

# ***THE SCENE AT SUMMIT***

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

**Vol. 27 No. 1**

**January 2017**

**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.**

**January 1st:** *"Living in the Light"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Light brings illumination, transparency, revelation, clarity and confidence. We need it. We hunger for it. Drawing on the story of Hanukkah, In our UU Living Tradition we invoke and seek to keep it alive in dark times. In this time of increased propaganda, clandestine activity and social confusion, what does it mean to live and walk in "the light?"

**January 8th:** *"The Soul Truth, and Nothing But..."* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

19th Century Scottish author, poet and minister George Macdonald wrote, "You don't have a soul, you are a soul..." Such religious affirmations challenge us to consider what we are and what we are becoming at levels most profound. In our own Summit community, some of us are uncomfortable with the concept of "soul," and others embrace it as an idea that reflects something that is constitutive of ourselves and our existence. Come and sharpen your own thoughts on the subject, and perhaps, in the words of Rumi, "return to the root of the root of your soul."

**January 15th:** *"Justice in Action"* Social Action Committee and UU Justice Ministry

This Sunday will feature considerations, updates and a collection in support of two very important Summit "Justice in Action" initiatives: The Water Protectors of Standing Rock and developments in our Fellowship's relationship with the Las Colinas detention facility for women just down the street. Come lend your support to our outreach across the nation and in our own neighborhood.

**January 22nd:** *"Reasonable Faith"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Every year in our November Auction, a Summitterian bids for the privilege of determining the topic for a Sunday Sermon. This year's Sunday Sermon winner is member Mark Wheeler. One of Mark's central questions for Rev. Frank to address is "How can well-educated thoughtful people make sense of faith and hope in the absence of certain knowledge." Wow!

**January 29th:** *"Why I am a Justice Warrior"* Jack Shu

How does our heart drive us to act justly? Using personal illustrations and drawing on inspiration from the Confucian philosopher Mengzi (4th Century BCE), Jack Shu, chair of our congregation's Justice Ministry, will give his credo and personal testimony with an emphasis on his own motivations for doing justice work. Come and be inspired to consider more deeply your own understandings and actions around "standing on the side of love."

# —ATTENTION—

*The Scene at Summit's February 2017 edition*

**deadline will be *Mon., Jan. 23rd.***

## **Summit's Office Information**

**Minister: Dr. Frank Willey:** [UUFrankPW@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com)

**Office Admin.:** Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / [summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net)

**President:** Laurel Bernstein, [laurelbernstein@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelbernstein@yahoo.com)

**Property Steward:** Mark Weedman, [markatspectrum@hotmail.com](mailto:markatspectrum@hotmail.com)

## **FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:**

### **"The Ongoing Struggle for Freedom"**

*"Give me liberty, or give me death."* ~ Thomas Paine

Personal and social freedom is among the things I most desire for myself and others.

Of course we first do well to admit that "freedom" is a tricky concept that requires an honest appraisal. Owing to such, I have concluded that:

1) There is no such thing as complete individual freedom.

No healthy, fully functional human being is an island, separate from the interconnected web of relationships that define the living system of our planet. We are by nature social beings, "connected in the deep," as William James observed, and we share with all existence a common emergence from the quantum field of infinite possibilities.

2) Therefore, freedom must be a relative state of being.

It is extant within, and more or less supported by, a social and environmental context in which you and I and all our relations are enabled to realize our individual gifts, talents and other valued capacities as fully and completely as possible.

3) The greatest degrees of freedom are maximized through the:

- Care and support of others,
- Encouragement of diversity (both biological and socio-cultural),
- Promotion of wide-reaching experience and education,
- Enhancement of imagination, creativity, historical knowledge, critical thought, and sophisticated problem-solving.

We live in a time where, it is clear, such activities are being devalued, prohibited and suppressed. But this is nothing new.

Totalitarian, top-down forms of control cannot support, much less tolerate, high degrees of personal and social freedom. They work to keep just enough of us smart enough, productive enough, conforming enough, to enrich them and keep them in power. Their vision is narrow, self-serving, and focused on short-term gain. They have no interest in caring for our neighbors, or the earth which sustains us or for the long-run survival and success of humankind as a whole.

