

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT
Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

Vol. 24 No. 5

May 2014

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is www.summituuf.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 - 11:15 a.m.

May 4: *"Male Watching"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In this first Sunday after Beltane, Rev. Frank will invite us to focus our attention on the experience of men. What are some of the particular challenges faced by men in contemporary life? How do we cultivate a society in which men can live in mutual and enriching relationships with women and transgender persons? What must be done to "save the males?"

May 11, Mothers Day: *"Becoming Re-enchanted"* Rev. Susan Maginn

In a world where we got it all figured out yesterday, we still crave those enchanting experiences that have the power to poke holes in reality and let the magic flow through. The Rev. Susan Maginn will be our guest preacher this Sunday. She has recently moved to San Diego with her family and has become an active member in our local UU minister's cluster. Welcome Susan!

May 18: *"Hopers Unite!"* The Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle

Life is essentially a daily struggle between the hopers and the cynics. I challenge us to join the squad of hopers. Hope is believing in spite of the evidence and watching the evidence change; no, make that, helping the evidence change.

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle has been a parish minister since 1967 and is always pleased to return to the pulpit of SUUF, where he served an interim-ship among Summitarians years back. In addition to preaching and conducting workshops, Tom also sings in nursing homes, volunteers among the homeless of San Diego, and mentors children and youth-at-risk. His books (some free and some for sale) will be available following the worship service.

May 25: *"Music Sunday"* Jill Reis, Summit Choir Director

Come experience the profound and indescribable impact music has on our lives. Your fellow Summitarians have some beautiful performances planned for your listening pleasure, so please come support them! Jill is still looking for performers; please email her at JillErinR@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 13, if interested.

-ATTENTION--*The Scene at Summit's June 2014 edition deadline will be*
Friday, May 23rd.

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

“Interested In Worship Planning and Leadership?”

Summit has a long tradition of lay-led Sunday Services, many of which happen in the Summer months while I'm away on vacation and study leave. Members of Summit who are interested in participating in service planning and leadership, or who may be interested in organizing a service this summer, please let me know before May 9th.

In addition, to help ensure the quality of our lay-led services and to help with leadership development in our Fellowship, I am asking that anyone who may be interested in planning or leading a Sunday Service attend an orientation on Saturday, May 10th, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. At this event, I will be providing information about the history and rationale for Unitarian Universalist worship and some important guidance for service planning and sermon/reflection preparation. We will also be considering service proposals by the participants and looking for times when they might be scheduled on the Summit calendar.

If you are interested in planning or helping to lead worship Services at Summit this Summer or at some later time, please let me know, because I would love to talk with you about this.

Beyond that, I would like you to know that at the last meeting of our Board of Directors I submitted a proposal for a trial period of multiple services at Summit starting this next fall. If the proposal is approved, you will be hearing more about this in the near future.

The gatherings of the beloved community for worship are at the heart of the Living Tradition of Unitarian Universalism, for it is in our meeting together that we remember the affirmations of our faith, renew our commitments to service and spiritual practice, receive encouragement and support, and reconnect with the more transcendent and transformative aspects of our collective life and work.

So I invite you to come join me in helping our community continue to remember, renew, receive, and reconnect, through worship service planning and leadership.

Namaste, ~ *Rev. Frank*

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

From Your President

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 1, 2014

PROXY BALLOTS

I hope you all have had a nice Spring Break/Easter/Passover/Oestar Holiday Season! Spring is going by really quickly for me.

The main event coming up, besides all the special anniversary events, will be the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 1st, immediately following the service. We will be voting on next year's (fiscal year 2014-15) budget, as well as new Board members and officers, new Endowment Fund Trustees, and new Nominating Committee Members. So, it is very important that you be there and vote or assign someone to be your Proxy. Remember, you no longer have the option to vote by Absentee Ballot. The budget and leader ballots will be sent out along with the meeting notice and agenda two weeks prior to the meeting. If you need a Proxy Form sooner than that, please contact our Board Secretary, Connie Henry. There are also some forms available in the office. You can go ahead and assign a Proxy to vote for you, but the ballots will still not be available until two weeks before the meeting and will be sent out electronically unless a mailed ballot is requested.

