

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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February 2014

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

ATTENTION! *The Scene at Summit's*

March 2014 edition deadline will be

Friday, Feb. 21st.

Sunday Services 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

February 2: *"A Colony of Heaven"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

"Instead of trying to get ready to emigrate to some unknown world we should do our best to make life in this world so beautiful, so exalted, so free, so attractive, as to make people in the next world, if there is such a world, long to come and live with us." These words of Unitarian John Dietrich, written in 1928, challenge us to live actively and constructively on this earth rather than wait carelessly for some kind of divine bail-out. Among other questions, Rev. Frank will ask us to consider the spiritual and political impact of imagining our community as one of "sojourners with healing purpose."

February 9: *"The Coming of the Vodun"* Revs. Will Coleman and Frank Placone-Willey

What do you know about the cosmologies and spiritualities that came to the Americas via the African diaspora (driven largely by the slave trade), and their integration into western religious groups and societies? Our conversational reflection will challenge us to think more deeply and constructively about what happens at the intersections of race, class, culture, and religion in the quest for a more just and loving world.

February 16: *"Dreaming Life"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In the course of his spiritual wanderings, Rev. Frank spent three years as a participant-observer in a community gathered around a self-described Mexican Brujo (witch). His experiences informed his understanding of how we create (or fail to create) meaningful lives, and totally shifted his understanding of reality. Come prepared to enter some universes of meaning and experience different from the ones you have learned to take for granted.

February 23: *"A Way Through"*

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

We can sometimes feel trapped, as if life is closing in on us. We can sometimes feel squeezed into a corner, with no apparent way out. Today's reflection will focus on a New Testament passage in which the Rabbi Jesus confronts his hometown community, finds himself in a seemingly inescapable and potentially deadly dilemma, and yet somehow finds a way through. What does it take to accomplish such a feat? Come and find out.

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

“What’s Up with the Walden Project?”

For those of you who many not be familiar with it, The Walden Project at Summit is a grassroots congregationally-based, intergenerational learning project that will draw attention to issues important to Unitarian Universalists – including the right to shelter, alternative housing, residential applications of green technology, spiritually grounded activism, and voluntary simplicity.

In homage to Henry David Thoreau’s cabin at Walden Pond, members and friends are building a 117-square foot moveable house, outfitted with applications of green technology. Once finished, volunteers will live in it for a week or more at a time over the course of a year. We are documenting the building project, and, once finished, those living in the tiny house will blog about their experience. You can read more about The Walden Project and see photographs at <http://thewaldenproject.org/>

Progress has been slow, but steady, thanks to the dedicated volunteers who continue to work on The Project. As soon as the eaves are painted, we will be putting on the exterior paneling. The plumbing and wiring are moving toward completion. The new stove and water heater are soon to be installed.

A photograph will be taken at the home of Carol and Wendell Rawlins on February 8th at 9:00 a.m. of the tiny house and any who have had a hand in working on it so far.

Now that the tiny house can be secured, sometime soon, it will be moved back to the Summit parking lot, where the work can continue.

As we move toward another year of providing shelter for the homeless at Summit, Walden challenges us to think about shelter, and how having a place to call home is so essential.

Namaste, ~ Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

From Your President

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 DUE TO FEBRUARY 2 BEING SUPERBOWL SUNDAY.

By the time you read this, you will likely have received the Congregational Meeting Notice, Ballot and Proposed Bylaws Changes Explanation via email. If you did not receive a copy or prefer a printed copy, please contact the Summit UUF Office to have a copy mailed to you. If you need an Absentee or Proxy Ballot, you can pick one up in the office, or have one mailed if unable to pick one up. We will also post these documents on the Member Section of the new **Summit UUF website** at **SummitUUF.org**.