Our Unitarian forebear Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "*Few are Free. All might be.*" This aphorism highlights the preciousness of freedom. The importance, as he believed, of dedicating ourselves to its cultivation. And the fact that the jury is still out on whether or not the personal and social freedom we religious liberals long and work for, can be realized as fully and completely as possible.

In the New Year, who knows what new forms of tyranny and oppression we will face? When confronted with anything that would prevent us and one another from finding the freedom we all long for, may we keep the faith, stand firm, and always show up with love, for love, and in love, devoted--even against great odds--to creating the world we all feel in our hearts is possible and most worthy.

*Namaste, Rev. Frank*

## FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

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

Dear Ones,

The more I am involved in and aware of at Summit (which, as President, is quite a lot!), the more appreciative I am of our Summit community.

Not too long ago I was at Summit on a Saturday morning, when one might expect the campus to be empty, and in fact only a handful of us were there. But on closer inspection, there was a hive of activity going on behind the scenes! On that day, bags full of yarn were being collected to be carried to Zimbabwe by members of Compassion for African Villages, along with holiday cards; winter clothes were being collected by Justice Ministry to ship to the Water Protectors on the Standing Rock reservation; and packages were piling up under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, to provide basic needs and holiday gifts for three newly arrived immigrant families from Sudan and Somalia, thanks to the work of the Social Action Committee, in partnership with the Alliance for African Assistance. And that is just what was obvious, piled up here and there around our campus.

It is tempting to think that Summit has a bigger heart than most other congregations or community groups, and it does often seem that this is the case. But I think the more important difference is that we don't just spare a kind thought in response to a news story or request for help; we recognize a need and then we act on it. Each of these collections and projects (and countless others) started with one person seeing a need and saying, "What can we do about that?" And then we find a way to reach out, and to turn our compassion into action by working together. We UUs often say that what matters is not so much what we believe, but how we act on that belief. I'm awestruck to see how much of a difference we make by "walking our talk."

Your number one cheerleader, ~ *Laurel*

### **Town Hall Meeting** - Sunday, January 29th

A Town Hall meeting will be held immediately after Sunday service on January 29th. Members of the Board will provide brief updates on various Summit activities and will answer your questions. All members and interested friends are encouraged to attend.

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL**

### **Adult Religious Exploration**

**Memoir Writing Group:** Next meeting – Jan. 13th, (second Friday), 10:00 am – noon. All are welcome. Joanna Jones

**Poetry Workshop:** Saturday, Jan. 21st, at 10:00am in the Summit Library. 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 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

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

From everyone in Summit's CRE Program, we wish you all a happy and healthy Holiday and New Year!

Bright Blessings,  
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 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 meet on Saturday, Jan. 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the Summit library.

Please join us if you knit or crochet, or think you might want to learn. For questions or more info, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

### **Social Action Committee**

If you'd like to help the SAC team on future projects, feel free to come to our next meeting on Jan. 8th at 11:30am in the Summit Library. Jerilyn Harris

## **WITHIN THE CONGREGATION**

### **Member & Friend News**

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Sally Mimms, as she recovers from a broken foot.
- ♥ For Kyle, Lynne and John Slaughter; may they find the respite and healing they need right now.
- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love, encouragement, and adequate help.
- ♥ Chris Wetzal, and her son Peter, as she remains fairly restricted to home.
- ♥ Val Sims as she recovers from a fall.
- ♥ Mary Dessel, as she continues to heal from a broken foot.
- ♥ Bob and Mary Dryden, as Mary recovers from illness and hospitalization.
- ♥ Erin Collins, as she endures separation from her family until her move.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau, who has just undergone another surgery and who is living life to the fullest.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling with grief and loss and all manner of separations from loved ones.
- ♥ All in our community who are worried about how to make ends meet, how to find fulfilling work, and how to provide for their families in these difficult economic times.
- ♥ And, love always.

### **Member to Member**

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. There is 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. Also, the shelves below that one are another lost-and-found.

### **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., January 10th (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 about music at Summit. For more information, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

### **Save the date!**

Summit's Music Committee will present the *Benedetti & Svoboda Duo* in concert at Summit on Saturday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. This guitar duo is known for their joyous and engaging performances of flamenco music, as well as for their own exotic blend of Spanish, Latin-American, Middle-Eastern, East Indian, and Eastern European music. Their performance at Summit in 2007 was hugely popular, so you won't want to miss this long-awaited return appearance! Tickets are \$10; for more information please contact Laurel Bernstein.

