

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

Vol. 20 No. 2

February 2010

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is www.summitarian.org, where the Newsletter & Sermons can also be read. Mail should be sent to the office at the above address.

Office hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Mon.-Fri.

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

February 7: *Searching for Sacredness* Rev. Kathleen Green

The theme for Summit in the month of February is “sacredness.” Our choir will sing.

February 14: *Re-imagining Valentine's Day* Rev. Kathleen Green

Summit members who are serving as representatives on the statewide Marriage Equality Leadership Team will help Rev. Kathleen with the presentation of this service.

February 21: *Understanding Jonestown and Peoples Temple*

Guest speaker: Rebecca Moore

A look at who joined this new religious movement, why they did so, what led to the tragic deaths in Jonestown, and how survivors have dealt with their losses in the aftermath. Rebecca Moore is Chair and Professor of Religious Studies at San Diego State University. She has written extensively about Peoples Temple and Jonestown, in part because of her interest in new religions, and in part because of the deaths of family members in Jonestown in 1978. Our choir will sing.

February 28: *Celebrating Purim* – an Intergenerational Service Rev. Kathleen Green

In upholding our tradition of exploring and celebrating a diversity of spiritual practices and honoring the holidays of various world religions, today we will celebrate the most festive of Jewish holidays. The Purim story will be told, we will sing several Hebrew songs from our own hymnal, and as a community of all ages we will learn about this special day in the Jewish tradition and consider what meaning it holds for us as Unitarian Universalists.

—ATTENTION—

The Scene at Summit's March 2010 edition **deadline** will be Monday, February 22.

A Moment in UU History

A Moment in UU History: Jan. 23, 1830: The First Brahma Samaj Temple opened in India. Brahma Samaj is a Unitarian form of Hinduism.

FROM THE MINISTER'S MAILBOX

Dear Ones,

It is hard for me to believe that our congregational year is half over already! Knowing that, it is a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished thus far and what is still waiting to be done. Summit UU Fellowship is after all a religious community with purpose and vision. We do set goals and work together to bring those to completion. It isn't always glamorous work, but it is worthy work.

Some goals I have set for myself this year include 1) working with colleagues in the Progressive Clergy Network of East County to plan and facilitate an interfaith event that will bring members of area congregations together, 2) scheduling a training session on pastoral care for those at Summit interested in strengthening the care we provide one another, 3) working with the Adult Religious Education Committee to expand lifespan spiritual development at Summit. What are your Summit goals this year? What are you committed to doing in these last few months of the congregational year to strengthen your bond with the community, to deepen your spirituality, and to reach out beyond the walls of our campus?

I applaud so many of you for the amazing work you have already done this year. You gave generously to the Minister's Discretionary fund; reaching out to those in need at Summit and beyond. Your donations took a fund under \$50 to one over \$2000! We have already been able to offer help from that fund and I thank you for supporting this important ministry. As well, many of you took seriously my challenge and charge to engage in spiritual development with our monthly themes and adult religious education offerings. Our numerous classes and workshops have been well attended in numbers and enthusiasm. Kudos to you!

As each of us reflects on our commitment to Summit and our commitment to our own growth as Unitarian Universalists, consider ways in which you can continue to engage your spirit. Join a covenant group (sign-ups are this month) and get to know other Summitarians while exploring your spiritual journey in a safe and intimate gathering. Show up on Sunday mornings for our worship service and experience the excitement while finding comfort, inspiration, or challenge in the sermon, music, and fellowship. Offer your talent and time as an usher, visitor host, office volunteer, or on a task force, committees, or other small groups that work to keep Summit an awesome place. This is shared ministry – all of us working together to accomplish our goals and make our dreams come true.

Yours for the good cause, Rev. Kathleen

February Theme: Sacredness

Our congregation-wide theme this month is "sacredness." Check out the various ways that you can connect with the theme outside of Summit.

Movies: *Sacred Planet* (rated G)
The Burmese Harp
Woman Thou Art Loosed

Books: *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar* ~ by Alan Morinis
New Paths Toward the Sacred Awakening the Awe Experience in Everyday Living
~ by Catherine McCann
Article: <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/50588.shtml>

SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

The President's Perspective

Hello Everyone,

Happy Valentines Day Dearhearts. January's Board meeting was postponed a week due to weather, so I have no news for you from the Board meeting as it hasn't occurred yet!

