

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Vol. 27 No. 5

May 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

May 7th: "Coming of Age" Ceremony Mary Carter-Vail, Director of Religious Exploration and the RE Committee - Summit Coming Of Age Youth Service
– Lead by the Coming of Age Youth Group of 2017

Join us for a very special service on May 7th. One of the major rites of passage for UU teens is Coming of Age. This year we are celebrating seven youth who have been exploring their own spiritual beliefs and Unitarian Universalist identities over the past two months. These youth have met weekly with adult mentors and facilitators to explore and craft their own faith statement. This Sunday we will have the honor of bearing witness as they share their own personal credos. The youth have prepared a very special service and will be offering a peek into their experiences in the program through music and media. This is a milestone celebration in the life of our fellowship and we invite all to celebrate their achievement.

May 14th: "A Mother's Love" Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Motherhood: What a job! What a calling! What sacrifice! From Mother Earth to earthly and earthy mothers, come join us as we recognize and give thanks for the mothers and mothering influences who have cared for us and sustained us in life, sometimes in the face of the greatest threats and challenges life can offer.

May 21st: "Dancing for Justice" Rev. Elizabeth Bukey

Alice Walker wrote, "hard times require furious dancing." Today we explore the way art and joy are connected to struggles for justice and a fulfilling life.

We welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Elizabeth Bukey, Minister of Congregational Life at Chalice UU Congregation in Escondido, California. Her work at Chalice Congregation focuses on social justice and membership. A lifelong UU, Rev. Bukey holds a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She also sings with the San Diego Women's Chorus, a lesbian-identified, feminist chorus that is open to all women, and is a co-chair of the Chorus' Board of Directors.

May 28th: "The Rise and Fall of Everything" Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

We are born to die. Nation's rise and fall. Everything in the material world is subject to corruption, entropy and decay. So what's the spiritual lesson to be discovered here? On this Memorial Day Weekend we will remember those who have died in U.S. military service, and reflect upon the help and healing we can offer our country's veterans.

—ATTENTION—

The Scene at Summit's June 2017 edition

deadline will be *Mon., May 30th.*

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 /
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FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

“Power in the Service of Love”

"Congratulations! You made it out of bed this morning!" reads the sign outside the coffee shop in my neighborhood.

Getting out of bed took power. Getting ready for your day took power. Getting to wherever you needed to go today, to do whatever you needed to do, took all kinds of power. Sitting here, reading this, trying to get something meaningful out of what I am saying takes power. Power is fundamental to existence. It is everywhere. It is operating in and through every moment of life. It is involved in every thought. Every emotion. Every action. Power is potentiated and expressed in every cell, every molecule, every atom, every movement that makes your life what it is. Power flows and pools throughout society, throughout the ecosystem, throughout the planets and stars and galaxies of our universe.

You and I are products of power. And we are spigots, its vessels, its channels, transforming it into the movements, meanings and materials that create the world.

As people concerned with building a compassionate and just community here on the earth, we will inevitably be concerned with how the power available to us and to all humanity is channeled and used.

Domination robs its victims of freedom. It encourages the flow of power to the few at the expense of the many. Love, on the other hand, is always voluntary. It recognizes that we are all in this together, that we are one another's keeper. It is rooted in the wisdom that says, "when one realizes a gift, a potential, or some kind of fulfillment, all of us are elevated and enriched."

Love stands against domination. Love as a state of being will never be achieved through force of law, by violence, by scientific or technological means, or by economic incentive. For love to be realized, there is no other solution than that each of us must intentionally subject the power available to us to serve love and its purposes. Love will never use violence to try to force others to let go of power. No one can use violent force or the threat of such force to make the world more loving, anymore than one can use strategies of domination or oppression to make a society more democratic. Love will never abandon the sacred obligation to care, first and foremost.

At the same time, to be loving does not mean that one will accede to domination. Love is not wimpy. It can be tender. It can be playful. And it can be pitiless and feisty and heroic. At the right moment, Love will look into the face of the powerful and invite them, confront them, and challenge them to be loving, to share power.

Love will illuminate systems of power that are based upon the morally bankrupt and ultimately destructive notion that “it’s every one for him- or herself.”

