



# CVUUF News

## Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

## Upcoming Sunday Services

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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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@cvuuf.org) and may be edited at the sole discretion of the editor, Liza Diniakos.

Other ways to

### SHARE

information:

#### News & Notes

Email: [newsandnotes@cvuuf.org](mailto:newsandnotes@cvuuf.org)

#### Weekly e-Announcements

Fill out form at: [cvuuf.org/news/announcereq](http://cvuuf.org/news/announcereq)

#### Online Calendar

Fill out form at: [cvuuf.org/calendar/request](http://cvuuf.org/calendar/request)

#### Facebook

Email: [www.minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:www.minister@cvuuf.org)



The theme for our 2013-14 church year is based on Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. In October we are studying the second step: "Look at Your Own World."

**October 6 — Draw the Circle Wide — Rev. Lora Brandis** — In the Buddhist loving kindness meditation we are asked to start with extending compassion to those in our lives who are easy to love. In ever-expanding circles of compassion we extend that love to all. Starting with our family, then including our friends and community, then our own country and then we draw the circle of compassion wide to contain the entire world. During the second step, we stand back from the tumult of the world and see with new eyes.

**October 13 — Teach Your Children Well — Rev. Lora Brandis** — The Confucian concept of li promoted a set of behaviors in family life that taught each member to value each one's place in the family structure. The concept of li seems overly rigid in comparison to our twenty-first century way of being a family. Graham Nash wrote these words more than forty years ago: "You who are on the road must have a code that you can live by." What is that code, that equivalent to li, which we teach to our children?

**October 20 — Look at Your Own World — Rev. Lora Brandis** — Helen Keller is quoted as saying, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." What is the something you can do? Rather than becoming overwhelmed when you look out at your own world, ask yourself what particular contribution you can make.

**October 27 — The Age of Dignity — Chalice Players** — This presentation centers on the question: What is the next step toward justice? Nine members of our Fellowship will portray multiple important characters from the past fifty years. From Rosa Parks to Matthew Shepard, individuals have fallen into history by taking a stand to make a difference in American society.

Nan Young, Art Trek organizer, and past director of "Laramie Project", will direct this original presentation. Mary Ellen Bruskotter, Chalice Players director, will produce and be the Worship Associate.

**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](http://cvuuf.org), some can even be downloaded to your iPod.



# Muusings from Reverend Lora

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Many of you have embraced the practice of the *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* with commitment and enthusiasm. You have told me about re-reading chapter one during particular life transitions that have given you new insight into the first step: “learn about compassion.” You are sending me emails with articles and videos highlighting compassionate acts. In addition, you are letting me know that as you begin to focus on compassion it seems to be showing up more and more in your daily life. Compassion is more than just an intellectual concept; it is a spiritual practice.

This is the practice: when you find yourself sitting across the table from someone telling you their story – a story so far outside your own life experience – allow yourself to walk a holy spiral that pulls you down into the depths of your being. It is there you will find compassion. This is the practice: listen deeply to the story of the “other.” Listening will teach you compassion.

After a year of planning and networking, our detention center visitation program has finally begun. If you think you’ve heard this announced before, you have. We thought our visits to isolated immigrant detainees in Adelanto were set to start the first week in July. I came home from vacation and study week only to discover that our visits had been halted by ICE. If you want to know more about what happened, here is a great interview with Luis Nolasco of Friends of Adelanto Detention Center: <http://www.theworld.org/2013/09/how-volunteers-keep-watch-ease-isolation-of-immigrant-detainees/>.

We are no longer working as an official program through ICE, but we are visiting as friends and writing as pen pals to end the isolation. Several of us know what it is to sit across the table from someone whose life experience is very far outside our own. If you want to join us contact Liza Diniakos or Gordon Clint.

The second step – “Look at Your Own World” invites us to embark on a hero’s journey. You don’t have to drive two hours to the desert and volunteer for our detention visitation program to embark on that journey. All that is required is that you look around your own world and see what is missing. The purpose of the hero’s myth, Karen Armstrong tells us, “is to help us to unleash our own heroic potential, to show us what we must do if we want to create a better world and how best to meet the challenges of our time.”

