

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 25 No. 4

April 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

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

April 5th: *Easter Sunday Celebrations!*

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey and DRE Mary Vail

On April 5th at 6:30 a.m., Rev. Frank will be at Santee Lakes to offer the Easter Message, entitled "In the Way of the Risen Christ," in an ecumenical service that has been happening in Santee for 38 years. This is a Christian-oriented service to which all are invited. Then at 10:00 a.m. at our Summit Service we will celebrate the **Circle of Life** with **memorial remembrances** of our members and friends who have died in the last year, **child dedications**, and a **Flower Communion**. All who attend are asked to bring a flower, and a flower or two to share with others. After the service, all Summit children will be invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt marshaled by our Director of CRE, parents and Youth. Please wear an Easter Bonnet if you have one!

April 12th: *"Living the Impossible Dream"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In seeking to live in and foster spiritual community here at Summit we are actually engaging in a radically counter-cultural act. This fact is often invisible to us, and remains unacknowledged, but it is perhaps the only way we have of injecting positive change into a world society that is increasing driven by the will to power and domination, with little real regard for love or justice. This being the case, how shall we consciously choose to live?

April 19th: *"Are UUs Soft on Evil?"* Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle

UUs deeply affirm the worth and dignity of every person, which is the first of our Principles and Purposes. Yet, noble as it is, the recognition of failure and wrong--evil if you will--is not included. We know that we humans are possessed of both good and evil capacity. Having returned from Selma and given the recent 50th anniversary of the passing of the Voting Rights Act, Rev. Carolyn's reflection will help us contemplate this important question.

April 26th: *"Living a Courageous Life"* Rev. Andrea Travers

We usually associate the need for being courageous with taking risks. This type of courage tests our physical limits and often feeds our egos. Spiritual courage is something very different. It requires that we discover who we are and know how we will act when we follow the deepest desires of our hearts. Please join me in learning how the wisdom teachers from the ages help us find and embrace our true inner calling.

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

*The Scene at Summit's May 2015 edition
deadline will be **Mon., April 27th.***

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

An Easter Meditation

Like the prophet Isaiah said, "All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field."

Manifestations of eternal energy,
we spring upward, out of the earthly body,
and take on material form for this season we call life,
tasting the elements and drink in the light of the sun,
then yielding, like fading flowers,
to make way for new life, new possibilities,
new varieties of growth and expression.

Primordial energy,
chaos without form,
shaped and solidified—
some say by some great design,
others by some implicate order,
or by something like a word—
in any case, a mysterious articulation
that collapses the infinite into you and me,
particular embodied beings,
engaged in this busy life in which we find ourselves.

What is this all about? An invitation to participate in a great cosmic play?
An opportunity to create and live out our dreams?
An expression of a universe consciously seeking to influence its own course?

However you may answer such questions,
in this precious and unique moment of now, we co-create a shared reality.
We can speak and sing, work and play,
for the building of beloved community—or not.
We can give our lives to painting the very atmosphere we breathe—or not.
We can seed ourselves and this great field of beings with love and goodness;
we can venture on in the quest for beauty, truth and justice—or not.

As energy takes form in and through us,
runs its incarnate course,
then burns itself out and moves on,
back to its source or onward to some freer space,
it leaves a legacy that, for good or ill,
in some way, changes everything.

Vernal myths of Isis, Persephone, and Eostra, and tales of the dying and rising god,
invite us to consider possibilities
beyond the limits of our current understanding.
As flowers breaking forth, blooming and leaving their blessings,
seeding the earth for new life and promise,
and falling with the onslaughts of fall and winter,
so we are.

Namaste, Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

From Your President

Summit Hosts the Interfaith Shelter in 2015 for the Fourth Year!

Our Summit Fellowship is pleased to have again hosted the San Diego Interfaith Shelter. A description of this amazing cooperative effort of churches, congregations and community organizations can be found at the web site: interfaithshelter.org. The program is a rotational shelter with each participating congregation hosting up to 12 homeless guests for two weeks from November to April each year. At the end of the two weeks, the guests move on to the next host congregation. Other congregations or community organizations provide volunteer support partners for the host shelters. A quote from the Interfaith Shelter website says: “through neighborhood congregations linking with others, people are sheltered where there are no shelters and receive the understanding and support of congregations when previously all they knew was fear and uncertainty. The

Congregations benefit by getting to know homeless individuals personally and the mutual sharing of stories is beneficial to both. Guests are only sent to congregations in the Network after being screened by an area social service agency to assure there will be no active drug, alcohol or mental health problems. Guests sent to the Network's congregations must be willing to work closely with the referring social service agency to resolve the problems leading to their homelessness.”

