

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 27 No. 4

April 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

April 2: *"Beyond the Veil: A personal view of Islam"* The Rev. Lone Broussard

Beyond the headlines and the fears there are millions of ordinary people trying to live their lives and find some solace and meaning in this religion. I have a very personal view of Islam since my first husband was an Iraqi veterinarian and I lived here in Baghdad from 1963-1970. In these difficult times we need to see the human faces of each other.

While Rev. Frank is away at District Assembly, The Rev. Lone Broussard, recently retired and moved to San Diego from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, will be our guest preacher for the day.

April 9: *"Songs of Peace and Resistance"*

The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey and Summit Musicians

From times ancient, calls for peace, justice and love have been expressed in the music of religious worship and mission. This Sunday, volunteers from our Summit Congregation will embody and lead us into a deeper appreciation of the role music has played, and still plays, in our prophetic Living Tradition. Come prepared to make a joyful noise!

April 16: *"Celebrate Life!"* The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

On this Easter Sunday we will lift up both the Pagan and Christian themes of Easter, in a remembrance of the courage and witness of Norbet Capek and the Flower Communion he instituted in the face of nationalist and despotic oppression, and in our annual Easter Egg hunt for the younger children. All who attend are asked to bring a few fresh flowers to share, and to parade their Easter bonnets!

April 23: *"A More Profound Alleluia: Music and Worship"* The Rev. Ian Riddell

What are we doing when we raise our voices in collective song? When we chant dirges together? Why is music so central to who we are as individuals? as a religious community? Join us as we explore just what we're doing as we make music together. And be ready for some extra singing!

We welcome to our pulpit Ian Riddell, Minister of Music and the Worship Arts at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. Come and experience your spirituality in worship and song.

April 30: *"Citizens from Another Country?"* The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In the words of the old spiritual, "I am a pilgrim and a stranger, just travelin' through this wearisome land." Playing on this theme, Rev. Frank's reflection will invite us to contemplate the ways in which the life of faith can effectively engage "the principalities and powers of wickedness" abroad in today's world, and otherwise help us meet the trials of life with courage, hope and determination.

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

—ATTENTION—

The Scene at Summit's May 2017 edition

deadline will be *Monday, April 24th.*

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

“What is YOUR path to beloved community?”

Religious liberalism can be reduced to this single statement: “Conscious committal and loyalty to worthwhile causes and goals in order that free and positive personality may be developed, intelligently associated, and cosmically related.”

~ Curtis Reese, Unitarian Minister, in his 1920 Harvard Lecture

We use the words “beloved community” a lot around Summit these days. It is a rich and historically meaningful term, coined by Harvard philosopher Josiah Royce in the 19th century, and made popular in the writing and preaching of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the mid-20th century.

Royce was not only a smart guy—he held four doctorates in philosophy and taught at the University of California, Johns Hopkins, and Harvard—he also tried to put things in clear, simple terms that upheld and promoted the fullest possible development of the individual person in the context of spiritual community. He wrote, “My life means nothing, either theoretically or practically, unless I am a member of a community.”

The intentional, religiously liberal, community is unique among organizations and institutions. One of its chief aims is to realize in the present world the fullest possible expression of human being and ability. It is in the meaningful contributions of our time and energy, through the expression of our individual gifts and acts of service, that we can taste the deeper truths of transcendent reality. As Royce saw it,

Human life taken merely as it flows, viewed merely as it passes by in time and is gone, is indeed a lost river of experience that plunges down the mountains of youth and sinks in the deserts of age. Its significance comes solely through its relations to the air and the ocean and the great deeps of universal experience.

...and he saw how these “great deeps of universal experience” are primarily available to us and actualized as we participate in community, evolving over lifetimes and generations of lifetimes.

In recent months, we’ve seen a tremendous increase in communal occasions which elevate us to appreciate what we can and will accomplish together. Gifts in music, varieties of labor, and new vision and vitality in our communal life and outreach are burgeoning. Members and friends are climbing on board the Summit train, reaching for the Summit of our individual and collective potentials.