I write this about two weeks after another mass shooting in this country, this time at the navy yard in Washington, DC. For now we seem to have avoided going to war in Syria. Partisan politics are threatening to shut down our government. Many of us are concerned about the Keystone XL pipeline and its threat to the environment. There are countless issues to grab our attention. Rather than leave the comfort of home and embark on the hero’s journey, we’d rather stick close and take care of our own.

Taking the second step – look at your own world – doesn’t have to take us far. We need only look at how we treat our family, our friends and the members of our congregation to learn more about compassion. We need only look at what jobs we have, how we spend our money and what food we choose to eat to look deeply at our own practice of compassion.

I am grateful you have joined us on the journey.

*Lora*

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Rev. Lora keeps office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment. She is off on Mondays. To reach her, please email her at [minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org) or call her cell phone (214) 629-0405. Due to the volume of email she receives, it may take her several days to respond to an email. Rev. Lora takes an email Sabbath on Sundays and Mondays. Please feel free to call if you have a matter that needs immediate attention.

# President's Message



I'm in Fargo, North Dakota as I write this column, where I am visiting my 87-year-old father, Lewis Lubka. I love him very much and am joyful to be here spending time with him. I am also grieving over his failing health.

I know that I am not alone in my grief. We all deal with grief, sorrow, and struggle, for many reasons. That is an important reason our congregation is here. It provides care, hope, companionship, and renewal in times of need.

More than 30 years ago, I became a Unitarian Universalist and joined my first congregation here in Fargo. The Fargo church was filled with a spirit of hospitality that I still carry in my heart to this day. They gave me a spiritual home for which I will be forever thankful. In the years since then, my life has been transformed, and continues to be transformed. I've developed a deep feeling that we, you and I, are not just people who "do church" together – we are the church. We make it what it is. I am grateful for all my UU brothers and sisters who have made me feel not only welcome, but wanted. I hope you feel that compassionate embrace as well.

Our ideas and principles, programs and activities, services and ministries are all important. But I believe the experience of personal connection is the foundation. I believe all the great things our congregation can do, be, and mean starts with the feeling of belonging that we create together. This emotional experience is an essential, powerful way we carry out our mission of transforming individual lives.

I invite you to join me in a recommitment to being the congregation. To making sure that every visitor, newcomer, and long-time member knows that he or she is welcome, and wanted. To having the courage to reach out, form friendships, and be each other's keepers. To nurturing an environment in which each person's uniqueness is valued, where each of us is encouraged to strive and grow, and where none of us is alone during difficult times.

See you on Sunday!

**Willie**, [president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)

*Please Attend!*

**Special Fellowship Meeting**

October 13, 2013, 10:30am

Please arrange to attend this meeting to vote on adding a Leadership Cultivation Committee to our bylaws.



Justine Fischer,  
Director of  
Religious  
Education

# News From Religious Education

## OCTOBER RE

This year our focus is on compassion. We will be working through the 12 Steps of Compassion as outlined in the book *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong.

- 10/6/13— **Look at Your Own World-**  
overview
- 10/13/13— **Eleanor Roosevelt**
- 10/20/13— **The Goal of World**  
**Community**
- 10/27/13— **Wisdom from the World's**  
**Religions**

## MASK MAKING

We are trying something new. As we work through compassion for ourselves, all children (and any adults who would like to) will be making plaster mask casts of their faces (or hands, if the face is uncomfortable).

- November 3: Create Masks**  
We will **NEED** lots of adult **HELP** at the first service.  
ADULTS who would like to make a mask will meet at 1:30 -4:30 in Fellowship Hall
- November 10: Seal & Cover Masks**
- November 17: Decorate Masks**
- November 24: Mask Awakening**  
(children/youth only)

Visitors to RE during the month of November will have the opportunity to create masks out of other materials.

Please sign up with Justine in person or at [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org).

## MICOP

To practice our compassion, we continue our work with the Mixteco Indigena Comunidad Organization Proyecto (MICOP).

Please join us in the fun of creating crafts with kids. The schedule for the rest of 2013:

**Saturdays: October 26 & November 23, 3-6pm.**

**Saturday, December 14 is the Annual Fiesta (details to follow).**

(In October & November, we will carpool from CVUUF at 2pm to Harrington Elementary school in Oxnard.)

