

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

Vol. 25 No. 10

October 2015

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 - 5:00 pm

Services begin at 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

October 4th: *"Whirlpools in the Stream"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Many of our disagreements about the nature of reality eventually bring us back to consciousness--what it is, where it is, what it does, and how it may or may not relate to the ultimate questions of our existence. Rev. Frank will talk about the differences in belief around the problem of consciousness, what we know, and what we do not know, and the implications for spiritual community.

October 11th: *"The Sins of our Fathers"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

On the eve of Columbus Day, and in light of the Pope's unfortunate canonization of Junipero Serra, San Diego's pre-eminent historical Catholic missionary, Rev. Frank will invite us to reflect upon the Doctrine of Discovery--the rationale for European domination of the original peoples of the Western Hemisphere--which continues to this day. How can we realize restorative justice in the face of such a persistent and pervasive history of injustice?

October 18th: *"Martial Arts as a Spiritual Path: Part I"*

Summitarians Mark Wheeler and Mark Weedman will offer some personal reflections on the martial arts as spiritual practice, and the importance of the warrior archetype in the struggle for self-realization, personal freedom, and social justice. How is it that there can be a place for the discipline and holistic benefits of the martial arts in Unitarian Universalism?

October 25th: *"Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Among the several streams of religious thought and culture that make up our Living Tradition is the Protestant Reformation in 16th century Europe. Among the most liberal and radical evolutions in religious thought of that period, the Unitarian movement set the course of who and what we are today: a community of "come outers," Pelagians, and protesters. Come celebrate our historic character, rooted in the ancient slogan, "ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda," meaning "those called out, re-formed, and always re-forming."

Saturday October 31st- Sunday Morning, November 1st:

"Samhain Celebration" Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Samhain, the ancient Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season, was antecedent to the recent celebrations of Halloween and the Christian Feast of All Saints. Come join Rev. Frank for a Samhain ritual on Sat. evening, Oct. 31st, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Costumes and merriment are encouraged, along with a respect for the powers at work in nature and between the worlds of the living and the dead. Then on Sun. morning, at 10:00 a.m. we will gather for a closing ritual in

recognition of this special Pagan Holiday. Again, costumes and merriment are encouraged! All faeries and spirits of good-will will be welcomed!

The Scene at Summit's November 2015 edition
deadline will be *Mon., October 26th.*

Summit's Office Information

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

Emergencies and appointments: 619-562-0833

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: Barbara Brooks

Property Steward: Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

"To Love the Earth is to Love Truly"

Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical *Laudato Si*, asserts that "the urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. He affirms that "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home." He makes an urgent appeal "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet," saying that "We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." He calls us to "a new and universal solidarity."

It is clear that our earth is in its present condition, in significant measure, because we humans have over-valued power as a virtue, and rationalized the use of power for purposes of social and economic domination. We have promoted profiteering while neglecting the well-being of others. We have pursued industrial and technological development with insufficient regard for its impact on world climates and coming generations. We have prized a short-sighted and self-centered individualism that denies the fact of our profound interdependence. And such problems are driving us and many other life forms with which we share our common home toward extinction.

We are in a time of crisis on our planet, and the consequences of the choices we have made, and the actions we have taken, are now absolutely clear. Our moral and spiritual bankruptcy is even now being proven by our own destructiveness and disregard for the environment, and countless

other forms of human-caused and human-allowed suffering.

As all great spiritual leaders do, Pope Francis calls us to subject the power available to us to the cause of love. If we would love ourselves, we will act with care toward the earth. If we would love our neighbors we will act with care toward the earth. If we love the earth,—care-**full** to preserve its beauty, fertility, biodiversity, and overall health—we will truly be loving each other. We will turn ourselves individually and collectively to developing renewable energy sources, perfecting public transportation, and promoting local initiatives like the Interfaith Coalition to Preserve our Common Home, San Diego 350.org, and the “Transition Streets” movement, championed by Summit members Jamie and Leslie Edmonds, that is progressing here in our county.

