

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 25 No. 12

December 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.

December 6th: *"Holiday SUUper Heroes!"*

Join us for our annual Children's Religious Exploration Holiday service. Did you know that there was a real war on Christmas? In this original play, we'll learn about the contributions that Unitarians and Universalists have made to the traditions that we celebrate today. Come to support our children and youth as they share their talents with us all. It will be super!

December 13th: *"Knocking On The Innkeeper's Door"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

On this Sunday before the start of the Hispanic/Meso-American celebration of Las Posadas, we will reflect upon hospitality and the well-being of guests who come to our door looking for a place to belong, a place to live in meaningful relationship with others, a place to build and experience a fulfilling life.

December 20th: *"Between Dark and Light"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Night and darkness are often associated with evil and despair. In this Yuletide celebration of the Winter Solstice, we will celebrate both the dark and the light in life. We will acknowledge and reject the one-sided pessimism that is born of a sole focus on despairing and discouraging circumstances, and recommit ourselves to a way of being that seeks to bring light into the darkest nights.

Christmas Eve Service, 5:00-6:00 p.m. *"Joy to the World"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Joy? Bah, humbug! Who has time for joy? What is there to be joyful about? Joy is so maudlin, so superficial, so Pollyanna-ish. We UU's are all about hard facts, dispassionate thoughts, and the life of the mind...Emotions are to be discounted. Bodies are biological machines. Joy is a worthless experience...or is it? Come join us for this Christmas Eve and find out, and--watch out!--you may just find yourself opening to a level of experience in ways you hadn't expected!

December 27th: *"A UU Survivalist Manual"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Okay, Hanukkah, Yule and Christmas Day over...Thank-whatever! We've survived long enough to make it this far. Now What? Rev. Frank will introduce us to some concepts from the UU Survivalist Manual he is thinking of writing, and share some tips for how we religious liberals can stay alive and thrive in 2016.

*The Scene at Summit's January 2016 edition
deadline will be **Mon., December 21st.***

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, bgbrooks@mac.com

Property Steward: Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

Social Action in this Season of Lights

Dear Summit members and friends,

As those whose energy and attention is disposed to be people of the light, in this Season of Lights (Advent, Hanukkah, Yule, and Kwanza) I invite you to join me and millions of others in bringing light to a world where the darknesses of fear, corruption, and immoral leadership continue to perpetuate human-allowed and human-caused suffering in the world.

On Saturday, December 12th, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. I will be participating in the **March & Rally for Climate Justice** in conjunction with the last day of the **UN Climate Talks in Paris**. This public action will occur in San Diego's Balboa Park, at 6th Avenue and Laurel Street.

Why is this important? Carbon dioxide is now well over 400 parts per million in our atmosphere and we need continued collective action to generate the moral and political will to ensure the breathability of our atmosphere in perpetuity. (To find out what this CO2 level means for us and our Earth home, go to <http://400.350.org>)

The following day, December 13th, 2015, from 4:30-6:00 p.m., there will be an interfaith **Candlelight Vigil for Gun Violence Prevention** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito (UUFSD). UUs will join with Faiths United Against Gun Violence and the Newtown Action Alliance in sponsoring this vigil and others like it across our nation. UUFSD is located at 1036 Solana Drive, Solana Beach, CA, 92075. For directions please visit uufsd.org.

Let your light shine!

Namaste and Happy

*Holidays,
Rev. Frank*

From our Summit Leadership

President's Report

Summit is nearing the close of the 2015 calendar year. The Summit Board of Directors has had a busy year of monthly Board meetings, thereby steering our Summit Fellowship on a steady path guided by our Unitarian Universalist principles, purposes, our mission statement and our vision statement. Each Board meeting has an Agenda that proceeds as follows:

Chalice Lighting, Inspirational words
Check in; Guests attend intermittently
Approval of the prior month's Board Minutes
President's Report
Minister's Report and Recommendations
Treasurer's Report

Unfinished business. This includes an ongoing update of the Board Goals. 1.

Create a Leadership Development Team

2. Develop an internal & external communications plan & process
3. Stabilize and build Summit's music program
4. Explore the need for multiple services

New business

Calendar updates.

Adjournment: the Board adjourns in continuing spiritual community.

We are committed to building a compassionate, just and sustainable world.

The following is a summary of topics addressed, with action taken as needed, at Board Meetings occurring January 2015 through June 2015. We'll see an overview of July through December 2015 Board Meetings in a subsequent President's report.

