

CVUUF Newschip Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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 March, we are studying the seventh step: "How Little We Know."

March 2 — In My Honest Opinion—Rev. Lora Brandis — The seventh

step to a compassionate life asks us to examine how little we know and to be responsible for understanding when our opinions are little more than excuses for saying whatever we like.

March 9 — The Unexamined Life is Not Worth Living— Rev. Lora

Brandis — The phrase "the unexamined life is not worth living" has been attributed to Socrates. He also claimed that he knew nothing and was wiser than most because at least he admitted that he knew that he knew nothing. History is full of great thinkers who promote doubt as a means to discover truth. Admitting that we know nothing is to embrace doubt. It is also the way to live an examined life.

March 16 - Saving the World UU Style- Bruce Knotts,

Executive Director of UU-UNO- Most religions claim to have a mission to save the world. Do we UUs have a saving role to play, and if so what is it? Bruce will explore the work of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) and its efforts to save the world from human rights abuses and climate change. He will also talk about how you can join in this important work. Bruce will discuss the UU-UNO's work on human rights, climate change and its unique Every Child is Our Child project in Ghana.

March 23 - The Daily Actions - Rev. Lora Brandis - More often

than not we impose our own experiences and beliefs upon others. We interpret reality through a lens that has been polished by our own set of life experiences. Because we do this, we often make harmful judgments about others. To "make place for the other" is to empty ourselves of preconceived notions and assumptions and, with empathy, enter into the lives of those we would label as the "other" as if their life was our own.

March 30 — What the Little Ones Know — Be inspired by our children and

youth as they share perspectives around our theme of compassion. This service is intergenerational. Child Space will be available for our youngest children. There will be no RE classes on this day. Children's Choir sings

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.

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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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Muusings from Reverend Lora

This growing community is getting busy. The weekend of March 14-16 may be our busiest yet. Bruce Knotts, the Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) will be in the pulpit on Sunday March 16th. Twenty-four women will be attending our annual women's retreat. And several members of this congregation will be with me on a UUJMCA trip to the border. Halleluujah!

When I was called to be your minister three years ago, you told me how much you wanted to grow. When a minister hears this from a congregation, the first question they ask is "Why?" Many congregations answer, "Because we need more money." In the last three years our membership numbers have remained stable, but our pledges have increased. There may be another reason to want to grow.

"Because we need more volunteers." You'll hear this from congregations from 120 members to 1200. No matter the size of the congregation, the statistic of about 20% of the members filling many of the leadership positions remains a constant. It is up to each individual to discern their involvement in the community. We welcome new people to our community with the promise of engagement and high expectation membership. Could there be another reason we want to grow?

"Because the world needs our message." The weekend of March 14-16 is a direct reflection of our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion. The women on retreat will focus on the "Compassion for Yourself" chapter of Karen Armstrong's book Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. I imagine them coming back from that weekend deepened by their experience and armed as spiritual warriors to live our mission more fully in the community.

UU-UNO Executive Director Bruce Knotts will preach about "Saving the World UU Style." Bruce will explore the work of the UU-UNO and its efforts to save the world from human rights abuses and climate change. He will also talk about how you can join in this important work. While Bruce is leading worship for us I will be at the border serving as chaplain for a trip sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California. Why do we want to grow our congregation? Because the world needs our message.

"We want to grow" doesn't always contain the seeds of how we grow. Sometimes the seeds are deeply buried underneath complex desires and misunderstood motives. How we grow depends on how we engage in our mission. How we grow depends on you. Here are a few ways you can help us grow:

- •Join UUs from several congregations in welcoming UU-UNO Executive Director Bruce Knotts in a reception Saturday March 15th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall.
- •There are just a few spots left in the Justice Trip to the Border. Email me for more information.
- •Attend this month's reflection group after the second service March 16th. Talk to someone new and invite them to attend with you.
- •Ask yourself, "Why do we want to grow?" and let me know your answer.

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

President's Message



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The Board and Council typically hold two leadership retreats each church year, one in late summer/early fall and a second in mid-winter. The agendas include a combination of relationship-building experiences, spiritual reflection, learning, assessing, planning, and visioning. These retreats provide many benefits to the congregation as well as to our leaders as individuals. We're fortunate to enjoy a tremendous quality and depth of participation among our team. The Winter Leadership Retreat took place February 22 & 23 and produced several noteworthy outcomes.

