



A Welcoming Community to all persons regardless of their race, nationality, or sexual orientation.

Upcoming Sunday Services

The theme for our 2013-14 church year is based on Karen Armstrong's Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. In May, we are studying the tenth step: "Knowledge".

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This newsletter is published online monthly by members of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Download your copy at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the next to last Sunday of each month at 6pm. Submissions are to be directed to: newsletter@cvuuf.org and may be edited at the sole discretion of the editor, Liza Diniakos.

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Weekly e-Announcements

Fill out form at: cvuuf.org/news/ announcereq

Online Calendar

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June 1 — All You Need is Love — Rev. Lynne Garner — The Rev. Lynne Garner is minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick, Georgia. A native of New York State, she lived in Chicago for 35 years, where she taught music, ESL, and Spanish at various levels, drove a city bus, first heard the call to ministry, and graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Her first teaching position was on the Navajo Indian Reservation in northeastern

June 8 — Compassion Mandala — Rev. Lora Brandis & Justine Fischer,

Arizona. She is married to Jerry and has a big dog named Bear and eight cats.

relationship of fathers and sons.

DRE— Earlier this year children in our religious education classes created mandalas. The mandala is an archetypal symbol of wholeness that is found in nature, created in art and explored as a way to deepen the spiritual journey. At both services today we'll marvel at the mandalas our children have created, celebrate our teachers and each class will "bridge" to the next class level. **Come and see Casey Dake's video of our year of living compassionately, "premiering" at each worship service**.

June 15 — Fathers and Sons — Rev. Lora Brandis — The tenth step to a compassionate life is knowledge and again we begin with ourselves. We begin with our own relationships. It is easy to point the finger of blame towards a society that can't enact better laws or better mental health services to prevent our sons from erupting in violence. In the wake of the tragedy at Isla Vista we reflect on what it means to be a man in a changing world. On Father's Day we celebrate the crucial

June 22, 9:15am — Waters of Compassion — all music worship service —

Our Fellowship musicians will come together to celebrate our year of living compassionately with music that will take you on a journey from the tears of sadness to the tears of joy. The choir, children's choir, Soulstice, The Collection, special soloists and more will help us acknowledge that compassion isn't always easy, but it is always possible. We will also welcome new members today. **Today, there will be one service only. Please attend our Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:45am**

June 29 — Understanding Holiness within the Jewish Tradition — Rabbi

Rebecca Dubowe — Rabbi Dubowe has been serving Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks

for the past 17 years. A native of Los Angeles, she was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio. She holds a B.A. in Jewish Studies from the American Jewish University and an M.A. in Hebrew Letters from HUC. Prior to Temple Adat Elohim, Rabbi Dubowe served as Associate Rabbi at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

CVUUF Sundays on CD: Recordings of most Sunday services are available on audio CD. They may be purchased for a \$3 donation, made at time of order. All proceeds go to the Library Fund. Order yours at the Library bookcase in Social Hall and do remember to pick up the CDs you've ordered! Sunday recordings can also be heard at cvuuf.org, some can even be downloaded to your iPod.



Muusings from Reverend Lora

Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God. – Maya Angelou's last tweet

Men fear women will laugh at them. Women fear men will kill them - Margaret Atwood #YesAllWomen

All week long I've been carrying my copy of Riane Eisler's Sacred Pleasure: Sex, Myth, and the Politics of the Body – New Paths to Power and Love. It's a really long title. It's a very heavy book; as heavy as a bible. I've been carrying it like a bible, knowing that there were answers there that I needed this week.

Eisler's *The Chalice and the Blade* opened my eyes to a new way of looking at the Christianity of my childhood. *Sacred Pleasure* helped me to heal from the everyday misogynies of the patriarchy and yes, it helped me to heal from sexual violence. Maya Angelou's words helped me heal those wounds as well. This has been a week filled with grieving.

On Friday May 23rd a young man killed seven people including himself in a violent rampage in Isla Vista, a community where many college students live. Several people in this congregation knew one of the victims. Many others had ties to the event for various reasons including having attended school at UCSB or having been to the sorority house where some of the rampage took place. No matter the degree to which we are connected, we are shocked by another senseless act of violence and wonder when this all will end.

We are not alone in our outrage. Immediately the Internet filled up with the stories and the speculations. The killer was given various labels including mentally ill, misogynistic and racist. I have read many of the responses to this event, hoping like everyone else, to understand why. As a cultural historian Riane Eisler understands "that to overcome the pain and guilt, the exploitation and alienation, the tragic and often comic obstacles that have so embittered both women's and men's lives will require fundamental changes not only in how we view sex, spirituality, and society, but in how we view the human body, power, pleasure, and the sacred." It's not just about mental illness, gun control, patriarchy, or exposure to violent video games. What happened last Friday in Isla Vista is about everything. It is about how our society will change, is changing, must change to one with less chronic violence, pain and fear to one that is about mutual trust, pleasure and shared power.