Summit is tremendously grateful to our partner organizations: the Baha’i Faith, the San Diego 9th and 10th regiments of the Buffalo Soldiers, the Chaldean Community Services of El Cajon, the Chinese Community Church of San Diego, the Japanese American Citizens League and ZS Associates of San Diego, the Masjid Al Salam Mosque of El Cajon and the East County PFLAG Chapter. Our partners provide plentiful and delicious dinners during Summit’s shelter, and some overnight hosts. We couldn’t do it without them!

Here’s a big shout-out of gratitude to the children and youth of Summit! They made snuggly, soft, fringed blankets for all our guests again this year. The guests are always surprised and happy to receive these special blankets. They are also moved by the good wishes from helping hands and loving hearts that the blankets bring. We had a full house of 12 guests as of March 18, 2015.

Each year the Interfaith Shelter at Summit is a VIP opportunity, a Very Important Possibility to participate as a volunteer. If you were not able to be a volunteer this year, please keep the Shelter in mind next spring. We thank you all!

Barbara Brooks, President of the Board and Congregation
and a Social Action Committee member

Town Hall Meeting, April 26th, immediately after Sunday Service. All Summit members are encouraged to attend this meeting, where we will be asking the congregation for feedback on possible future directions for our community's worship. Among the questions to be considered will be: Should we go to multiple services? Can and should we expand the current Sanctuary space so that we can create more seating? What are members thoughts and preferences concerning the portion of the service we have called Joys and Concerns?

Sunday Services Task Force

From Your Office Administrator

Hi, We are continuing to look for ways to save on our bills. It has come to my attention and the Finance Cmte’s that Summit is being charged for multiple 411 calls from the volunteer desk phone. We need to ask that no personal calls are made from any of Summit’s phones. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours in faith, Linda Peck

Board of Directors Meetings-Third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Library at Summit. Observers are welcome. Minutes from recent meetings are posted on our website: www.summituuf.org.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Children's Religious Exploration News

This year we have four Summitarian youth who are participating in our Coming of Age program. This program is a series of activities that are created to allow our youth the opportunity to intentionally look at their faith beliefs with the support of an adult mentor. This program concludes with a Coming of Age (COA) service where each participant gets to share their credo with the congregation.

This year I am rewriting the program that we used in the past by pulling from two COA programs and looking at what we have done in the past. We started our classes at the beginning of March and will continue through April. There are seven classes on Sunday afternoons and one COA sleepover. In addition to the classes we have added several social events and a rope course challenge. All are to allow the youth and mentor time to build a relationship of trust so that they can support each other. My goal is to create a COA program that is unique to Summit and can be used and adapted for our future youth.

It can be challenging to ask a Unitarian Universalist to develop a credo or personal faith statement. One of the things that many of us like about our faith is that we are not cornered into stating and "believing" one specific belief idea. COA is a process that helps guide the creation of this statement by looking at various areas of belief and doing "self-work" as a way of sketching out your personal ideas. Each week we focus on big ideas like: "What happens when you die?" or "How do I fit into the Summit community?" Youth work with their mentors to take a look at their beliefs to help them discover what their own faith is. At the end of the program they will create a credo to share with the Fellowship at the COA service.

Do you have your own faith statement or credo? Many UU adults do not. Take a moment to think about what might be in your statement. For most of us our set of beliefs changes over time though many of the core ideas remain intact. This is spiritual growth and it can be a lifelong process. May 3rd is our Coming of Age service. Save the date and join us for a moving experience.

Bright Blessings,
Mary Carter-Vail, Director of CRE

Adult Religious Exploration

"Waking UP": On Friday, April 24, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Ben Smith and Jerilyn Harris will co-facilitate this monthly "spiritual-but-not-religious" meet-up group centered around a deep reading and personal exploration of chapter 4, "Meditation," of Sam Harris's latest book, *Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion*. Everyone is welcome to attend, but it is requested that participants read the book in order to participate meaningfully in the group conversation. Bring one quote that you find particularly encouraging, troubling, or challenging, to share with the group.

Writers' Workshop: The group is taking a hiatus. Watch for further notice about when they will resume.

Memoir Writing Group / Lois Santalo: Also taking a hiatus. Please watch for further notice.

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

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

Caring Committee

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

Loving Hands Ministry

If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us on April 4th at 10:00 am in the Summit Library. 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.

Justice Ministry Committee

Summit's Justice Ministry Committee will meet on Tues., April 7th at 1:00 pm in the Library. 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 globally:

Interfaith shelter -Thanks to all of you who signed up for duties such as providing meals, prep and cleanup, overnight hosting, and transportation for our shelter guests who were with us from March 14-28, and a huge thank you to Barbara Brooks for so ably leading the way.

The Social Action Committee (SAC) collection for April (April 19) will go towards funding our stint as a 2016 Interfaith Shelter Network host site. As a host site we are able to directly affect many lives in positive ways- please give generously.

