

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 26 No. 4

April 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.

April 3rd: *"Lying and Truth-Telling: A Moral Choice"* Rev. Dr. Carolyn Owen-Towle
In this highly-charged season of political drama we are often confronted with fabrication, distortions of truth, and outright lies. This raises questions about how we as a people of good faith understand, practice and promote speaking the truth, and speaking the truth in love. This week we are privileged to welcome again to our pulpit Carolyn Owen-Towle, who for over 30 years, has represented Unitarian Universalism in San Diego County, as co-lead minister at First UU Church of San Diego, as a speaker in all of our congregations, and as among the top leadership of our larger UU Association.

April 10th: *"Love Your Body"* Shannyn Allen, N.D.; Neal Biggart, Ph.D.
"The body is the spirit incognito," wrote Sandor McNab. Authentic spirituality will always include a concern for our bodies and their physical well-being. Come learn from the expert knowledge and personal experience of two of our members, as they speak to us of the normal physiology of the body and the promise and possibilities for health with a plant-based diet.

April 17th: *"No Ivory Tower; No Sacred Cows"* The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, Ph.D.
Once or twice a year at a Sunday morning service Rev. Frank invites you to "Ask a Minister" anything you like. This is your chance to publically grill him with challenging questions and sincere wonderments. Send your questions and inquiries to him directly at uuf Frankpw@aol.com so that he can answer them as quickly and efficiently as possible during the half-hour available.

April 24th: *"Living Your Mission: Finding and Bringing Your 'Medicine' to the World"* Jamie Edmonds, Summit member
As retired Fire Fighter and Summit member Jamie Edmonds describes it, "we need to find a way to meld the best of the new technology and ways of learning with the best of older indigenous wisdom and ways of knowing, and co-create a "new story" that better serves humanity and the planet. Come hear from Jamie about his own learnings, and reflect on some of the ways you can identify your own 'medicine,' that is, the gifts you have to bring to the community for the benefit of all of creation.

*The Scene at Summit's May 2016 edition
deadline will be *Mon., April 25th.**

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:

“What I Said on Holy Thursday”

On March 24th I—along with Summit Justice Ministry members Tony Neal, Donna Daum, Charlie Barrett and Carol Legard and other UUs—marched through Downtown San Diego to the Civic Center in support of local janitors. We engaged in this Interfaith Action of Public Witness with City Council Members, Union Leaders, and representatives from the State Senator's office, who were joined by a host of area clergy leaders that included Bishops from Southern California's Catholic Diocese, the United Methodist Conference, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Dean of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Rabbi's Laurie Coskey and Shai Cherry, and Imam Taha Hassane, Leader of the Islamic Cultural Center. I was asked to address the public with opening remarks as to why we were gathered. This is what I said:

“Buenas Tardes y Buen Dia a todos nuestros Hermanas y Hermanos en la lucha de justicia.

We, the servant leaders in our San Diego Interfaith Community are here to remember and engage in an action of public witness that can be summed up in three simple words: love one another.

Love one another. These are the words spoken by Jesus during his last Passover meal with his followers. We are here to remember and to remind all people that these words point to the only truly legitimate foundation for a morally just and spiritually enlightened society.

Some of us up here regard Jesus as a Rabbi whose teachings can inform our ethical life. Some of us count Jesus as a great prophet of Allah. Some of us consider Jesus as the very incarnation of

divine being, the revelation of God in human form. We may have different understandings of the person and work of Jesus, but we all agree that his words, “Love one another,” are for everyone everywhere: Love one another. Act with care toward one another.

We are here to remember these words: Love one another, and to put them into action and to invite and challenge everyone to put them into action.

And this action today has a very specific focus and intention behind it. We are calling upon the owners, the contractors who work for those owners, and anyone else who may be involved in the employment of janitors in the City of San Diego to wake up and see how you are not acting with care toward those who are working for you.

We are here to declare how it appears to us: that you are participating in and upholding a system of injustice that treats people as commodities, that exploits their labor, that does not pay them enough to live on, that turns a blind eye to the unsafe conditions, psychological abuse, sexual harassment and assault that go unaddressed in your places of business, and that refuses to give these people who work for you sufficient benefits so that they and their families can realize their human right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And to top it all off, owners and employers, we see how you maintain this system of injustice in your use of contractors who rely upon the threat of deportation and use it to discourage your employees from standing up for themselves and asking for a living wage. You are using the laws that exist, and the power of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to your own convenience, in ways that are shameful violations of the spirit of love, in ways that can look, at times, like little more than legalized forms of indentured servitude, in collusion with strategies that, at times, could be compared to those found in more overt forms of extortion and human trafficking.

In reminding you of these words, “Love One Another”—words which we are certain you and anyone but a true sociopath would agree are important—we call upon YOU owners and employers of these people who provide janitorial services to your businesses to wake up and realize that you are behaving in a way that is morally and spiritually bankrupt, to REPENT, and to stop supporting such an unloving, unjust and immoral system of economy and exploitation.

We the interfaith leaders, and other leaders of San Diego are here to call upon all leaders in business, industry and government, to LOVE. To love each and every person within and beyond the spheres of your influence. To act with care, to love us and all people from the ground up, from foot to head. And so we ritually—and for some of us, sacramentally—enact this challenge to you, by washing the feet of those who in good faith, night after night, give their energies to washing and keeping clean the places where so many work and serve. Let us all, love one another, in what we say and what we do.”

