

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

Vol. 26 No. 8

August 2016

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is [www.summituuf.org](http://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.**

**August 7th:**    *"Who is my neighbor?"*                      The Rev. Christina Shu

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are reminded that in order to be good neighbors we must act with compassion and solidarity to those who are hurting among us. In times of increasingly divisive and polarizing rhetoric, we ask, "Who is my neighbor?" and what it means to recognize our neighborliness with others. The Rev. Christina Shu grew up in our Summit Community, studied at Harvard, and now serves as the Lead Interfaith Chaplain at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. We are delighted to welcome her home, and hear her words of love and prophecy!

**August 14th:**    *"Sharing Our Gifts"*                      Summit's Leadership Development Team

"Sharing Our Gifts: Sharing the talents and skills you have is truly a gift. By simply doing what you are good at and also love to do, you make a positive difference in our Beloved Community. Summitarians, Laurel Bernstein, Tom Biggart and Easton Bajsec will tell us about the gifts they are sharing at Summit through the lens of our own Summit rendition of the radio show broadcast, "This American Life" hosted by Lucas Weed. Come listen to what it's all about!"

**August 21st :**    *"What's that Musty Smell?"*                      The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

"The Letter of the law kills, but the spirit gives life" the Rabbi Paul of Tarsus wrote. Rev. Frank will take us into a deeper contemplation of the limitations and negative effects of legalism, moralism and all manners of rule-bound consciousness. Come join him in calling out the tyranny of the internalized judge, the drive to self and tribal justification, and the scourge of self-righteousness that sets us against ourselves and one another. A liberal and liberating spirituality is the key to a freer and more loving life for one and all.

**August 28th:**    *"The Story is Even Bigger..."*                      The Rev. Jennifer Channin

We live in a culture of short-term thinking, with disastrous implications for our planet and future generations. Let's cultivate the moral imagination to tell *bigger* stories about who we are and why our choices matter.

This will be the focus of the sermon given by our guest preacher, the Rev. Jennifer Channin, who just completed a two-year contract as Assistant Minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. We welcome Jennifer to our welcoming community.

*The Scene at Summit's September 2016 edition*

**deadline will be *Fri., August 26th.***

## Summit's Office Information

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

Emergencies and appointments: 619-562-0833

Office Schedule: Tues. - 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. - 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

**Children's Religious Exploration:** DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, 619-562-0833, ex. 205 /  
summitdre@gmail.com

**Office Admin.:** Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net

**President:** Laurel Bernstein, laurelbernstein@yahoo.com

**Property Steward:** Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

### FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

#### ***"We are Challenged to Do Better"***

I write this as I'm listening to our nation's president, Barak Obama, say *"We are challenged to do better and be better."* I come once again to the realization that we, along with everyone else in the world, are being presented with two very different visions of what constitutes the good society. On the one hand there are those who pander to the fear that drives the reptilian brain into a mode of narrow-minded fight, flight or fold-ways of being and acting. If we live out of this consciousness, we will be selfish, egotistical, and driven by fear and the will to dominate others. Taken to its logical conclusion, such a path leads to social destruction, loss of healthy diversity, and moral and spiritual dissolution.

Or we can choose the way of love. We can choose to act with care toward ourselves and others, and challenge everyone--leaders, laborers, and learners--to do the same. We can work individually and together for justice, which Dr. King called the kind of love that "corrects all that revolts against love." If we choose this path, we will vote and get out the vote, we will march and show up publicly to make our voices heard, and we will work strategically to invite people to build a national and world society focused on the well-being and fulfillment of each and every human being--not just in the short-term, not just focused on the course of a single lifetime, but with our sights set on a longer view.

Live and work for the world you want to see, starting with yourself and ending with the cosmos. What better way to spend your "one wild and precious life?"

*Namaste, Frank*

### FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

#### ***President's Report***

Dear ones,

I am so honored to be your new Board President. Sandy and I have been members of Summit since 1995, and this community becomes more and more dear to me with every passing year. I am reminded of this often, and in some unexpected ways. As many of you know, I sing with the San Diego Women's Chorus. We recently performed "Will You Harbor Me," a song written by Ysaye Barnwell, of the group "Sweet Honey in the Rock." The song asks a series of questions:

*Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?*

*Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a heretic, convict or spy?*

*Would you harbor a runaway woman, or child, a poet, a prophet, a king?*

*Would you harbor an exile, or a refugee, or person living with AIDS?*

*Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garrett, a Truth, a fugitive or a slave?*

*Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean or Czech, a lesbian or a gay?*

*Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?*

*Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?*

It is a powerful song to hear, and to sing. During final rehearsals of this piece, we were urged to ask these questions of ourselves and each other in our hearts, and with our eyes, as we sang, in order to feel and convey the power of these words. As I did so, I found myself tearing up as I envisioned all of you- my Summit community; Summit harbors the poets, refugees, gays, prophets, Jews, Christians, and heretics among us, and it surely does harbor me.