For several years, our leaders have worked together to develop and adopt a strategic plan that articulates a set of unifying objectives, guides our efforts, and provides a basis for tracking progress. The strategic plan has been an important and helpful resource. This year the Board has committed to expanding the vision and value of strategic planning by extending the next plan to encompass a three-year time frame. A large part of the winter retreat was devoted to creating input for a new three-year strategic plan. Led by our talented Secretary, Michael Teasdale, we worked through a process of individual reflection, small group discussion, and full group sharing. An underlying principle of the day was that we are at a starting point, so let's begin by saying "yes" to consideration of any idea, any suggestion, any dream. Let's not critique or place limitations on anything yet. Let's boldly commit ourselves anew to our mission - to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion. The discussion was inspiring and powerful. The input that was generated will be forged into a new three year strategic plan which we plan to complete and share with you in the next several weeks. While we're working on that task, your input is welcomed and encouraged. What would you hope to see in the strategic plan? How would you like to like to see the existing strategic plan expanded to the next three year period? You can find the current strategic plan here.

Another outcome of the retreat was a decision by the Board to begin an annual survey of the congregation's members. The survey will provide a vehicle for gathering input as each year's strategic plan is developed in the future, and for helping the board assess areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement each year. The first survey is being developed now, with leadership from our Trustee at Large, Don Venardos. Thank you Don! We'll give you notice when the survey will take place and will hope for a high level of participation.

Also in February the board has begun a review of our church policies. Several good and important policies have been adopted over the years, but the disparate collection of documents that have accumulated over the years will serve our needs more effectively by being updated and incorporated into a whole cloth. The board intends to publish a new policy manual that will be easily accessible to our members and simpler to review and update in the future. If you're interested in assisting with this project, please let me know.

See you on Sunday!

Willie, president@cvuuf.org

Special Collection • March 16, 2014

Special Collection • March 16, 201

Unitarian Universalist United

Nations Office (UU-UNO)

The UU-UNO is engaged in international advocacy work the United Nations (UN) based on UU values. Program include "Every Child is Our Child," The Faith and Ethic Network for the International Criminal Court and the Climate Change Initiative. Make your check payable to CVUUF, and note "UU-UNO" in the memo. The UU-UNO is engaged in international advocacy work at the United Nations (UN) based on UU values. Programs include "Every Child is Our Child," The Faith and Ethics Climate Change Initiative. Make your check payable to



Justine Fischer,
Director of
Religious
Education
(DRE)



March
Birthdays
Lucas Cho
Miller,
Draven
Lopez, Grant
Schlaus,
Aidan
Stough &
Julie
Zavala.

News From Religious Education

MARCH RE

As we continue with our Compassion curriculum, we will focus upon "How Little We Know." PreK through middle school meet at 9:15 and high school at 11:00 am.

March 2 – "How Little We Know"

Overview (mandala making)

Overview (mandara m

March 9 – Ghandi

March 16 - Encouragement to Spiritual

Growth

March 23 - Spiritualist Teachings of

earth-centered religions

March 30 – What the Little Ones Know:

Intergenerational Service (No

RE classes on this day).

COMING UP IN RE

April 6 – Religious Education Open House during coffee hour

Kudos

...to Erik and Ethan Halseth, for cleaning the RE rooms on Wednesdays: Laura and Tim McLean for facilitating the Coming of Age Program

MICOP

BOOK COLLECTION—We will be collecting new and gently used books for the children of **Mixteco Indigina**Communidad Organization Proyecto
(MICOP), our migrant friends, for the Dia de los Ninos celebration in April. Please drop them off to the RE office through April 26, 2014.

COMMUNITY BUILDING—Join us monthly to craft with MICOP kids. We meet with the kids at Harrington Elementary in Oxnard while the adults hold their community meeting. The meeting schedule is Saturdays: March 29, April 26 *Dia de los Ninos*, May 31, and June 28.

SPANISH TUTORING—For those who have a basic level of Spanish, MICOP is also requesting assistance Tuesday-Friday nights from 6-8 pm, at their Spanish as a second language class. This class is led by a teacher, but they like to have one on one with the Mixtec speakers as they learn Spanish. For more information visit www.mixteco.org.

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

Yours in faith,

Justíne

Adult Religious Education

Living Compassionately

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

Rev. Lora and Justine will co-facilitate a study group of Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* after the second service on the third Sunday of each month. The study group is drop-in so there is no need to register. Join us as we move through all twelve steps together towards a life constantly guided by compassion.



GETTING TO KNOW...

