



CVUUF News

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Upcoming Sunday Services

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Hines Sight | 2 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| RE News | 4 |
| Calendar | 9 |

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.

Other ways to
SHARE
information:

News & Notes (Sunday handouts/weekly email)
Email:
newsandnotes@cvuuf.org

Online Calendar
Fill out form at:
<http://www.cvuuf.org/calendar/request>

Facebook
www.facebook.com/CVUUF



May 3 — Unitarian Universalism: Religious Pluralism, or Just

“Loosy-Goosy?” — Rev. Anne Felton Hines — “But what do you believe?”

asks the non-Unitarian Universalist, and we try once again to explain; but even we find it difficult to define this old and diverse religious tradition of ours. Can we really believe anything we want? Is there any issue on which we all agree, absolutely? [This might be a good service to bring that friend of yours who you think “is a UU but doesn’t know it!”]

May 10 — Motherhood: No Laughing Matter — Rev. Anne Felton

Hines — On this Mothers Day, Reverend Anne will reflect on her evolving views of this day when we celebrate mothers and motherhood, and the gratitude she’s developed over the years for her own mother.

May 17 — Coming of Age Ceremony — Our youth are recognized as they

begin a faith journey into adulthood. Designed by the Coming of Age group, their service is always inspiring, hopeful and powerful.

May 24 — Hate the Wars, But Not the Warriors — Rev. Anne

Felton Hines — As people who may often oppose the wars our government promotes, how do we support the soldiers who fight those wars? How do we remain connected to them — their triumphs, and especially their tragedies?

May 31 — The Bottom Line — Rev. Dr. Nancy Holden — Rev. Holden

believes in stories and examples—she says all preachers know that by Sunday evening most people have forgotten whatever they heard on Sunday morning *except* the personal stories. This message is about the life of Nelson Mandela, one of the most gripping stories ever told. Through the saga of this story she searches for the most commanding of all his values, the prime factor that constituted his “bottom line.” Do we share that value—is that what keeps us coming back to this UU fellowship, to the principles we share? What is your bottom line, the most precious and vital of all your values? Hint: Rev. Holden believes this value is inherent in the human spirit, the one bedrock truth we are born with.

A community minister, Rev. Holden is affiliated with the UU Society of River Falls, WI, and is Chair of a nonprofit, “Coalition for a Compassionate Community.”

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 www.cvuuf.org/worship/audiosermons. Some can even be downloaded to your iPod.



Hines Sight

As I sit down to write this column, I've been thinking a lot about my younger sister, who lives with her husband in Middletown, CT. Just two days ago they moved out of the house they've lived in for the past 18 years – a wonderful old house into which they had poured much love, and in which they had spent many years raising my three delightful nephews and niece.

The weekend before the move, Judith posted on Facebook, "This house has warmly and lovingly wrapped its arms around us for a long time; wonderful memories are stored in these walls." Indeed, I have been grieving their move as well, as I have spent much time over the years with them in that house, and the memories still feed my spirit.

Letting go of things we have loved is part of life, of course. Sometimes it's the loss of a home that carries deep memories. Sometimes it's the loss of someone we have loved, or an important relationship, or a job that we found fulfilling. No matter what the loss, it involves a letting go that can cause a myriad of difficult emotions, which often we would prefer to ignore. But to ignore would be a mistake.

In my first sermon as your Consulting Minister, I pointed out that this congregation has experienced an unusual amount of loss this year, beginning with your Music Director when he had to re-locate last fall. Then the sudden resignation of your well-loved minister to return home to her family in February; and next month, your Religious Education Director, Justine Fischer, will be leaving after many years of service. That is a lot of loss – a lot of sadness – in one year, and it cannot be discounted.

In that same sermon, I quoted William Bridges, who works with organizations going through transitions. He suggests that every transition in our lives includes three stages, and that we must allow each stage its time if we are to move forward. The first of those stages is "letting go" – the need to acknowledge the loss we have experienced, the feelings associated with it, and then to let it go. It is, of course, the stage where most of the grief is felt, and therefore, the stage we may be tempted to gloss over. But that would be a mistake.