On January 11, 2014, the San Diego County Unitarian Universalist Network (SUUN) sponsored an all-day leadership training for congregational leaders in all 5 cluster congregations. It was very well attended by over 40 people, including about 10 from Summit UUF Board of Directors, committee chairs, staff and other interested members. Rev Frank presented an excellent plenary session on Conflict Resolution for all attendees in the afternoon, highlighting our own Covenant of Right Relations. Roberta Osuyos helped facilitate the breakout workshop on Membership. I attended two very helpful and interesting breakout workshops on Fundraising/Stewardship and Board Trusteeship. Most of those attending both of these workshops indicated a need for more cluster training in these areas and there was a general consensus that more leadership training and recruitment of new leaders is needed at both the congregational and cluster levels.

On January 25, 2014, three of our board members and our current SUUN representative attended a special dinner with the UUA President, Peter Morales, and members of the UUA Board of Trustees and staff, who were in San Diego for their quarterly board meeting. It was a very interesting opportunity for networking with and getting to know our representatives on the UUA board, our president and staff, as well as our youth observer on the UUA board. It was also another opportunity to meet our cluster congregation board members and ministers. A lot of ideas were shared and I've learned that there is a lot more we can do together than in isolation.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the meeting on February 16th!

~ Jennifer Gorman, Board President

From your Office Administrator

Dear Friends,

I will be on vacation the first 2 weeks of February. Office volunteers will "at their posts" as usual. Thank you so much for all your support!

~ Linda Peck

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.

Denominational Connections Committee

With so much happening, here is just a little update:

1. The January 11th Leadership training, sponsored by the board of San Diego UU County Network (SUUN), had a great turnout from all five UU cluster congregations. Almost 80 attended and Summit had 14 representing most of our committees and most of our staff people.

The main motive was to get leaders from the cluster to share "best practices" (what works and does not work in a committee) and meet and talk with people on various ministries in each church. Areas of emphasis were RE, Music, Social Justice, Boards, Administration, Membership, Fundraising/Finance and Young Adult RE. What a great way to share ideas and experiences, share resources, and just meet other UUs.

The main idea was it's better to join forces so we can strengthen our common interest in spreading Unitarian Universalism in San Diego county. Watch for more about the results of this learning opportunity!

2. The UU Association board held their annual meeting in San Diego late January. The board is transitioning to a smaller number of board members and now members will be "at large" instead of from each region of the country. Our Summit board and SUUN board were invited along with board members of SUUN to a dinner and discussion held on January 25th. Three of our board members and one representative from SUUN attended and met with UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and other UUA board members. The UUA board seemed to be quite pleased with what San Diego UU congregations are accomplishing.

3. The annual UU Service Committee fundraising project "Guest at your Table" raised \$422 (not the total tally yet, some chose to send in their own checks and membership applications). Thank you Summitarians for your generous support of UUSC.

Submitted by Jennifer White, chair of Denominational Connections Committee

District Assembly 2014 - Save the dates:

The 2014 District Assembly will be held **April 25-26** at First UU Church of San Diego. This year's "DA" theme is "**Growing Our Future**" and the key note speaker will be the **Rev. Meg Riley**, the UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship's Senior Minister. This year's DA will start the evening of (Friday) April 25th and will end at 6:00 pm on (Saturday) April 26th. In addition to the Friday night program, Saturday there will be a worship service, 16 stimulating workshops, a program for Youth, a simple breakfast, lunch, and ample opportunity for learning and networking with UUs from the Pacific Southwest District's 50 congregations. The cost for the two day event is \$75: more information and the opportunity to register in advance will be available at pswduua.org.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Children's Religious Exploration News

This February is the start of my fourth year at Summit as the Director of Religious Exploration. It is hard to believe that I have only been here for three years. When I was asked by our Children's

Religious Exploration (CRE) Committee and Rev. Frank to help out by running the program I had no idea that I would be discovering work that could bring so much joy to my life.