Now it is my chance to serve my beloved community, this special place where we all harbor each other. Please know that I will do my best to support and protect our fellowship and all that makes us so special. I hope you will stop me to say hello, especially if we don't know each other yet. And when you see my predecessor, Barbara Brooks, please greet her warmly and offer her a chair- she surely deserves to take a seat and enjoy our wonderful community in a more relaxed manner after serving for two years as Summit's President! I am mightily grateful for her gentle leadership.

*~ Laurel*

### ***From Your Administrator***

Hi Everyone!

Summit is a busy, interconnected place these days. We all love to share our books, etc., with one another and it seems like the easiest place to leave things for other Summitarians is the Fellowship office. Which is great but things get in the way of the office volunteers at the desk and we wind up with things just setting around. Well, our Property Steward, Mark Weedman has come up with a great solution. We have a tall book shelf across from Rev. Frank's office door that will be labeled "**Member to Member.**" So, when you want to drop something off for another member that's the place to put it. It is your responsibility to contact your recipient to let them know where the item is located.

Thank you all for your cooperation with this!! I hope everyone is having a great summer!

~ Linda

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

### **Adult Religious Exploration**

**Memoir Writing Group:** Next meeting – July 8th, (second Friday), 10:00 am – noon. All are welcome.  
Joanna Jones, jnajones@yahoo.com

**Poetry Workshop:** Saturday, July 16th, at a member's home 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.

### **Summit Sangha**

The Sangha meets every Sunday from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We begin with 20 minutes of silent or gently guided meditation, listen to a 30 minute audio dharma talk and conclude with a discussion which can include questions about practice. Summit Sangha is a community of practice, learning, and support open to all who find a Buddhist path meaningful, and to all who would like to learn more.  
Namaste

### **More Upcoming ARE Offerings**

*If All Lives Matter, Then Why Aren't We Acting Like It?*

As we study the realities and fictions of “White Privilege” and other factors contributing to discrimination and systemic racism in human society, we will explore concrete, action-oriented ways to respond with love and for justice.

Facilitators: Jack Shu, Ken Davis, Rev. Frank Placone-Willey  
Fridays, August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

*Techniques of Ecstasy: Applications of Shamanic Practice in the Quest for Love and Freedom*

Step outside of the world we take for granted into different universes of meaning and experience. Learn strategies of self-liberation from judgment and other forms of personal tyranny that weigh you down and negatively impact your relationships with others. Miguel Ruiz's 5 Agreements and other shamanic techniques will be explored.

Facilitator: Rev. Frank Placone-Willey  
A day-long retreat, Saturday, August 20, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Materialism is Baloney: A Discussion of Bernardo Kastrup's Idealism and Spirituality*

This is a course for those who are interested in learning more about a consciousness-based, rather than materialistic-based, view of spirituality. We will engage in a close reading and discussion of Kastrup's arguments and together pursue their implications for our personal spirituality.

Facilitators: Rev. Frank Placone-Willey and Ben Smith  
Fridays, September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

*For Those Who Want to Know More About Summit Fellowship:  
A Gathering for Inquirers, Prospective Members, and the Just Plain Curious*

Facilitators: The Membership Committee, Rev. Frank, and Representative Summitarians  
Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9 a.m.-12 noon

*Finding My Place in the Living Tradition (What it Means to Be a Unitarian Universalist)*

Facilitator: Rev. Frank Placone-Willey  
Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Communication and Conflict Management in The Beloved Community*

Facilitators: Rev. Frank Placone-Willey and the Committee on Shared Ministry  
Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Straight Talk about Death and Dying:*

*A 4-week Summit Unitarian Universalist Series About Living Life Fully*

[Workshop 1: An Invitation to Talk Openly about Death](#)

What happens when we die? Death and what it means to us. Fears, concerns and differing points of view.

*Workshop 2: Bereavement: My Beloved is Gone, Now What?*

Dynamics and processes of grief. Coping and healing with loss.  
Sharing about losses we've experienced.