JESSICA ANN

You may remember Jessica Ann speaking in the 2013's *This I Believe* service. What you may not know is that she is relatively new to CVUUF and only joined the church last year. Jessica Ann is a conscientious and dynamic individual that I hope you will all take the time to get to know. Jessica Ann was born and raised in the Conejo Valley. She was raised culturally

Jewish, which she says was comprised of celebrating the holidays, the food, and not believing in Jesus. She also had religious influences from her Catholic grandmother and from her Christian stepfather. Despite the many religious traditions around her, Jessica Ann always felt that the way her family practiced religion was not in a wholehearted way, and sometimes was practiced more as a way to keep up appearances. Because of this, Jessica Ann shied *away* from religion for many years.

Jessica Ann describes how she "stumbled into Unitarian Universalism," yet she strongly believes nothing happens by accident. She is friends with one of the cast members in the play 8 that was performed at CVUUF in 2013 and she came to support his performance. While there, she was invited by Ellen Learned to come to one of the services.

She loved CVUUF from the first day. With her red cup in hand during coffee hour, many people came up and spoke with her and she remembers the warm, friendly atmosphere. She knew she wanted to become a member right away. She recalls how she would cry through the services during the first few months because she deeply connected with what was being said. Unlike her previous experiences with religion, Unitarian Universalism clicked because she could connect to every part of it. She felt she could live this religion, not simply practice it. She remembers that since attending the fellowship, many of her political and world views have shifted, not because she felt she needed to conform, but rather she felt her eyes were open to knew perspectives and everything just felt right.

Nowadays, she sometimes finds herself embarrassed to say she is religious because it is a term that never used to resonate with her. And yet, being a part of the CVUUF community brings her complete harmony at her core. She can wholeheartedly practice and live her life with Unitarian Universalist values and she is very excited to become involved in the community.

Jessica Ann says that there are several particular aspects of CVUUF that keep her coming every week. The people – first and foremost Rev. Lora Brandis and Annie Barker – and the warm welcoming community as a whole, are a central part of what makes this UU fellowship special. Missing a service makes her feel like a piece is missing in her life. The weekly focus of the service is like a guiding light throughout that week, the ideas staying in her subconscious, connecting her with humanity and allowing her to think on a scale of global consciousness.

In the near future, Jessica Ann is hoping to return to school to complete a degree in Theater Arts. She was previously involved in the Rising Star Players, a theater company in the San Fernando Valley. She would also like to travel the world, particularly to see Greece, London, and Hawaii. Her life goal is to influence people to expand there horizons, thinking not only locally, but globally, and to consider how their actions can make a difference in the world at large. Welcome to CVUUF, Jessica Ann!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column has been off-line for a short time. *Margaret Kirnig*, the long-time writer of this column, has passed the torch to *Sloane Powers* (today's author). When you get the chance, please thank them for their work to build our vibrant community.

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!

UU-UNO Weekend – March 15 and 16 – One of the ways Unitarian Universalists are connected throughout the world is via our United Nations Office. You are invited to attend a reception on **Saturday, March 15**, (see page 9) to meet Bruce Knotts, Director of the UU-UNO. Please do not miss church on **Sunday, March 16** when Bruce will be preaching at our services and providing more information about the ways UU-UNO serves the world community. Contact: Chris Farrell, CVUUF Liaison to the UU-UNO.

Community Forum (see page 7) – This monthly program hosts speakers & performers, shows films, and presents theatrical or musical events. Usually about half (or more) of our audience are local, non-CVUUF folks. Ways to participate include: attend a planning meeting on the first Tuesday of the month (right after Feeding Hands); help booking events; assist with audio & lighting); welcome our guests as they arrive; help set-up and clean-up. Contact: Anahi Quiroz.

Detention Witness (see page 10) – This is an eye-opening experience. Join on the monthly visits to the Adelanto Detention Facility where many men without citizenship are held with little or no recourse for months on end. During these trips, two-person teams will sit and talk with a detainee for one hour. This particular program requires a full-day commitment. CVUUF is becoming a recognizable face in the campaign to focus attention to the issue of indefinite detention facing so many immigrants today. Contacts: Gordon Clint, Liza Diniakos, or Rev. Lora..

Feeding Hands – On the first Tuesday of each month, a team of dedicated volunteers cook dinner (either in our kitchen or their homes) to be served to our area's homeless community at Calvary Church. All are welcome to help prepare the food, serve it, or clean-up the next day. It is a wonderfully rewarding experience. Contact: Phoebe Rivera or Anne Ewell.

Letter Writing to Prisoners in Solitary Confinement – Several Sundays a month, letter writing sessions are held for prisoners in solitary confinement who are starved for connection. The dates when letter writing sessions are being held can be found on our calendar at <u>cyuuf.org</u>. Contact: Maria Ornelas.