## KUDOS

...*the Rosen family* for sorting, cataloging (Library of Congress) and creating a database of our extensive children's library. Books are available to borrow from the Black Hole book shelves;

...*Tom Smith and Christie Cortez*, our newest OWL Facilitators

*For information regarding Religious Education, I can most easily be reached at [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org).*

*Yours in faith,*

*Justine*



## October Birthdays

Natalie  
Benic,  
Aidan del  
Bosque,  
Meagan  
Ealy,  
Sam  
Leppik,  
Leilani  
Olsen, and  
Ally Wolf.



AUCTION, AUCTION, AUCTION, *AUCTION* 🎵



Dust off your Nehru jackets and other 60s clothing  
and groove on over to our really cool annual auction  
**With A Little Help From My Friends**  
**Saturday, October 19 at 6pm!**

So far, there are only 94 items in the this year's catalog. Last year's auction had around 225 items. Not to worry, there is still time to donate! Go online, and click on the auction link at [cvuuf.org](http://cvuuf.org).

**October 6** Physical items for the auction or boutique can be brought to the Auction table in Fellowship Hall

**October 7** You can still donate but if you wish your donation to be in the Auction catalog, please enter it in by October 7.

Go online, and click on "Silent Auction" at [cvuuf.org](http://cvuuf.org). Login is in the upper right corner. Your password is your phone number (as listed in the directory) and your pin is the last 4 digits of your phone number.. If you can't log in or have any kind of issue, click on "Contact us."

A new feature is pre-bidding for items. Please do not bid lower than the suggested minimum bid. Also, please do not bid on fixed-price dinners as we don't want those sold out before the event. This pre-bidding allows folks unable to attend to bid on items up to the day before the auction.

Raffle tickets for an iPad, gift certificates for Target (\$100), Best Buy (\$100) and Trader Joe's (\$25) are on sale on Sundays and on the night of the auction. The cost is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. Try your luck!



# Community Forum

Friday, October 25, 2013, 7pm

## REPORTERO

### Is Journalism Worth Dying For?

*Reportero*, a documentary film by Bernardo Ruiz, takes a look at the risks journalists face working in Mexico. The film follows Tijuana based veteran journalist Sergio Haro and his colleagues at Zeta, an independent newsweekly, as they boldly cover the news under threat from Mexico's drug cartels.



The film will be followed by a facilitated discussion addressing the question: Is journalism worth dying for?

#### Community Forums are held at:

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



## Home to Stay Training #3

**SATURDAY - October 12, 2013 9:30am to 12:30pm**

CVUUF will host our third training for those interested in mentoring families who are determined to achieve and maintain economic and housing stability. Mentors will assist families in daily life skills of budgeting, planning, and nutrition. This program is a sponsored by Lutheran Social Services in partnership with local faith communities. For more information or RSVP, contact Annie Barker.



## October 5, 2013 9am Cal Lutheran's Kingsmen Park

This is a Lutheran Social Services fundraiser. The proceeds will go to those living below the poverty line in our community.

Donate, or register as a walker, online [here](#). Contact Annie Barker for more information.

### 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.

### Special Collection • October 6, 2013 Join The Move!

The headquarters for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is moving from its historic site to new facilities to better serve its member congregations. As one of those congregations, we are being asked to help in that move. Time to help our own.

Make your generous check payable to CVUUF with Join the Move noted in the memo.

### Manna Needs

Mac & Cheese

Top Ramen

Tuna

Juice Boxes

Jams & Jelly

Sugar & Flour

Tomato Products

Boxed Potatoes

Boxed Rice

Boxed Dinners



**Oct. 5**  
**DIGNITY**



**National Day**  
**& RESPECT**



**SATURDAY OCT. 5**

**Hollywood Blvd. & Western Ave**

**10:00 am**

**For More Information:**

**Rev. Lora Brandis**

**805-492-8751 or [minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org)**

**Join thousands across the country to  
tell CONGRESS to:**

**Make Our Dream of Immigration  
Reform a Reality in 2013!**

America **DEMANDS** immigration reform with legalization and citizenship **NOW!**  
**HALT DEPORTATIONS**, preserve **UNITY OF FAMILIES** and rights of workers, and  
**STOP MILITARIZATION** of the border. **TAKE A STAND WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!**



# WE are on the Side of Love

## DETENTION WITNESS

Detention Witness will pick up where the Friends of Adelanto visitation program left off. It exists to end the isolation of the men being detained at Adelanto Detention Facility. We currently have a list of over 50 men who wish to be visited. We expect this number to rise as other detainees hear of this program and ask for assistance.