[Workshop 3: Suicide and The Right To Die](#)

Moral and legal issues of suicide. How and how not to support someone who wants to make their final exit.

*Workshop 4: Planning for the End of Life*

About relationships, last wishes, and spiritual grounding at the end of life:

- Advance Health Care Directives
- Organ and Tissue Donation
- Estate planning
- Hospice Care
- How to plan your Memorial Service/Celebrations of Life

Facilitators: Neal Biggart, Rev. Frank Placone-Willey and Guest Presenters  
Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016 from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

*\*These Summer/Fall 2016 offerings are being organized by Rev. Frank. Others will be offered by UU Justice Ministry, Committee on Shared Ministry, Freethinkers, and other Summit Groups and Members throughout 2016, so stay tuned!*

## **Children's Religious Exploration News**

Greetings from Camp deBenneville Pines! I am up here for Senior High Camp with three of our youth for *Camp Star Wars: the Youth Awaken*. We have had Summit children, youth and adults participating in or on the staff for three of the PSWD Summer camps this season. For a small congregation, we have a large presence in this community.

The camp season begins with Elementary Camp. Last year it was cancelled because of the Lake Fire and we had several disappointed campers. This year, four of our children came up to participate. The Counselor in Training (CIT) program runs during Elementary Camp and I have served as the trainer for three years. Grace Engleman was one of the trainees and is now fully trained to be a Cabin counselor next summer. Anya Vail was a Senior Cabin Counselor for this camp and had Summit children in her cabin. We all had a great time!

We had a bigger presence at Junior High camp with seven campers attending. Anya Vail and Lucas Weed were on the Counseling staff for this camp and a large group of Summit Junior High Youth attended. This was the final Junior High Camp for six of our campers who walked across the bridge to signify that they are transitioning to Senior High Camp next winter. There were many tears as they parted with their friends and headed home.

The last week was Senior High Camp where I am served as the Youth Leadership Trainer. During this camp, I co-lead a 15 hour training of the future leaders and the wider UU community. Abby Weed is participating in this training and has plans to bring her skills to Summit and Grace Engleman is on staff as the Worship Coordinator for this camp. This is Grace's second time serving in this position and she is coming up with some very creative, Star Wars themed worship experiences. Lucas Weed is here, too, and is fully engaged with the camp. We are having wonderful experiences, making great connections, getting no sleep while having fUUn!

Thanks to all at Summit who support our young campers! The scholarship fund was used to help our children and youth to be part of this incredible experience. Each participant is transformed in some way during their week in this magical place. We are all blessed to have the support of the fellowship for this important work.

Tiredly yours,  
Mary Carter-Vail  
Director of Religious Exploration

### **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."*

## **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, 619-660-9690, 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 fiber arts group **will not meet** on August 6th. We'll resume on Saturday, September 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the salon. Please join us if you knit or crochet, or think you might want to learn. For questions or more info, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

### **Amnesty International...**

Welcome to everyone! We look forward to having you join us in writing for justice. Our next meeting will be **Aug. 29th, 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:

- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Al Mork reports Ferne is home now and able to move around the house!
- ♥ Wendell and Carol Rawlins, as Wendell recovers from his recent hospitalization.
- ♥ Rachel Le Wine as she seeks a place to live.
- ♥ 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 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

## **Notes from the Music Committee**

Summit's Music Committee is here to enhance and coordinate all things musical at Summit (Sunday services, concerts, special events, etc.). We will meet next on Tues., August 9th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Summit Office. We welcome new members and visitors, as well as your input and suggestions. For more information, please contact Laurel Bernstein

## **Hello Summit Singing Enthusiasts!**

The choir will kick off the new season with a retreat on Saturday, August 27th from 9:00am-12:00pm. If you think you might be interested in joining us, that would be a great day for you to stop by, even if it's just for a little bit! If you have any questions, or are planning on coming, please email Choir Director, Carly Newman at [carlynewman1021@gmail.com](mailto:carlynewman1021@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Choir Rehearsals** begin again on Wednesday, August 31st at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us!  
Choir Director: Carly Newman

## **Freethinkers...**

Our next meeting will be Monday, Aug. 15th at 3:30 in the Summit Salon. Please watch for information on the topic for that evening. Meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Monday of each month. If you are interested in making a presentation to the Freethinkers, please contact:

Linus Senhen or Neal Biggart.

## **Book Club**

On Tuesday, August 2nd, at 7:00 pm the Summit UU Book Club will meet in the Summit Library to discuss Gore Vidal's *Burr: A Novel*.