I can tell you what we will be tackling: DRE Recruitment, a Nominating Committee Candidate, Stewardship Campaign plans, Facilities Rental Policy and the Moore's bequest; a very full agenda. I'll share the results with you at the next Town Hall Meeting.

Take care. Be well. Stay tuned, Toni

Breaking News:

The Board of Directors has appointed Elinor Weed to be the Interim Director of Children's Religious Education. A search for a permanent Director will be conducted. All applications will be considered

Thankful Recognition

With gratitude and appreciation, the Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge:

- Norm Dessel for researching many proposals related to sound and acoustics.
- JoAnn Swanson and Gwen Baldwin for their continued devotion to Summit's landscaping concerns.
- Diana and Mary Dessel for making the beautiful new choir shawls. Kathy Young for making the beautiful choir shawls we have been wearing. The choir is happy to have more wardrobe choices.
- Nadya Woelfer for making a table skirt.
- Barbara Orth for contributing a new basket and table cloths.
- Carolyn Owen-Towle and Gwen and Ron Curry for their work on the photography exhibit.
- The Children's Religious Exploration Committee for guiding the CRE program during the month of January.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 21 at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Board is recommending updating the By-Laws to more accurately reflect current practice. Secretary Barbara Jania-Smith will have the content and rationale for the recommended changes available in the office by February 7. Also available then, will be Absentee Ballots and Proxy Ballots.

Summit wants to know about bequests and planned gifts!

Have you remembered Summit in your will or estate plan? As we continue to plan for Summit's financial future, it is helpful to have a record of your generous intentions. Please contact Sandy Bernstein of the new Summit Legacy Society, if you have information to share or questions about making a planned gift to benefit Summit. You can reach Sandy Bernstein via e-mail or by telephone. All information will be kept confidential, if you wish.

Board of Directors Meetings

Third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. in the Library at Summit. Observers are welcome.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

UU Paganism 101 - Mon., Feb. 8, 7:00 pm in the Salon. Donna Daum, presenter.

Are you drawn to the idea of Ritual and Magick, but aren't sure how to explore this as a Unitarian Universalist?

UU Paganism 101 is a very basic introductory class for curious adults who have little or no experiences in earth centered traditions. In a safe, fun and creative atmosphere you'll learn about popular earth centered traditions, ritual, and the Wheel of the Year. We'll discuss Neo-paganism, and Wicca along with ways in which UUs walk this path. You'll learn how to build an altar, what is involved in rituals, and useful resources for exploring your own path. You'll also learn about the many wonderful activities our church's own Earth Centered Spirituality Circle provides our congregation throughout the year.

And watch for UU Paganism 201 coming in March!

Children's Religious Exploration News

January has been a busy month in Children's RE! We started the month saying good-bye to our Director of RE, Connie Henry. All wished her a speedy recovery.

Then (quite appropriately) we started a four-week curriculum called *The Lessons of Loss: A life-span curriculum on death, dying and loss for the UU community*. Each class, from Pre-K/K/dg through High School has been using this curriculum, in age-appropriate ways. We have had many wonderful conversations in our various classes.

Thank you to our 20 wonderful leaders for January: Michelle Beauchamp, Mary Carter-Vail, Crystal Cody, Ryn Corbeil, Erin Doherty, Mahrya Hafner, Nancy Howe, Shelley Lekven, Alan McQuaide, Suzanne McQuaide, Gretchen Means, Juana Page, Laura Preble, Leslie Robard, Jana & Christian Spring, Diane Slagle, JoAnn Swanson, Doris Wascher, and Elinor Weed. (It really DOES take a village!)

Our Whole Lives - Two new classes starting up!

- **Life-span human sexuality curriculum** created by the UUA and UCC denominations, is under way for two age groups. The first group, which started mid-January is our 4th and 5th grade class, led by Jana Spring (SUUF) and Chuck Northrop (First UU). Their 8-week class meets on Sunday afternoons.

- **On Feb. 3, our High School OWL class begins**, led by Gary Baldwin and Patti Quint. This class will run for 12 weeks, on Wednesday evenings. Some of our Middle School students will be taking OWL at First UU on Sunday afternoons. Please thank our leaders for making the time to lead this important class!

REfreshments – Parents, please sign up to bring REfreshments for our children in the weeks ahead, preferably two families per Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just outside the High School classroom. THANK YOU!

