



THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Multi-Platform Sunday Services begin at 10:00 a.m.

Theme: Love

February 5

“Lovers of Leaving”

Rev. Tania Marquez, Guest Minister

Rev Tania explores the meaning of the phrase "Lovers of Leaving" from Rumi's poem "Come, Come, Wherever You Are." It is an exploration of the journey of seekers and their encounter with the Divine.

Rev. Tania is a hospital chaplain, and is also providing pastoral care for Summitarians this year.

February 12

“Where There is Love”

Grace Lewis-McLaren, Guest Speaker

A few stories, a couple of poetic parables, some life lessons learned...and perhaps a few wisdoms shared in under 20 minutes: that's the jist of the reflection for this Sunday.

Grace is perhaps best known to the Summit folks as Mary Carter-Vail's mom. As you've learned from many of Mary's stories, her roots are in the state of Maine. Grace is also a retired organist and composer who spends the winter months here in California.



February 19

“The Lion’s Whisker” and “The Tree”

Fred Laskowski, Guest Speaker

The first story is called "The Lion's Whisker" an old Ethiopian folktale about a wife's love for her husband and the lengths she takes to save their marriage. It is a great statement on perseverance in relationships. The second is called "The Tree." It is an original story written by a recent late storyteller about a man's great love for his children.

Fred Laskowski loves to tell stories from around the world, from folk tales to true tales. He especially likes to tell stories of magic, mystery, and transforming power.

February 26

“To Live From the Heart
(Reflections on Membership)”

Nancy Merrill, Carol Legard
and Pam Williams, Speakers

Nancy will speak on what her membership to Summit has meant to her. Carol will describe her experiences and journey of being a Unitarian Universalist. And Pam will give her thoughts on the importance of our Fellowship's Covenant of Right Relations. Nancy, Carol and Pam are all members of Summit's Welcoming and Membership Committee.

The Mission Statement of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*In spiritual community, we commit ourselves to building a compassionate,
just and sustainable world.*



If you missed a service, or would like to see it again, you can watch it on our [SUUF MEDIA](#) YouTube Channel!



Summit's search for a new full-time minister continues apace. Our posting on the UUA Ministerial Search Jobs Board went on-line in early December, and we soon began receiving applications from credentialed UU ministers. We have received four credentialed applications through the UUA portal, but one subsequently withdrew. Additionally, we have received one "non-traditional" letter of interest.

After reviewing all these applications, we have completed Zoom interviews with our top candidates. The results of these interviews are very encouraging, and we are optimistic we will be able to fill our vacancy with an outstanding candidate. Summit is known as an open, caring community without a lot of "baggage." All of the candidates commented particularly on the quality of our RE program as a reason they are interested in us. Being in San Diego, doesn't hurt either!

In February we expect to do some follow-up interviews and due diligence research. Also, we understand that additional applications might come in March from newly-credentialed candidates. We hope to be able to recommend our top choice to Summit's Board by the end of March.

We are sad to report that two of our Committee members have resigned, citing other obligations. We will miss working with Brian Reardon and Lara Barrett, both of whom made outstanding contributions to the work we've been doing.

Yours in Fellowship,

Debbie Wingard and Amy Carstensen, Co-Chairs

Pam Kerr

Pam Williams

Jamie Cleland



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS—FOR ALL AGES

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome to the month of Love at Summit. We will be sharing our love for one another and for our community this month as we engage with the theme of Love. How each of us experience and share love is uniquely beautiful and wonderful. May each of us be blessed with experiences that express love month.

Love: There are many paths of love that each of us experience throughout our lives: the love of a caregiver, the love of a best friend, love for a pet, your first love, love of a hobby, of learning and so much more. As part of my job, I regularly witness the love shared by the many families who are part of this community. Sometimes it is hard to quantify or measure the love that is expressed in community. I witness love in action each week as the many volunteers create our Sunday services, events like our auction, and so much more. For the past 11 years, our children and youth have made cards of care to send to folks who are part of the Summit family. We will once again be making paper “hugs” to send out as we recognize and celebrate the connections between us. May this “love between” grow and blossom in your hearts this month.