Maya Angelou was sexually assaulted as a child. She spoke up and identified her perpetrator. After he spent one night in jail, a crowd beat the assailant to death. Believing her words had somehow caused his death, Dr. Angelou did not speak for a number of years. She remained silent and in that silence she learned how important it is that we tell our stories. It is important that we voice our grief in the aftermath of events like what happened at Isla Vista.

There are many reasons that we grieve. Sometimes we grieve for the everyday losses. Sometimes we grieve for this whole human dilemma. If you need to tell someone your story, call me. I am here to listen to your stories.

Lora

Rev. Lora has one day off a week, which is Monday. She schedules appointments in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. To reach her, please email her at minister@cvuuf.org or call her cell phone 805.410.3808. Due to the volume of email she receives, it may take her several days to respond to an email. Please feel free to call if you have a matter that needs immediate attention.

Eliseo Zavala, Church Custodian

Eliseo, a Moorpark resident, learned about the position at our congregation through Craigs List. He attends Iglesias Cielo Abierto, a thriving, Spanish-speaking, Christian community in Simi Valley. Eliseo has has competed nationally as a break dancer, and writes Christian rap. Please be sure to welcome this talented young man. Eliseo's regular hours are Fridays, 8-11am, Sundays 10am-2pm.



President's Message



Our **Annual Meeting** is set for **June 22**, starting at **10:45 am**. I hope you will be there. It's been a wonderful year for our congregation, in many ways. As we prepare to sail our ship into the next church year, the annual meeting is an occasion to come together, nurture our solidarity, assess where we've been, and set the course forward. Please be on the lookout for a formal notice of the meeting with the agenda, which we will send out to members around June 11. There will be just one service on Sunday June 22, at 9:15am - and it is going to be a terrific one filled with music, a new member induction, and more. Please join us for the service and the annual meeting if you can.

As we approach the end of the church year and the beginning of a new one, I have a question for you. Our monthly board meeting agenda includes an item we call "Hallelujah Time," to lift up and take note of successes, achievements, great moments, and growth experiences in our congregation from the prior month. These are always heartening conversations that remind us why we are here. I'd like to hear from you about Hallelujahs from the year, July 1, 2013 through the present. What at the highlights and best memories for you from this year? Please email your responses to me at: president@cvuuf.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

One of the transitions that happens each church year is some turnover in our leadership. Trustee at Large Phoebe Rivera, who is focusing energies on her health at this time, has resigned from the Board, so a candidate be identified to complete her term. Communication Director Brian Pletcher has decided to pass the baton, so following the Annual Meeting, the Board will appoint a new person to join our Council in that role. Arlene Bloom and Paul Chavez are completing their terms on the Conflict Resolution Committee. Each of these volunteer leaders has made vital contributions that benefit us all. Each of them deserves our thanks and appreciation.

The board is addressing the use of our facilities by external groups in several ways we want you to be aware of. Any external group that uses our facilities must either: have a member of the congregation to serve as sponsor of the group, to be present when the group is using our facilities and to be responsible for opening and closing the building; or must schedule their meeting when a church custodian will be present to open and close the building, and in that case the group must pay the cost of the custodian's time. Facilities use by outside groups is coordinated by our Administrator, Jessica Lesko. The Board is also developing a facilities use policy we will provide to you as soon as it is finalized and approved.

Your board continues the important work of visioning the future of this church. We work hard at that, guided always by our mission and energized by deep love and gratitude for this community.

See you on Sunday!

Willie, president@cvuuf.org





Justine Fischer, Director of Religious Education (DRE)



June
Birthdays
Joy Alsadek,
Madison
Ealy, Ryan
Fernald,
Finn
McCauley,
Seamus
McLean,
Jake
Venardos
and Tasha
Stuart
Shuman.

News From Religious Education

JUNE RE

PreK through middle school meet at 9:15 and high school at 11:00 am.

June 1 – Knowledge Overview

June 8 – Bridging

-Intergenerational Service

June 15 - Dalai Lama

June 22 - Music Service

-Intergenerational Service

June 29 - Use of the Democratic

Process

Two Intergenerational Services

June 8 -

Bridging: First Service: Child Space, elementary children will bridge and we will recognize the spiritual nurturers for these groups.

Bridging: Second Service: Middle, High School, Adult RE will bridge and their spiritual nurturers will be recognized.

June 22 – One awesome music service followed by an awesome annual meeting.

Kudos

...to all the spiritual nurturers in Religious Education.

Mixteco Indigina Communidad Organization Proyecto (MICOP)

CRAFTS & FELLOWSHIP: Join our Mixteco friends, Saturday, June 28, 2014, 2pm, at Harrington Elementary in Oxnard.