I wish you all peace, health, and happiness in the coming month.

~ Jennifer Gorman, Board President

A Plea and a Thank You From Your Stewardship Team

Summit has ended its annual campaign expecting to garner \$244,000 in operating costs for the coming fiscal year. This improves upon our current year total of \$231,000 but does not reach our goal of \$255,000. It allows us to meet expected increases in costs, but does not allow us to increase the hours for our Director of Religious Exploration, a major goal of the campaign. However, the Board has voted to increase Mary Carter-Vail's paid time by one hour per week for each additional \$1,000 increment that we receive as an increased annual pledge. Here is your chance to step up for CRE! Please contact Linda Peck or one of the co-chairs if you can help.

We are extremely grateful for the congregation's generosity during the pledge drive. Thank you for welcoming our visiting stewards and helping to make Summit a vibrant community. We wish to thank Debbie Wingard (gifts chair), Pierre Vaughn (honorary chair), Bob Dryden, Mary Dryden, Gary Baldwin, Jeff Garvey, Mark Bryning, LaMar Rogers (team leaders) and the visiting stewards: Tom Biggart, Dorothy Greene, David Hopkins, Toni Rogers, Andrea Travers, Brett Lynam, Elizabeth Groff, Ed Henry, Barbara Sorensen, Janet Dixon, Gwen Curry, Ed Davis, Jeanne Hayes, Pat Summers, Angela Tenenini-Asuncion, Barbara Brooks, Jack Shu, Virginia McDonald, Joe and Renee Adan, Betts Awes, John McQuaide, Pam Williams, Rowan Morrison and Nancy Merrill. As usual, Linda Peck has been extraordinarily helpful and we thank Frank for his leadership and support.

~ Sandy Bernstein and Stephanie Williams

Stewardship Campaign Co-chairs

Denominational Connections Committee

The Pacific Southwest District of the UUA held its annual District Assembly (DA) 4/25-4/26 here in

San Diego at First UU Church.

Summit was eligible for 5 delegate slots this year to be present at the Business Meeting and we filled it! Several other Summit people attended DA including 2 staff: Mary Carter-Vail (DRE) and Linda Peck (Administrator), and a few from our Youth and Middle School groups. Rev. Frank had planned to attend but was ill. Ryan Beauchamp went in his role as a youth PSWD Board member!

The youth sold handmade jewelry to help fund scholarships to Camp de Benneville Pines. All of us went to great workshops, attended UU services, listened to music and sang, maybe spent money on books and merchandise. Best of all we shared community with hundreds of other lay and professional UUs.

San Diego UU Network (SUUN) has been meeting regularly. This gathering consists of coordinators and representatives with special areas of interest (Music, CRE, Admin., Ministry) who make up the Board of SUUN. We focus on mutual ways to benefit the 5 congregations that make up our Cluster. Jennifer White (Roberta Osuyos stepped down) and Donna Daum, are the Summit representatives/coordinators on this Board.

SAVE THE DATE: SUUN decided we need a Cluster fun and free family event to kick off the church year. Takes place on Saturday, August 23rd, 2014 from 4:00-8:30 PM at the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito in Solana Beach. BBQ, live music in the open air amphitheater, meeting UUs from the other congregations, just enjoying the evening. Put it on your calendar and don't plan anything else!

Summit is getting ready to send 2 delegates (2 positions are still open) to UUA's General Assembly June 25-June 29 in Providence, RI. You could apply to be an offsite delegate to participate and vote on the many issues being discussed during the business meetings. And/or watch the "happenings" of all the events at GA on your computer.

At the Service of the Living Tradition on Friday, June 27th, Rev. Frank will be accorded Final Fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, a status analogous to the granting of full tenure in our Association as a UU minister. This beautiful ceremony is a highlight of the General Assembly, and not to be missed.

