

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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February 2017

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

February 5: *"What is Your Most Important Issue?"* The Rev. Jim Grant

Summit UU's theme for February is the sixth UU Principle: "World Community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All." World Community is impossible without attention to climate change. A recent article indicated that children in Madagascar are dying due to rich nations of the world producing the carbon that devastates people in poorer countries. However the citizens of the United States and other rich nations list "climate change" as number 20 of "most important issues." There will be no world community, no peace, no liberty and no justice for all until climate change is understood as a significantly important issue.

February 12: *"Spirituality and Morality: A Community Dialogue"*

The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Unitarian President John Adams said, *"Avarice, ambition, revenge and licentiousness would break the strongest cords of our [U.S.] Constitution, as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."* As people with a spiritual commitment to love, justice, and sustainability, how can we tend our collective garden in order to keep it as free as possible of immorality and corruption? This is the question Rev. Frank will pose and discuss with the gathered community this Sunday.

February 19: *"Peace, Liberty and Justice for All"* The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

How far will you and I go in challenging the leaders in every part of our national and world society to direct their efforts, first and foremost, to the work of ensuring the right of every citizen to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" This ideal of our nation's founders was understood as a critical foundation of democracy, which is key spiritual practice in our UU community of faith. In his reflection, Rev. Frank will invite and challenge us to show up with love, for love, and in a spirit of love as we invite everyone to join us in doing the same.

February 26th: "The FUUTURE: 2037" - Youth Service

The future is full of unknowns and possibilities, and as youth we are often reminded that someday we will be making those possibilities a reality. So, what kind of a world do we, Summit Youth, want to see? What principles do we think are vital for a UUtopia? In this year's Youth service you will hear what they want to see the world become, through social justice reform, scientific breakthroughs, and the way we treat each other in day to day interactions.

The Scene at Summit's March 2017 edition

deadline will be *Mon., Feb. 27th.*

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:

"Tend Our Garden"

"We Must Take Care of Our Garden" From Candide by Voltaire

Comes The Dawn ~ By Veronica Shoffstall

*After a while you learn the subtle difference
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul,
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security,
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts
And presents aren't promises,
And you begin to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes open
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child,
And you learn to build all your roads on today,
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans,
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.
After a while you learn
That even sunshine burns if you get too much.
So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.
And you learn that you really can endure...
That you really are strong,
And you really do have worth.
And you learn and learn...
With every goodbye you learn.*

I participated in the international Women's March on January 22, 2017. In San Diego, an estimated 40,000 people rallied in support of this movement.

Over 500,000 women--their souls beautifully cultivated, decorated and mature--gathered in Washington D.C. and in all 50 U.S. states and in countries around the world, to challenge our new administration to respect women's rights, and by extension, human rights. It was an inspiring, soulful act of personal and communal giving.

In these gatherings millions of women and their allies beat drums and danced and prayed to invoke the spirits of peace and well-being..They called on their ancestors to be their witnesses and to support them. They kept their heads up and their eyes were wide open. They ululated fiercely--showing themselves to be ruthlessly determined to thwart and, if possible, scare away the demons of sexism, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, and every form of oppression. They gracefully played with great seriousness.

They screamed playful taunts and claimed a place for themselves, and for all of us, in the world. They showed incredible strength, without physical violence. They came in peace.

They came with the capacity to endure in the hard and often agonizing work of bending the arc of our moral universe toward justice. They came to remind us and our world of our true worth.

They came ready to keep learning and growing.

Whence comes such fire? Whence comes such spirit? It comes, as Candide proposed, in tending our garden: the garden of our own lives, which is nothing less than an intersection of all the gardens of all our relations.

In the passionate and transcendent ecstasy of such gatherings, one begins to realize that all gardens are interconnected parts of one, unimaginably large garden. There is no telling what we can accomplish, how far the influences of our tending will extend into the cosmos. But one thing is for sure, what we do, how we join together in tending our garden, can change everything.

Namaste, Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

I awoke early on the morning of inauguration day. Rain was steadily falling; the occasional tear fell from my eyes as I faced the day. I awoke with a deep grief- for what I feel this country has lost and for what might have been. So I started the day with a meditation, listening to the rain.

Eventually an image came to my mind- the morning's photo of four Summit women in their pink pussy [cat] hats, headed for the March in Washington D.C. Thoughts of women (and men) from all over the country flocking to Washington, D.C. to speak up for our rights rekindled a little hope in my soul.