So, I ask YOU, and intend for YOU the discovery of answers to what are for me perennial questions as your minister: “What is your deepest calling?” “What gifts and skills do you want to develop and contribute in the building of beloved community here and now and for future generations?” How can you realize, in your personal experience and freely chosen association with Summit Fellowship, a more loving, faithful self?”

I’m interested...and available to witness your answers.

Namaste, Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President’s Report

Dear ones,

One of the things I like most about being on the Board, and particularly about being Board president, is getting to hear about so many things that are going on at Summit. It is the perfect job for a person like me, who suffers from FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out)! I have always been one who wants to “know stuff,” and now I have the perfect excuse to find out!

The Board gets requests and proposals from committees and individuals on a wide range of topics from facility improvements to acts of public witness. Some of these are passed from the Board on to the congregation for approval, as our bylaws and policies specify. Others are decided by the Board and implemented by the Board, or are referred to the relevant committee or task force for implementation. Of course many other things are handled within committees without any need for Board involvement, and in spite of my FOMO I think this is a wonderful thing! Even if I am aware that a particular project is going to happen (for example, if it’s a large expenditure), I still get the pleasant surprise of seeing the final result of all the research, discussions and decision-making by the committee or task force involved. I particularly enjoy seeing the attractive and thoughtful improvements brought to our campus by the Aesthetics committee and by the Campus Improvement Committee. More often than not, their visions are realized by our Property Steward extraordinaire, Mark Weedman (who also chairs the CIC).

The best thing about “knowing stuff” at Summit is this: the more I know, the more I like! I encourage you to find out more about what is going on, not just on Sundays but all week long. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

~ Laurel

GOT PLEDGE?

2017-2018 Total Pledge Goal: \$291,500

Even if it's late, we need your generous pledge! Sealed pledges should be turned in or mailed to Summit's office. At the time of this writing we are up to \$233,619. Thank you very much for your support!

A Note from your Admin

Hi! I'll be on vacation the last week of March and the first week of April. Summit has strong leadership so don't panic, everything will be fine! If you have business at Summit's office be sure to call ahead to see if a volunteer is here to let you in. I will be back in the office on April 10th.

Thank you all for this much needed time off! Take care.

Yours, Linda Peck

It's Time for a New Directory!

There are sheets with the names and contact information for Summit's members and friends in the Greeting Room. Please look at them and correct any errors or update the info. The sheets will be available for several weeks. If you don't find your name please add it and contact info if you would like to be included.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY OF THE SHEETS OUT OF THE GREETING ROOM.

Tax Season Is Upon Us: It's a Good Time to Support SUUF via a Planned Gift

A planned gift is any major charitable gift made as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. Done right, it's a good way to support an organization you care about for the long-term without straining your personal finances. The U.S. tax code recognizes the importance of charitable giving and provides tax incentives that benefit modest income levels as well as the 1%.

Since our founding 26 years ago, Summit has received 11 planned gifts, totaling \$424,000. An additional 16 families have included Summit in their estate plans. All these gifts are instrumental in funding our beautiful facilities, supporting our ongoing programs and growing our Endowment Fund. They truly create a legacy to be proud of, and we all stand on the shoulders of those who foresaw Summit's potential and generously supported that vision.

Summit has partnered with the UUA's Office of Legacy Gifts and the UU Common Endowment Fund to make a variety of tax-advantaged planned gift vehicles available to donors who would support Summit now and in the future. Summit's Planned Giving Committee maintains a clearinghouse of information to help our members and friends better understand planned giving and decide for themselves the best way to support Summit's mission.

Although planned gifts are often made so that most of the proceeds are transferred as part of a person's estate at death, they can also be outright gifts that could benefit Summit in the donor's own lifetime. For example,

If you're over 70 ½ years, you can donate directly to Summit from your IRA – it'll count toward your required distribution, but not count as income to you.

Or, you could donate appreciated securities – you will get the deduction based on the current market value and there'll be no capital gains tax due.

Interesting examples of estate-related planned gifts include –

Charitable gift annuities where you receive income during your lifetime at a predetermined rate, while Summit would receive any remainder when your estate is settled. The UUA has this kind of annuity available at very attractive annual percentage rates, and it's invested in socially responsible ways.

A relatively easy way to make an estate gift is to name Summit as a full or partial beneficiary of any IRA or life insurance policy you own.