January 2015

Replacement for a position on the nominating committee, Inviting committee chairs to Board meetings at intervals, Membership Committee database of new visitors

February 2015

Committee reports, Leadership Development, Music program, Multiple services, Personnel Committee, Commendation to Vic White, Pledge campaign, SUUN update

March 2015

Nominating Committee report, Multiple Services Committee, Communication Committee, Music program

update, UU Justice Ministry, Santee Sage Project, Executive Session

April 2015

Santee Collaborative report, Info Team report, Summit ambassador to Tokyo Universalist and Unitarian Fellowships, General Assembly delegates, Annual Congregational Meeting

May 2015

Reports from the Planned Giving Committee, Justice Ministry Black Lives Matter report, Info Team report, Leadership Development Committee, Sangha proposal, Nominating Committee

June 2015 Reports from the Leadership Development Committee, Social Action Committee, June Congregational Meeting outcomes, Info Team, Music Program, Sanctuary Expansion, Interfaith Homeless Shelter, Adult RE workshop

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 is extra busy in our Children's Religious Exploration area this year as we get ready for the holidays. Here is what we have been up to:

Our children and youth have been working hard all month to create a special holiday play for the first service in December. This year they are presenting an original play that shares how many Unitarians and Universalists from our past have contributed to our American Christmas traditions. There is much talk about the "War on Christmas" in the media. Did you know that there really was a time when it was against the law to celebrate Christmas? Join us for our play to learn more.

The shelter is coming! The shelter is coming! In addition to all of our usual celebrations associated with this time of the year, we are blessed to share our classrooms with the Interfaith Network Shelter for the last two weeks of December. In the past, we have hosted the shelter in the spring, so this is a new experience. To prepare for our shelter guests, our youth made 20+ hygiene packs. All of the much needed supplies were purchased with contributions from Summit's members and friends. I'm sure that these necessities will be much appreciated. All ages are making fleece blankets to welcome our guests with a warm, fuzzy "hug." Our older youth cut the fringe for the younger children to knot during play rehearsal. Our goal is to complete 14 this year. When our shelter guests arrive, they will have a blanket ready to keep them warm.

Camp is also happening! It is time for youth winter camps up at Camp de Benneville Pines:

In November, five of our youth attended Junior High Winter Camp. I had the honor of being one of the Dean's for Camp Epic QUUest. Brett Lynam and Anya Vail were part of our incredible staff. At this camp, we discovered that a powerful dragon had taken control of our camp and the Chalice of Light. The dragon, Ignoranthia, had stolen all the gems of light from the chalice and surrounded it with the Flame of Hate. Campers became Champions as they completed challenges and searched the woods for gems during the famed Night Hunt. During the final confrontation, our champions returned the light to the chalice, taking back their power from the dragon and overcoming the flames of hate. They discovered that they have the skills and power to overcome challenges when they share their gifts and work together.

Senior High Camp will be happening during the last week of the year. We have three youth attending this year with two on staff. Grace will be coordinating camp worship and Lucas Weed and I will be co-leading the youth Chaplain training program. This is a great time to be up in the mountains and hopefully there will be snow to play in.

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

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 19th, at 10:00 am in a member's home. Please contact Margo Mariana if you interested in participating. All levels of writing experience are welcome.

Meditation- Sun., 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 or on the floor, whichever you prefer, 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.

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 will NOT meet during December. We plan to resume in January so 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 Monday, Dec. 7th at 6:30 pm in the Summit Library. The work of this group focuses 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:

Adopt-a-Family (December's SAC collection) - As we do every year, SAC and Summit are "adopting" a family in need and providing them with the holiday gifts they have requested, often including basics they badly need. This year we are adopting a family of six (Mom, Dad and four boys) and we hope to provide them with everything on their wish list! Look for the Christmas tree in the sanctuary- each paper ornament lists one item on that list for you to buy, wrap, and return with the ornament tag attached, **no later than Sunday, December 13th.**

Interfaith Shelter holiday gifts - Also on the Christmas tree are ornaments specifying gift cards for our Interfaith Shelter guests. Since we will be hosting them over the Christmas and New Year's holidays this year, we want to make the holidays special for them as well. This is an easy one, no sizes to worry about - so please pick up an ornament and return it by December 13th with the specified gift card attached.

Interfaith Shelter sign-ups - Interfaith Shelter sign-ups have started! There are many ways and opportunities to get involved, please check out the sign-up board to see how you can help out!

Summitarians acting globally:

Guest at Your Table – The Guest at Your Table boxes are back this year! This is an annual fundraising and education program that supports the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). All you need to do is pick up a box at Summit and fill it with your spare change (or larger donations), and bring your box back to Summit in January. If you prefer to donate directly to the Guest at Your Table program online, you can do that [here](http://UUA.org/guestatyourtable-) at UUA.org/guestatyourtable-

and all donations of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock!

Help for Syrian refugees - The 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. 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 click on the links 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, December 13th at noon** in the library. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Jerilyn Harris.

Amnesty International...

Welcome to everyone! We look forward to having you join us in writing for justice. Our next meeting will be **Jan. 25th, 2016, in the Summit Salon**. Amnesty International will resume our monthly meetings on the last Monday night of the month at 6:30. 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:

- ♥ For Lynn Feinberg and family, as they grieve the loss of her brother, Rick.
- ♥ Gwen Curry and her family as they mourn the loss of her husband Ron.
- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love and encouragement.
- ♥ For Gale Graysage a speedy recovery from surgery.
- ♥ Elaine Harper and Richard Wilkie’s family as grieve his loss in November.
- ♥ 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 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

PFLAG expanded to include all LGBTQ

There will be a PFLAG Meeting on Monday, Dec. 14th, 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 will not meet on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us! Choir Director: Carly Newman carlynewman1021@gmail.com

Freethinkers...