Love. That is the simple truth of it. And it is clear that there is no other way for us to progress in building the sort of world that most of us say we believe in and would like to realize.

Namaste, Rev. Frank

"An Introduction to Summit UU Fellowship...

... for Inquirers, Prospective Members, or the Just Plain Curious" is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you haven't already attended, you are invited to this free orientation to Summit Fellowship. You will enjoy a light breakfast with Rev. Frank and other Summitarians, get a brief overview of UU history and Summit Fellowship, learn about how the Fellowship is organized and funded, and have all of your questions about Summit answered. Please call the Summit Office by Wednesday, September 30th to register so that we can reserve a place for you (619-562-0833). ~ Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

During my recent travels to and in Philadelphia it gave me pleasure and joy to see our Unitarian Universalist values of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person visible in the fabric of American life, among a variety of people and circumstances. Airline flight crews on my flights spoke with Latin accents, were Asian, African American or white and included both men and women. I am old enough to reflect on times when this was not so. The Double Tree Hotel staff was quite diverse. A woman at the front desk wore a hijab and many employees at a variety of jobs, front desk, concierge and more, were Hispanic or African American as well as white. My German cousin, a Buddhist nun, and myself, a German immigrant and naturalized citizen, compared notes with concierge staff that were from Eritrea, a country in the Horn of Africa. The two men had quite the journey to eventually arrive, via Germany, with their families in the USA. Our hotel was located in the Gayborhood district, officially designated as such on the Philadelphia maps. We enjoyed the festivity of pedestrian crossings painted in rainbow colors, as well as rainbows on many street signs. We walked to coffee shops, cafés and restaurants much like at Hillcrest in San Diego. Nearby were also Chinese and Korean restaurants. I ordered a fiery, delicious Korean Kimchi soup for lunch. Viewing the Liberty Bell, the iconic symbol of American Independence, took on a fresh, expanded meaning of liberty, now and in the future,

truly for all living in our amazing country of immigrants.

Summit's UU Justice Ministry is active. Here's a link to an article shared by facilitator Jack Shu that relates to my recent personal experience of advocacy for the worth and dignity of black colleagues (see the September President's Report in the Scene at Summit Newsletter). The following article is for white UU's regarding Black Lives Matter:

<http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/courage-for-blacklivesmatter-hesaid/>

The title of the article is: **Courage For Black Lives Matter: Love Letter to White Unitarian Universalists (and other white folks, too)**. The article is well worth reading especially if we are somewhat isolated in a primarily white community. "The movement is a challenge to put our values into practice," our UU values, to stand up for them in small everyday ways as well as with loud, persistent voices and actions. If you would like a print out of the article, please let me know.

Barbara Brooks, President of the Board and Congregation

To Summitarians: The sanctuary tapestry that hangs behind the pulpit must not be taken down at any time. The fabric is fragile. It can be covered with a large black piece of fabric that is kept in the CRE area of the main building. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

It has been a very busy September as our children and youth programs transition from summer fun to age-oriented, spiritual exploration programs. We have six age groups and a total of 44 volunteer teachers and advisors that make it all possible. Sunday mornings are not all that we do for our children, youth and families at Summit. There are other programs and activities planned for the coming year. Here is a peak:

OWL for Upper Elementary – Oct. 3rd to Dec. 13th on Sunday afternoons – Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a whole-person sexuality education program created to offer factual information that is age appropriate. Knowledge is power and this program gives our children, youth and adults the tools to make good, healthy decisions about their own bodies and identities. We have trained educators at Summit facilitating these classes.

The early elementary program covers healthy body image and answers the question "where do babies come from?" in a parent approved way, that includes adoption as well the many ranges of family experiences.

This fall we have a team of four trained adults who will work with the upper elementary children. This level focuses on all of the changes that are happening to their bodies, with the same core-bases and discussing gender-identity that is inclusive. Upper elementary also begins to cover sex and sexual behavior, at an age appropriate level, with an emphasis on healthy

boundaries and relationships.