Love will dog the powerful, surround their homes and their fortifications built on rationalizations of privilege and conquest, shine an inextinguishable floodlight on their failures and refusals to love and care for all beings and for this earth, and dare them to love.

Ultimately it is only loving people who can show those in power how to subject all power to the service of love.

So what are you and I doing with the power that is available to us?

Namaste, Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President’s Report

When I was growing up, science was part of my life. My father was an entomologist and I knew the names of most of the insects around our yard, as well as the plants and birds. My brother, twelve years older than I, became a biologist, and I later did the same. During my years of laboratory research in college, graduate school and as a postdoctoral research fellow, tension between science and government seemed primarily related to funding.

It is a shock to find that our own government is not preserving science as we know it- and that scientists may have to fight, not only to preserve the agencies and programs that support scientific research, but even to preserve data that the current administration is jettisoning. It seems that even critical thinking is viewed as a partisan idea- one which is no longer in favor in Washington.

For this reason I was among the estimated 15,000 participants in the March for Science in downtown San Diego on Saturday. The many signs were clever and pointed. For example:

I’m with her → (image of the earth)

“Think While It Is Still Legal”

“I Can’t Believe I Have To Fight My Own Government For Science”

“Got Polio? Yeah, Me Neither,”

and maybe my understated favorite: “It’s Odd That This Is Necessary.”

The initial stated purpose of the March was to celebrate the scientific method and the role that scientific research plays in our lives, and to advocate for using evidence in decision-making in all levels of government. As stated by the March organizers, “At its core, science is a tool for seeking answers. It can and should influence policy and guide our long-term decision-making.” The application of science to policy should not be a partisan issue. As so well said by astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, “The good thing about science is that it’s true, whether or not you believe in it.” However, the current president’s policies, as evidenced by budget cuts, cabinet appointments and by the purging of web pages and data relating to climate change from government web sites, to name a few, appear to be in opposition to, or outright hostile to, science and critical thought. This further fueled participation in the marches around the country.

While science often suffers from a regrettable excess of jargon that can make it seem impenetrable,

the heart of science is simply observation and critical thinking. Critical thinking is something we are all capable of. We can make up our own minds about what we read or hear: is it reasonable, does it make sense, is it consistent with what we know? We UUs are well equipped in this regard, taking inspiration from a broad range of sources, including direct experience. We are used to trusting ourselves and our own experience when making decisions, rather than relying on an external set of guidelines. We can all be scientific thinkers, and we must be, now more than ever.

~ Laurel

Summit's AIM Team

We'd like to introduce you to Summit's Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Team. Our current AIM Team members are: Renee Altson, Laurel Bernstein, Scot Danforth, Pat Summers, and Debbie Wingard. We will be talking to you on Sunday, April 30th about disability, and about accessibility and inclusion. The UUA has a fairly new AIM certification program, analogous to the Welcoming Congregation certification - obtaining this certification will show the world that we are dedicated to becoming an inclusive and accessible community. It is a goal of the Board for Summit to obtain this AIM certification.

A preliminary step is a short accessibility survey, which we will have for you both electronically and as hard copies. We ask that you help us by completing this survey, which serves two purposes. First, it gets us all thinking about accessibility. Second, it gives us some concrete feedback as we begin. Thank you for your participation in this, which is for the good of all of us. If you do not already consider yourself as a person with a disability or chronic condition, you may have a family member with such a condition. And if neither of these applies now, most likely they will over your lifetime.

If you would like to learn more about the AIM certification program, or Equal Access, a UU affinity program that promotes equality and access for Unitarian Universalists with disabilities, you can find links to their pages at <http://www.uua.org/accessibility>.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, May 20th, 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

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.

This workshop will continue for 2 more sessions. Newcomers are welcome! We will 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, May 6th, 10:00-Noon
Saturday, June 3rd, 10:00-Noon

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 contact Margo.

Children's Religious Exploration News

Summer Plans are starting to come together for our Children's Religious Exploration Program. Summer is a time when we use creative programs that are fun and engaging for our children and youth. This year is no exception so read on to see what's cooking! Does any of this sound like fun? Adults are invited to play, too! *And*, Summer is a great time to volunteer in CRE and join in the fUUn.

