

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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July 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.

July 3: *"Sacred Conversation in the New Justice Movement"* Rev. Andrea Travers

How do we bear witness to the "other"? Are we open and ready to hear the voices from the margins? What does it require? Can we learn to listen deeply; to open our hearts; to act on what we hear? What does it mean today to be part of a liberation movement? Can we recognize our own white privilege? How do we engage meaningfully?

July 10: *"Ecstasy"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

What will it take to realize and participate in creating the world we would like to see? In this reprise of the four basic spiritual practices, Rev. Frank will encourage us in practices of *ecstasy* that open to us different universes of meaning and experience, in the quest for personal and communal healing and growth.

July 17: *"Gods of the Atheists"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

The ways in which many of us have learned to think about "god" deserve to be left in the trash-heap of history. Is there anything about the term or conceptualizations of it that are worth keeping, or even acknowledging? Do the different expressions of atheism have anything to offer in considering such questions? Those who identify as atheist and those who do not will enjoy testing their beliefs in today's reflection.

July 24: *"If All Lives Matter..."* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

On Friday evenings in August, our community will be continuing its explorations of white privilege and discussing how the slogan "Black Lives Matter"--and the movement associated with it--challenges us to think and act much differently if we are ever going to realize the kind of diverse community many of our members say they want. In his reflection, Rev. Frank will share about his own failings and falterings in the journey toward a more inclusive and welcoming way of being, and invite us to work for a fuller realization of our UU aspirations.

July 31: *"Journeys of Conversion"* The Rev. Donald Stouder

How do we examine and change our own hearts? How do we hope to change the hearts of others? Join Rev. Don as he shares some stories..... his own and those of others.....struggling to come to terms with these difficult times of moral, religious, political, personal, and societal conflict and change. We welcome Rev. Stouder, a Summit-Affiliated Community Minister, back to our pulpit.

*The Scene at Summit's August 2016 edition
deadline will be ***Fri., July 25th.****

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

"On Vacation"

After leaving this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly a few days early, I flew to New York to help my son Ian and his family move to Miami. I am writing this brief note to wish you all a happy summer: may you have courage when you need it, strength to endure whatever comes your way, and love in your heart throughout.

And I'll see you soon, upon my return July 5th...

Namaste, Frank

From our Summit Leadership

From Our Out-going President

Thank you, dear Summit members, for participating in the June 12, 2016 annual Congregational Meeting. We had a great turnout. At the meeting, we voted for six new Board members and three returning Board members.

New: Laurel Bernstein, President; Andrea Travers, Vice President; Liz Groff, Director; Joseph Felix, Director; Renee Matos, Director; Lucas Weed, Director

Returning: Debbie Wingard, Treasurer; Larry Feinberg, Director; Betts McQuaide, Director

Other business at the meeting included Planned Giving Fund changes within the Endowment Fund Agreement; the Annual Report from the Endowment Fund Trustees; introduction of the new policy regarding Summit-sponsored actions of public witness and the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

We received wonderful, amazing news regarding Summit's Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017! Our recent Summit budget campaign had accomplished much appreciated funding for most of the upcoming year's budget, but we did have a significant shortfall that impacted hoped for, and needed, salary increases for the staff. Thanks to an anonymous donor, this gap in the budget was closed. We hold gratitude and sincere thanks in our hearts for this most generous gift. It is indeed a very happy Fiscal New Year!

My two years as your President of Summit's Board of Directors are drawing to a close. I have had a meaningful, unique opportunity for personal growth while serving our beloved Summit UU Fellowship. I will continue to work to support Unitarian Universalist hopes and dreams at Summit, in the greater community, and internationally. Huge thanks to Reverend Frank for always steadily and exuberantly defining, clarifying and cheering for our UU vision.

We welcome the new Board on July 1, 2016. With the Board's guidance and the congregation's good will, loving hearts and thoughtful brains, Summit will continue to be a vibrant, deeply meaningful Fellowship.