Summitarians acting globally:

Compassion for African Villages –Summit's own Social Action Committee members, Alix Hart and Mark Wheeler, with help from Faustina Chitura, Pastor Evelyn Bengesa and Zvidzai Ushe, updated us in March on the charitable work they are doing in Zimbabwe as leaders of the San Diego-based, non-profit organization Compassion for African Villages (CAV). With Summit members' generous support, CAV has succeeded in helping the students - many of whom are orphans - at the Chimudoro Primary School in Rundogo, Zimbabwe. The collection taken for CAV yielded \$803.90 for the school.

Everyday Social Action

The Social Action theme for the coming year is “Everyday Social Action.” What do you do to make the world a better place? We are sharing our Everyday Social Action practices - we look forward to hearing about your ideas and practices as well. Here’s how one Summitarian puts her values into action:

On July 13, I will be installed as President in the La Mesa-El Cajon Branch of AAUW, or the American Association of University Women. I have been a member now for 10 years and am very proud of what we stand for and what we do.

Each year our Branch awards six scholarships of \$1000 each to women students at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Community Colleges. We just voted to award a \$2000 scholarship to a nursing student at Grossmont who is planning to enroll in the RN/BSN (Bachelor of Nursing) degree. We also fund the AAUW Tech Trek program for 8 seventh grade girls who attend a week in the summer at UCSD to become acquainted with the various STEM subjects. It is just great to see these girls become so excited about the many career possibilities in these areas. Public Policy is another important area for AAUW. At our next meeting in March, we will have a speaker from SDSU who will address the subject of rape on the college campus.

There are approximately 20 AAUW branches in California alone, and our National Organization is the backbone, with the AAUW Fund giving thousands of grants and fellowships to women who pursue higher education. In addition, AAUW National fought hard for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act that President Obama signed in 2009. Even so, women now make less than 80% of what men make doing the same type of work.

On March 31, 1776, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John, who was a delegate to the Continental Congress at the time, “I long to hear that you have declared an independency—and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.” John did not attend to her wishes, a lady far ahead of her time. AAUW is helping to make them come true...finally.

Barbara Jania-Smith

NEW MEETING TIME FOR SAC!!!- The Social Action Committee has changed its meeting day and time. We now meet on the second Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Library. We

welcome you to join us on **April 12 at 8:30 a.m.** for the next meeting. Questions? Contact Gwen Baldwin, SAC chair.

Amnesty International...

...meets every month (April 27th) to help foster human dignity, respect, and the rights of all people. We write letters to various government leaders around the globe regarding certain people we have learned about; some of them about to be executed, some of them unjustly held in prison, others subject to public lashings or punishment--all prisoners of conscience. We have seen amazing results from our work, and I consider it one of the highlights of my social action. We meet the **last Monday of every month at 6:30 pm**. Please contact **Renée Altson** at renee.a@gmail.com for more info. Be the change you want to see in the world!

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Marla Liso as she and Simon seek for and settle into new living quarters.
- ♥ Wendel Rawlins, as he begins treatment.
- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love and encouragement.
- ♥ Harriet Wright as she receives palliative care. Her Summit Friends are welcome but please call ahead of time.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau as she continues to live life to the fullest. Her correct email address is gloriagelineau@gmail.com.
- ♥ Richard Wilkie and Elaine Harper, as Richard continues to receive palliative care at home.
- ♥ Chris Wetzel, as she continues to live her life as fully and joyfully as possible.
- ♥ Val Sims as she continues to live her life to the fullest.
- ♥ Linda Peck's son and daughter-in-law, Josh and Jennifer, as they begin their new life as parents of Amelia, born March 28th, 7lb. and 20" long.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling to make ends meet, find work, and provide for their families in these difficult economic times.

Summit's 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

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

Choir Notes

On Wednesday evening, March 25th, the *Summit Singers*, under the direction of Carly Newman, held our first-ever open house choir rehearsal. The choir "regulars" were joined by seven brave visitors who sang with the choir for all or part of the rehearsal, and an equal number, including two of our shelter guests, who made up the audience. We started with a sing-along (learning to sing familiar songs in three- and four-part harmonies), followed by a break for everyone to get acquainted over dessert, and a then short rehearsal of pieces the choir is currently preparing for upcoming services. We hope our visitors will soon be members of the choir!

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

Freethinkers

On the 3rd Friday of April (Apr. 17th), Freethinkers will host Al Nashashibi at an informal gathering in the salon at 6:30. Al, who is an artist and a poet, will talk about the history and culture of Palestine (but does not talk about politics). Please join us.

Membership Committee

The Membership Cmte will meet on Tuesday, April 7th at 2:00 pm in the conference room in the office wing.

The Summit UU Book Club...

The Summit UU Book Club will meet in the Summit library on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Jhumpa Lahiri's "*THE LOWLAND*," which the New York Times and Time Magazine, among others, have described as one of the best books of the year.

