

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 26 No. 1

January 2016

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.

January 3rd: *"The Death of Political Correctness"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

With election politics heating up, now is the time to take a stand for democracy, one of the seven spiritual practices of our Unitarian Universalist tradition. In his reflection, Rev. Frank will invite us to lay to rest every appeal and argument based upon "political correctness," and give our energy and attention to cultivating a deeper, more far-reaching civility in ourselves and communities.

January 10th: *"doG is My Co-Pilot"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Bring your (preferably calm and housebroken) animals to today's service, for communal recognition and blessing. Today's reflection will be focused on the valued and important place of non-human animal companions in our families and communities.

January 17th: *"Dare To Dream"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Love and courage are the basis of all justice work. On this weekend celebrating the life, work and martyrdom of Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King, Jr., our congregation will remember together King's dream and reflect upon how it is evolving in light of current events.

January 24th: *"Generosity in All Things"* Rev. Kay Crider

How can we infuse generosity into all our interactions? Kay Crider from Stewardship for Us will ask us to explore praise and gratitude, assumption of good faith around process, attentive listening, mentorship and embracing change all through the lens of generosity.

January 31st: *"The Heavens Unfastened"*

Rev. Frank Placone-Wiley, Ari Honarvar, Kenneth Goff

Mystic poets like Rumi, Hafez, Kabir, and, in our own time, Neruda, Oliver, and Rilke, can spiritually reorient us to transcendent love, knowledge, and the music of the spheres. Their art can open us to soul-nourishing insights and greater appreciation of our place in the great cosmic play in which we find ourselves. In today's service we will play with Poesy, and revel with the muses Thalia, Erato and Polyhymnia.

ATTENTION! *The Scene at Summit's*
February 2016 edition deadline will be
Mon., January 25th.

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: Barbara Brooks

Property Steward: Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

"Return to the Root of the root of your own Soul"

A happy New Year to all. In the aftermath of the holidays, I offer this poem from the 13th Century poet Rumi. I hope that you will find it re-grounding and a sustaining source of inspiration for the new year. Stay tuned for more musical, mystical and poetic explorations around Summit this month. ~ Rev. Frank

"For ages you have come and gone
courting this delusion.

For ages you have run from the pain
and forfeited the ecstasy.

So come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

Although you appear in earthly form
Your essence is pure Consciousness.

You are the fearless guardian
of Divine Light.

So come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

When you lose all sense of self
the bonds of a thousand chains will vanish.
Lose yourself completely,
Return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

You descended from Adam, by the pure Word of God,
but you turned your sight
to the empty show of this world.
Alas, how can you be satisfied with so little?
So come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

Why are you so enchanted by this world
when a mine of gold lies within you?
Open your eyes and come ---
Return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

You were born from the rays of God's Majesty
when the stars were in their perfect place.
How long will you suffer from the blows
of a nonexistent hand?
So come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

You are a ruby encased in granite.
How long will you deceive Us with this outer show?
O friend, We can see the truth in your eyes!
So come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

After one moment with that glorious Friend
you became loving, radiant, and ecstatic.
Your eyes were sweet and full of fire.
Come, return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

Shams-e Tabriz, the King of the Tavern
has handed you an eternal cup,
And God in all His glory is pouring the wine.
So come! Drink!
Return to the root of the root
of your own soul.

Soul of all souls, life of all life - you are That.
Seen and unseen, moving and unmoving - you are That.
The road that leads to the City is endless;
Go without head and feet
and you'll already be there.
What else could you be? - you are That."

~ Rumi

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

The song "*Let There Be Peace on Earth*" was written and composed in 1955 by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller. Today, in 2015, our hearts and minds still yearn for peace on earth, but it remains a shimmering, fleeting illusion, a mirage of water in the desert, just beyond our reaching, stretching fingertips. Here at Summit we gather together in many ways. If one loses hope, others can and will support us, as we walk on, another day. At a recent Summit Memoir Writing meeting, we counted a total of 401 years lived between the five of us. We marveled at all that we have experienced and survived, stretching back to World War I. As we talked and shared, we recounted the worst and the best of our lives, the sadness, resilience, love and laughter. We shared a common thread of hope, the need to sometimes let go, to realize when we can't fix it, to live with humor, mutual respect, and perhaps most of all, the willingness to pitch in, help out and serve others. As we spoke we wove, for those moments, in that room, a tiny piece of that shimmering fabric, peace on earth, and held it in our hands. If I keep you afloat, as you seek shelter and refuge, keeping you warm, clothed, fed and cherished, the skills I build will do the same for me. We spoke of trust in our grandchildren, the world's children, who, as they grow and mature will treasure the diversity of our humanity, which is our global strength. And so, for this winter holiday season, we dream of peace on earth. Let it begin with all of us.