Our program is still in transition, until a new Interim DRE is hired. I want to give a big thank you to the other members of the Children’s RE Committee, who have helped step in and helped fill Connie’s shoes. Our small yet mighty committee includes Shelley Lekven, Alan McQuaide, Doris Wascher, and me, Elinor Weed. We are in the process of planning the classes for February and beyond. Watch the eNews to learn the latest! If you are interested in joining us, please contact me!

Elinor Weed, Chair, CRE Committee MeWeed@aol.com

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

Social Action Corner - Service Is Our Prayer Helping Others

Crisis House January PB&J Collection - Warm hugs to all who brought in loaves of fresh bread, jars of peanut butter and jelly, and other yummy sandwich makings. These goodies were taken to East County Crisis House to help people in our community. The need is great, and your generosity makes a difference. You are the greatest!

Guest At Your Table Boxes - Drum roll, please... Once all the coins and bills were totaled (thank you, Vic White and the other coin counters), we had collected \$647.73! These donations will go toward the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s “Guest At Your Table” program for humanitarian assistance around the globe. A special thanks to all our dedicated youngsters and families who worked on this so persistently throughout the holidays. In some cases, boxes had to be taped on the bottom so they wouldn’t collapse under the weight of all the coins. Who says pennies don’t add up?

Haiti Earthquake Relief - Thank you for the contributions you are making to the joint UUSC-UUA effort to bring aid to Haiti in the aftermath of this devastating disaster. Over the past two Sundays, Summitarians gave more than \$1,100. In addition, we donated two shopping carts full of gently used shoes that Gary and Gwen Baldwin took to a local Sports Chalet as part of the chain's support for the Soles 4 Souls program. If you have not yet donated to UUSC, you can write a check made payable to UUSC / UUA and write “Haiti” in the memo line, or donate online at UUSC’s website: https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Donation2?df_id=1720&1720.donation=form1

Interfaith Shelter Network Volunteers Needed - This year we will again be supporting St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church (March 4th and 11th, Thursday evenings) and La Mesa First United Methodist (April 15th and April 22nd, also Thursday evenings). Please contact Vic White for

more information. Thank you.

Empty Bowls Volunteers Needed! If you are not familiar with the event, Empty Bowls is a grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in an effort to end hunger and food insecurity. We make bowls, fill them with soup and sell them. The money raised will go to the Santee Food Bank. Special thanks to all of the volunteers (Janet Dixon, Suzanne McQuaide, Rene Schad, Elaine Harper, Sheri Gonzales, Toni Rogers, Gale Graysage, Janet Dixon, Gwen and Ron Curry, Crystal Cody and Cookie Roddenberry & Co., and of course, Elly Doseh) who helped last month to craft our much needed ceramic bowls. The next event to get ready for Empty Bowls will be held following the service on Sunday, February 21, from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. (NOTE: This date changed!) We will be glazing our bowls at Elly's Get Centered Clay Studio at 8186 Center Street, Suite D, in downtown La Mesa. Volunteers are still needed to help make soup, corn muffins, and cookies for Empty Bowls Sunday on March 21 following the service. If you are able to help out in some way, please contact Viraj Ward.

How Can You Help Summit's Social Action Efforts?

Invitation to Join Us at the Next Social Action Committee Meeting - We meet every third Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the SUUF Library. This is an open committee, so ALL ARE WELCOME! Our next meeting will be February 21. Please note that our Chair, Rene Schad, will be on hiatus from February to April (the busiest time of year for tax preparers). During this period, Gwen Baldwin will back her up - so if you have questions, feel free to ask Gwen or any of the other members of the Social Action Committee.

Fair Trade Sale Table, Sunday, Feb. 21 - Coffee, chocolate - How else can you indulge your vices so virtuously? Questions? Contact Lynne Slaughter.

Amnesty International Meeting, Monday, Feb. 22 - Join us for our regular meeting on the last Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, as we take action on global human rights issues. Meetings are open to all, Summitarians and non-Summitarians alike. Bring your friends! For more details on this month's meeting, please contact Viraj Ward.

Canned Goods - Please keep those canned and dried foods rolling in. They are especially needed now. These items go to East County Crisis House and Santee Food Bank. Look for the collection baskets in the Greeting Room. Questions, please contact Lynne Slaughter.

Backyard Bounty - Nothing beats fresh fruits and veggies. If your garden is yielding more than your family can eat, bring the excess and place it in the tubs in the Greeting Room. Produce will be delivered to Crisis House for distribution. If you need help picking, please contact Gwen Baldwin.