I invite the members of Summit Fellowship to stand with me in the ongoing struggle to bring compassion and justice into the world.

Namaste, Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

Eight Amazing Years of Personal Growth at Summit UU "College"* (see footnote)

At a recent Social Action Committee meeting, the thought that I have received a first class, top notch education at Summit UU "College" during my eight years of membership, popped into my busy brain. What a wild, interesting, satisfying ride it has been! At the beginning I slipped fairly unobtrusively into the Summit Sanctuary, wanting to check out this unknown tribe. I had a loose list of must-haves, including flexible spirituality, come as you are entrance requirements, a yearning for cognitive challenges, and acceptance of myself as an introverted extrovert, with, yes, a snarky, quirky sense of humor. I had a strong wish to "do something practical about it," to address concerns and injustices. As I soon discovered, the wise words of philosopher Theodor Seuss Geisel, posted in Summit's Children's Religious Exploration area, are honored at Summit: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..." An important disclaimer would be that, if you do not care to be quite on your own, you have plenty of support and friendship available at Summit!

At Summit we learn about and from philosophers, authors, poets, music, the world's religions, and spirituality with or without a structured faith. We quote and teach from many books and sources. At times, the current political, social and environmental concerns are part of our Services and discussions. Early on, I joined PFLAG, whose monthly meetings were held at Summit, and soon purchased our rainbow flag at a Hillcrest shop. This rainbow flag still flies every Sunday at Summit. The list of committees I attend, grew over time. Currently I participate with the Memoir Writing group, Justice Ministry, Social Action committee, Covenant group, the Poetry Writing group, Freethinkers, Amnesty International, Loving Hands, the Membership committee, as well as the Board. During the past year, my interest in Restorative Justice, nurtured by Summit, led me to join the Insight Prison Project, a 501(c)(3) organization that facilitates effective self development groups for prison inmates with the goal of fostering behaviors inspired by insight, accountability and compassion. This nationwide project can be found on the web as VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group) and InsightPrisonProject.org. Locally, teams of two facilitators, mentored by Reverend Andrea Travers, present the very interactive VOEG curriculum for groups of 18 incarcerated men at a time, at Ironwood and Chuckawalla prisons, near Blythe, California, once a month for the next 12 months.

Quoting that great social observer and commentator, Dr. Seuss, in light of current political and world turmoil, "*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. Its not.*" (*The Lorax*)

“You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so... get on your way!” (Oh, The Places You'll Go)

Barbara Brooks, President

*Footnote: the word “University” has currently been hijacked by political events.

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.

Anything Regarding the eNews- Send items, questions, comments, kudos, to:

Suuf_Volunteer@sbcglobal.net

Thanks! ~Pam Kerr, eNews editor

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 April. Watch for posts online and in Sunday orders of service!

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

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, April 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.

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 2:00-3:30 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 April 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, April 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 globally:

Compassion for African Villages - The collection on March 22nd benefited 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, and currently CAV is building much needed toilets at the school. A total of \$1062 was collected for CAV! Thank you for your generosity.

Summitarians acting locally:

Santee Food Bank collection - the SAC collection for April will be nonperishable food (canned and dry food) which we will donate to the Santee Food Bank to help our neighbors in need. Now's a great time to make a note on your shopping list to pick up a few extra cans and boxes!

PFLAG needs you! Mary and Bob Dryden are stepping down as hosts for PFLAG support meetings after 12 years and as facilitators in recent years. A new host and facilitator will be required to continue PFLAG meetings at Summit. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The host will need to be a member of Summit who can unlock the library, attend the hour and a half monthly meeting, and lock up afterward.

Membership at Summit is not a requirement for the facilitator. If you are interested in LGBT issues, this can be a very rewarding experience. Contact Mary or Bob for additional information.

SAC currently meets on the second Sunday of each month after the service. Please join us for our next meeting on **Sunday, April 10th** 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 **April 25th, 2016, in the Summit Salon**. Amnesty International meets on the last Monday night of the month at 6:30 pm. 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:

- ♥ The family and friends of Ed Davis, as we grieve his loss. Ed had planned to move to Michigan to be nearer to his sister-in-law and nieces and nephews.
- ♥ For Kyle, Lynn and John Slaughter; may they find the respite and healing they need right now.
- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love and encouragement.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ 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 New Music Committee!

Summit's newly formed Music Committee is tasked with enhancing and coordinating all things musical at Summit (Sunday services, concerts, special events, etc.). We will meet next on Tues., April 12th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Summit Office. All are welcome and we welcome your input. For more information, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

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

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

Freethinkers...

On April 15th, 2016, Carl Yaeckel will speak to us about the Citizen's Climate Lobby. This is a non-profit group that works to create the political will for a stable **climate**. We empower individuals to experience breakthroughs exercising their personal and political power.

Book Club

On Tuesday, April 5th, at 7:00 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will meet in the library to discuss Daniel James Brown's *"The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics."*

Daniel James Brown's stirring book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times - the improbable, intimate account of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Friday evening,

April 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Summit

Sanctuary,

the Mirabell Chamber Players (Dr. Karen Follingstad, piano; Julie Ayer, violin; Martha Lippi, cello), will present a concert entitled, "Music of Mozart, Piazzolla and Turina," to dedicate and celebrate Summit's grand piano. This concert is in memory of Ed Davis and Richard Wilkie, and in honor of Richard's wife Elaine Harper, who joined together in giving us this beautiful piano. There is no cover charge, but donations will

*be gladly accepted. Please come, and bring
a friend.*