

# ***THE SCENE AT SUMMIT***

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

**Vol. 27 No. 9**

**September 2017**

**Monthly**

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is [www.summituuf.org](http://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**

**Services begin at 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

**September 3:** *"Not Your Grandmother's God"* Rev. Arvid Straube

This is a conversation about the Ground of Being that goes beyond the atheist-theist fight. That tired argument has generated far more heat than light. In the meantime, science, philosophy and theology have articulated ideas about the Ultimate that describe what we know from our own experience.

**September 10:** *"Prayer—Yes I Said 'Prayer!'"* Rev. Arvid Straube

Many UUs are under the impression that prayer is something that UUs don't do. That's a false impression. Many UUs pray but are afraid to talk about it. And others yearn to pray, but wonder if they can do so while holding integrity with their beliefs. This sermon is a UU guide to prayer.

**September 17:** *"Beginning Anew: Summit Ingathering"* Rev. Arvid Straube

As a new Fellowship year begins, Jews the world over will celebrate the Jewish New Year and the High Holy Days. This intergenerational service will explore forgiveness and new beginnings.

**September 24:** *"Invisible Women"* Mary Tina Morgan and Mark Wheeler

What does Elizabeth Warren's statement, "If you don't have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu", tell us about women's experience of human rights?

## **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](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com)

**Office Admin.:** Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / [summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net)

**President:** Laurel Bernstein, [laurelbernstein@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelbernstein@yahoo.com)

**Property Steward:** Mark Weedman, [markatspectrum@hotmail.com](mailto:markatspectrum@hotmail.com)

**—ATTENTION—** *The Scene at Summit's*  
**October 2017 edition deadline will be *Mon., September 25th.***

**SABBATICAL ADMINISTRATOR'S SCOOP:**

**Sanctuary — A Place of Refuge.....**

During this month of abysmal occurrences — the unspeakable hatred on parade in Charlottesville, the terrorism in Barcelona, the unpardonable pardon in Arizona, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey in Texas, and the less publicized atrocities around the globe, my fervent hope is that you found a place of refuge in this Beloved Community. That you comforted each other with kindness and generosity and that you reached out to the larger world in small and greater gestures of love and support.

In contrast, it was also a time of the unifying wonder of the Solar Eclipse when darkness prevailed ever so briefly to be brightened by the majesty of the blazing sun. Let each of us shine our light over the transient darkness.

*Take care,  
Toni Rogers*

**FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP**

***President's Report***

**And so it begins... again!**

This is the time of year when so many of us feel the days moving by quickly. Even for those without school-aged children, it's hard to miss the back-to-school advertisements in the stores and on TV, and then seemingly instantly, this is followed by Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas, and suddenly another year is over. But to me September always feels like a fresh start. At Summit, our Children's Religious Exploration classes start up again and we celebrate our "Ingathering" or homecoming service in September, a ceremonial welcome back to all of us after our travels, near or far, actual or virtual.

Summit's Board of Directors works on a July to June calendar, following our fiscal year. New Board members were elected in June and started their terms on July 1. However, since our first meeting of the new year was our annual Board retreat (held in the Summit Salon this year rather than at Mission Trails), the first regular meeting of the "new Board" took place a couple of weeks ago. This year there is a lot of continuity on the Board, with several members changing roles, and three new members joined us. If our retreat and first meeting are anything to go by (and I believe they are), I am again delighted and blessed to have a wonderful group of collegial, generous, and talented people to work with this year! We have been working hard on setting our Board goals and will present those to you at a Town Hall meeting on September 10. All are welcome, and I hope to see you there!

~ Laurel

**There will be a brief Town Hall meeting** immediately after the service on Sunday, September 10th. The agenda includes:

- Financial year-end review and highlights of 2016-17 budget
- Presentation of 2017-18 Board goals
- Q & A

*All are welcome to attend.*

## **Year End Financial Report Highlights 2016-17**

### **Overview**

Summit's Financial net worth at June 30th, 2017 year-end is \$40,186 which is less than the target goal of a \$50,000 reserve. Total assets are \$1,629,081, which is consistent with the prior year. Booked liabilities include \$50,000 designated for this year's roof replacement.

The profit and loss statement shows a net income of \$4,392 after the transfer of \$12,355 from Carol Straubinger's bequest (see more below).

It is also notable this year's positive year-end financial position is partially attributable to a \$19,000 pledge gift bringing the total gift balance at year end to \$31,355. (The \$19,000 pledge gift plus \$12,355 from Carol Straubinger's bequest). Unplanned expenses were related to healthcare, utilities and administrative expenses.

### **Balance Sheet**

Total assets (including property) are \$1,629,081. Year-end liquid assets (cash on hand at 6/30/17) are \$187,019. Net worth (total assets less total liabilities) is \$40,186 (less than the desired \$50,000 reserve balance.)