Healthcare - (Submitted by Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Executive Director) **The California UU Legislative Ministry Healthcare Steering Committee** encourages UUs to ask the House of Representatives to pass the Senate bill AS IS and work to develop its scope via the budget reconciliation process. The Senate Bill does not include many things we wanted but it will help 31 million uninsured people get insurance and create regulations to curtail unfair insurance practices (denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions). If you call **1-877-264-4226**

you will be connected to your Congressional Representative or Senators Boxer and Feinstein. If you need words to say, you might try, *“Please pass the Senate bill. Although it is not perfect, it is a start and will insure millions. Please use the budget reconciliation process to push for the public option. Thank you.”*

In California - SB810, the single payer healthcare bill, is on the Senate floor. Find your state representatives at <http://www.votesmart.org/> and call him/her to voice your support.

Summit Loving Hands Ministry meets Tues., Feb 2 at 1:00 pm

If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us. The Loving Hands Ministry works on blankets for Linus Project, dishcloths for Crisis House, comfort shawls for Summaritarians in need of comfort, and is always open to new ideas for outreach projects. Contact Rev. Kathleen at uurevkathleen@gmail.com for more info.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

♥ We have good reports on Joan Chan's health at this time. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

The Green Committee

Greening of Sunday Café: To people who are using the new plates and cups at the Sunday Cafe, a Huge Thank you! It seems a small thing perhaps, but it has grown large in light of resources and pollution control. Fuel burned to haul trash to dumps, more fuel used to bury trash at the landfill, and the chemical pollution inherent in the waste products themselves; it all adds up week by week, year by year. Landfills become a big source of methane gas, which is 10 times more efficient in heating the lower atmosphere. Ground seeps of methane add significantly to atmospheric heating. Well, we think you get the point. Congratulations, thank you, and spread the word!

Monthly meetings of the Summit UU Green Committee are open to all who would like to be in on progress toward official "Green Status" with UUA. The Committee has two Co-Chairs; myself, Norm Dessel, and Andy Simpson. We meet monthly on the **first Monday, at 7:30 pm.** in the Library. We hope to see interested members or friends at our meetings.

The Green Guys - Andy Simpson & Norm Dessel, Co-Chairs

Freethinkers

Freethinkers will meet on Monday, Feb. 15, at 7:00 pm in the Salon. Neal Biggart will discuss mindfully using the empathetic brain processes to develop self love and self acceptance.

Personal Philosophy Group

Recently in the writers group, a paper titled "A Humanist View of Human Value" was presented. After a lively discussion, the suggestion was made to form a group to discuss the vast array of philosophical ideas. We will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. To begin we'll start with the paper that stirred so much interest, then move on to other subjects as time allows. If you have something you would like to present or discuss, please bring it. Of course, every one is invited. Wendell Rawlins

Flowers for Sunday Services

If you would be interested in commemorating a personal special occasion or honoring a loved one by providing a flower arrangement for a particular Sunday, contact Barbara Jania-Smith. The flowers at our Sunday services always add a soft spirit to the room. *Thank you!*

Blog—Pulpit of Joy— with Rev. Kathleen

What's a blog, you say? No, it's not an upper respiratory ailment or some new gadget. A blog is an internet diary of sorts; an online journal. Rev. Kathleen posts about once a week to her blog, Pulpit of Joy. She writes a short message on a topic or event that is important to her. Rev. Kathleen welcomes you to read the blog (just a click away on Summit's website – minister page) and comment. <http://pulpitofjoy.blogspot.com/>

Summit Bridge Group

Did you know that Summit has a Ladies Bridge Group that meets the third Tuesday of each month? We have players of all levels. Everyone is welcome. For more information or to join call Lois Davies.

UU World

Do you have back issues of UU World magazine to donate? Please drop off gently used copies of our denominational magazine near the Visitor Host Table on Sunday morning. They are a great resource for our visitors and those new to Unitarian Universalism.

Ushers Needed!

Summit ushers are an important part of our Sunday morning experience. Being an usher doesn't require monthly meetings or an advanced degree! It requires a smile, a helpful demeanor, and a passion for this beloved community and those visiting us. Please consider serving as an usher once a month, or as a substitute and contact Barbara Sorensen for more info.