MICOP (The Mixteco Indegena Communidad Organization Proyecto) (see page 4) – A project of both Religious Education and Outreach, join us for our monthly events volunteering to work with the children in this very underserved community. A wonderful opportunity to share with your children as they meet and play with kids whose lives are very different from our own. MICOP is also seeking Spanish-speaking volunteers to help tutor English on an ongoing basis. Contact: Justine Fischer.

Mindful Eating – Explores topics of mindful and ethical eating, and how our food choices (in purchasing, preparation, etc.) affect our lives, community and planet. Mindful Eating meets monthly and is an open group, but always requests an RSVP so that the meal can be properly planned. As a service to our community, the ME group will host coffee hour hospitality on the following Sunday (either the 1st or 5th Sunday of the month). Contact: Dana Ryon.



Saturday, March 22, 2014, 7:30pm

GUN VIOLENCE AND THE CULTURE OF FEAR

Having experienced gun violence in her own family, Hollye Dexter has worked tirelessly for



gun reform. Through her nonprofit Art and Soul Programs, she worked for a decade with at-risk teens, keeping them off the streets. She is also an author and has had many pieces published on the subject of gun violence. She currently works for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America as their National Director of Social Media.

Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to reduce drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to demand action from legislators, state and federal; companies; and educational institutions to

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establish common-sense gun reforms.

Our programs are free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Community Forums are held at:

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3327 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park http://forum.cvuuf.org

MANNA NEEDS

In the months of March and April, the Feinstein Foundation will donate one dollar for each item you donate.

Make your giving stretch farther, please remember to be extra generous until the end of April.



Moral March, Raleigh, NC, February 8

Fifteen hundred members of the Unitarian Universalist Association joined the United Church of Christ as part of a group of thousands of concerned North Carolina citizens and committed individuals from throughout the country.

"We sang, prayed, and marched together to raise awareness about the threats to voting rights in North Carolina that are spreading to other states." UUA president, the Rev. Peter Morales

The Moral March raised awareness for voting rights, liveable wages, health care, and other issues of equality and justice in North Carolina and elsewhere.





You are Invited

to a Reception for Bruce Knotts, UU-UNO Director Saturday, March 15, 2014 6 to 7:30pm

Meet Bruce Knotts and learn more about Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) Director Bruce Knotts. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact Christine Farrell, UU-UNO Liaison for CVUUF, or Carol Robinson.



PSWD District Assembly April 25-26, 2014

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego 4190 Front Street, San Diego

The Pacific Southwest District and Camp de Benneville Pines welcome you to their combined annual meetings--aka District Assembly. We're throwing a party – and you'll want to make sure your name is on the list.

The Friday night keynote will be truly inspirational. Rev. Meg Riley, minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, will present "21st Century Faith: To Infinity And Beyond!!!"

Attendees can choose from 17 workshops as well as plenty of worship and celebration. Save the dates and check the <u>PSWD website</u> for more information.

If you are interested in sharing rides, contact ADR Don Cooper.

Don Cooper ADR



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 March 24, 2014 8:15am Contact: Liza Diniakos

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.

Solitary
Confinement in
California Prisons,
Advocates
Challenge
"Reforms"

Writing to Prisoners in Solitary

Bi-monthly between Services, Adult RE room Contact: Maria Ornelas

Below is excerpted from a report of the second joint California Assembly-Senate hearing on the use of solitary confinement, including SHUs (Security Housing Units), in the state's prisons, which was written by Sarah Shroud.

"We're here to question the existence and effects of the SHU," stated California Assembly Member Tom Ammiano, "and we don't think this new proposed policy goes nearly far enough." Ammiano, who chairs the Assembly's Public Safety Committee, was speaking at the Representatives from California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Prisoners rights attorney Charles Carbone said, "What CDCR didn't tell us today is that under their new proposed step-down policy there's no way out of the SHU other than debriefing or participating in CDCR's behavior modification program. There used to be an active review process, every 4 or 6 years, that's gone now."

Over 3,000 people have endured isolation in the state's prison for years or decades. "Only the CDCR can get away with calling an expansion of their power and authority a reform," Carbone continued. "I think the Department is getting what it wants here. The real pity is that it's not what the public or legislatures want."





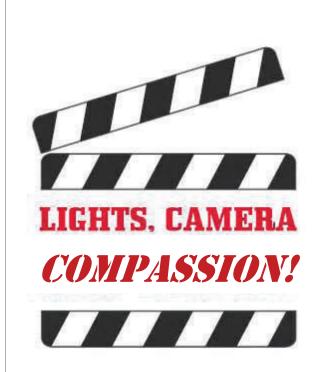
Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 3327 Old Conejo Road Newbury Park, CA 91320 805-492-8751

www.cvuuf.org Merlinsing@mac.com

Suggested Donation\$18.00 poster by Michael Pittas



www.merlinsnider.com



Hey CVUUF,

I need your help to document the Year of Compassion.