Summit's Planned Giving Committee maintains UUA documents with tax information on all of these approaches and more at the planned giving page on the Summit website (<http://summituuf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Planned-Giving-Chart.pdf>). Our web-page provides much additional information (http://summituuf.org/supporting-summit/planned_giving). And, we've found the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego's web-page is also very useful (<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/planned-giving>).

We hope you will take a look and be inspired to move forward this New Year in including Summit in your financial planning!

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, April 15th, at 10:00am in the Summit Library. Please call Margo Mariana at 619-312-0903 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

Living from the Heart:

Practical Tools for Dealing with Change, Challenge, Conflict & Confusion

A Workshop led by Summit member, Margo Mariana

We might all agree these are times of change and challenge on a personal as well as global level, yet we may not always know how to deal with change and challenge in a clear and graceful way.

In this workshop we will gain some understanding of just what it means to live from the heart and to get our minds and hearts to work together in co-operation. We will receive some concrete tools to navigate through difficult and conflicting times, and learn some ways to make decisions from a loving and responsive place rather than from fear and reaction. We will explore ways to find and create choices-options where there seem to be none. We can turn these times of change, challenge and uncertainty into opportunities for more learning and growth. Come join us and explore!

Time: Saturday, April 1st, 10:00-Noon a follow up session for those interested.

This will be a time for sharing and discussion of how it has been to apply the tools given in the introduction session as well as to learn additional tool to deal with " the 4 C's---Change, Challenge, Conflict & Confusion as they arise. If you are interested in joining the group &/or have any questions, please call Margo at 619-312-0903.

Children's Religious Exploration News

This spring there is excitement among Summit youth as we begin *Coming of Age* and make exciting plans for summer travel. Some of these children have been coming to Summit most or all of their lives so it is really an honor to be part of their growing up into incredible young adults.

Coming of Age has begun for seven of our youth. This group consists of young people in 8th, 9th and 10th grade who are taking the time to intentionally explore their personal beliefs. Each is partnered with an adult mentor who will support them as they explore their ideas in a covenantal community. Each week they work with their mentor as Mark Wheeler and I guide the group through a process of discovery on various topics. Topics include Passages; Faith; Why do bad things happen?; God?; After death?; UU History; Community and the COA Overnight. They will also be taking part in the ropes course challenge at UCSD. They will complete the program by sharing their personal faith statement with the Summit community during the service on May 7th. Save the date so you can witness this important rite of passage.

Each June, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association gather for General Assembly. This year, General Assembly (GA) is in New Orleans and will be the second Justice GA. I am planning to attend this special gathering with six of our Senior High Youth and two other adults. We are planning to share a rented house with the youth and adult advisers from First UU Church of San Diego. Justice GA is an experience that is richer than the usual gathering in that it offers an opportunity to participate in local justice work. Even more exciting, this year GA will include the election of the UUA President. There are three women running so we will be there to witness the election of the first female president of the UUA! This will be a very expensive endeavor so we are applying for any and all scholarships and plan to have several fundraisers to help our youth and adult advisers to attend. Any and all support is so appreciated!

Camp is just around the corner, too! Each year many of our children, youth and adults attend UU Camp at Camp DeBenneville Pines. This year is extra exciting because our own Lucas Weed is one half of the Youth Dean Team for Sr. High Camp. Camp JUJustice League is going to be empowering the Justice Superhero in each of us. We will have several youth and young adults on staff for Elementary and Jr. High Camp and I will be co-leading Counselor in Training during Elementary camp. There is Family Camp and even an Adult Summer Camp! Check out all of the offerings at UUcamp.org soon, as many of these camps sell out fast.

With love and joy,

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, April 1st (the first Saturday of the month) at 10 a.m. in the office conference room. 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

If you'd like to help the SAC team on future projects, feel free to come to our next meeting on April 9th at 11:30am in the Summit Library. Jerilyn Harris

Justice Ministry News

Have you made your weekly call to your elected representative yet to let them know how you feel about something; health care, refugees or a Supreme Court nominee?