SEE YOU AT SUMMIT!

Barbara Brooks

Past President of the Board and the Congregation

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 call Margo Mariana at 619-465-7909 if you interested in participating. All levels of writing experience are welcome.

Summit Sangha: This month, we'll finish The Great Courses DVD series "*Practicing Mindfulness: An Introduction to Meditation,*" as presented by Professor Mark Muesse of Rhodes College with these final offerings:

July 3 - "*Finitude - Living in the Face of Death*"

July 10 - "*Life - Putting It All in Perspective*"

We'll return to listening to inspirational audio dharma talks from great meditation/spiritual teachers:

July 17 - "*Five Difficult Energies*" Jack Kornfield

July 24 - "*Wisdom*" Talk by Rev. Arvid Straube

July 31 - TBD

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 Katrup'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 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!*

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 Ministry will meet July 2nd in the Summit Library at 10:00 am. If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us in the Summit Library. We make blankets for Linus Project, dishcloths for Crisis House, comfort shawls for Summitarians in need of comfort, and are always open to new ideas for outreach projects. Contact Laurel Bernstein for more information

Amnesty International...

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

- ♥ Mary Dryden and Patti Robison-Heyer are well enough to come to services again. Welcome back!
- ♥ 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 a recent fall.
- ♥ 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., July 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 and suggestions. For more information, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

Choir Rehearsals are suspended for the summer. In August they will begin again on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Watch for the date! If you like to sing, come join us! Choir Director: Carly Newman carlynewman1021@gmail.com

Freethinkers...

The book "*When Elephants Weep*," written in 1995, triggered a review of what scientific or philosophical information exists about the intelligence, emotion and possible rights of animals and about human attitudes relative to these subjects and recent changes in these attitudes. "Do animals have emotions?" is a cursory attempt to shine some light in this area and will be presented in the next meeting of the Freethinkers which has a new meeting time. The presenter will be Linus Senhen.

Summit's Freethinkers Group is at a crossroads. We are trying to decide when and how to continue our tradition of presentation/discussions on subjects in the non-spiritual realms of life. In recent years Summit Freethinkers have engaged monthly in subjects such as Sustainable Food Supply, The Federal Reserve, Climate Change, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and several series of presentations on Understanding Islam, Axial Age Religions, and the Human brain. All of these have a direct or indirect impact on UUs and complement our religious thinking.

Freethinking as a concept began in 18th Century Europe and initially was practiced as a way of applying logic, reason and science to extant religions and the physical world. Early American adherents included Paine and Jefferson. The concept merged with Unitarianism during the 19th Century and became popular in the United States. Modern UU churches primarily concentrate on things spiritual and moral, with Freethinker Groups examining and discussing subjects in the current and past physical, secular and political/legal universe. From those who are interested or might be, we would like to know 1)where your interests lie, and 2)when and how often you would like to meet. Accordingly, If you are interested, please notify us) and/or we will email you a short questionnaire with more detail.

Linus Senhen or Neal Biggart

Book Club

The Summit UU Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 5th, at 7:00 pm in the Summit library to discuss the "*Bachelor Brothers' Bed & Breakfast Pillow Book*," by Bill Richardson.

"A pair of endearingly eccentric bachelors - in their fifties, and fraternal twins - own and operate a bed & breakfast establishment where people like them, the "gentle and bookish and ever so slightly confused," can feel at home. Hector and Virgil think of their B & B as a refuge, a retreat, a haven, where folks may bring their own books or peruse the brothers' own substantial library. An antic blend of homespun and intellectual humor, "*Bachelor Brothers' Bed & Breakfast*" is a place readers will want to return to again and again." (Amazon review).

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

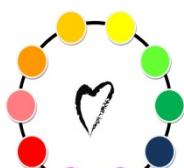
Suuf_Volunteer@sbcglobal.net

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.

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 begin 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
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 Don Jania-Smith at 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** .

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.