Religious exploration is just that – supporting and encouraging young people to discover their values and faith path through story, song, personal experience and more. Working with parents, and teaching volunteers on the CRE Committee, we create a plan or path of experiences and exploration for the children and youth at Summit that will offer them the most exploration opportunity during their time here. This also includes programs like Our Whole Lives, Coming of Age, the Youth Action Kommittee, UU Camps and Cons and events with other cluster UU's and more. In addition we work to add in multi generational events with the whole Summit community like the Halloween Party and Secret Pals. It is hard but blessed work that we do here and I love it.

Since becoming Summit's DRE I have been working to develop my skills so that I can bring more to the program. Being raised UU from middle school I have had the experience of being part of our faith tradition for many years. My early involvement on district and national levels was a good foundation for this work as was being involved as a volunteer and event organizer for many non-profit groups. One of the first things that I did when I started this work was to find a mentor for support and guidance. Liz Jones, DRE at FUUCSD and long time friend, has been there for me providing guidance and encouragement as I figured it out in the beginning. With her guidance and Rev. Frank's support, I started taking "Renaissance Module" trainings. These are the units of training recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association for the credentialing of DRE's. I have completed 2 so far and will be taking my third this month. In addition I have completed two of the three Chrysalis Youth Leadership modules, Spirit Play training and am a credentialed Our Whole Lives teacher. My goal is to complete the Associates level Religious Educator credentialing process and bring more knowledge and skills to our program.

The work that I do here at Summit is exhilarating. There are many challenges that require me to stretch and grow. There are also skills I bring that I get to share. It feels to me like a great adventure that we are all on together to build beloved community. Climb on!

CRE Events in 2014:

Jan 26 & Feb 2 to March 23 - 1st & 2nd 5th & 6th grade OWL @ SUUF

Jr. High OWL @ FUUSD starts – Feb 1-April 6 – OWL Classes

Feb 2- CRE Committee Meeting – 12 noon in RE area

Feb 2 – Youth Action Kommittee Meeting & Pizza Lunch – 12 noon in Youth Group room.

Feb 2 – Secret Pals Sign – Up

Feb 8 – Secret Pals starts

Feb 21-23 – Spirituality Con in Chandler, AZ

March 2 - CRE Committee Meeting – 12 noon in RE area

March 16 – Empty Bowls Lunch

Bright Blessings and a Happy New Year,

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: Fri., Feb. 14th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: We are meeting on February 1st at 10:00 am in the Salon. Come play with words and discover the poet within. All levels of writing experience welcome. Questions? Please call Margo Mariana.

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

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. "[In meditation] you watch your thoughts and they start to flatten down, and your breathing level, and pulse, all slow down. And in that space...there's this feeling of well-being...I think that's the presence that we're all looking for." ~ Phil Jackson

Upcoming Adult Learning Programs and Activities

You might want to calendar the following special programs and classes now, and certainly stay tuned for more information about upcoming offerings by me, other Summitarians and very special guests in this new year of religious exploration.

~Rev. Frank

Spiritual Praxis Group meets in the Summit Salon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, September through May, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be on February 11th. In this meeting we will continue with discussion of Rick Hanson, Ph.D.'s book, *Buddha's Brain*, and the first four chapters in his book of spiritual reflections and exercises, entitled *Just One Thing*. -Rev. Frank

"The Big Questions" This study group, facilitated by Bernard Samtoy, M.D. and Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, Ph.D., will meet in the Summit Sanctuary on the 4th Friday (February 28th) of each month from September 2013 through May 2014, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will read and discuss brief essays by scientists, religious scholars and philosophers, all commissioned by the Templeton Foundation. The Essays will help us focus our discussion on the following BIG questions:

- 1) "Does the Universe have a Purpose?"
- 2) Does evolution explain Human Nature?

3) Does Moral Action depend upon Reasoning?

4) Does Science make belief in God obsolete?

Tai Chi Chih is available on Fridays NOW!