I know that my sister and brother-in-law will allow that first stage of transition its time, as they feel the grief of letting go of their old house, and begin creating in their new house a home that will store new memories.

Likewise, I have faith that you – the members of CVUUF – will allow yourselves the time and space needed to let go of your former precious relationships, so that you can emerge from the transition strong and joyful, ready to continue the ministry you are called to do.

I am honored and grateful to be invited to walk alongside you during this important time. Thank you.

Anne

Rev. Anne is off on Mondays, other than pastoral emergencies. She will generally be available for individual appointments and meetings at the Fellowship one day each week, in addition to the Sunday services when she is in the pulpit (60% of the time). Fridays will generally be her sermon-writing day for those weeks when she's in the pulpit.

Look for announcements in "News & Notes" regarding her weekly schedule; or e-mail (minister@cvuuf.org). You can also leave a message on the Fellowship answering machine.

PASTORAL CARE

CVUUF Neighborhood Networks are a way to connect in times of need with those of us living close enough to bring a dinner, give a ride, help with car troubles etc. To contact your neighborhood, send an email to: neighborhood@cvuuf.org. For more serious pastoral care please email pastoralcare@cvuuf.org.

President's Message



I'm pleased to announce that our Board and Rev Anne Hines have reached agreement that Anne will serve the congregation as full-time Interim Minister during the upcoming year of our ministerial search. Anne's current role as half-time Consulting Minister will extend to September 30. As of October 1, she'll be on board full-time as Interim Minister. Anne's experience, wisdom, and humor will be a great support to our community of faith during this transition period. She will keep us focused on the mission, the worship, and the ministry of this wonderful congregation.

The Board is hard at work planning a budget for fiscal year 2016, which begins on July 1, 2015 and laying groundwork for the following fiscal year, when we expect to call a new settled minister. A key date on the calendar is November 2015, when our Search Committee will publish a compensation offer for the next minister we hope to call to our congregation.

All members who want to learn more about our financials and budget plans are invited to a workshop on Saturday, May 9th, where we'll review reports for the current year and a draft budget for the next year (see page 8).

I'm also pleased to let you know that the board has retained an experienced consultant to help us grow in the area of stewardship and improve the funding of our ongoing programs. His name is Richard Felton. Richard is based in Pasadena and has a strong track record of helping congregations - including UU congregations. Richard is also Rev. Anne's brother. As a "friend of the family" he has agreed to provide his professional services at a generously discounted rate, and to accept a substantial portion of payment in the form of "consideration." Consideration could be things such as the use of a vacation property a member is willing to donate for this cause. If you are interested in helping our congregation by offering some type of consideration for this purpose, please contact me or our Treasurer, Terry Hinricher. Richard attended our Board meeting in April and is a tremendous resource. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to benefit from his experience and skills.

The Board and Rev Anne are also planning for the upcoming transition in our religious education program. Justine Fisher's last Sunday with us will be June 7. I hope you can be there to celebrate Justine and thank her for all she has given to our families and our community (see page 5). To help ensure a smooth transition, a Religious Education Committee is being recruited. Please let Rev. Anne know if you're interested in serving with this committee.

Our Leadership Development Committee is busy recruiting a team of candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee, which we will vote for at our Annual Meeting on June 14. When the slate of seven people is settled, we'll announce who they are so everyone can shower them with love and appreciation. The congregation did that abundantly during our last ministerial search. The ongoing expressions of support and gratitude from our members made the experience of being on the search committee ever more joyful and rewarding for its members.

As we all share the journey of building our path forward, church leaders are reading "Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change" by William Bridges. It's a terrific book and I encourage you to get a copy and read along with us.

As I look at the calendar for our Fellowship, it is inspiring to see all the things happening that touch the lives of our members and the people in the Conejo Valley. All of this is made possible by the presence, participation, and pledges of our members. Thank you for being a part of it.

See you on Sunday,

Willie, president@cvuuf.org



Justine Fischer,
Director of
Religious
Education
(DRE)

News From Religious Education

May is my last full month at CVUUF. My last Sunday is June 7 and the last day I will be answering email at dre@cvuuf.org is June 10. I will be away on Sunday, May 3, at the California State PTA Convention.