SAVE THE DATE: August 9, 2014-MICOP Annual Dinner "Night in Oaxaca." This fundraiser supports the Tequio Youth Scholarship Program.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Please bring new backpacks and school supplies for elementary and middle school age MICOP children. Drop off **through August 10** at the Religious Education office upstairs in Fellowship Hall.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

It's that time of year – help is needed for summer and the 2014-2015 Religious Education year. Our program is ONLY possible by the kind donations of time, treasure and talent of our members.

For information regarding Religious Education, I can most easily be reached at dre@cvuuf.org.

Yours in faith, Justine

Adult Religious Education

Living Compassionately

Third Sundays 12:15-1:30pm Ongoing until August 17, 2014

Rev. Lora and Justine co-facilitate the study group of Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* after the second service on the third Sunday of each month.

Drop-in!

News From Our Outreach Director



What is "Outreach," you may say? Anything organized from within CVUUF that reaches outside our doors. Our community is busy, busy, busy and there are many ways you can get involved!

Climate Action Team – We have just launched a new Climate Action Team. Look for more announcements on this. If you have any questions, please contact me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.

Community Forum – Several member-generated Community Forums are coming up:

July 25th, "Let's Talk About Sex" Robin Lindsey and her OWL team will present the documentary with a facilitated discussion about our excellent Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexual education program following.

August 15th, "Inequality for All" Michael Teasdale is taking the reigns for this presentation.

September 12th, social justice issues facing the Native American community will be a topic led by Anahi Quiroz.

Do you want to present your passion? Let us know, we'll help you make it happen!

Detention Visitation (page 7) – Join our program to visit with immigrants locked up in the Adelanto Detention Facility Isolated detainees really appreciate knowing that someone cares enough to come out and get acquainted with them. You may find that sharing your compassion can be a very meaningful experience. Contact Liza Diniakos for more details. **Fair Trade** (page 7) – Find Howard Bierman on Sundays, and buy some fair trade coffee or chocolate. Both are

Fair Trade (page 7) – Find Howard Bierman on Sundays, and buy some fair trade coffee or chocolate. Both are delicious and your purchase is a great support to our UU values.

Feeding Hands – A monthly dinner is provided to those in need from our local community. Please contact me for more details.

Mindful Eating – Ongoing each 4th Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall from 5-7pm. We share a meal together (generally potluck) and have a discussion or presentation with our meal. Topics vary by the passions of our members. All are welcome to join us for dinner. Contact: Dana Ryon.

MUSES (below) – We are so excited to be launching MUSES on **Saturday, June 7th from 3-5:30**. This ongoing poetry, music and performance program is coordinated by Matthew Weisman. Contact him, if you would like to be part of the team or have interest in signing up for an eight minute slot to read, recite, perform, etc. We welcome all to attend, whether performing or not – it is exciting to be offering this program to the community.



MUSES Saturday, June 7, 2014, 3-5 pm

Featured Poet: BOBBI RUDIN

A closet poet until about 12 years ago, Bobbi joined a poetry circle where friends came together to share their own and other's poetry. Her poems and poetic works have been featured in various respected journals. In June 2013, she published her first book of poems, *Testament: A Poetic Journey Thru the Cycles of Life,* available at Amazon. One of Bobbi's favorite places to be includes open microphone poetry reading events in Southern California!

Community Forums are free, but donations are appreciated!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8000

PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND

JUNE 25-29, 2014

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Even if you are not going to Rhode Island, you can still participate in General Assembly, and even be a delegate. Events in the Plenary Hall are streamed live, and posted for viewing afterwards. You can watch key events, such as the Ware Lecture or the Service of the Living Tradition (featuring the fellowshipping of our own Rev. Brandis) on your computer. If you register as an off-site delegate you can vote online and speak during debate in General Assembly business sessions. Off-site delegates are included in CVUUF's

five delegates, so if you are interested in this form of participation, please contact me to coordinate the process.

More information on all of the aspects of General Assembly can be found here.

Don Cooper ADR





General Assembly offers the opportunity to participate in public witness. This year, the UUA is one sponsor of the annual WaterFire Providence, a non-profit arts event that serves to recreate downtown Providence. 2014 General Assembly attendees will process and sing while bonfires illuminate the Providence, Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck Rivers.

HOME

24 Farnsworth Street

Boston, MA 02210

Our UUA staff moved into our new offices at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District. Unpacking was a breeze.

IT staff made the rounds and they are off and running.

We hoped and planned for a collaborative space, and we have it. It's beautiful and functional. And we're already reaping the benefits of its design toward a greener world.

Take pride. Have gratitude for our generosity, and our shared awareness of growing opportunity and possibility.

Come for a visit. This is your home. Enjoy these photos as a first step of our journey, and see more on our <u>Join the Move blog</u>.