Instead of conducting "talking head" interviews, I plan to "crowdsource" this year's video to all congregants with a camera. I hear that some people even have a camera on their phone! Take a moment before, after or during your CVUUF event to capture some compassion. Be creative. There are no rules. Or...catch some compassion in action in your everyday life. It can be staged or candid, funny or touching. It just has to be short - 10 seconds max. This gives you an excuse to attempt Random Acts of Kindness. Send me photos as well.

Deadline is April 15th.

Questions? Contact me. Thanks! - Casey Dake



Valley Unitarian Universalist ("the Onion")

50th Anniversary Celebration Concert

Saturday, March 8th 2014

Smart, funny and informative--like Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars. Emma's Revolution is the duo of award-winning DC-based activist musicians, Pat Humphries & Sandy O. Emma's revolution' songs have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger and covered by Holly Near. The duo's awards include Grand Prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and, for the second year in a row, the Washington Area Music Association's Fan Favorite Award.

For more information about Emma's Revolution, visit <u>www.emmasrevolution.com</u>, and for March 8th concert information, contact <u>www.sepulvedauu.org</u>

CVUUF Hikers

CROP Walk March 2, 2014

noon

Starts at CLU and it is totally concrete. Anyone can walk out their door and breath the exhaust, so why do it in a group? To be a part of a larger ideal, helping the less fortunate. (A donation is required for this walk.) More details to come. Contact is Pete Hauger.

Now on the First Monday of Each Month

Quilters & Crafters

Monday, March 3, 7pm

Bring your own project to work on, or help with the quilt for Joy. RSVP with Andy Pletcher or Liza Diniakos.

A Cottage Conversation for Families Sunday, March 30, 2014, 11am

Families are invited to attend a Cottage Conversation with Reverend Lora and a board member. Come share what you like, what this fellowship means to you, ask some questions and get to know new folks. Upstairs in Adult RE room from 11:00-12:30. Child Care is available downstairs and youth are welcome to join in the conversation. RSVP's appreciated at MembershipDirector@cvuuf.org.Contact: Annie Barker.

New Women's Group



Membership in the Gardenia's women's group has become so large it is now a closed group.

Gardenia's B(new name to be decided) will begin meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting March 18 at 9:45 a.m. Format will remain the same in the new group. Come and check us out, we welcome new members and those who would like a smaller group. First meeting will be at Thelma Williams, contact her for more information!

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

We are so pleased to have CVUUF as our new home for two of our OA meetings!

These meetings are on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the Teen Room.

Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step recovery program for people who want to stop eating compulsively and want the support of others who are looking to recover from their unhealthy relationships with food. Some members struggle with compulsive eating, anorexia, bulimia and other eating disorders and have found that they are not alone.

For more information, visit http://www.oa.org.



March 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						7:30pm» Between Two Saints concert
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Parent Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:30pm» Membership Committee meeting	Committee 7pm» Adult RE:Rise Up & Call Her Name	6pm» Feeding Hands 7:30pm» Worship Committee 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	2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	7pm» Women's Evening Group	11 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting	13 12:30pm» Chalice Circle2Th 7pm» Sapphire	14 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	15 6pm» UU-UNO Reception
11am» Parent Support Group 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop	7:15pm» Chalice Circle2M 7pm» Adult RE:Rise Up & Call Her Name 7pm» Adult RE:Wi\$dom Path		7pm» Chalice Circle2W 7:30pm» Meditation Group	covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Worship Service	6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Adult RE:Rise Up & Call Her Name 7pm» Adult RE:Wi\$dom Path	7pm» Music Ministry meeting 7pm» Chalice Circle3Tu	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» CVUUF Council meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	7:30pm» Community Forum
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 11am» Worship Service 11am» Parent Support Group 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop	6pm» OA Meeting	9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» Chalice Circle4Tu		7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	4pm» Chalice Circle4F 7:30pm» Movie Group1	
30	31					
9:15am» Worship Service 10:20am» DOT Sunday 11am» Worship Service 11am» Parent Support Group 11am» Cottage Conversation 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

3327 Old Conejo Road Newbury Park CA 91320 (<u>map</u>) 805 492-8751 www.cvuuf.org

Staff

Rev. Lora Brandis, Minister, minister@cvuuf.org

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Board of Trustees 2013-2014

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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!