Each year when February rolls around I remember that Feb 1st, 2011 was my first day as Summit’s Director of Religious Exploration. So, I have just finished my 12th year at Summit as I continue this journey with all of you. It has been a real adventure with lots of twists and turns, especially in the last three years, and I am still deeply committed to the work that I do here each week. For me, this work is rooted in love and joy even in challenging times.

Our February Theme is: Love

We will be gathering in RE at 10 am on Sundays for Religious Exploration on Sundays for our activities. Our children and youth will participate in the service until after the “Time For All Ages” story. We will then engage in our CRE activities in the RE area and/or outside (depending on weather conditions). We have a special snack provided by one of our families after our exploration time that we share outside under the shade canopy until we are finished at 11:30 am.

February 5 – Love for Self – We will begin our month of exploring love with ourselves. How do we love ourselves? We will share a beautiful story about seeing our selves reflected in others before creating a valentine celebrating what we love about who we are. We will begin to make cards for all of our Summit friends and family as we start our annual Valentines Cards of Care project.

February 12 – Love for Family and Friends: Making Valentine’s– How do you experience love in your family? We will be sharing all the ways we experience love in our family and with friends and we will continue creating cards for the 12th annual Cards of Care project for Summit friends and members.

February 19 – Love for Community – We will share a story about how neighbors shared love by creating community together. We will then share our love for the community here by caring for our garden together as we grow food to share.

February 26 – *What Do You Really LOVE? Show-n-Tell Your Favorite Things*– As we finish our month of exploring the theme of love, we can share our favorite things. Bring in something or an image of something or a place or activity that you love as we show and tell our favorite things.

With deepest love and brightest blessings,
Mary
Mary Carter-Vail
She/Hers
Director of Religious Exploration

Children’s Religious Exploration Committee

Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for children & youth through creative exploration of the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources.

Summit's Concert Series Returns!

**Fred Benedetti!!!
Saturday, February 18th!**



Always a crowd-pleaser, this will be an excellent time to come back, enjoy some wonderful music and be involved, if you haven't already.

Saturday, February 18th,
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15

Laurel Bernstein, Carol Legard or Pam Kerr will be selling tickets after the service on Sunday, Feb. 5 & 12.

Message from the President of the Board



Dear Summitarians and Friends,

Last month we said goodbye to the Mitchell family, as they moved to Missouri. Tyler was on the Board, and his departure leaves a vacancy. I am happy to announce that **Mark Wheeler** has agreed to complete Tyler's term! Welcome, Mark!

I am sorry to report that our Office Administrator, Loni Paine, has resigned. Her last day included working through the night of the Auction. Loni provided wonderful service to Summit during her time with us! She took care of lots of day-to-day work in the office, with a great attitude. She worked on a couple of special projects, including learning a lot about the Fellowship's new Church Management Software program, Breeze. Loni also helped with the Auction, supporting JoAnn, Nancy and Shannyn, as well as with the printing Auction catalogs, bid sheets, etc. . We really appreciate all Loni did for us during her time at Summit! Loni is returning to the Heating and Air Conditioning industry.

The Office Administrator Search Committee posted an ad as soon as we received Loni's resignation. We have already reviewed numerous resumes, conducted interviews, and selected a new Office Administrator. Her name is **Nelwyn Del Frate**.



Nelwyn grew up in New Mexico, where she and her family attended a UU congregation until Nelwyn was in high school. She also attended a UU Family Camp in Colorado. Nelwyn has been actively involved as a Board member at the San Diego Cooperative Charter School. Nelwyn was looking for a job doing bookkeeping, etc. for a non-profit.

Welcome, Nelwyn! She will start work on Feb. 2nd. Once she settles in to her position, we will post the new office hours. Until then, the office will be open mornings and early afternoons on Tues. and Thurs.

Over the next few months, some of you may be getting calls from the Nominating Committee. It is that time of year again, to find candidates to serve on the Board next year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). If you are asked, please consider saying "yes" to serving Summit in this way! It has been a privilege serving on the Board these past three years!

