

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

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August 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

August 6: *"The Universe Story"* Rev. Dr. Don Stouder

In this sermon, Rev. Don re-visits a favorite topic from his early sermons at Summit in the late nineties, namely Creation Spirituality and the work of Matthew Fox and Brian Swimme. Where are those thinkers today, and what effect has Creation Spirituality had on twenty-first century religion?

Aug. 13: *"And God Laughed"* Rev. Jennifer Channin

They say that the way to make God laugh is to tell God your plans. Let's explore our goal-oriented culture, and maybe learn to laugh at ourselves, too.

Aug. 20: *"The Stuff of Life"* Rev. Jennifer Channin

What is our relationship to the things we own? How does our stuff shape and transform us? Would we be more or less ourselves without our stuff?

Aug. 27: *"No Good News In This Sermon"* Rev. Jennifer Channin

In which we contemplate the impossibility and absurdity of being good, reconsider the idea of Original Sin, and maybe experience some awe and reverence.

—ATTENTION—

*The Scene at Summit's September 2017 edition
deadline will be *Mon., August 28th.**

Summit's Office Information

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

July 1st through November 30th, 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

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

SABBATICAL ADMINISTRATOR'S SCOOP:

The Beat Goes On....

Quite literally! Friday night was the *Marian Call* concert attended by over 60 people. Saturday was the sixth annual Summer Fiesta and last weekend Summitarians enjoyed the rhythm of the waves on San Diego Bay aboard the Full Moon Sunset Cruise.

Though we miss Rev. Frank, the beat truly does go on here in this vibrant community. We've had inspiring Sermons by Rev. Don Stouder and Rev. Andrea Travers and beautiful music by Karen Follingstad. An added bonus was seeing/hearing a preview of Shelley Lekven's wonderful new Children's Book, "Lily Pond". And next Sunday, as the band plays on, we'll be enjoying the music of our very own "Nearly Close Enough Band".

Stay tuned and take care, Toni Rogers

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

Dear Ones,

Sandy, Ben and I spent most of the last two weeks on a road trip down the California coast. I occasionally look up UU churches when I'm visiting a new area but I have never yet attended church while on vacation. I guess I just like to know I could go, but somehow I don't think I'd get anything close to my weekly "dose of Summit" anywhere else.

Getting home from vacation is sometimes as good as getting away- even if the vacation is lovely. I see our familiar house with new eyes, how the light comes in through the sheer curtains and how the framed print and antique table I brought home after my parents died fit just perfectly into our living room. Sometimes I see things that need to be done, or the potential for little improvements or rearrangements, that somehow I had not noticed when seeing them every day.

Returning to Summit after time away is much the same. The tomatoes in the RE garden and the artwork on our walls fill my soul. Best of all, I get to see your familiar and beloved faces! At the same time I try to hold on to the transient objectivity that comes with seeing Summit through those new eyes, so I can think about how others see us. Would a visitor feel welcome

here? Could they tell that we are working to create a better world, starting right here? I like to think the answer is yes.

~Laurel

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, August 19th, 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

July was camp month for many of our Summit children, youth and adults. It was also time to take a look back at last year and to look forward and create a vision for the new Religious Exploration year.

Camp de Benneville Pines – Summer 2017

Though Summit is a small congregation in the cluster and district, we have a large presence at our UU Camp de Benneville Pines, located in the San Bernardino mountains. It is owned and supported by the member congregations of the Pacific Southwest District. Our fellowship is a place where we have intentionally created a culture that supports children and youth to be able to attend UU camp. We began this process by creating a scholarship fund for Senior High Camp, then expanded to include all of the camps created by the PSWD Camping Ministries team. This year we had eleven Summitarians at Elementary Camp: 6 campers, 4 on staff and 1 Counselor in Training. There were 3 campers at Jr. High Camp, and at Sr. High Camp we had 1 adult on staff and 7 campers, 3 of whom were on the youth staff. One of our youth, Lucas Weed, was a youth Dean for Camp JUJustice League. Camp is a place where our children and youth explore their personal UU identity and have the opportunity to grow their leadership skills, while making connections with others in beloved community. Thank you to all who support camping ministries and our scholarship fund. This is a transformative experience for each participant and we are blessed to have the support of our fellowship.

