

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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July 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

The Summit office will be closed on July 4th. Happy Holiday!

July 2nd: "Make Your Own Manifesto" Rev. Don Stouder

UU's have Principles and Humanists have Manifestos. How can we use statements like these to guide our own spiritual journeys and set your own goals? In this sermon, Rev. Don will share how he has done this in his own life and present some ideas for use in your own.

July 9th: "Toward a Culture of Spiritual Minimalism" Rev. Don Stouder

Minimalism is all the rage. In this sermon, Rev. Don will take a look at ways that we can make our lifestyle a spiritual quest by examining the minimalist movement and the benefits it brings to so many people.

July 16th: "Pride and Joy: Celebrating LGBTQ Families" Rev. Don Stouder

As San Diego celebrates LGBTQ Pride Weekend, join Rev. Don in celebrating all that we have done together to create and support LGBTQ families. Don will share the stories of his own challenges of raising such a family in the early years, the support he found at Summit, and the many ways that such support can have positive effects even years later.

July 23rd: "Living with Our Own Mortality" Rev. Dr. Andrea Travers

"What happens when we die?" If we are nudged (or shoved) into exploring this question up close and personally through a life (or death) experience where do we go to find the answers which will satiate our curiosity and/or calm our fears? For most of us, the answers are rooted in our religious or non-religious (philosophical) beliefs. Is there a heaven or an afterlife? And if not, then what? How can perspectives from the wisdom traditions inform our quest for answers and better prepare us to live with our own mortality.

July 30th: "My Moral Compass"

Summitarians: Sonya Prestridge, Scot Danforth and Nancy Howe

Our civil discourse of late has become fraught with blurred views of "right" and "wrong," loose truths and "alternative facts." They will each speak about what has influenced their innate sense of right and wrong in their own moral development. They will also take a look at who or what has had the most impact upon them as they became adults with their own moral values. Music: "The Nearly Close

Enough Band": Laurel Bernstein, Sandy Bernstein, Jeff Garvey, Lisa Garvey, Bob Phelps & Mark Wheeler.

—ATTENTION—

The Scene at Summit's

August 2017 edition deadline will be *Mon., July 24th.*

Summit's Office Information

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, Ph.D. will be on Sabbatical

July 1 through November 30, 2017.

For Ministerial Assistance contact **Toni Rogers, Sabbatical Administrator**

tonir@cox.net or 619-857-2215

Children's Religious Exploration: DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, 619-562-0833,
ex. 205 / summitdre@gmail.com

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President: Laurel Bernstein, laurelbernstein@yahoo.com

Property Steward: Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

SABBATICAL ADMINISTRATOR'S SCOOP:

A Fond Farewell.....

Last night, we Summitarians made joyful noise in the neighborhood as we bid a fond farewell to Rev. Frank as he begins his five-month sabbatical. We wish him a safe and adventurous journey. Onward.....

And onward for our entire Congregation, as we spread our wings. We are blessed with a dedicated staff — Linda, Mark and Mary; committed leadership — the Board, Committee Chairs; and each of you, who through your continued presence, your support for each other and your random acts of kindness enrich us all.

And though, we will miss Rev. Frank, I invoke the poignant words of Robert Frost -

“Men work together, I told him from the heart.

Whether they work together or apart.”

Take care, Toni Rogers

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President’s Report

Dear ones,

How time flies! A year ago I was about to step into the role of Summit’s Board President. I confess to being slightly apprehensive about what lay ahead, but also very excited and grateful for the opportunity to serve. And now that year has passed, and I am still excited and grateful, and very honored to be asked to serve a second term.