Barbara Brooks, President of the Board and Congregation

Congregational Stewardship Visit January 23 & 24!

UUA Stewardship Consultant, Kay Crider, will be with us January 23 & 24. She will meet with our board, staff, members and friends on Saturday to hear about our culture, concerns, and our hopes and priorities for moving forward and provide training and tips for best practices around stewardship.

On Sunday Kay will offer a reflection during the service and present her initial observations and recommendations to the congregation after the service. A detailed written report delivered within two weeks of the visit will contain observations, data analysis, techniques for successful campaigns, and a timeline of recommendations customized for us.

Please make room in your schedule to participate so that we will get the most out of this endeavor. Thank you!

Pam Williams and Bernard Samtoy, Pledge Drive Co-Chairs

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 an incredible year of growth opportunities and spiritual exploration with our children and youth! The CRE Committee has been busy planning for the upcoming months of this "church year." We will have more information as we move through January. Watch for posts online and in Sunday orders of service!

Wishing all a Happy New Year!

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, January 16th, at Summit at 10:00 am at a member's home. Please contact Margo Mariana if you interested in participating. All levels of writing experience are welcome.

Memoir Writing Group: Next meeting – January 8th, (second Friday), 10:00 am – noon. Visitors welcome. Joanna Jones

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, which ever 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*

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 meet January 2nd in the Summit Library at 10:00 am. We plan to resume in February 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, January 4th 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 "adopted" a family in need and providing them with the holiday gifts they have requested, often including basics they badly need. Together we provided everything on the wish list of this family of six (Mom, Dad and four boys) – including four bicycles! Gift cards for our shelter guests were also collected- over fifty gifts were donated in all. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Interfaith Shelter signups - The Interfaith Shelter is underway but there may still be opportunities to get involved for the second week, so 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 will be collected on January 17th** (the third Sunday in January, also known as SAC Sunday)! This is an annual fundraising and education program that supports the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). If you have not yet picked up a box, some are still available on the greeting room table (temporarily relocated to the Sanctuary) All you need to do is pick up a box, fill it with your spare change (or larger donations), and bring it back to Summit on January 17th. If you prefer to donate directly to the Guest at Your Table program online, you can do that [here](#)- 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, January 10th 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.
- ♥ 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 who are struggling with the reminder of loss and difficulty brought by the holiday season.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling to make ends meet, find work, and provide for their families in these difficult economic times.

The Summit Directory is 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, January 11th, 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.

Choir Notes

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us! Choir Director: Carly Newman carlynewman1021@gmail.com

Freethinkers...

We will continue our presentations on environmental issues. Joe Penny will bring more information to us on January 15th at 6:30 pm. Please join us in the Summit Salon!

Membership Committee

The committee will meet on January 3rd at 11:30 am in the Summit Library. Happy New Year!

Book Club

On Tuesday, January 5th, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting at 7:00 pm in the library to discuss Louise Penny's "STILL LIFE: A CHIEF INSPECTOR GAMACHE NOVEL."

Enter the world of Three Pines, a picturesque village just north of the U.S. border, and discover why Louise Penny is the blockbuster #1 New York Times bestselling author who has enthralled millions of readers.

Seventy-six-year-old Jane Neal does not appear to be a woman anyone would want to harm, let alone murder, but when she turns up dead, with an arrow wound to her chest, Chief Inspector Gamache can't help but think that Jane died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless hunter.

A traditional mystery, with little violence, but lots of quirky, eccentric, interesting characters.

Upcoming Events

Spread the Word! Summit Concerts Coming!

Spread the Word! Riki Michelle and her new band, directed by Ricky Giordano, will debut at Summit Fellowship, Friday evening, January 22nd, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Suggested donation at the door \$10 per person.

Come, be inspired and uplifted.

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](#))

#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

Additional Info

Buena Vista Ave is closed to through traffic.

You are able to access Cottonwood from Mission Gorge. If you are coming from the 52 FWY, do not turn down Buena Vista, turn onto Cuyamaca heading North, continue to Mission Gorge, turn East, follow to Cottonwood, make a right and go just until before the stop sign, that is the corner of Cottonwood and Buena Vista, then you can either make a right into Summit's parking lot, or a left into the business there, that is our overflow parking.

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