This January, the senior high program will be offered at FUUCSD and the junior high program will be available at UUFSD. Many youth from our cluster attend these bigger programs and we have found it a valuable experience for our youth to be in the larger group while covering this material. For more information about OWL, contact me at Summitdre@gmail.com.

Coming of Age – Many religious traditions offer youth an opportunity to explore their beliefs and faith communities as they transition into adulthood. For Unitarian Universalists, this is called “Coming of Age.” Over the past four years we have created our own program at Summit that supports youth in this process. Part of the program is connecting them with adult mentors and providing opportunities for challenge and growth. We schedule COA every other spring when there are enough youth to participate. This year we have enough youth for a “critical mass so the program will be offered again. And there’s a large “bubble” of junior high youth who will be ready next year!

Children’s Gardening – Over the years there has been talk of having a vegetable garden at Summit. This summer, our youngest children planted and nurtured five container gardens outside of our CRE classrooms. We had varied success, as summer heat in Santee was tough on our plants. After conversations with parents, and avid gardeners, we’re considering creating a year round garden for our children and youth to connect with the natural world. Ideally this would be a raised garden bed, though it could remain to be the current containers. We are looking at building materials to ensure that our project is environmentally friendly, water wise and aesthetically congruent with our current landscape. Help may be needed to build this special project, so let me know if you are interested in playing in the dirt!

YAK – Our Youth Action Kommittee (spelled with a K by choice :-)) has returned this fall. This group of junior and high school youth was created to provide leadership opportunities for our future movers and shakers. They will focus on service, scholarships and fUUn. Their first project of the year will be helping out in various ways at the Summit Auction.

Last year they took on projects to raise funds for the Summit Youth Empowerment Scholarship account, which helps our kids go to camp, cons (conventions) and even General Assembly in Portland. They also planned many fun activities to socialize with each other. What will they do this year? I can’t wait to see!

Children’s Religious Exploration Committee – Our CRE Committee is the center of all that we do for children, youth and families at Summit. This group of dedicated people, lead by our Chair, Liz Groff, guides and supports much of the programming and activities that happen in CRE. Currently, we have openings on our committee and are looking for parents of children, young adults and older adults who are interested in being part of this process. The CRE Committee meets at 8:30 am on the second Sunday of the month in the CRE area. Contact Liz Groff for more information

Invite Children and Families to Summit – Do you know any families who are looking for a community? Are there children in your life that could benefit from the opportunity to explore their own sense of wonder? Extend an invitation to them to come visit Summit. Fall is the perfect time to make friends and build connections. Our program is rich and offers many ways for children and parents to connect that are not available in day to day life. We work to build

beloved community for all ages, by sharing our treasure we create a richer program for us all.

Peace,

Mary Carter-Vail, Director of CRE

Summit's Children's Religious Exploration Mission Statement

"To create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for our children and youth through creative exploration of Unitarian Universalist principles and sources."

Adult Religious Exploration

Memoir Writing Group / Lois Santalo: Fri., Oct. 9th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 17th, at Summit in our Library at 10:00 am. Please contact Margo Mariana 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. We are lifted by the shared intention and spiritual energy of one another. *"Whenever you step out of the noise of thinking, that is meditation, and a different state of consciousness arises."* ~ Eckhart Tolle

New Time: The **Summit Buddhist Sangha** (a gathering of meditators) will meet every Sunday **from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** in the Summit Sanctuary. The meetings begin with a brief introduction to meditation, followed by 20 minutes of silent or gently guided meditation. Topics in the form of readings or audio dharma talks are provided, followed by discussion which can include questions about practice. The Summit Buddhist Sangha is a community of practice, learning, and support open to all who find a Buddhist path meaningful.

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

What is the Caring Committee?

We are a group of volunteers who organize and participate in a network of Summit members who support those in the fellowship who find themselves in need.

Congregation members can apply to be part of this network of caregivers who assist others in our Summit family with practical tasks and needs. Some examples are: rides to Summit or medical appointments, visits by phone or at home, coordinating or providing meals in times of need, errands for ill or housebound, helping at memorial service receptions. Rev. Frank and the Caring Committee match up those who "ask for help" with those offering to help.