Was Aaron Burr a patriot or a traitor? Did Burr kill Alexander Hamilton in their historic duel as a matter of self-defense? Did he deserve his infamy in US history or was he a political scapegoat?

Gore Vidal illuminates the career of the nation's third Vice-President - a man of immense charm, wit and intelligence and an accomplished scamp whom some women found irresistible - and surrounds him with a gallery of Founding Fathers: Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Lafayette, and Marshall.

## **Summit UU Fellowship to Resume Hosting PFLAG Meetings!**

Despite the passing of marriage equality nationwide, discrimination against the LGBTQ+ persons still exists today. Many parents and friends feel the need to speak out on behalf of those who are unjustly deprived of their basic human and civil rights. That's why advocacy is an important part of PFLAG's mission.

As you probably already know, Bob and Mary Dryden decided to step down as facilitators of the local chapter of PFLAG last May, after many years of faithful service to the families in East County. For their love and dedication, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to these outstanding Summitarians.



I have decided to step in and follow their lead because I feel that it's important to continue to provide support, education, and advocacy to local families in San Diego's East County.

Our next meeting will be on August 8th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, our usual second Monday of the month date and time. I highly encourage all of you who are interested in bringing about a safer and more respectful society for the LGBTQ+ community to attend this meeting so we can share ideas, beyond just continuing the monthly meetings, about how we can work together and more effectively achieve this goal by reaching more families who might be in need of the healing and life-saving services that PFLAG offers.

Questions? Contact me: Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator

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

**Suuf\_Volunteer@sbcglobal.net**

Thanks! ~Pam Kerr, eNews editor

### **"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.

### **Compassionate Communication (NVC) Study Group**

Wednesday evenings - Starting August 24th, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: the Library room at Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Facilitator/Contact: Joe Glennon

The cost of the class is \$220 per person for 14 weeks. (Some reduced fee slots will be available for Summit members who are first-time students, with financial hardship.) Couples will be offered a discount of %15 each. That is "two for \$374".

**NOTE:** *This class is NOT a SUUF sponsored event!*

This is an introductory class following Marshall Rosenberg's model of Nonviolent Communication. We will use Rosenberg's text, "*Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life*", 3rd edition, and Lucy Leu's companion workbook "*Nonviolent Communication: the Companion Workbook*", to guide our learning together. Both are required.

Participants will gain a firmly grounded grasp of the basics of Nonviolent Communication. The focus of the workshop will be on creating a community of practice involving communication basics and key concepts, so that we develop a greater fluency in "The Language of Life"!

This will be an intense, interactive class. The fun and energy of class meetings will come through engaged participation! There will be homework each meeting (from the above mentioned books), which will in turn be the material for discussion and exercises in the following session. This will require about an hour every week, to prepare for class!

**Cost:** Tuition: \$20 per session, or \$220 if paid in advance, by second class meeting; additionally there is

the cost of the books: textbook and companion workbook described above, (available at Amazon.com). (Some scholarship support may be available in cases of financial hardship.) Enrollment will be limited to 15 participants, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants are welcome to bring friends or family members to visit a class, at a cost of \$20.00 per session.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Summit's Hospitality Committee**

invites you to save the date:

**Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016**

for

### **The Return of Circle Dinners!**

These are organized potluck dinners for eight held in the homes of Summit members and friends who wish to participate.

**Sign-ups began July 31st**

Please consider being a host!

## ADDITIONAL INFO

### **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](http://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](http://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 Don Jania-Smith at [donjaniasmith@me.com](mailto:donjaniasmith@me.com).

## 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](mailto: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

## Calendaring Events!

When scheduling a new event at Summit, please contact Linda about the availability of rooms and to get your event on the master calendar. Please also consider possible conflicts with offsite Auction events. A calendar of Auction events is posted in the office by the main calendar, is posted on the web, and copies are available by the reception desk.

While Linda is ultimately the one who decides which on-campus events can be scheduled and at what time, the responsibility for setting and coordinating Summit-related on-campus events with off-campus events (e.g. Auction dinners) and avoiding unwanted conflicts in booking, lies with the organizers of

these events, and not with Linda Peck or any other members of the Summit Staff.

**Just a reminder,**

Auction hosts who have contributed doing an event, be it dinners, outings, etc., please remember to contact all of your guests at least a week prior to the event. Not all who participate in the auction are members of Summit. So, your guests will need to know your address, time, etc. And it is nice to have a confirmation the event is on schedule.