Peace,
Elinor Weed
(mewe97@gmail.com)

The Summit Board of Directors meets virtually on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. If you would like to attend, please email Elinor to request the link at mewe97@gmail.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

Social Justice in Action meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month. If you would like to learn more, contact our Chair, RynCorbeil@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

General meeting — January 8, 12:30 pm <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>



CENTERING THE MARGINALIZED

For many years there existed at Summit a PFLAG group, headed by Bob and Mary Dryden. No longer active, as far as I know, there is still a need now – perhaps more than ever – for such a group. Our congregation includes lesbian, gay and transgender individuals, some of whom have been out, and some of whom were not. Some of those individuals have left Summit, some are still here. Whether out or not, there are individuals in our congregation and in the larger community, young and old, who are looking to find themselves and looking for acceptance, understanding, and acknowledgement of who they are.

The Social Justice in Action committee would like to organize a group focused on providing education, understanding, and support for LGBTQIA+ persons, or those who want to learn how to make Summit more welcoming to those who face obstacles, whether from family, school, work, or elsewhere, in becoming their authentic selves. For those who are LGBTQIA+, for their family members, or those who wish to actively support them, please reach out to our committee for information on this important activity. We will be reaching out to The Center San Diego and PFLAG San Diego County for resources. Call or email Ryn Corbeil. ryncorbeil@gmail.com for more information.

Covenant of Care

At our Board meeting last month, the Board discussed the masking policy. What we decided is that masking in the sanctuary will be **OPTIONAL**, mask if you feel the need. We still encourage everyone to be vaccinated and boosted, for your protection.

We ask that if you are feeling sick with anything contagious, please stay home. Thanks to having Zoom option, you won't be missing the service. If the County Health Department advises us to all mask up again, our policy will match those recommendations.

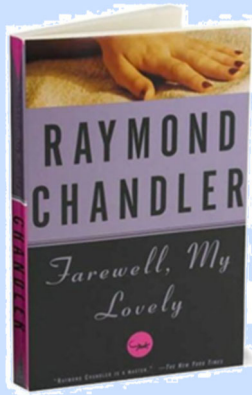
We thank you for your care. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT—AFFINITY GROUPS

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB - MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

On Tuesday, February 7, at 7 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard. They will join the Zoom folks with an “owl” - a camera that turns to face the speaker. The people in the Library will be able to see and hear the people on Zoom, and vice-a-versa.

We'll be discussing Farewell My Lovely, by Raymond Chandler.



The renowned novel from crime fiction master Raymond Chandler, with the "quintessential urban private eye" (*Los Angeles Times*)

Philip Marlowe is about to give up on a completely routine case when he finds himself in the wrong place at the right time to get caught up in a murder that leads to a ring of jewel thieves, another murder, a fortune-teller, a couple more murders, and more corruption than your average graveyard.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please e-mail Cheryl at esmreck@outlook.com

– Cheryl Smrek

THE SUMMIT WOMEN'S GROUP

This multi-generational group is open to all interested Summit women and their friends. The group will meet via Zoom. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list to get the Zoom link, please contact Carolyn Woodbury at cbwoodbury@gmail.com if you have questions.

Contact Carolyn to find out the date of our next meeting.



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP #2

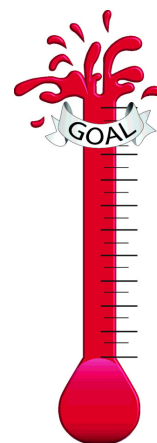
Summit's Second Men's Fellowship and Support Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Wed, from 7-8:30 pm. We invite you to join us if you wish. We are an “open” meeting in the sense that any man who wants to can participate if he so wishes.

Our group is going to start meeting in person, in the Library. If you prefer, you may continue to join us online, too. You can use any Apple or PC/Android device (desktop computer, laptop, iPad or other tablet, smart phone) to access our meeting, but it must have a microphone and a camera.

To get the link, please email Denny at denny.braun@usfamily.net.