Submitted by Jennifer White, Denominational Connections Committee

From your Office Admin

Hi Everyone!

The busy-ness continues!! I'm finally ready to put print-outs for the new Summit Directory in the Greeting Room. Please check your listing to make sure it is current and correct. Make any needed changes on the sheet. If it is up-to-date, sign next to your name so I will know you've seen it. If you aren't in it and want to be, write your contact info in the right margin. Thanks!

I went to my third District Assembly at the end of April. I have to say they are always time well spent. I would encourage all to at least attend the Friday evening keynote address the next time one happens in "our backyard." This was the first time I heard Rev. Meg Riley speak. I really enjoyed her "both feet on the ground" presentation, the stories about unique peoples' lives, and her message. Look her

up online!

Yours in faith, Linda

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.summituuf.org.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Children's Religious Exploration News

This past week I had the pleasure of attending the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) District Assembly, the annual gathering of member churches in our rather large district. There were UU's from all over Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. This year it was held at the First UU Church of San Diego so several of us were there representing Summit. It was an exhausting and exhilarating weekend for me. Here are a few highlights:

For the first two days my focus was on professional development. As a PSWD LREDA Board member (the professional group for religious educators), I was part of the team that planned this one and a half day event for religious educators. We started Thursday with a deep check in where we all shared what we are doing and offered caring support. The second part of the day was dedicated to our annual business and planning meeting. On Friday, Liz Jones, my mentor, presented an incredible training on planning, preparing, and writing curriculum. After the formal session she shared some of the gems that she has learned during her 20+ years as a religious educator. This was such a valuable experience and there are many ideas that I will be using to enrich our program.

On Friday afternoon the Delegates started arriving, along with several members of the Summit Youth Action Kommittee, (YAK), and our 25th Anniversary Committee. Both groups had side by side tables in the vendor area where 25th Anniversary hats, cookbooks and totes and CRE polymer clay chalice jewelry was available for sale. These areas became our Summit "check in" area for the weekend. I was so very proud of our youth and how they were representing our faith home. Abby and Lucas Weed did an incredible job helping to finish and get to market the beautiful chalice pendants made by Abby, Elinor Weed, and Shelley Lekven. They were designed by Anya Vail, Hayley Lekven, and Elinor Weed. All of the proceeds from the jewelry sale are going to the Children and Youth Empowerment Scholarships (or CAYES), to provide scholarship funds for camp and other UU events, like District Assembly.

The DA Keynote address was given by Rev. Meg Riley who is the lead minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. This is the biggest congregation in our denomination and it has no walls because it is entirely digital. She talked about the lack of growth that all faith communities, whether built of brick and mortar or online, are facing. And it isn't just UUs. She suggested that change is needed to return us to growth and that to continue as we have in the past was like entering Hospice Care. Thinking outside the box and working towards an inclusive beloved community is critical to our survival as a faith. We need to be on the growing edge, exploring, and failing at times, as we see where this new path leads.

One of the most moving moments was the Bridging Ceremony. This is a very special celebration of the transition of our youth into adulthood. Each high school senior was presented to the assembly by a parent or mentor. The youth shared their personal story about the impact that Unitarian Universalism and their community have had on them as they grew-up. All of the eight youth who bridged said that camp was one of the most important experiences, one young woman even said that camp saved her life. The ceremony ended with singing the circle game while crying and hugging each other. Although none of our Summit Youth were walking the bridge at this event, we will have several Bridging at Summit in June.

Bright Blessings,
Mary Carter-Vail, Director 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., May 9th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, May 17th in the Summit library at 10:00 am. Please call Margo Mariana at 619-465-7909 if you interested in participating. All levels of writing experience are welcome.

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.