We ask that if you hear of someone in our community being hospitalized or in crisis, please notify the Caring Committee chair, Janet Dixon or Rev. Frank. The committee will then take the appropriate steps. Please do not make requests to the committee on behalf of someone without their explicit permission.

The Caring Committee will have a table set up outside in the breezeway each Sunday this month to answer questions and provide an informational flyer.

We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page is the "ride coordinator" for our committee. If you need assistance with transportation to Summit or medical appointments, call her, preferably a few days ahead of time.

Loving Hands Ministry

The Loving Hands Ministry won't be meeting on Oct. 3rd because some of us are taking a field trip to the annual Vista Fiber Arts Fiesta. But, if you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us next month at 10:00 am in the Summit Library. We make 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.

Justice Ministry Committee

... will meet on Tues., Oct. 12th at 6:00 pm in the Salon. Formally known as the Legislative Ministry Committee, the work of this group will focus on social justice issues such as immigration, income equality, and environmental justice. Rooted in our UU faith and "Standing on the Side of Love," the committee will soon give us more opportunities for us to "Pray with our Feet."

Social Action Corner - *Service Is Our Prayer*

Helping Others in East County and Beyond

Summitarians acting locally:

Interfaith Shelter- October's SAC collection (October 18) will go toward replenishing Summit's Interfaith Shelter budget, to cover the costs of hosting shelter guests for two weeks this coming December. Please make checks payable to SUUF, and remember that SAC gets 80% of the plate collection on SAC Sundays [to donate \$20 to the Shelter, you'd need to put \$25 in the plate, for example]. As a host site we are able to directly affect many lives in positive ways- please give generously!

Pet Food for PAWS- Summit has been collecting pet food for PAWS, a program of the San Diego Humane Society that provides pet food, services and support, including pet food delivery, to low-income pet families who are seniors, chronically ill or disabled. We're doing a great job of filling a barrel in the greeting room, and if you've forgotten to put a bag of kibble or case of food in the barrel, you'll have another chance on Sunday, Oct.4! Contact Sally Jackson for info.

Summitarians acting globally:

Help for Syrian refugees - The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) have launched two new initiatives in response to the global refugee crisis. These are:

A special [UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund](#), with the goal of raising \$250,000 by September 25. Donations to this fund will go directly to UUSC/UUA partners already on the ground in countries receiving refugees. A [petition](#) drive to raise the number of refugees admitted into the United States to 200,000. Please go to the websites for more information or to make a donation.

SAC currently meets on the second Sunday of each month after the service. Please join us for our next meeting on **Sunday, October 11th at noon** in the library. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Jerilyn Harris.

Amnesty International...

Welcome to everyone returning from fun summer excursions; we look forward to having you join us in writing for justice. Amnesty International will resume our monthly meetings on the last Monday night of every month at 6:30. Our next meeting will be **Oct. 26th in the Summit Salon**. Writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience all over the world is a beautiful way to make a difference. Our collected letters land on the desk of some “sir” or “majesty” somewhere, and it forces them to consider action. We have been especially blessed to have had several successful campaigns — where our letters (along with those worldwide) have actually freed a prisoner or changed a sentence. It is an amazing and triumphant feeling. Be the change you want to see in the world!! Visit the <http://www.amnestyusa.org> website or contact **renee altson** for more details.

Within the Congregation

Member & Friend News

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love and encouragement.
- ♥ Congrats to Ed Davis who won second place in the Scripteasers’ annual playwriting contest. Scripteasers is a 65 year old San Diego organization which meets about twice a month to read new plays. Ed’s one act play is entitled “*The Importance of Being Ernestine,*” and will be read on Friday, October 2nd.
- ♥ Linda Peck's brother, Mark, as he continues to struggle with his cancer treatments.
- ♥ Pam Kerr as she recuperates from surgery.
- ♥ Richard Wilkie and Elaine Harper, as Richard continues to receive palliative care at home.
- ♥ Chris Wetzel, and her son Peter, as she remains fairly restricted to home.
- ♥ Val Sims as she continues to live her life to the fullest.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling to make ends meet, find work, and provide for their families in these difficult economic times.