Summit UU Fellowship Back in the Swing



Goal: \$15,000

We definitely got “back in the swing” last month at our first in-person Auction in three years! We had a full house of members and friends who were having a blast visiting with friends, bidding like crazy, and in general having a lot of fun!

I am still need to finalize the numbers. It looks like, after expenses, **we cleared \$17,000** -- exceeding our goal of \$15,000!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped!

- ◆ To JoAnn and Nancy, who solicited the corporate donations, and who put in a herculean effort pulling all the parts together.
- ◆ To all of you who donated items, services, and dinners for us to bid on – without you, none of this would have been possible!
- ◆ To Shannyn, who entered the donations into Auctria.
- ◆ To Suzanne and Renee who decorated the sanctuary, to my daughter, Abby for helping me set up the Silent Auction.
- ◆ To Juana for coordinating refreshments – both savory and sweet, and to all of you who brought food for us to enjoy.
- ◆ To Cathy, Abby, Paige and Anya who provided childcare for 13 children that night.
- ◆ To Toni, LaMar and Sally who recorded live and silent bids.

- ◆ To our Bartenders, Jamie, Shannyn and Steve, Kyle, and our new Auctioneer, Brendan Vaughn.
- ◆ And to our Staff, Mark, Mary, and Loni, who helped in so many ways with set-up, logistics, printing, etc!

This was a team effort, and what a team we make!

If you have already paid for your auction winnings, THANK YOU! If you have not yet paid for your items (you all received an email statement of your winnings and balance due), please pay online using the Access Code you received, or mail a check (payable to SUUF) to:

SUUF Auction
8778 Cottonwood Ave.
Santee, CA 92071

In early Feb. we will send out the information to the **donors**, letting you know who got your item, service, dinner, etc.

If you have any bidder or donor questions, please contact Elinor Weed at meweedy97@gmail.com.

Again, **THANK YOU** for helping to make our first in-person auction in three years a success!

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

Pacific SW Service Area → Pacific Western Region → Unitarian Universalist Association

Article II Commission has been assigned the task of re-evaluating and re-forming our guiding principles. Here is their draft—in a nutshell. It will be voted on at General Assembly, in June.

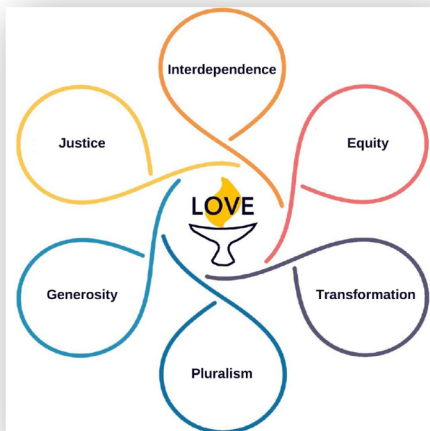


Image Description: This image is of a chalice with and overlay of the word love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Dark Blue), Generosity (Teal), and Justice (Yellow).

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

See the full report: https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf

Let's Gather 

In San Luis Obispo for...
Camp de Benneville Pines
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY

Living in Harmony
With each Other & our Earth

+ Camp de Benneville Pines business meeting

 *April 21-23, 2023*

In the tradition of the beloved PSWD annual assembly, this event is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines & hosted by Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo

Save the date now!





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

OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Thurs — 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

PASTORAL CARE MINISTER (FEBRUARY)

The Rev. Tania Márquez

RevTaniaMarquez@gmail.com

619-245-1476

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Mary Carter-Vail

619-562-0833, ex 205

SummitDRE@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Nelwyn Del Frate

619-562-0833, ex. 202

Summituuf@gmail.com

PROPERTY STEWARD

Mark Weedman

markatspectrum@hotmail.com

WEEKLY ENEWS EDITOR

Pam Kerr: SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com

SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elinor Weed: SUUFSceneNuus@gmail.com

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February

About SUUF Publications

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER via e-mail on or soon after the 24th, to SUUFSceneNuus@gmail.com.

Please send submissions for the eNEWS, the weekly announcements, to SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com by Tuesday noon. Check the eNEWS and website for additional news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 619-562-0833, or e-mail us at Summituuf@gmail.com.