**Choir Rehearsals** are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us! Choir Director: Carly Newman [carlynewman1021@gmail.com](mailto:carlynewman1021@gmail.com).

### **New !**

#### **Music Circle**

People around the world and throughout history have used music to express their inner emotions, reach out to the divine and celebrate special occasions in life. Music is so often at the center of our most profound and social experience. It is a fundamental resource for connecting with our own lives, our communities and the environment. With these thoughts in mind, the Summit Music Committee would like to invite all Summit musicians who play an instrument and / or sing to come and join our Music Circle on Saturday, February 4th, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Summit. Please have one or two pieces of music prepared to share with others. If you are not a musician and would like to enjoy some music you are welcome to listen. Let the power of music illuminate our lives!

For more info please contact Kerstin Crowe (Music Committee) - please RSVP if you plan on attending.

### **Freethinkers...**

Freethinkers for Spring 2017 will meet on the third Monday at 3:30 in the salon, beginning January 16th. Linus Senhan and Neal Biggart will moderate informal discussions based on recent events that have prompted some of us to start a new examination of the status quo. For example, the Presidential election is being compared to that of the tumultuous year 1800, with the added intrusion into the election process by a foreign power. In addition, the new President did not come from the usual political preparation path and lost the popular vote. There is renewed interest in how democratic the Electoral College is. The Supreme Court's political objectiveness is being questioned. Established churches are losing moral authority. Respect for the quality and objectivity of the Fourth Estate (including the Internet) is at an all-time low. The effect of the internet (and social media) on society

and economies is still being defined. Economic and power inequality have decimated the American middle class and concentrated wealth and income to a very few. Economic inequality is at its highest since 1928.

On the world stage, the European Union, which has avoided a major war for seventy years, appears to be unraveling. In the Middle East, an old wound has reopened in Syria which provides a continuing picture of human misery. A modern Caliphate, ISIS, has been created from old wounds. Turkey is assuming a new role in the balance of power in Europe and the Middle East. China and India are just beginning to make their mark on the world's economy, environment and military power. Africa's nascent democracies have not been spared from the instability caused by terrorist attacks. The role for the US in the world is being redefined.

Overarching these problems is the threat of climate change which is becoming more urgent, nearing some tipping points, and is already affecting some populations while powerful elements oppose efforts to minimize its impact.

So it all looks very dark and gloomy. However, at the level of "closer to home", there are plenty of issues to be addressed, including a few that I can think of offhand.

What are the threats to our personal and local situations, and what can we do to prepare? How can we deal with the stress of all this information and these projected situations? How can we protect ourselves and our families from financial, and other threats? How can we affect the local political scene? etc. etc. You get the idea. Let's get together to talk about these things, big and small. I suggest that we start by deciding how to share info—signing up for topics, open discussions, coffee and snacks, etc. We won't save the world, but we may feel better by sharing our worries and ideas for solutions.

### **INDY (I'm Not Done Yet!)**

This spring, INDY (I'm Not Done Yet) will study two important topics related to our health. The first topic is how our memory systems respond to aging. Interestingly, some memory systems decline with age, whereas some do not. For those that do, there are things that can help including exercises. We will practice a variety of mental tasks to see what works for different people.

The other topic will be about the benefits of Plant-Based diets which are being increasingly discussed in the world of nutrition. We'll study the "how-to" aspects of choosing and preparing primarily plant foods so as to have a fully nourishing diet. That means, for those who worry about protein, that a diet without animal food can still have more than enough protein as well as all other needed nutrients. On the other hand, one doesn't need to be an absolutist about it. All will be discussed in detail. We will also do some "hands-on" learning (cooking I mean).

We will meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 3:30pm in the Salon beginning February 6th, 2017. So, plan to join us on 2/6 at 3:30 to start this journey into healing both mind and body. This will be fun work.

Neal Biggart

### **Book Club**

The Summit Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Summit library to discuss "*Little Demon in the City of Light*," by Steven Levingston.