Book Exchange

We now have lots of interesting books in our Book Exchange, so please look them over and take any you would like to read. Of course, we're always interested in receiving books you're willing to donate. Any questions, call Lois Davies.

Choir Notes

Do you like to sing? Have you listened to Summit's choir and said, "I'd like to be part of that group?" If so, I welcome you to join the Summit Singers. Musical experience is a plus, but not a requirement. All it takes is a desire to sing, and a commitment to practice with us regularly. If you have any questions, please call or email me, Susan Simpson, Choral Director. I hope to see you soon at rehearsal!

Photography Show

Love Makes a Family is the first Photography show that we have presented at Summit. This is a traveling show moving presently through UU Congregations distributed by Family Diversity Projects, Inc. Brought to our attention by Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle, who is a member of our Aesthetics Comm. The accompanying source book, Love Makes A Family, holds the portraits and stories of many Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender parents and their families. The show will hang through March 2010. Gwen Curry

Sunday Morning Meditation

We have a meditation/prayer session from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning before the service begins.

And Wednesday Mornings At 8:30

EVENTS!

Minister's Valentine Tea

- Thursday, February 11, at 2:00-3:30 pm., in the Summit Salon. If you are a Summit elder (80 years or older), or are the partner of a Summit elder, you are invited to this special tea. Expect music, delicious treats, and a few surprises. Feel free to wear your favorite hat for our tea!

Book Signing, X2!

Author **Lois Santalo** of **Summit UU Fellowship** in Santee will have a book signing for her first murder mystery, *Dorothea in the Mirror*, on February 20 from 3:00-5:00 pm at the Fellowship in the Salon.

UU author **Carol Straubinger** will also present her memoirs of rural El Cajon. Both women are long-time members of First Church in Hillcrest and are among the few present-day writers whose protagonists are avowedly UUs. All proceeds from book sales will go to Summit, and there will be wine and cheese.

AUCTION ITEMS WITH SPACE OPEN!!

Night at the Movies - Fri., February 5, 2010 *(new date)* Cost: \$15

The McQuaides and LaMar Rogers hosting.

Come for a viewing of "Oklahoma!" in the Summit Sanctuary. Sing-along with Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones! Theme refreshments and props provided.

Please call the Summit office to register, and mail your check to Summit, payable to Summit UUF, with Movie Night written in the memo line.

Soiree in the Salon - Fri., April 30, time to be announced; Cost - \$15 per person

Celebrate culture in the Summit Salon. The more the merrier! While sipping champagne (or Martinelli's) and eating chocolate, celebrants may: show a work of fine or applied art or a photograph; share a dramatic reading or a poem; make music or dance; tell a joke or story.

Hostess: Suzanne McQuaide. Please call the Summit office to register, and mail your check to Summit, payable to Summit UUF, with Soiree written in the memo line.

FROM THE SD COUNTY UU CLUSTER

SD Cluster

- **Pink Slip.** The San Diego Cluster is now publishing the Pink Slip newsletter as a resource for UUs (and others) who are looking for work. [Www.uusandiego.org](http://www.uusandiego.org)
- **Bulletin Board** - If you want to post stuff to buy, sell, or barter, as long as it is legal and ethical we will include it in the UU Bulletin Board. Contact mkruming@aol.com.
- To receive the **Cluster eNewsletter** email mkruming@aol.com to be added to their list.

Social Justice Conference

Palomar UU Fellowship in Vista will host the first annual Social Justice Conference in the San Diego Cluster from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 27, 2010. , campaign manager for the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love Campaign, will be the keynote speaker. The purpose of the conference is to determine one or two Cluster-wide social justice projects for our six congregations (plus Temecula Valley UUs) to participate in during 2010 and 2011. Social action leaders, including all members of social action committees, are invited to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information and to RSVP (needed for meal purposes), please contact Irv Himelblau, Social Action Committee chair at UU Fellowship of San Dieguito (ihimelblau@yahoo.com), Martin Kruming (mkruming@aol.com) or the social justice leaders at your congregations.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Rev. Kathleen A. Green: 619-562-0833, ex. 203 / uurevkathleen@gmail

Office Schedule: Monday - Day off

Tues. - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, call for appointments

Wed. - 9:00 am - noon, call for appointments

Thurs. - 1:00 - 4:00 pm, call for appointments

Fri. - Minister's Study day

Children's Religious Exploration: Chairperson, Elinor Weed, MeWeed@aol.com

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