### **Profit & Loss Statement**

Total income was approximately \$5,300 higher than budgeted primarily due to the board approval of transferring the balance of the Carol Straubinger bequest to cover the projected deficit (\$3,000 from funds split 50/50 with the endowment fund, and \$9,355 from the unused balance of the 5% designated for operating funds) for a total \$12,355. Total expenses were approximately \$7,200 over budget due to higher than planned Cal Choice Healthcare costs for staff, Cox charges related to the internet/phone conversion, increased bank fees and other administrative costs. Actual net income at year-end is \$4,392.

### **Campus Improvement & Emergency Fund**

This year campus improvement expenditures from Summit's reserve fund approximated \$26,000 which included \$4,975 for repairs, \$5,625 for termite treatment, \$3,048 for salon cabinets and \$12,500 canvas patio coverings. After these expenses, year-end balances for the respective reserve accounts are \$29,997 for the campus improvement and emergency fund and \$50,000 for the campus roof reserve fund.

### **Social Action/Social Justice**

The year-end Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement do not itemize the detail of generous contributions made to various projects and causes throughout the year which included:

SUMMIT: \$2,048 for the salon cabinets, \$2,397 for UU youth camp scholarships, \$1,780 for Youth GA trip, \$272 craft faire contributions for landscaping, and \$3,633 donations for the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

EXTERNAL: \$795 for Compassion for African Villages, \$667 for the Center for Social

Advocates, \$3,097 for the Interfaith Shelter project, \$360 for Standing Rock, and \$3,591 for the Las Colinas Ministry and Reentry fund.

### **Planned Giving/Endowment**

During fiscal 2016-17 Summit was the recipient of a bequest of \$62,515 from Ed Davis. \$16,300 was transferred to the 2017-18 Operating budget on 7/1/17, according to the bequest guidelines stating that an amount equal to 5% of the operating budget is designated for operations. \$22,607 has been transferred to Summit's Endowment fund and the remaining \$22,607 to Summit's Campus Improvement fund as voted by the congregation. Year-end totals for the endowment funds at June 30th, 2017 are:

\$48,280	Common Endowment Fund
\$24,833	Property Improvement & Acquisition Fund
\$73,113	Total Endowment

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL**

### **Adult Religious Exploration**

**Poetry Workshop:** Saturday, September 16th, at 10:00am in at a member's home. 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

### **Health Benefits of a Whole Food, Plant-Based (WFPB) Diet Course**

Neal Biggart will conduct an in-depth four-week course on the benefits of a Whole Food Plant-Based Diet beginning Saturday, September 9th from 9:00-11:00 am in the Summit Salon. The benefits of this diet have been well researched by university and medical people, and found to have not only a preventative effect, but a tremendous healing effect on those with heart disease and cancer, among other diseases. Neal and Tom have been on such a diet for five years, and will have lists of recipes. The scientific evidence, and lots of other information, including recipes will be provided. This diet can greatly improve your health.

### **Freethinkers...**

...will meet on the 3rd Monday of September at 3:30 pm in the Salon. Linus is keeping us both very well informed and entertained about the current political events. Come enjoy the discussions.

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

...will not meet in September (Labor Day), but will meet on October 2nd to plan the next few months and share about progress on the memory front. Time is 3:30 in the Salon. See you there.  
Neal

## **Children's Religious Exploration News**

Our fall Children's Religious Exploration program is starting up very soon and we are planning to change up our program this year! Our children and youth will be living in covenant as we take traditional "Sunday School" and flip it on its head. This year instead of the traditional lessons, we will be focusing on living our covenant each Sunday. We will explore spiritual/justice themes in age appropriate ways, using a creative format that will, hopefully, inspire a deeper connection and engagement with each other, the Fellowship and the community. I am calling this a "Spiritual Justice Maker Exploration."

### **Spiritual Justice Maker Exploration**

Our children and youth go to school and learn or memorize information all week as part of their formal education. I started thinking about what our Religious Exploration program can offer that would be different from traditional school lessons. How can we be a place where children and youth come to engage in deeper, more meaningful experiences? How can we explore ideas like compassion, community, justice and stewardship in a faith community where the answers are not given? We can create a space where questions can be asked, ideas explored, solutions or actions can be taken in spiritual community.

Here is how it will work: We will have several themes or justice issues that the groups will be exploring. For each one they will be able to engage in at least four ways:

- *Questioning* - Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? The question is more powerful than the answer as it can lead to a new idea or deeper understanding.
- *Connecting Spiritually* - Each theme will have a children's chapel or worship as part of the experience. This will include exploring the theme through story, song, meditation, prayer, poem, or art as they engage using their heart.
- *Making*: There will be a "making" lab space where children and youth can use creating as a way to connect with an issue, solve a problem, and contribute to the community or to process through artistic expression.
- *Taking Action* - For each theme, there will be an opportunity to take action as a way to approach Justice issues. This could be as simple as making a card or as complex as organizing a collection or witnessing for justice.

Nothing like this is currently being done and we may be creating something really special that could be shared with the wider UU community. *Spiritual Justice Maker Exploration* is a place where participants can explore spiritual practice, learn from stories of compassion and challenging oppression, and use creativity as a way to discover how individuals and the community can support just causes.