Lego Adventures

"The Lego Church" is a title that some of our youngest participants have used for this program. This summer, we are planning to live up to that name! I am currently working with Josh to write a Lego "Make Space" curriculum. We are creating an experience where children and youth can really get into exploring all of the creative ways that these components can be put together. There will be structured buildings so that they can experience group work, and individual challenges, so that they can build, test, fail and build again. We plan to start simple and work towards using gears and engineering concepts. If we can find an EV3 Intelligent Brick to borrow, we may even explore programming with Lego robotics. Science is one of the sources that Unitarian Universalists look to for inspiration so we will be clicking bricks as we explore and discover on our Lego Adventure.

Lego Donations needed – Do you have a bin of old Lego's in the back of a closet? Are you tired of stepping on small plastic pieces in the dark? Do you want to reduce plastic in the waste recycle? Then we may have a new home for your old Lego's! Donations are now being accepted to add to our resources. We are especially interested in the Technics and Mindstorm/EV Intelligence components. Bring them to our Religious Exploration program so that they can continue to be used to expand ideas and creativity. Thanks so much!

Cooking with Love

One of my passions is cooking. In my prior life, I was a professional chef. Cooking is becoming a lost art among our youth and young adults as there are no longer programs in school that teach this important skill. Working with other religious educators at the curriculum training this spring, we created a 12 week cooking course for CRE programs. This includes way more than how to use a recipe. We will explore the sources of food, how to prepare and serve simple and complex meals, and the importance of eating together with a grateful heart. I am super excited about this and am interested in partnering with our many talented Summit chefs to create a practical and inspirational experience this summer. Let me know if you are interested in teaching our children to "Cook with Love."

With love and joy,

Mary Carter-Vail, Director of Religious Exploration

(continued...)

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, contact her, preferably a few days ahead of time.

Social Action Committee

Summit's community extends beyond our building including those who are locked behind walls at the Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Center. Our outreach ministry under the direction of Rev. Jennifer Channin and prison ministry facilitated by Rev. Andrea Travers have created bridges with women who are moved by UU values and wish to be part of a community like ours. Now is the time to get involved. Please consider supporting Summit's implementation of programs for these incarcerated women who will be re-entering our community:

- Regular interfaith services offered by Summit twice monthly at Las Colinas (now being offered – see Jerilyn Harris)
- Restorative Justice programming in progress for 2 years
- Reentry needs, supplies, referrals, and mentoring for releasing women(in development stage)

You can Support by: donating a love offering at the Sunday, May 21 collection; volunteering as a Service Leader at the Thursday evening services; and/or being part of the reentry support team.

Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility
SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT for May – for Women & Mothers

If you'd like to help the SAC team on future projects, feel free to come to our next meeting on May 14th 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>

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Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility
SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT for May – for Women & Mothers

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 Wetzel, and her son Peter, as she remains fairly restricted to home.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau as she seeks to live life to the fullest.
- ♥ Pierre Vaughn as he recovers from treatment.
- ♥ Barbara Jania-Smith as she heals from knee-replacement surgery.
- ♥ Jacquie Dowdy as she goes through rehab.
- ♥ Ferne Gaarder and Al Mork as Ferne goes through diagnosis and treatment.
- ♥ 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.

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., May 9th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 4:00 p.m. in the Summit Library. 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!)...

We will meet on May 1st at 3:30pm in the salon to review the cause of memory loss and ways to actually improve memory. Then we will begin a series on the effect of diet on memory. Please join us.

The Summit Book Club

The Summit UU Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm in the Summit library. We will be discussing Sherman Alexie's "Reservation Blues."

Sherman Alexie has been hailed as "one of the best writers we have" (The Nation). "Reservation Blues" is his "irresistibly stunning debut novel" (San Francisco Chronicle.)

One day legendary bluesman Robert Johnson appears on the Spokane Indian reservation, in flight from the devil and presumed long dead. When he gives his enchanted guitar to Thomas-Builds-the-Fire - a magical odyssey begins. This is a tale of power, tragedy and redemption among contemporary Native Americans.

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

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, June 30, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

A Farewell Party for Rev. Frank

to bid him Best Wishes for his Sabbatical, which runs from July 1 - November 30, 2017.
All are Welcome. Detailed information to follow at a later date.

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