The new Summit Directory of Members and Friends is now available!

Please pick one up to have the current information for the Summit community. If your directory isn't solar yellow, then it is out-of-date! The first copy is free to members and friends, the second, etc., cost \$2.00 each.

Summit’s Memorial Garden

It’s 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 suzanne-m@cox.net

PFLAG expanded to include all LGBTQ

There will be a PFLAG Meeting on Monday, October 12th, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., in the library, at Summit UU Fellowship. PFLAG stands for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, but it's mission has been expanded to include all LGBTQ people and their friends and allies. This is a support meeting and we welcome your attendance whatever your connection might be. If you have questions or comments contact Mary or Bob Dryden.

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

Choir Notes

The Summit Singers rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us!

Choir Director:

Carly Newman carlynewman1021@gmail.com

Freethinkers

On October 16th at 6:30, our speaker will be Summit member Jamie Edmonds, sharing information about "Street Transitions." *Transition San Diego* is a charitable, non-profit 501(c)(3). We are working on transitioning San Diego County's homes and neighborhoods into more livable, sustainable, resilient, and beautiful places.

We all know that fossil fuels are a limited resource and that our current standard of living is totally reliant on the availability of abundant--and above all cheap--oil, natural gas, and water! Pegging the quality of our lives to these unstable commodities comes with a very high price and is inherently dangerous, but together we can proactively transition to an even more fulfilling and healthy lifestyle before things get inevitably worse.

Membership Committee

The Membership Cmte will meet on Sunday, Oct. 25th at 12:00 pm in the Summit Library in the office wing.

Book Club

The Summit UU Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:00 pm in the Summit library, to discuss Abraham Verghese's "lush and exotic" novel, "*Cutting for Stone*," which has received glowing reviews too numerous to quote. It's about twin brothers who become doctors. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, "*Cutting for Stone*" is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles - and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

UPCOMING EVENT

**Are you going to
the
'All That Jazz!'
Summit Auction**

**The annual Summit
Auction is an
Ab-so-lute-ly fun and
ducky
FUNdraising event**

How?

You can give gently used items to sell in the famous Boutique

And,

You can buy space in the Auction Catalogue to advertise your business

And,

You can buy space in the Auction Catalogue to send a message to someone special

And,

You can sell raffle tickets to your friends and co-workers

And,

You can bring as many friends as you want to the auction!!

Please join us!

Dress up in a 1920's era costume!

Eat great food!

Spend lots of money on Great Dinners, Services and

Fabulous Fun Times for Family!

Saturday, November 7th from 4:30 – 9:00 PM

~ Free Child-Care Available ~
ADDITIONAL INFO

Our Website has all the Summit information: summituuf.org/

Summit has a Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/SummitUUF>

The monthly newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Association: [UU Bulletin](#).

Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (PSWD): www.pswduu.org

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.

About the eNews:

The newsletter you are currently reading is our monthly *Scene at Summit*. If you wish to receive our weekly source for Summit information, the eNews, in your email, contact Pamela Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net.

If you want to contribute an article, or classified ad, or 'something of interest' to the eNews:

- ☮ Include your information in the body of the email. Do Not Send attachments.
- ☮ Send your item by early Wednesday morning.
- ☮ 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, jobs wanted, or services offered, or, for sale, and ads relating to member businesses may be featured in the "Classified Ads" and "Bulletin Board" sections of the eNews, at the discretion of the eNews editors.
- ☮ Respond to the contact person noted in an article, do not just "reply."

Now you can find the eNews on our website <http://summituuf.org/>; log in as a member, you'll see "ENEWS" at the top of the banner to the right, click that and it will take you to another page that will give you a link to the current eNews.

Thanks! ~Pamela Kerr