return any pledge forms by Sunday June 16th, so the Finance Committee and the Board will have this information before the Board meeting on June 20th.

Our pledge goal was \$253,000.00, some \$25,000.00 above the actual total commitments. Our pledge total went up 6% from last year, though our pledge units went up 10%. Virtually the entire 6% raise in pledges went to cover increased operating costs. This includes health insurance, electricity, dues, office expenses, and property maintenance. With the pledge increase alone, we could not have given any increase in pay beyond 1% for any of our employees. We also could not have given any extra money to our committees which are desperately underfunded. Finally, we were unable to increase the retirement beyond 4%, even though we are committed to raising it to 10%. Even the things we were able to accomplish can be attributed to a one-time savings. We are refinancing our mortgage, and expect to save \$7,000.00 per year.

All this has implications for the future. If our pledge increase remains at 6%, projected out over the years, we will not be able to provide more hours or pay to dedicated people who serve our community. This year, we could only give our Minister a 1% raise, even with the savings on our mortgage. In the fall we will be considering a 5-year Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan must have budgets covering the next five years that are balanced. In other words, we will not be able to plan to give our RE Director 30 hours, or raise our property steward's pay, or provide increased benefits, if our pledge income barely keeps up with increased costs.

Let me end by stating that I am continually impressed by the generosity of the members and friends of this congregation. In addition, I have both witnessed and received a generosity of spirit with every contact that I have had with Summit members and friends. I am glad that I have been able to serve as your President. It has been a fulfilling experience for me.

Thanks, Pierre

Denominational Connections Committee - UUA News

The Unitarian Universalist Association Elects New Moderator, Rallies for Energy Change at Annual Meeting

June 25, 2013 / For more information, contact: UUA's Public Relations Director
(617) 948-4386 (office) pr@uua.org

Louisville, KY-The 2013 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) closed Sunday night, June 23, in Louisville, KY. Over 3,400 people attended the annual meeting which featured worship, educational workshops, public witness, and UUA business.

Highlights of the meeting include:

- The election of Jim Key as the new UUA Moderator for a six-year term.
- The re-election of the Rev. Peter Morales as UUA President for a second four-year term. He ran unopposed.
- A worship and rally for environmental justice that drew over 2,000 participants.
- Many wonderful speeches from guest speakers including Wendell Berry, author, environmental justice activist, economic critic, and farmer; Tim DeChristopher, UU activist; and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel.

Delegates at GA 2013 overwhelmingly approved a Statement of Conscience regarding "Immigration as a Moral Issue." In addition, delegates voted on and approved three Actions of Immediate Witness on Sunday, June 23 including:

- "Support the Proposed 28th 'We the People' Amendment to the Constitution: Corporations Are Not Persons and Money Is Not Speech"
- "Condemn the Mass Incarceration, Killing, and Mistreatment of Young Men of Color by Police"
- "Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry"

The collection from the Sunday morning worship service was given to Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL). KIPL's mission is to "protect God's creation by mobilizing a religious response to global warming through conservation, efficiency and alternative energy."

Detailed coverage of the agenda, justice work, and worship at GA can be found on *UU World's* General Assembly coverage blog.

The UUA is a faith community of more than 1,000 congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice.

Sponsored by SUUF DCC

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

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

“With Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America, Eboo Patel establishes himself as the preeminent voice of the interfaith movement. The book is about the ‘promise of American pluralism...’ It surveys: the history of religious bigotry in American politics, the sociology of nonprofits in the United States, and the ‘science of interfaith cooperation’ and ‘religious diversity.’ Eboo grew up Muslim in Chicago and did his doctorate in religion and sociology at Oxford.” (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

Our summer RE program started on June 23. This summer we're getting creative by exploring theater and art. In Chalice Theater, Nancy Howe will be working with our young thespians to help them to develop their theatrical story telling skills. The Masters' Art Camp offers the opportunity to learn about master artists and art styles, and to have studio time to make their own creations using real art materials. We had 30 children and youth here for the first Sunday of summer programs!

After Service on June 23rd, the Summit youth groups (Middle and High School Groups) went bowling! Our Cosmic Bowling Party was in a private room at Parkway Bowl, paid for by each family for their youth to attend. We had 20 young people and a few brave parents and siblings bowling for two hours, followed by two rousing games of Laser Tag. Besides being great fun this was a good bonding experience for our incoming middle and high school youth.

Between both programs we have 22 participants, 19 of whom are here on a regular basis. This fall our Middle School group will have 8 members and our High School Group 13. Because these are more active ages, Youth Programming has become an area that needs more focus. As we plan the direction of youth ministry at Summit is it VERY important to have youth participation and leadership in the planning process. So we are having our first Youth-Adult Committee planning meeting on July 7th at 12 noon. All who are interested are invited to attend. Pizza, watermelon and beverages will be served.

It is also time to start our planning and preparation for the fall. This is when I need your feedback and guidance for our RE programs. I encourage participation in the planning process by attending the RE Retreat (see below), joining a fall teaching team, being part of the CRE Committee or sending me an email with your insight, ideas and contributions.

On July 13th we will have our third annual Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) retreat. This will be a one day gathering of all who are interested in CRE at Summit. This will include CRE Committee members, parents, teachers, youth advisers, child care workers, and anyone who is interested in being part of this planning process. Our CRE Chair, Elinor Weed, will facilitate, as we explore what our RE program did this past year and plan for next year using our mission statement and five year plan as our guide. We need your participation in this process to be successful.