...8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Join us as we improve our flexibility, strengthen our balance and calm. You'll be glad you did! Although T'ai Chi Chih is slow and gentle and doesn't leave you breathless, it does focus your attention on the key areas of your overall health and well-being - muscle strength, flexibility, balance, and improved breathing. Please join us! "Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small." ~Lao Tzu

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

Caring Committee

We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page and Vic White 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 Has Changed the Day and Time

We will meet Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the library at Summit. All are invited to join us! 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 information.

Social Action Corner - *Service Is Our Prayer*

Helping Others in East County and Beyond

Summitarians acting locally:

HUNGER! The theme for social action at Summit this year is hunger. Did you know that 1 in 6 Americans face hunger daily? Or that 17 million US households are food insecure? Or that nearly 460,000 people in San Diego County are impacted by hunger, including more than 162,000 children?

January's Collection: In January, the teens (ably supervised by Gary Baldwin) "sold" hygiene packs which will be given to our Interfaith Shelter guests this spring. A total of 30 packs were made, and all were sponsored!

The Greater Community

Compassion for African Villages: Mark and fellow CAV board member Zvidzai Ushe have returned from a two-week "scouting" trip to Zimbabwe, to meet families, educators and officials involved in the planned school construction project. Your past donations are helping to make the school project possible.

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

February SAC collection- For the entire month of February, SAC will be collecting nonperishable food for the Santee Food bank. Now's a great time to pick up a few extra cans and boxes of food to donate.

Empty Bowls Event - After the service on Sunday, March 16th, an Empty Bowls event will take place in the Salon to celebrate 25 years of Social Action at Summit. Please mark your calendars! Empty Bowls is a national program through which ceramic bowls are sold along with a simple meal of soup and bread, with all proceeds going to organizations working to end hunger and food insecurity. We hope everyone will participate!

Social Action Sunday: Summit's SAC meets on the third Sunday of the month after the service. We welcome you to join us on February 16th for the next Social Action Committee meeting in the library at 11:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Gwen Baldwin, SAC chair

Amnesty International

Hi all! We have moved our meeting time up to 6:30 instead of the 7:00 o'clock time we had been meeting. Our next meeting will be on February 24th at 6:30 pm in the Summit Salon. We look forward to seeing you!

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

♥ Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Jamie, Robin, Andrew and Lizzy Cleland, family and friends, in their days of mourning Karen's death on January 7th.
- ♥ Christian Spring, Jana and the children, as his chemotherapy treatments continue.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling to make ends meet, find work, and provide for their families in these difficult economic times.

♥ We NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION. Donate an hour or two of work. The Walden Project thrives on a patchwork of stitched-together good-will, cooperative spirits and helping hands!

Interested in Joining or Changing to a New Covenant Group?

February is open enrollment for those in our community who wish to become part of a Covenant Group. Covenant Groups have 5-12 members and spend time in focused conversation at least once per month at a meeting time and place of each Group's choosing. Stay tuned for updates and be prepared to sign up to participate in a covenant group after Sunday Service on February 16th and 23rd.

"SECRET PALS" IS HERE AGAIN.

You can be a part of Summit's tradition of **Secret Pals** by signing up after the service on February 2nd. Have fun getting to know someone at Summit using an exchange of letters over a period of

several months. In May all the secrets will be revealed. Look for us by the Salon to sign up. It's a secret but you can be part of it!

Summit Food Drive!

February is the month when our Fellowship supports the Santee Food Bank with gifts of canned and dry food goods. We will be collecting food over the four Sundays in February.

Last year our congregation collected four barrels of food. Our goal this year is five barrels. Our gifts will help provide basic food support for over 500 families a month. **Please bring a can!**

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 the month and year 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

Another Way to Be Informed

The newsletter you are reading is our monthly *Scene at Summit*. If you wish to receive our weekly eNews in your email, contact Pam Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net and she will be happy to add you to the email list.