Upcoming Adult Learning Programs and Activities

You might want to calendar the following special programs and classes. ~Rev. Frank

Spiritual Praxis Group meets in the Summit Salon from 6:30-8:00 p.m. **Tuesday, May 13th.** In this meeting we will conclude our discussions of Rick Hanson, Ph.D.'s book, *Buddha's Brain*, and meditations 31-52 in his book of spiritual reflections and exercises, entitled *Just One Thing*.

"The Big Questions" This study group, facilitated by Bernard Samtoy, M.D. and Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, Ph.D., will meet for the last time in the Summit Sanctuary on the 4th Friday, May 23rd, 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 cancelled until further notice. Thank you, Lynn Manyfires, for the time you gave us.

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

We will meet Saturday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room in the office area. All are invited! If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us. 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?

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

Interfaith Shelter collection- The April 27th SAC collection of \$857 will help replenish Summit's Interfaith Shelter budget, to cover the costs of next year's guests for two weeks. Your donations of meals and time are essential and much appreciated, but for some things only cash will do.

Baby items- The May 18th SAC collection will be a collection of baby items such as diapers, wipes, formula, baby food for Crisis House. Many families are unable to afford even these basics to keep their infants well fed and comfortable. Now is a good time to start watching for coupons and sales, or to consider sharing the cost of baby formula with a friend.

Save the date- The San Diego LGBT Pride Parade is on Saturday, July 19th. The annual parade is the 4th largest Pride parade in the United States, attracting over 300,000 cheering spectators, supportive organizations, businesses, and significant media participation. Our SAC "precision" parasol drill team has been a popular parade entry for several years- come join the fun, or walk alongside us.

Social Action Sunday- SAC meets in the Summit library on the third Sunday of the month after the service. We welcome you to join us on May 18 at 11:30 a.m. for the next Social Action Committee meeting. Questions? Contact Gwen Baldwin, SAC chair.

Got Shoes? Social Action Committee (SAC) will be collecting your old, unwanted, out-grown, or out-of style shoes hiding in your house or family members' garages. What a great way to clean out your closet or even get rid of that pair of shoes that are hurtful to fashion! All pairs will be re-used to assist individuals in developing countries that are without adequate footwear.

Also, profits raised by the recycling (via www.shoeswithheart.com) will assist a local Santee dance team (EDMC) for their trip to NYC to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! Of note, each dancer must raise over \$3,000 to attend. What a great way to help those in developing countries, reduce our landfills, and help an aspiring group of local Santee youth make it to NYC! Recycle bins will be in the Greeting Room/Foyer at Summit on Sundays and throughout the week. Please tie or rubber-band your shoes together. No cleats or skates. For more info please contact SAC member Erin at erindoherty1@yahoo.com. Pick-ups can be scheduled if you have car-loads of shoes!

Amnesty International

Hi all! Our next meeting will be on May 19th 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:

♥ Tom and Neal Biggart are happy to report Tom's surgery, while long and hard, was successful and only benign cells were found in one lymph node. Tom is recovering nicely and gaining strength day by day.

♥ Terry and Brenda McGuinness and their family, as they mourn the loss of Terry's sister and father.

♥ Grace Lewis-McLaren, Mary Carter-Vail and family as they grieve the loss of Grace's husband and Mary's stepfather, John Lewis-McLaren.

♥ Pierre Vaughn and Debbie Wingard, as both recover from the dreaded "mahooka" and Pierre undergoes treatments.

♥ 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!

Hymnal Donation Request

Summit needs more hymnals. If you would like to donate one or more hymnals, you can have a bookplate (small square of paper, nicely designed) pasted in the front of the hymnal showing your name as the donor and, if you wish, the name of the person you would like to honor with the donation. The silver & gray hard-backed hymnals (Singing the Living Tradition) are \$29 and the teal-colored, soft-backed (Singing the Journey) are \$15 including shipping and handling. We need at least 20 of

each.

Make the check out to Summit UU Fellowship and send to:

Ed Henry (Go to Summit directory)

Please include a note with the names you would like on the bookplate.