*"Today I met with a man from Nigeria who came to the U.S. to seek asylum. He doesn't know a soul here. Once he crossed the border, he was placed in detention and has been there for 4 months."*

### PLEASE VISIT, OR...

Can you spend one day a month to drive out with a small group of friends to visit two of these men? The Adelanto facility has two visitation schedules, so one of them should match up with your busy life. You will be trained on the rules of the facility and suggested ways to interact with your visitor..

### PLEASE WRITE

If you are not able to visit, please consider writing to one of these men. You will be trained on methods to send and receive communication to/from the detainees.

For more information about Detention Witness, please speak with Gordon Clint or Liza Diniakos.

*"The man I met with in September was looking forward to his bond hearing and was hoping to be released. He has been in Adelanto since January 2013. I found out today that he is still in detention."*

### The New York Times

## New Orleans and U.S. in Standoff on Detentions

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON

NEW ORLEANS — The Orleans Parish sheriff will no longer honor many requests from the federal immigration authorities to detain people who are suspected of being here illegally, making New Orleans one of a growing number of jurisdictions to adopt such a policy and the first to do so in the Deep South. ....*more*

# WE are on the Side of Love

## UU Justice Trip to the Border

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry is hosting a Tijuana Border experience to explore these issues and others. **Friday afternoon, Oct. 25 through Monday afternoon, Oct. 28, 2013** beginning and ending at First UU Church San Diego.

The trip will be an experiential learning tour hosted by two Tijuana activists and two UULM Immigration Steering Committee members. Participants will visit the deportee drop center in Tijuana, Mother Asunta shelter, Desayunador a "soup kitchen" that serves breakfast to 1,100 people each day, visit with inspirational neighborhood organizers working to build up their communities, and attend the Sunday communion ceremony at the border wall at Friendship Park.

Discussions will include Congressional issues, Detention Center visitation programs, the economic issues that push and pull immigration and things that can be done to take the message home to continue to be a driving force in the fight for compassionate, comprehensive, immigration reform in the United States.

\$250 per person all inclusive room & board, programs, transport beginning and ending in San Diego.

For more information, contact Barbara Moore, UULM Immigration Steering Committee, [barbmoore1000@gmail.com](mailto:barbmoore1000@gmail.com)

*Some argue that "sealing the US-Mexico border" is necessary before the US offers a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants already here. What do the additional fences, drones, and guards mean to border communities? What happens to migrants deported to Tijuana who have family in the US? From faith communities to business leaders, many are building a movement that turns away from fear and fences and lifts up the beauty of the borderlands - cultural exchange, commerce and compassion.*  
~Lindi Ramsden

Ventura County Interfaith  
Community &  
Campus Interfaith  
6th Annual

## *Feast of Faiths*



hosted by

### **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

1201 Paseo Camarillo in Camarillo, CA 93010

**Sunday, October 20, 2013**  
**4 to 6pm**

*Children are welcome. Activities will be provided.  
A vegetarian option will be served.*

*Please RSVP by October 11, 2013*

*General admission: \$20 pre-registration, \$25 at  
the door*

*Students: \$5 pre-registration, \$10 at the door*

*Children under the age of 10 Free*

*Contact: (805) 312-1631 or [teri@terihelton.com](mailto:teri@terihelton.com)*

## **UU Church of Ventura Offers Retreat**

A retreat focusing on the teachings of Buddhist Nun Pema Chodron, based on her series of Dharma Talks, "Practicing Peace in Times of War," will take place on October 4 and 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura. The retreat, sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, teaches how to find inner peace as a way to create peace within the world. Pema Chodron's work will be explored through screenings of four of her presentations, with sharing and discussion facilitated by the Reverend David Pyle, Assistant Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, and by sitting and walking meditation.

Tea and water will be provided. Bring your own sack lunch on Saturday. Sitting meditation will be on chairs or you may provide your own sitting cushion and mat if you desire.

The retreat hours are Friday, October 4th from 6-9 pm, and on Saturday, October 5th from 9 am - 5 pm. All are welcome. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

For more information, contact Neal Ortenberg or The Unitarian Universalist Church (805) 644-3898 or [www.uuventura.org](http://www.uuventura.org).