The following morning, Saturday, Sandy and I joined with the San Diego Women's Chorus at the March in downtown San Diego. As we marched and sang, we ran into neighbors, friends, colleagues, Summitarians, other UUs from the cluster, and some 30,000+ other people, and together we marched, chanted, sang, carried signs and generally kept hope alive. I saw not a single negative encounter, during

hours of waiting for trolleys, waiting for the march to start, walking on the packed streets, and on the packed trolleys again. Not one. People were kind and supportive of each other, as we stood up for the world we wish to see.

Our Summit community works in countless ways to create that world. We also work to strengthen our own spiritual home- sometimes quite literally. The Campus Improvement Committee (CIC) recommends that we replace our leaky roof and replace our sun umbrellas with a shade cover outside the salon. On February 19, there will be a congregational meeting in which you will hear about the state of Summit's finances and members will be asked to vote on these campus improvements and how we plan

to pay for them. Please save this date, and watch for the official notice of this meeting for more information.

I am grateful to all who work, often behind the scenes, to keep Summit's physical presence whole and welcoming, and to those who are doing the same for our spiritual presence.

~Laurel

Congregational Meeting of All Summit Members on February 19th

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after Sunday service on February 19th. Participation is a right and responsibility of membership in our Fellowship. All Members and interested friends are encouraged to attend.

In this meeting we will:

1. Discuss the financial health of the congregation.
2. Vote on each of the following:
 - a. Whether up to \$15,000 of the Campus Improvement and Emergency Fund shall be used for a shade cover by the Salon.
 - b. Whether up to \$50,000 of the available reserves in the general fund shall be used for roof replacement.
 - c. Whether the discretionary portion of the Ed Davis bequest shall be used to replenish the Campus Improvement and Emergency Fund for future needs.

Note that any voting member who is unable to attend a congregational meeting to cast his/her ballot personally (e.g. disability, illness, travel, etc.) may vote **ONLY** by proxy, meaning assigning another member to vote in their stead on every issue being decided at that congregational meeting, including all oral and written ballot votes.

Proxies shall be appointed in writing and must be conveyed to the Secretary at any time up until the vote on the issue(s) identified by the proxy form or otherwise being decided during that congregational meeting.

I hope to see you there!

Laurel Bernstein, President
Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

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

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 18th, at 10:00am in the Summit Library. Please call 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

This is a challenging time for many of us as we experience the current political climate and feel as if much of what we care about is being challenged and even attacked. It is so important that we care for our children and youth during this shift. They look to the adults in their life for support, security, safety and to know that they are valued and loved unconditionally. How can we respond to this situation? What can we do to make some sense of what is happening? We can take action, teach, and create safe space.

Taking action – With so much radical change happening it can feel very scary and overwhelming to our children and youth. At Summit, we promote action as a way to “Stand on the Side of Love.” Our children and youth have been participating in various acts of caring for others over the years. It is part of our faith culture and natural for us to engage in acts of kindness. This January many of our Summit children and youth participated in the San Diego Women's March, made pink hats and banners to express their concern for all. This was an extremely empowering experience and let them know that they are not alone! We need to continue to find ways for them to take action to build their future. Our youth are engaged and on fire to protect their liberties and the liberties of marginalized people, and our beloved planet. We will be exploring what future action will look like in our program. I invite you to take action with them and be part of their empowerment.

Teach – Our Sunday programming is called Religious Exploration because while we seek to teach our children and youth, we also offer opportunities to explore and to question. Questioning is encouraged as a way to discover and learn using many sources and traditions for inspiration. There are few places where children are allowed to freely explore ideas and ask deep questions. Our program allows for this exploration so that participants can seek and discover answers again and again. We teach that “revelation is not sealed.” Questioning is part of life's journey. The adults who volunteer in CRE are helping create the next generation of critical thinking adults. This may sound simple but it is a radical idea! These children and youth are our future and we need to be there for them now.

Create Safe Space – Summit offers a safe space for our children, youth, and adults to become their true

authentic selves. We need to hold that space as identities are challenged. This is a place where all are worthy and valued. The dedication that this community has for supporting each individual is evident in how we covenant to be in community together. Our youngest are particularly vulnerable to being influenced by peer pressure to conform to societal norms. Let our time together be a place where they can be themselves and be valued by caring adults and an accepting community.