If you would like to contribute an article, or classified ad, or 'something of interest' to the eNews, please follow these simple steps:

- ***Do Not Send** attachments. Include your information in the body of the email.
- *Send your item by 8:00 a.m. Wednesday to be included in that week's eNews.
- *Only programs, initiatives and events that are sponsored by an established committee or group at Summit may be featured in the main body of the eNews.
- *Services and goods wanted or for sale and ads relating to member businesses may be featured in the "Classified and Bulletin Board" section at the end of the eNews, at the discretion of the eNews editors.

Send to Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net

Your consideration is Much Appreciated, Thanks! ~Pam Kerr

Also, regarding the eNews...

We have recently been experiencing some problems with the enews delivery server. If you aren't receiving the eNews, please send a message to Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net. We're trying to track the source of the problem. Thanks!

Summit has a New Website !!!

Summit has a new website at summituuf.org. The old website at suuf.org will still be accessible only through January.

The Website Committee is counting on you to do two things:

A. Go to the new site, look it over and give us suggestions for improvements and corrections.

In the second menu bar on summituuf.org you will see the menu item FEEDBACK.

Select and you will see a form where you can leave your suggestions.

B. If you are a friend or member of Summit, please Register. You can register by following the steps below:

- 1) Select Member Login in the menu on the home page.
- 2) Select the Register link above the Member Login form.
- 3) Enter your member information as you want it presented to other members.

When you complete the Registration Form, you will go to the Home page.

It would also be nice if you placed a photo on your Profile Page (Summitarians can see this photo when viewing the Member Directory). In the Member Area you will find "How To" Instructions. The eighth link on the list will give you the instructions you need. If everyone would place their photo in the Directory, Summit would have a Photo Directory on this website (it will be in the protected area).

If you would rather someone else place your photo on the website, send your photo to Summit by emailing to summit@summituuf.org and attaching your photo.

The old website information will not be transferred when the old website is shut down in February.

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

Choir Notes

We meet every week on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in joining our choir or have questions please contact our director, Jill Reis, at jillerinr@gmail.com.

Freethinkers

On Thursday, February 13th, we will view a very good full-length movie "Inequality for All." The movie was purchased especially for the Freethinkers and was created by Robert Reich. He points out many problems caused by the income disparity between the rich and the average citizen and how it

undermines the economy. He was Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton and currently is an economics professor at UC Berkeley. There will be opportunities for discussion.

Hiking Group

This month we'll be going hiking on Sunday February 9th at 1:15. We'll be hiking at the Blue Sky Reserve in Poway. The hike is approximately 5 miles and is a moderate hike. If you're already in the hiking group, you'll receive an email with all the information, if you haven't joined us in the past and are interested in coming email Kerstin Crowe to be added to the list.

Membership Committee

The Membership Cmte meets every first Tuesday of the month (Feb. 4th) at 3:00 pm in the conference room in the office wing.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We meet in Summit's library at 7:00 pm on the second Monday (Feb. 10th) 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. For more info contact Bob and Mary Dryden.

The Summit UU Book Club

On Tuesday, February 4th, at 7:00 pm in the Salon, the Summit UU Book Club will be discussing "MOLOKA'I" by Alan Brennert. The Washington Post describes it as "A dazzling historical saga... a rare look at the rich history of a state most Americans think of largely in terms of tourism."

Piano Club

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calling all Unitarian Universalists,

one and all, to our

25th Anniversary Celebration Valentine's Ball!

Join us for an evening of fun, food (desserts and munchies), and festivities on Saturday, February 15th, 2014, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come alone, as a couple, or as a family and have a wonderful evening of conversation and dancing as fellow Summitterian and DJ, Mark Weedman, provides our music. The cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up with Cindy or David

Hopkins after the service or email us. (Note to families: Alcohol will be served at this event. We are hoping to provide childcare on site.) We hope to see you there!

Summit's Office Information

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

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, captjg6@cox.net