## **The Multicultural Ministries Sharing Project**



The Multicultural Ministries Sharing Project consists of a comprehensive survey, and, later, focus groups, to help UU leaders and staff understand where we are now and what we need to be well-equipped to meet the ministry needs of UUs in the 21st century.

We need your help! Take the survey and spread the word! All those 13 and older with a UU affiliation who are LGBTQ, people of color, people with disabilities, or otherwise marginalized due to gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, race, and/or ethnicity are invited to participate.

The Sharing Project Survey is open now and **ends October 31, 2013**. Learn more and take the survey! [www.uua.org/sharingproject](http://www.uua.org/sharingproject)

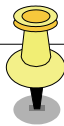


# October 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» Feeding Hands 7:30pm» Worship Committee 7:30pm» Community Forum Planning Committee	7pm» Chalice Circle Facilitators 7pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 7:30pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 10:30am» Children's Choir 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 12:30pm» Membership Committee 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/ discussion)	6:30pm» Finance Committee	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	7pm» Chalice Circle Facilitators 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	9:30am» Home To Stay Training 2:30pm» Emerald Covenant Group 7pm» Movie Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Special Fellowship Meeting 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 12:15pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/ discussion)	7pm» Women's Evening Group	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7pm» Music Ministry meeting	7pm» Chalice Circle Facilitators 7pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7pm» CVUUF Quilters & Crafters 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	8am» Auction prep & setup	6pm» Annual Auction
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 10:30am» Children's Choir 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Adult RE: Living Compassionately 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/ discussion) 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 9:45am» Gardenia Group	7pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 7:30pm» Meditation Group	5pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Movie Group 1 7:30pm» Community Forum	12pm» Chalice Players rehearsal 4pm» Chalice Players rehearsal
27	28	29	30	31		
9:15am» Worship Service 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/ discussion)	7pm» Women's Evening Group		7pm» Chalice Circle Facilitators 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal		





# CVUUF Image Policy

The following policy has been adopted in order to ensure the privacy of members while promoting the mission of the church.

- 1) Definitions
  - a) An image is any medium that visibly identifies a member (e.g. photo, video, or digital capture).
  - b) A photographer is a person taking an image.
- 2) Minors
  - a) Parental consent must be obtained to image minors.
  - b) Permission or opt-out will be indicated when enrolling minors in Religious Education.
  - c) Under no circumstances will identifying information be posted of minors.
- 3) Church services and events
  - a) An official photographer of any service or event will be designated by the Communications Director.
  - b) When a church service or event is to be imaged notice will be provided prior to the service or event, or posted in a visible location at the event.
  - c) Anyone wishing not to be imaged should notify the official photographer and his or her preference must be observed.
  - d) Anyone other than the official photographer wishing to take general photographs of a church service or event must obtain prior permission from the Communications Director for such photography. If the Communications Director is unavailable, either the President or Vice President may grant permission to photograph a CVUUF event.
- 4) Personal images
  - a) Parents are always welcome to take images of their own children for family use. Images of and for family do not fall under this church policy.
  - b) If a personal image includes another church member, the permission of that person must be obtained to post online.
- 5) Photo Removal Policy
  - a) Any individual who appears in an image (or whose minor children appear in an image) that has been posted online may request that it be removed for any reason.

# 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 ([map](#))  
805 492-8751  
[www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org)

### Staff

Rev. Lora Brandis, Minister, [minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org)  
Justine Fischer, Director of Religious Education, [dre@cvuuf.org](mailto:dre@cvuuf.org)  
Pam Van Uden, Religious Education Administrator  
Robin Swenson, Choir Director, [choirdirector@cvuuf.org](mailto:choirdirector@cvuuf.org)  
Jill Kitsuse-Fulton, Administrator, [admin@cvuuf.org](mailto:admin@cvuuf.org)

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Minister Emerita

### Board of Trustees 2013-2014

Willie Lubka, Board President, [president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)  
David Barker, Vice President  
Michael Teasdale, Secretary  
Terry Hinricher, Treasurer  
Laure McKinnon, Trustee At-Large  
Phoebe Rivera, Trustee At-Large  
Don Vernardos, Trustee At-Large



#### additional UU resource links:

[Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#)

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!*