I have found being President to be surprisingly satisfying, and actually quite a bit more enjoyable than I expected, though of course it’s not without its challenging moments. But the Board has been focused, productive and collegial, and a lot has been accomplished this year as we acted on issues brought to us by committees and individuals within our Summit community. Among these, a few highlights stand out in my mind:

Three congregational meetings plus one town hall meeting were held;

A policy was put in place for obtaining approval for acts of public witness, under which congregational approval was given for Justice Ministry to display a “Standing on the Side of Love” banner on our campus (thanks to Rev. Frank and Jack Shu for hard work and patience on this);

New property insurance was obtained and clarified to ensure that Summit can continue as a host site for the Interfaith Shelter (thanks to Debbie Wingard for her gentle persistence in negotiations);

Expenditures were approved for installation of the very welcome salon shade cover this past spring, and for campus-wide roof replacement which is scheduled for late summer. Many thanks to Mark Weedman and the Campus Improvement Committee for careful research and recommendations, and for project oversight;

Humanist worship services are now being held at Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility (women’s jail), with Summitarians serving as service associates. This is an enormous accomplishment after many years of effort. In addition, a re-entry support project will soon launch to aid women being released from Las Colinas without resources; this project was a board goal for 2016-17, with support and implementation by the Social Action Committee. Enormous credit goes to Andrea Travers for her passion and leadership on these projects, as well as the

restorative justice programs she has already put in place. We now have a strong presence at Las Colinas, which is literally in our own neighborhood.

In the coming year we'll surely face some new challenges. Most notably, our beloved and seemingly indispensable Rev. Frank will be on sabbatical from July through November! We will find new ways of being in community in his absence, and together we will keep our beloved community strong and thriving. Toni Rogers will be serving as Sabbatical Administrator and I am very thankful for her calm, capable presence.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead!

~Laurel

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, July 15th, 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

June was a very busy month for our program and especially our Summit Youth Group! This month I want to share some of the adventures that we had on our trip to New Orleans for the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist member congregations, where each congregation sends Delegates to vote on the business of the Association. This year is also an election year in which a new Unitarian Universalist Association President is elected, so it was a very exciting time to participate. So here are a few of the highlights of our adventure!

The Plan to Go

For the trip to GA in New Orleans, our group had to raise funds and apply for grants to cover the costs. It was an expensive trip for 10 people to go so we created a very frugal plan that included renting a house with attendees from First UU CSD, cooking our own meals for breakfast and lunch, and were going to use public transportation. We had an unexpected expense of renting a mini-van due to the arrival of Tropical Storm Cindy when we got there. The most expensive part of the trip was the flight to get there and back. There were seven youth and one young adult and two older adults, who were the sponsors for the youth under 18 years of age.

The grants we applied for were from the UUA and the Pacific Southwest District, totaling \$2500. Seven members of our group became Volunteers and earned their registration through service at GA. My registration was covered by my professional funds and two families paid the funds for their youth directly.

Our youth group raised funds through donations from two “after the service” events, (Ice Cream Social and Taco Bar Lunch), by selling SUUper UU T-shirts online and by selling SUUper Hero Logo buttons (that we all made) and sold during the Assembly. They also received sponsorship from Summit members donating directly to the Youth GA fund, used all of their saved up youth reserve funds, Denominational Affairs funds to support the SUUF Delegates, and by a generous match from the Summit Board.

In total the trip cost was about \$1000 per person. We are still a little bit short of the total expenses and have created an online store on Facebook called the *Worth and Dignity Depot* where the group will continue to offer their T-shirt designs, buttons, chalice jewelry and other fun stuff to finish paying for this adventure and to replenish the youth reserve fund for future trips. If you are interested in helping with this effort, visit the page or you can make a direct donation to the fund at Summit.

Our Adventure!

Getting there was an exciting experience as our flight flew through tropical storm clouds. The second leg of the trip was a bumpy ride that one youth described as a “fun roller coaster.” When we arrived in NOLA (short for New Orleans Louisiana), it was pouring. The Summit group rented a mini van as did those from FUUCSD, with enough seats to safely transport both everyone and luggage to our the house and convention center all week.