In California, UU's have a statewide Justice Ministry organization, UU Justice Ministry California. Formally known as UU Legislative Ministry, this group provides information and training to UUs on Justice Work, organize teams to work in four key areas, works with other organizations to be effective in changing policy and help congregations work on their justice missions. UUJM California, just launched an action portal which focus on issues and legislation that are in keeping with our progressive UU values and principles. It provides up to date news, lists important legislation and has an easy way for one to send messages to your legislator. Check it out and add it to your regular bookmarked sites to visit. <http://action.uujmca.org/home>

Summit UU Justice Committee voted to make the Climate Mobilization March taking place on April 29th our next major "Yellow Shirt Day." The event will start in front of the San Diego County Administrative Building on Harbor Drive at 10:00 AM. A one mile march will be part of this public rally to address climate change. Mark your calendars and bring your friends. If we can, we will make some art work to display, however it will be hard to beat Jenny Saar's giant iceberg we carried the last time we participated in a major climate march.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Sally Mimms, as she recovers from a broken hip.
- ♥ 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 returns home.
- ♥ Erin Collins, as she moves to be with her family in the mid-west.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau as she seeks to live life to the fullest.
- ♥ Pierre Vaughn and his family, as he undergoes treatment.
- ♥ Andrea Travers as she recovers from surgery.
- ♥ 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.

Summit Men's Group

The Summit Tuesday night men's group has 2 available seats. This group meets weekly at Summit. Interested men can contact Mark Weedman for more information.

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 McQuaid

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., April 11th (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.

Freethinkers...

We will be continuing discussing current events with emphasis on the new Administration, the political mood of the country and the status of climate change.

INDY (I'm Not Done Yet!)...

INDY will meet at 3:30 on April 3rd to continue the series on Memory. This week we will cover the effects of stress and diet on the brain with suggestions as to how to recover and protect our memory system. See you in the Salon. Neal

The Summit Book Club

On Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will meet in the Summit UU library to discuss "A Fatal Grace: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel," by Louise Penney.

"This is a fine mystery in the classic Agatha Christie style, and is sure to leave mainstream fans wanting more" - Booklist

Monthly PFLAG Meeting at Summit

Our next meeting will be on April 10th, 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Jerusalem” - a National Geographic movie on Friday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m., at Summit

JERUSALEM immerses audiences into one of the world's most beloved cities. Discover why this tiny piece of land is sacred to three major religions through the stories of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families who call Jerusalem home.

Join renowned archaeologist, Dr. Jodi Magness, as she travels underground to solve some of this city's greatest mysteries. Find out why, after thousands of years, Jerusalem and the Holy Land continue to stir the imagination of billions of people. Unprecedented access to the city's holiest sites, as well as rare and breathtaking aerial footage of the Old City and the Holy Land, combine to make JERUSALEM a unique and stunning cinematic experience.

This event is free and open to the public. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting Rachel Le Wine

David De Alva Guitar Concert Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Many of you already are familiar with David De Alva, who has family connections to Summit. We are pleased that he will be returning to Summit's concert stage this month, after a six-year absence.

David de Alva was born in Madrid, Spain, while his parents, both flamenco dancers, were on tour. He has performed in New York, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Madrid, Seville, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, Seattle and San Diego. He began studying at the age of ten under protegés of Segovia and the Romero Brothers, quickly distinguishing himself for his technique and charisma. As a lead performer in festivals and theaters from Brazil to Spain, he perfected his style, expressing the explosion of rhythms and emotions that contain the passion of the Spanish people. David specializes in Flamenco and World Fusion Jazz guitar.

Tickets are \$10 (in advance or at the door), and doors will open at 6:30. For more info please contact Pam Kerr or Laurel Bernstein.

Auction Community Builder Reminder

Are you up for a Good Ol' Fashioned Hymn Sing? Pianist extraordinaire Drew Massicot will lead us for some group singing of your favorite hymns!! Everyone will have a chance to select at least one of their favorite hymns, and together we will sing it with gusto! Brunch-like food and drinks provided

to whet our whistles and lubricate our lungs! Date is Saturday morning, May 6th, from 10:00 to noon. We need a minimum of 20 to make this event happen, so sign up pronto! Sign up sheet is in the Greeting Room, or call the Katie Boskoff.

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.

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