WE are on the Side of Love

The national Standing on the Side of Love organization is "a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world."

If you believe that all people deserve dignity, find a seat at the following justice programs.

DETAINEE VISITATION

Adelanto Detention Facility

Monday, June 16, 2014, 8:15am **and** Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 8:15am Contact: Liza Diniakos or Rev. Lora

CVUUF volunteers who have not yet visited are encouraged to share this meaningful experience. Two-person teams will sit and talk with each detainee for one hour. We should return to CVUUF between 5:00 and 6:00pm. Participants need to RSVP in order to receive the name of a detainee you can write so your visit will be expected.

UU Borders
Trip to Learn
from
Immigrant
Deportees

UU Border Trip Thursday through Sunday July 11-14, 2014.

Are you ready to learn more about U.S. immigration policy from those directly affected? Are you open to growing spiritually?

Join the journey led by UU Justice Ministry-California. For more information, please <u>click here.</u>



As of May, we will have completed our ninth year of participation in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project, a collaboration between UUSC and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned, fair-trade company based in West Bridgewater, Mass.

When we purchase our coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange, we are getting these products from farmer cooperatives who follow the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products. This ensures that farmers earn a fair price for their crops, allowing them to better meet their families' basic needs for food, education, and health care — and their long-term security. CVUUF has befitted financially-over \$32,000 of sales resulting in almost \$9,000 of profit, but the real benefit is that we are living our values. So the next time you sip the coffee or bite the chocolate, savor the additional pleasure in knowing that you are making the world a better place.



We will again present a "This I Believe" service of lay speakers on **Sunday**, **August 24th**. We would like to invite four members to reflect on the theme of loving one's enemies.

If you are interested in taking part in the service, please contact Jo Ann Van Reenan. Each speaker presentation is roughly 6-7 minutes and will present at both services.

There's plenty of guidance on writing an essay that fits the bills at www.thisibelieve.org.

New Women's Group





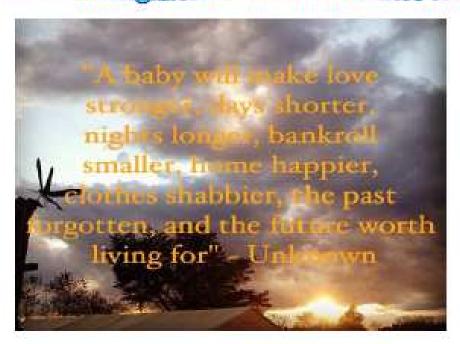
SAVETHE DATE!



HONORING INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

AUGUST 9, 2014~6PM
OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS & CONVENTION CENTER

Mealdowood Neighborhood Nelwork Invites You



What: Baby Shower for Lea and Erik Halseth

When: Saturday, June 7, 2014

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

3331 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320

This potluck celebration is sponsored by the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Meadowood Neighborhood Network. To RSVP by June 1st or to request additional information, please send an email to: babyshower@basisops.com.

The Halseths are registered with Babies R Us (www.babiesrus.com/registry)



June 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:25am» Leadership Cultivation Committee 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Worship Service 12:30pm» Membership Committee meeting 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting		6pm» Feeding Hands 7:30pm» Community Forum Planning Committee	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 6:30pm» Chalice Circle1W 7:15pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 9am» UUJMCA Board meeting	9am» UUJMCA Board meeting 10:30am» Halseth Baby Shower 3pm» Muses
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15am» Worship Service 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 12:30pm» New UU class 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Women's Evening Group 7:15pm» Chalice Circle2M 7:30pm» Drop-In Book Club	9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Chalice Circle2W 7:30pm» Meditation Group	12:30pm» Chalice Circle2Th 7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:20m» Auction Planning meeting 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Adult RE: Living Compassionately 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» LCC Meeting	7pm» Music Ministry meeting 7pm» Chalice Circle3Tu	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group 7:30pm» Climate Action Team	7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	12pm» Rehearsal for All Music worship service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Mindful Eating 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Women's Evening Group	9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» Chalice Circle4Tu	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Facilitators' Chalice Circle 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	4pm» Chalice Circle4F 7:30pm» Movie Group1	
29	30					
9:15am» Worship Service 11am» Worship Service 10:20am» DOT Sunday 11am» Cottage Conversation 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	6pm» OA Meeting					

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- •Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- •The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- •Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- •The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- •Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- •Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- •Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- •Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- •Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- •Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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additional UU resource links:

<u>Unitarian Universalist Association</u> (UUA)

The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

Pacific Southwest District (PSWD)

PSWD serves 50 Pacific Southwest congregations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Service is held at 9:15 & 11:00 am, with Coffee Hour following each service.
Children's Religious Education is held during the 9:15am service. Childcare is provided and YRUU (our high school RE program) meets during the 11:00am service.

Visitors are always welcome!