The first thing that the youth noticed beside the rain was the humidity. Even when the sun was shining! One youth said to me, “We have sun in San Diego and here I feel like I’m wet when there is no rain!” The second thing they noticed was how different the city was. As we drove through the torrential rain they saw the raised crypts in graveyards, the Superdome and buildings that were still abandoned from Katrina damage. In preparation for the trip, the group had learned about Katrina and the rebuilding as well as abandonment of communities after the flooding of the city. It was an eye opening experience for them.

Our house was in the Lower Garden District about one mile from the convention center. The first night we gathered for a house meeting and created a group covenant for the week that included safety and house rules. Then we created a shopping list for breakfast and lunches as we planned to eat our evening meals out to experience local foods. We then went shopping at the local Costco, across Lake Pontchartrain. Our resident videographer, Colin Vail, has collected lots of footage and will be making a video that we hope to share with Summit once it is completed so that you can see more about our adventures.

The first day at GA was a busy one. All of our group volunteers had commitments at different times so I was the shuttle driver getting them to their areas on time:

Anya Vail and Elinor Weed were adult volunteers in the Jr. High Camp.

Lucas Weed was working for the volunteer office and Grace Engleman in the Cyber Café (part of GA).

Colin Vail, Katelyn Lekven and Abby Weed were Ushers for the Opening Ceremony and Plenary Sessions.

Brendan McGuinness, Charlotte Ullrich and I were non-volunteers and we got to the Youth Caucus meeting and were helping the others with gathering registration badges and helping them get to their commitments on time.

The Opening Ceremony was a big event and our non-ushering youth formed a conga line as they proudly carried the Summit banner to the joyful music of New Orleans brass band. (Sorry we didn't get to live feed because the cameras only covered half of the parade.) After that, most of the group was beat so I took the first batch home while some of the older youth attended the Youth Caucus Worship. I returned for the final group when they finished up for the night.

Each day of GA was filled with volunteer commitments, justice themed workshops, and opportunities to engage with other youth and adults from around the world, and to be part of the decision making for our denomination. Lucas and Anya served as voting Delegates for Summit and they took their responsibilities seriously. They attended each of the presidential forums and participated in all of the plenary sessions, (except when their volunteer commitments interfered), and were fully engaged in the decision making process all week.

During the conference, youth were allowed to choose where they wanted to participate as long as it was inside the GA building and they let the adult chaperones know where they were. We had some digital tools that allowed us to communicate easily and were checking in with each other several times each day. Our group gathered together for lunches to check in and we went out to dinner together before participating in the evening programming. There was so much to choose from that picking where to spend your time and energy was the biggest challenge for most of them. Towards the end of the week they got a bit overwhelmed so we planned a nice dinner out for the Saturday night meal where the omnivores had the opportunity to try alligator. (They all concluded that it tastes like chicken.)

There is so much more to share but in the interest of saving paper, I invite you to start a conversation with one of the attendees. Ask them to share their experience and I can guarantee you will get a different experience from each of them. They did all conclude that it was an incredible trip and that they want to go again next year. We will see about that.... As for me, I am incredibly proud about how this group represented our Fellowship and they really did make an impression on other participants. I am excited to see how they bring their experiences and energy back to the Fellowship.

Gratitude

Each of the participants, myself included, express deep gratitude for each and every one who made it possible for us to attend this General Assembly and to witness the work of our denomination in process. Thank you for the support that allowed this to happen. We are truly thankful and humbled by the blessings that made this possible.

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

The Loving Hands group will meet on Saturday, July 1st (the first Saturday of the month) at 10:00 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.