You are invited to:

The Children's Religious Exploration Planning Retreat

July 13 from 9AM to 2PM @ Summit in the Salon

Lunch will be provided.

Childcare will not be available unless requested by July 10th.

RSVP by July 10th to Mary Carter-Vail at SummitDRE@gmail.com

or Elinor Weed

Bright Blessings, Mary Carter-Vail
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, July 12th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, July 20th, 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.

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 unknowingly had 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.

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., July 2nd 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:

Scholarships for youth camp: June's Social Action Committee (SAC) collection netted \$621.60 to provide scholarships for Summit youth to attend camp at DeBenville Pines, helping our young people develop UU identity and leadership skills. Many thanks for your generous donations to our teens!

San Diego Pride: The San Diego Pride parade is Saturday, July 13. Come along with SAC's parasol drill team and march in the parade! This year's Grand Marshals are George Takei (Star Trek's Captain Sulu), Brad Takei and LaToya Jackson. More info on the parade can be found at www.sdpride.org.

The Greater Community

PFLAG: July's SAC Sunday (July 21) will inform Summitarians about PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Made up of families, friends, and straight allies uniting with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its

mission of support, education and advocacy. Summit has hosted a monthly community PFLAG meeting for approximately 8 years and we would like to get the word out to Summit and East County that we provide a welcoming place for LGBT people and their families and friends. There will be no cash collection for SAC this month.

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

Speak up: Several Summitarian PFLAG members have noticed that Barnes & Noble doesn't have any books about LGBT families (either children's books or parenting guides) on the shelves at either the Santee or the Grossmont store. If you feel these books belong on the shelves, consider stopping by the store to ask for these books and to ask that they be displayed. Check with Laurel Bernstein for a list of LGBT-friendly children's books. You might hear one of these read at Summit on SAC Sunday!

Social Action Sunday: The third Sunday of the month (July 21st) is Social Action Sunday. We now meet after the service! We welcome you to join us on that day for the next Social Action Committee meeting in the library at 11:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Rene Schad.

Summit's East County Amnesty International group won't be meeting this summer. They are in the process of finding another coordinator. Watch for more info later in the summer.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

♥ Please remember Rosemary Morrison and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Rosemary's sister died in June from stomach cancer.

♥ Also, please remember Linus Senhen, who recently lost his sister.

Summit's 25th Anniversary Committee ...

will begin selling metal name tags on Sunday July 7th, that are engraved with the new 25th Anniversary logo and secured with a magnet. You can order one for \$10.

And from the 25th Anniversary Committee ...

Please share **your very best recipes** - of all kinds - for Summit's upcoming cookbook:

A Place at the Table

- Include title, ingredients, instructions, your name, and a totally optional sentence or two if you have something to say about the recipe(s).
- Type directly into the body of an email with no special formatting. PLEASE DO NOT SEND LINKS TO RECIPES ONLINE. If it's directly from a book or website, put "adapted from" and the source, and write the instructions in your own words.
- Check and double check before submitting.
- Email to: summitcookbook25@gmail.com OR
- Hard copies can be put in the marked shoebox in the Summit greeting area on Sundays or in the marked box in the Summit office entryway during the week.

Deadline for submissions is July 31, but please start sending them now!

Summit Now has a Memorial Garden

It is the patio area under the Chinese Elm Tree between the office wing and the salon. If families would like to have a paver stone in this garden dedicated to their departed Summit member they may purchase the engraving for \$150. For this fee the first and last name and date of birth and death would be put on the stone. The letters would be 1 1/2" high. Please contact me or Linda Peck if you would like to have a paver stone carved for your loved one. Suzanne McQuaide

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

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

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, 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...

We're taking our summer break now. Watch the *Scene at Summit* for the start-up date in August. Have a great and song-filled summer! Jill Reis

Freethinkers...

For the next few months, Freethinkers will meet on Friday evenings. July's topic: TBA

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

Will meet Tues., July 23rd, 2013, at 2:30 pm in the Salon. At this month's meeting we will learn some new games to help improve our memory. 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 (July 8th) 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

We'll be discussing an historical novel, *POPE JOAN: A NOVEL*, by Donna Woolfolk Cross, about the woman who disguised herself as a man and sat for two years on the papal throne. Believers and non-believers alike may be fascinated by this story of the female pope.

Piano Club

If you like to play piano, and for others to listen as you do, please join us on July 18th, 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 available on Tuesdays

...from 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. Join us in the Salon as we improve our flexibility, strengthen our balance and de-stress. You'll be glad you did!

DID YOU KNOW?: Harvard Woman's Health states that: In a UCLA study of 112 healthy older adults with moderate sleep complaints, 16 weeks of Tai Chi improved the quality and duration of sleep significantly more than standard sleep education.

UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship

The UU Bible Study Class for Seekers and Skeptics has moved to the third Monday (July 15th) of every month in the SUUF Library from 7:00 pm 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

Till next time, Namaste. Don Stouder

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auction 2012! Get Connected! Look for the sign-up sheet.

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

- \$40 ea. person **15 openings**

Come join the merriment 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 Linda Peck to reserve a place.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Dr. Frank Willey: UUFrankPW@aol.com

Emergencies and appointments: 619-889-0312

Office Schedule: Tues. - 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. - 12:00 noon - 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: Jennifer Gorman, captgj6@cox.net