You can be part of this ministry. You can have a positive impact on the future by volunteering in our Religious Exploration program. One Sunday a month can have a huge impact. Are you ready to make a difference?

How can you help the children & youth of Summit?

- * Teach a class once a month for a year.
- * Become a Coming of Age mentor for our 8th-10th grade youth (this spring).
- * Join the Children's RE committee.
- * Attend RE's Scholarship luncheons.
- * Sponsor a youth to go to Justice General Assembly in New Orleans.
- * Let Mary know if you have a special passion you would like to share with the children and youth.

With love and hope for our future,
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 group will meet on Saturday, February 4th (the first Saturday of the month) at 10 a.m. in the Summit library. Please join us if you knit or crochet, or think you might want to learn. We make comfort shawls for Summitarians, hats for people who are homeless, and more!

For questions or more info, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

Social Action Committee

Dear Summitarians,

We will be focusing on our congregational commitments to social action and justice work this Sunday and throughout the rest of January and into early February.

Please participate as we 1) take the next steps in our efforts to establish a meaningful ministry with the

women in detention at Las Colinas, 2) hear updates on our efforts to help the Water Protectors of Standing Rock, and 3) support the youth and children of our fellowship in their efforts to learn about hunger, the impact hunger has on our local communities, and organize a collection for the Santee Food Bank. All members and friends are asked to consider bringing canned and packaged food goods for collections at Sunday worship through February 5th.

In addition, I am pleased to pass along word from past Summit President and Interfaith Shelter leader Barbara Brooks that our facility will be a shelter site for some homeless folk much sooner than we had anticipated. As she describes it, "Summit will partner with Foothills United Methodist Church in hosting Interfaith Shelter Network guests February 11-25 this year. The guests will be housed at our Summit campus with activities to include meals and overnights as per our usual annual Shelter procedure. This Shelter will be staffed by a combination of Foothills UMC volunteers and Summit volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with Barbara.

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 regains strength to return home.
- ♥ Mark Wheeler as recovers from a bacterial infection.
- ♥ Erin Collins, as she endures separation from her family until her move.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau as she seeks to live life to the fullest.
- ♥ Patti Robison Heyer and her sister as they recover from illness.
- ♥ Rachel Le Wine who is recovering from illness.
- ♥ Pierre Vaughn and his family, as he undergoes treatment.
- ♥ Iris Neal as she recovers from an automobile accident.
- ♥ 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 challenging economic times.
- ♥ And, love always.

From the Membership Cmte: Permanent Name Tag Sales

The Summit Membership Committee will be taking orders for the purchase of permanent name tags on Sundays in February after service, outside of the Salon. Two styles of name tags will be offered for \$11.00: the Chalice logo or the 25th anniversary logo. In addition, you can choose either a magnet or pin back style. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. Contact Rachel Le Wine, JoAnn Swanson or Michelle Beauchamp with questions.

Covenant Group sign-ups

...for the next Covenant Group year will be February 12th and 18th. If you want to sign up for a different group, or join a group for the first time, this is the time to do so! There are several openings at various times during each month. There will also be a Newcomers Group sign-up for people new to Summit and UU; that group will begin February 26 after the Sunday Service. If you have any questions contact Pat Bryning.

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., Feb. 14th (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.

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, Feb. 20th. We are addressing the multitude of current events!

INDY (I'm Not Done Yet!)

The two topics for this Spring will be "**How memory works and how to improve it**", and "**Nutrition for Memory and Better Health.**" These topics are intertwined, so will be addressed together. We will meet in the Salon on the **1st Monday** of each month at **3:30 p.m. beginning February 6th.**

So, plan to join us to start this journey into healing both mind and body. This will be fun work. Bring a notebook. See you there. Neal

The Summit Book Club

... will meet on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm in the Summit Library. We will be discussing "STILL ALICE," by Lisa Genova.

"The experience of Alzheimer's disease is a process of discovery. Readers, along with Alice, are artfully and realistically led through this process, moving from the questions and concerns that accompany unexplained memory difficulties to the experience of diagnosis and the impact of Alice's changing needs on relationships with her family and colleagues." - Peter Reed, Ph.D., Alzheimer's Association

Monthly PFLAG Meeting at Summit

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 13th, 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.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator

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**](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.