THE LOWLAND is an engrossing family saga steeped in history, moving from the 1960s to the present, from India to America, and across generations. This dazzling novel is Jhumpa Lahiri at the height of her considerable powers.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Denominational Connections Cmte

UUA NEWS, and an Invitation to attend the Unitarian Universalist District and General Assemblies

SUUF is one among hundreds of congregations with membership in the national Unitarian Universalist Association. We also are members of the Pacific Southwest District (CA, AZ, Nevada) and part of the Cluster in San Diego. Five local congregations make up this group. called San Diego UU Network (SUUN). Check out that website uusandiego.org for information on our cluster activities.

Participating in our denomination's events is a great way to meet other UU's, learn and share ideas, and have fun. Coming up in 2015 are two opportunities to be involved. Save these dates and plan to

go!

In the Spring April 24-25, the PSWD will hold their annual meeting in Chandler, AZ. Summit will have 3-4? "delegates" who are chosen to attend District Assembly and vote at the business meeting. Any adult or youth can attend. Workshops, music, speakers, justice ministry added to coming together with hundreds of all age UU's is a valuable experience.

The UUA holds its annual assembly this year in Portland, OR June 24-28 where THOUSANDS of UUs from all over the world will come together to share in an exciting and inspiring program. Again, we have the opportunity to select 3-4? delegates, but any UU may attend. The youth attendance is phenomenal and the days and evenings for all are spent in a whirlwind of events.

Registration and housing arrangements (hotels, UU hospitality, college sites) is available beginning March 2nd, and all information about GA can be found at uua.org/ga starting NOW. Hopefully, Summit staff and many adults and youth will go together to have a wonderful time in the Northwest.

If you are interested in finding out more about going as a delegate or just going, speak to Rev. Frank, DRE Mary Carter-Vail, or Board President Barbara Brooks and they can share what a great time it is. Or explore the websites above and do it soon!

The Summit Planned Giving Committee

...would like to start a conversation about legacy giving among Summit's members. Including Summit in your estate planning and charitable life income plans can help us sustain our mission—in perpetuity-- for a more compassionate, just and sustainable world. Unlike regular annual giving through pledges, such gifts can help Summit pay off its mortgage, insure that we keep our property well-maintained, fund special programs and projects, and maintain financial stability in hard economic times.

What is planned giving? Planned gifts are usually funded from assets accumulated over a person's lifetime or from life insurance. Most planned gifts are deferred, meaning Summit will enjoy the financial benefits of the gift after the donor's death. They include:

- Naming Summit as a beneficiary in a will, living trust, life insurance, 401(k) or 403(b)
- Naming Summit as the recipient of a tax-free rollover from an IRA
- Donating appreciated stock or real estate to Summit
- Designating Summit as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust
- Naming Summit as a secondary beneficiary of any of the above

Planned gifts are not a substitute for annual pledges toward the operating expenses of the church.

How can a planned gift be useful to the donor?

- The enjoyment that comes from making a significant gift to the organizations you love that you would not have been able to make during your lifetime.

- Tax deduction or reduction of capital gains, estate, or gift taxes.
- Increased income from low-yielding assets
- Asset management for someone who is not able to manage financial affairs.
- The pleasure of knowing that your philanthropic dreams will be fulfilled.

If you are considering a planned gift, please speak with a member of the Planned Giving Committee or our minister. The UUA Office of Legacy Gifts can also assist in establishing charitable gift annuities, and can be reached at (888) 792-5885, or giftplans@uua.org. If you have already established a planned gift with Summit named as the beneficiary, please let the Planned Giving Committee know by e-mail to Carol Davis at caroldvs@sbcglobal.net.

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](#).

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 early Wednesday morning 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, jobs wanted or services offered, or for sale and ads relating to member businesses may be featured in the "Classified Ads and Bulletin Board" section at the lower end of the eNews, at the discretion of the eNews editors.

Send your items to: Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net

If you usually receive the eNews and suddenly do not, please let me know, it is sent every Thursday.

Thanks! ~Pamela Kerr

Staff Notes:

"Shake, Rattle, then you can Roll!"

This is Summit's slogan to remind everyone about making sure all doors are locked before you leave the campus. The doors must be pushed and pulled to verify they are actually locked in place. Please be mindful of this practice.

Parking Notice: Please, park only in designated parking spots. Additional parking is available in the lot immediately to the east across the street from the Salon as well as the doctor's office at 10158 Buena Vista Ave. (Sundays only). The driveway areas need to be kept clear in case of emergencies.

Senior and Visitor Parking: We would like to ask our able-bodied members and friends to use the above-mentioned parking areas and leave the lot spaces for our designated seniors and visitors. Thank you. SUUF Staff

*That's all folks! No
foolin'!*