Last Year in Religious Exploration

At last summer's Religious Exploration retreat, parents and teachers decided to focus on social action issues to explore compassion, understanding, and to support local community members in need. At the annual Religious Exploration Sunday service in June, we shared many of the ways that our children and youth contributed. The issues that were engaged paralleled the work done by the Summit Social Action Committee, so it also provided a deeper connection with the adult

community. This was an empowering experience for all.

One area of challenge this past year was low attendance in the lower elementary classes. Pre-K to 1st grade and the 2nd to 3rd grade classes were combined into one. The challenge was the varying needs of the wide age range. Our teaching team handled it well and curriculum was adapted as needed for this group.

Plans for 2017-18 Religious Exploration

This summer, our program is exploring “maker spaces” where children and youth can create together while making discoveries and building relationships. For the 2017-18 year, we are planning to expand that idea by creating a maker space with a focus on Spiritual and Justice Exploration. What does this look like? We are still researching and figuring that out. It is going to be an innovative CRE space and a place where children, youth, families and teachers can engage in justice work as a spiritual act. Nothing like this is currently being done. The current working idea is to have areas in Religious Exploration where participants can explore spiritual practice, learn from stories of compassion, and learn to respectfully challenge oppression, use creativity to support and discover how we can participate in just causes. We are currently looking for members of the community who are interested in helping us with the creation, planning and/or being part of a teaching team for the 2017-18 year. Interested? Contact Mary at SummitDRE@gmail.com.

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, August 5th (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, has 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>

Locally - We need Sen. Toni Atkins (916) 651-4039 or (619) 645-3133 and Ben Hueso (916) 651-4040 or (619) 409-7690 to support AB 805 (Gonzalez-Fletcher) which will help bring accountability and better governance to SANDAG, our regional transportation agency. The Bill has past the Assembly and needs local support from our Senators. Call Sen. Atkins and ask her to help fix SANDAG.

State - Support SB 54 the California Values Act to reduce the involvement of local police and other State funded institutions in finding undocumented immigrants in California. Call your Assembly Member, it recently passed the State Senate.

Nationally - Call right away to stop the "Trump care" Bill in the Senate. Both Senators Feinstein and Harris need our encouragement to stop attack on health care, women, the poor, elderly, children etc....

Go to: <http://action.uujmca.org/home?0> to learn about other actions to take.

Two upcoming UU Justice workshops you will want to attend:

- Walking the Walk UU Justice Summit and Camp, August 12-16 at Camp de Benneville Pines. Go to <http://uujmca.org/training-education/walking-the-walk/> to learn more and register. Call Jack Shu if you have any questions.
- Summit will be hosting a one-day Regional Justice Ministry workshop on October 21st. Hold the date in your calendar. Additional information will be coming after the summer.

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 recovers from her fall.
- ♥ 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 seeks to live life to the fullest.
- ♥ 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.

See you at the Cafe! ~Juana

Member to Member

Hi Everyone!

The Member to Member shelves are working but only partly. We have a lot of things waiting for to be picked up. It is starting to like a book case at Good Will! Please remember to let your recipients know there is something in the office for them. And Recipients, please remember to pick those items up! If it continues like this we may have to “shelve” this idea.

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 August 21st at 3:30 in the Salon. Watch for information in the enews.

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

will meet on Monday, August 7th 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 August 14th, 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 #102 -

Allen Villa Pool Party and Bar-B-Q / Family friendly Summer Fun!!

10 Spots Available Set price: \$15

Steve & Shannyn Allen August 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Come enjoy our pool and jacuzzi in a beautiful country setting. You can also have fun playing at the pool table or exploring our pond. So much to do in so little time! Food and drinks provided. The sign-up sheet is in the Greeting Room or you can call the Summit office at (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

2. 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