Ed Henry, Chair Sunday Services Committee

Summit Now has a Memorial Garden

It is the patio area under the Chinese Elm Tree between the office wing and the salon. Families can have a paver stone in this garden dedicated to their departed Summit member, by purchasing 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 if you would like to have a paver stone carved for your loved one. Suzanne McQuaide

The New Founders' Path has been Dedicated!

Summit's children and youth worked with many of our adult members and friends, creating the mosaic designs on each brick that lines the path. Their mosaic *Founders Path* will provide a special place at Summit for all to contemplate, rejoice, be inspired, or just stroll. The path was dedicated on April 27th, as Dorothy Greene, one of Summit's original founders, blessed it by sweeping it with a ritual herb and twig broom. The path honors those who came before us and made it possible for us to be the community that we are today, and have yet to become. *Climb On! We are Blessed!*

Summit's ONLINE DIRECTORY Needs YOU!

Is your info already in the printed Summit directory? Great! It should be on our new website, too.

Register online & upload your photo:

1. Go to www.summituuf.org
2. Select MEMBER LOGIN
3. Click the red REGISTER link
4. Fill out the Registration form
5. When done, click the blue REGISTER button at bottom of form.

Your Profile Photo

You can add your photo to your profile in the Membership Directory after you have registered (once your registration has been activated). Here's how:

1. Select the photo you want to use and place it on your computer desktop.
2. Log in on www.summituuf.org and you will find yourself in the Member Area.
3. Select "Your Profile" to access the Member Profile page.
4. You'll see "Upload" under the shadow of an image. Click "Upload" to upload your photo from your desktop. **Note:** If you want to change your photo at a later date, just repeat this process with a different picture.

Need help? Email LaMar Rogers at lamarrogers@cox.net.

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'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.

Our infamous **Music Sunday** service is only a few weeks away on **May 25th!**

We need our musically- talented members to sign up! Please email Jill by **Tuesday, May 13th** to sign up to perform at this wonderful service.

Freethinkers...

Is taking a hiatus for a time. Watch for future postings or contact Wendell Rawlins or Donna Daum if you have a topic you would like to present.

Hiking Group

Warm weather has arrived early this year! We resume doing hikes in the fall, once it has cooled down enough. Happy summer to all! Kerstin Crowe

Membership Committee

The Membership Cmte meets every first Tuesday of the month (May 6th) 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 (May 12th) 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 at r.dryden@cox.net.

The 2014 *Santee Street Fair* is on May 31st and June 1st 10:00AM to 7:00PM on the 31st. and 10:00AM to 6:00PM on the 1st. **PFLAG** will occupy the booth on **May 31st** and Hillcrest Youth Center will have the booth on June 1st. Hope you come and see us.

The Summit UU Book Club...

will meet on Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 pm in the Salon to discuss the 1966 Anthony Burgess novel "Tremor of Intent."

Critics have described the book both as a satire on Ian Fleming's "James Bond," and John LeCarre's "George Smiley," characters, as well as a thought provoking exploration of politics and religion.

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

25th Anniversary Variety Show

COME ONE, COME ALL,

TO SUMMIT'S GREATEST SHOW IN SANTEE!

Friday, May 2nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fifteen high-quality performances from Summitarians of all ages.

Mark your calendars!!

Support your fellowship friends.

See you there! **Variety Show** Committee: Pat Bryning, Jill Reis, Laurel Bernstein.

Announcing Summit's 6th Annual

Rainbow "Stone" Salad Bar Camp Scholarship Luncheon

Join us on **May 4th** for the **Rainbow Salad Bar** in the Salon. Please bring something to add to the Salad. The 25th Anniversary Committee will provide the lettuce.

If your last name begins with:

A through E - bring something **Blue** or **Purple**

F through J - **Yellow** or **Orange**

K through O - **White**

P through S - **Green**

T through Z - **Red**

Suggested Donations: Adults and Teens - \$10 Children 4-12 - \$3 Children 3 and under - free

All donations contributed to the UU Camp Scholarship Fund for Summit Children & Youth.