"Levingston has unearthed a whopper of a story, and lovingly crafted a dense, lyrical yarn that hits the true-crime trifecta of setting, story and so-what. Such books remind us that times may change, but the human animal does not." - The New York Times

### **Monthly PFLAG Meeting at Summit**

Our next meeting will be on Jan. 9th, from 7:00-8:30 PM. 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? You may contact me. Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator

### **A Thanksgiving Note**

I wish to thank everyone who helped make this Thanksgiving celebration a total success...I was delighted that you all decided to join us here at our annual Thanksgiving celebration, yes all 35 of us...was the total count.

Now down to business: some of you lovely folks left your serving utensils in the salon- five was the last count. So **at your earliest convenience please come and pick up these items.**

thank you in advance...Rachel

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The Summit office will be closed over the holidays  
from December 26th until January 3rd.**

**Happy Holidays to all! I count my blessings to have the Summit family in my life.  
~ Linda Peck**

**December 31st: Beginning at 5:00 p.m.**

**"Meditation Vigil for Peace and Harmony  
in The New Year"**

### **Summit Members and Friends**

Rev. Frank will join with Members and Friends in our Summit Community to keep the Sanctuary Light burning as we meditate, pray, and plan for how we will individually and collectively be bearers of love and justice in 2017.

**Anyone willing to sign up to help keep the vigil through the night may call the Summit Office (619) 562-0833 to register** for an hour or more of sitting meditation. Readings and music will be offered throughout the night to bolster courage and strengthen our resolve as we prepare to be peacemakers and agents of justice in the New Year.

**Come join Rev. Frank for a second close reading and group discussion of Jonathan Haidt's 2012 book,**

***The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics and Religion.***

Based on research from psychology, sociology and moral philosophy, Haidt's observations challenge our common conceptualizations about human morality and political consciousness. Some questions we



will explore are: Why are the positions those on the political right and political left so mutually antagonistic and exclusive? How is it that others don't think as I think politically and religiously? Do Haidt's recommendations give us any clues for how to prevent the further erosion of democratic consciousness in our world?

**Dates:** (Note the change from Tuesday evenings to Friday evenings!):

**January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 2, 2017** in the Summit Salon.

**Time:** 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to call RSVP with the Summit Office (619) 562-0833.

**Requirements:** As always, anyone can attend, but participants are expected to have read the book before engaging in active discussion.

## **Auction Community Mixer**

**CATALOG # 104    Rock 'n Roll Barn Dance & potluck**

**Saturday, January 14, 2017    Joe Glennon    \$25    11 or so spots Available**

Sign up in the Sanctuary or call the Summit office 619-562-0833

- a Barn Dance with a Twist. Not strictly a Barn Dance, more of a dance in a barn, a 30 x 40 ft warehouse actually! Socialize and exercise, 7:00 - 11:00 pm, **doors open at 4:00, to make access more comfortable in daylight time**, at the Taj MaShed at Joe Glennon's place in Blossom Valley. Music by our own famous DJ Mark Weedman! Festivities include a hand drumming jam with Bernard Samtoy. Bring your percussion! Bring food to share if you like, soft drinks (water, sodas, teas, coffee) provided, BYOB otherwise. Note: this is on concrete slab flooring, so wear appropriate foot gear!

### **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

### **About Summit's Directory -**

This directory is for the use of the Summit UU Fellowship congregation, its minister and members, and those affiliated with this Fellowship. Do not use it for any commercial or political purposes or for any unsolicited messages, such as jokes, advertisements, SPAM, etc. Our members and friends trust one another, as well as the SUUF staff, with their personal information. **Any other use is a violation of this trust.**

### **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.

## **Let There Be (Less? More?) Light**

At Summit we are aware of everyone's need to be comfortable so we all can enjoy the Sunday service together. But we do have a wide range of sensitivities within the congregation. Several of us are extremely sensitive to florescent lights, while many of us don't see well and need more light to read the hymnals. What we've started doing is turning down the lights in the center of the Sanctuary. The lighting is brightest on the east (Library) side of the room and the back tiled area. Please take note of this as you choose your seats on Sunday, so we can all be comfortable. ~ Linda

## **Flowers for Sunday Services**

The flowers at our Sunday services always add a soft spirit to the room. If you would like to provide flowers for any service you can sign-up by calling the office at 619-562-0833. This is a lovely way to commemorate a personal special occasion or honor a loved one. ~ Thank you!

## **"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.