Some of the themes we will be working on for the first part of the year are –

Welcoming – Welcoming and bonding with each other. Being a welcoming community to others

Stewardship – How we care for each other, our community and our "Blue Boat Home."

Compassion – We will be partnering with our Social Justice Committee to care for refugees who are new to our community, create connection with children in Africa by writing to

them, prepare gifts for and get ready to share our space with our Shelter Guests and help animals and other children in our community.

Caring – We will explore how we care for others and love ourselves.

There will be four age-centered groups or “Circles”:

*Pk to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade* – Spirit Play will be back and this group will have their own space to explore these ideas at an age appropriate level with time to reflect through play.

*2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade* – This group will be actively engaged with one another with lots of hands on activities and a focus on compassion towards each other and the justice themes.

*Middle School Youth* – This older group will have access to hands on materials and will also engage in deeper conversation about spiritual connection in regard to the themes. They will have the opportunity to plan and lead children’s chapel as they begin to take on a leadership role.

*High School Youth* – Our youth group will have the opportunity to create their own theme and explore Justice Issues that they are passionate about. They are the leaders in our community and our younger circles will be looking to them to see what they do in the way of living their faith.

I am purposely using the term “Circles” this year rather than classes. Circles are inclusive of the group members and can join, like bubbles, with other circles to form larger ones. My hope is that these four circles grow as they have meaningful experiences together and reach out to create positive change in the community.

We are currently looking for members of the community who are interested in being part of this exciting New Year in Religious Exploration. 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, contact her, preferably a few days ahead of time.

**Loving Hands**

**The Loving Hands group will not be meeting in September.** We usually meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Summit library. Please join us next month 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 Corner**

Dear Summitarians,

I'm sure many of you are wondering how to help those affected by hurricane winds and massive flooding in the Houston area and beyond.

**Here are just a few of the ways you can help now:**

**Donate to the American Red Cross:** <https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey>

Donate to one of the Feeding America food banks in the affected areas of Texas:

Please consider making a monetary donation to these food banks who are on the front lines of the disaster relief:

- [Food Bank of Corpus Christi](#)
- [Food Bank of the Golden Crescent](#)
- [Houston Food Bank](#)
- [Southeast Texas Food Bank](#)
- [San Antonio Food Bank](#)

### **Donate to First UU Church of Houston:**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston is known for its generosity in feeding the homeless of their city, and, while all members of the congregation are safe, they now need our help to provide support in the aftermath of Harvey.

The church has set up an online donation link here: <http://firstuu.org/firstchurchpay.php>

Click "Donate" (blue button) and on the resulting page, scroll down to "Other Donations" and enter your desired amount next to "Hurricane Harvey Relief"

Note to CRE families and others - Mary Carter-Vail has known Rev. Dan O'Connell of First UU of Houston for many years. She plans to reach out to him when the worst of the disaster has passed, to offer help and support to their children and youth as they begin to heal.

## **Justice Ministry News**

In September the first Monday of the month falls on the 4th, Labor Day, a major Holiday. As we have done in the past in such situations, we will move the meeting to the week after, Monday, Sept. 11th at 6:30.

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:

- 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:

- ♥ Charles Jacobson as he recovers from his 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 early autumn. Please join us for their Farewell Potluck.
- ♥ 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.

**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 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**

### **Music Committee Day Change!**

Summit's Music Committee will now meet on the **first Wednesday of each month**. All are welcome - please join us on Wednesday, September 6th at 4:00 p.m. in the Summit office conference room.

Regular choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays, from 7:00-8:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please join us! To find out more, please contact Carly Newman, our Choir Director, (carlynewman1021@gmail.com).

## **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 contact me.

Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator

### **The Summit Book Club...**

...will be meeting on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 pm in the Summit library.

We'll be discussing the third book in popular Mystery writer Louise Penney's Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series. "THE CRUELEST MONTH" is "impossible to put down." (People Magazine)

"Mystery readers who want more than puzzles and thrills look for serious purpose and literary value, and Penny provides both in spades - and hearts." (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Everyone is invited!**



**Farewell Potluck Supper**

**for Bob and Mary Dryden**

Saturday, September 9th, 6:00 p.m., in Summit's Salon

Please bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

## **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](http://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](http://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](mailto:donjaniasmith@me.com).

### **About the eNews:**

Everything you ever wanted to know about the eNews (but were afraid to ask)...

⊕ Include your information in the body of the email. Really.

**Do Not Send attachments. Please.**

⊕ Send your item by 1:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon (or before).

I cobble this together while I'm volunteering at the desk.

⊕ 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. And can only run a few weeks.

⊕ Respond to the contact person noted in an article, do not just "reply".

Another way to read the eNews is to go to our website and log in, you'll see "ENEWS" at the top right side of the banner, click on that and it will take you to another page that will give you a link to the current eNews.

Send everything; articles, kudos, questions, suggestions regarding the eNews here:

[Suuf\\_Volunteer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Suuf_Volunteer@sbcglobal.net)

**Thanks!** ~ Pam Kerr