Will not meet during December. We will resume in January 2016. Please watch for topics in the January *Scene at Summit*.

Membership Committee

At the time of this writing it is undetermined when the Membership Cmte will meet next.

Book Club

On Tuesday, December 1st the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting at 7:00 pm in the Summit Library to discuss Anita Diamant's "*THE RED TENT*."

The "Jewish Times" says, "...Paints a vivid picture of what women's society might have resembled during biblical times. Although it is a novel, it is also an extended exegesis - filling in gaps left by the biblical text."

The "National Catholic Reporter" says, "earthy, passionate tale, told with great delicacy...quite simply, a great read."

The "Christian Science Monitor" says, "Diamant vividly conjures up the ancient world of caravans, shepherds, farmers, midwives, slaves, and artisans...a tale that has timeless resonance."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Friends: Please join us at the **Gun Violence Prevention Candlelight Vigil on 12/13/15 at UUFSD** (5:00 - 6:00 PM) & pass the info to others who would be interested. This from my friend Steve Bartram, who's organizing event ... *"The intent for the evening is to honor the lives lost and to move from there to solutions. We are so overwhelmed with sorrow and a lack of perceived opportunity for the average person to contribute that I want everyone to know they can and should do something. Part of the OOS (program handout) will include a separate page listing things people can do. I will charge everyone to share the gift of action by choosing one thing to do from that list."*

Also sending along link to this NPR segment I heard this morning, which I found hopeful ... **Family Impacted By Gun Violence Starts Research Foundation – NPR Morning Edition 12-4-15 --** <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/04/458427068/family-touched-by-gun-violence-starts-research-foundation> (segment is **3:29** minutes) ... Jeremy Richman's daughter was killed in the Sandy Hook school shooting in Newtown, Ct. He and his wife research the forces that increase a person's risk of violence. *"We started the Avielle Foundation to fund research exploring the underpinnings of the brain that lead to violent behaviors, and to foster the engagement of communities to apply these insights."* More at <http://www.aviellefoundation.org/> ... Hope to see you at the Vigil. Best, Vicky

Auction night has passed but there are still opportunities to purchase several of the Community Mixers! The sign-up sheets for those items are in the Summit library in front of the room divider.

These are great ways to meet other Summitarians, have fun, and support Summit! The Community Mixers are listed below: (for complete descriptions go to your Auction Catalog or click [here](#))

#102 Star Wars Movie Night & Pizza with Summit Youth Action Kommittee

December 12, 2015 Adults \$10 & Kids (10-18) \$5

-email Mary so she knows how much pizza to buy

#106 Night Club 2-Step Workshop **January 23, 2016** \$20 per person

#101 Galaxy Quest Matinee "We'll Watch Your Kids!" **January 30, 2016** \$7

#111 9 Leprechauns A Leaping (St. Patrick's) **March 12, 2016** \$30 per person

#107 Salsa Dancing Workshop **March 19, 2016** \$20 per person

#112 Latin Fiesta 2016 **August 6, 2016** \$40 per person

#113 Full Moon Sunset Cruise **September 16, 2016** \$50 per person

#103 Girls Night In **September 23, 2016** \$15 per girl

Christmas Eve Service, 5:00-6:00 p.m. *"Joy to the World"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Joy? Bah, humbug! Who has time for joy? What is there to be joyful about? Joy is so maudlin, so superficial, so Pollyanna-ish. We UU's are all about hard facts, dispassionate thoughts, and the life of the mind...Emotions are to be discounted. Bodies are biological machines. Joy is a worthless experience...or is it? Come join us for this Christmas Eve and find out, and--watch out!--you may just find yourself opening to a level of experience in ways you hadn't expected!

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](http://uubulletin.org/).

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.

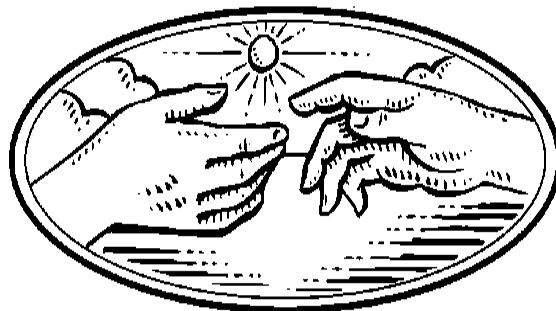
If you want to contribute an article, or classified ad, or 'something of interest' to the eNews:

- ☺ 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

Together, hand in hand . . .



For a better world.



A Religion for Today

At Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

in Santee our religion is first and foremost expressed in