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>

Here is a suggestion on how to make it easier for you to engage with Federal elected representatives, put their phone numbers into your cell phone contact list. Call them whenever there is an issue you want to advocate for or influence.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein - Washington Office (202) 224-3841
San Diego Office (619) 231-9712

Sen. Kamala D. Harris - Washington Office (202) 224-3553
Local Office (213) 894-5000

Congressman Duncan Hunter - Washington (202) 225-5672
Local (619) 448-5201

Congresswoman Susan Davis - Washington (202) 225-2040
Local (619) 280-5311

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ Lee Makeever as she fell and broke her tail bone. Currently she is in the hospital but will be moved soon a rehabilitation facility. Cards are welcome at this time.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Val Sims as she recovers from her recent hospital stay.
- ♥ Ferne Gaarder and Al Mork as Ferne goes through diagnosis and treatment.
- ♥ Bob and Mary Dryden as they prepare for their move later in the summer.
- ♥ 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.

The Cafe Corner

If you enjoy sharing the camaraderie and food of the Sunday Cafe, please consider making a commitment with your covenant group or other group or committee to host the Sunday Cafe once every three months. Or sign up as an individual on the sign up sheets during the Cafe.

If you want to share your talents or feedback with the Sunday Cafe contact Juana Page by Phone/Text/Email at (619) 490-4976 or juanadance40@gmail.com

See you at the Cafe! ~Juana

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

The Summit Singers are on summer break and there will be no rehearsals until August. Please join us when we start up again! To find out more, please contact Carly Newman, our Choir Director, (carlynewman1021@gmail.com).

Freethinkers...

... will meet on July 17th at 3:30 in the Salon. Watch for information in the enews.

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

will meet on Monday, July 3rd at 3:30 in the Salon. We will cover the issues of sleep, stress, and diet and their effect on our memories. See you then. ~ Neal

Monthly PFLAG Meeting at Summit

Our next meeting will be on July 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 text me at 619-258-0169 or email me at Amikema@aol.com

Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auction #107 -

Full Moon Sunset Dinner Cruise

5 Available Set price: \$50 Saturday, July 8th

If you have never taken this favorite boat ride around the bay from Point Loma to Coronado bridge and past the Midway, you definitely want to join the fun. This sunset/full moon-rise dinner cruise includes sumptuous chowder and sandwiches aboard a 40-passenger sport-fishing vessel. This cruise is a great way to get to better know Summitarians, watch a full moon rise over our Finest City, "chill" for a couple of hours with a breeze in your face. Sodas are available for purchase; or BYOB. (Sorry, this boat is not wheelchair accessible). Contact the Summit office if you are interested. 619-562-0833

San Diego Pride Parade

If you are interested in supporting or riding or walking in the **San Diego Pride Parade** on Saturday, July 15, please contact Richard Hoverstock. Every year the crowd really enjoys our special Parasol Drill Team. Please join us.

As in past years, the First UU Church has the SF-like trolley and our place in the Parade. We can park at the First UU Church and ride the trolley to the beginning of the parade or meet the trolley at the lineup site. The trolley will be leaving First UU about 8:30 a.m. on July 15. Everyone has to be in the lineup by 9:30 a.m. The lineup location is adjacent to the DMV on Normal between University and Washington.

Contact Richard Hoverstock with any questions.

See this link for more information on the parade: <https://sdpride.org/parade/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Marian Call will be returning for a concert

Friday, July 21st!

If you missed her last time, talk with someone who heard her, if you were lucky enough to be there, send me a line to put here about what a fun evening it was! She writes her own music, she's quirky and smart, and has a beautiful voice.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert starts at 7:00 p.m. **\$10**

Auction #106 -

Summit Fiesta 2017!

10 Available

Set price: \$40 Saturday, July 22, 2017

Have you ever been to this wildly popular summer party? We promise, you will have a blast! There is no better way to spend a summer evening than eating fresh Latin food, drinking lime margaritas, having great fun and conversations, and of course, making a visit (or two) to the infamous Tequila Shot Shack! Though offered by the Wednesday Morning Covenant Group, Stephanie and Greg Williams open their beautiful home and dynamic backyard for this big event every year. Sign up now, slots close fast!! Contact the Summit office if you are interested. 619-562-0833

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,

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!** ~ Pam 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