It seems bitter/sweet to have only a few weeks left with you at church. I've been the DRE for over 14 years and have been involved in RE for 24 years total. I am sad to leave. However, I am excited about the course ahead and the honor bestowed upon me on behalf of the children and families of California.

Unlike ministers, I can still be friended on Facebook and can be kept apprised of your challenges and successes. Facebook is probably the best way to communicate, as I will be traveling throughout California over the next 24 months.

There is much to do as we prepare for another transition. I know we can do it and do it well. We have done so before. Here is something we need to make the transition smoother:

Summer RE: We need 3-4 people to plan, coordinate and nurture our elementary children through the summer. The program and children will need supportive and caring adults until the position of DRE is resettled. Please consider helping as we transition. Liza Diniakos has already agreed to help, thank you Liza, but she can't do it alone!

If you would like to volunteer or ask questions regarding Religious Education, I can most easily be reached at dre@cvuuf.org.

Yours in faith,
Justine

MAY RE

Pre K/K, 1-4th grade and 5th-8th grade meet during the first service and YRUU (high school) meets during the second service. Child Space is available for our smallest ones at both services.

Our theme this month is **Harmony** and we also will focus our attention on earth centered traditions as our source.

MAY 31 FUN DAY!!!

Sunday, May 31, it's party day in RE. **We could use a few extra hands.** We will be playing party games, doing crafts and loading up on sugar.

COMING OF AGE

Our annual service will be held on Sunday, May 17 at both the first and second service. For more information about COA contact Dana Ryon or Erik Halseth

KUDOS

...to *Sioe Han* for helping with the children's books and supplies; *Liza Diniakos* for helping transition into summer programming.



May Birthdays

Sacha del
Bosque, Kai
Diesing,
Wynona
Goddard,
Dylan Rosen,
Griffin
Smith, Ivy
Venardos
and
Benjamin
Damerell.

JUSTINE CELEBRATION

Sunday, June 7, 2015

With deep gratitude we will say farewell to our beloved DRE, Justine Fischer, as she ventures on to a full-time volunteer position as the President of the California PTA. Please join us in celebration of Justine's 14 years of ministry as our Director of Religious Education:

9:15am – Worship Service – Bridging Ceremony for all youth
10:15am – Special Presentation to Justine from the Congregation
10:45am – Celebration in Fellowship Hall

(Note: There will be only one worship service that morning.)

JUSTINE GIFT TEAM

Tom Stough, Tom Smith and Liza Diniakos will be taking donations for Justine's parting gift. Checks can be made payable to the Fellowship. Donations can also be given to Jessica Lesko, Church Administrator, or can be placed in the mailbox outside of the Church Administrator's office. Questions? Please speak with a member of the Gift Team.

Sunday, May 3rd, we will have the opportunity to contribute to a special fund set up by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), to offer **earthquake relief to the people of Nepal**.

In their appeal, UUSC/UUA have written: "As always, our focus will be on those groups most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts:

- Women and girls will be at grave risk of gender-based violence and discrimination, issues that are already prevalent in Nepal.
- The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities will be especially vulnerable to discrimination.
- Dalits and indigenous groups that are traditionally the target of appalling social discrimination are likely to be cast aside as relief supplies and services begin arriving in-country.
- Roughly 4 million people who live in Nepal without recognized citizenship will have difficulty getting the help they desperately need.
- The elderly and people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS are also likely targets for discrimination and abuse."

You can also donate online at uus.org or [use this link](#).

In gratitude for your generous spirit..
Reverend Anne

• Special
Collection •
May 17, 2015
MANNA

Make your check payable to
CVUUF, and note
"MANNA" in the memo.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2015 UUA General Assembly

BUILDING A NEW WAY

June 24-28, 2015

Are You Going?

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. General Assembly locations change each year so that the event is available to as many of us as possible. Oregon is as close as it is going to get for the next few years, so if your interest has been raised, it is hoped that you will consider attending this valuable and meaningful gathering. **We would like to know if you are attending, please contact Liza Diniakos, CVUUF (ADR) Association District Representative.**

The Ware Lecturer will be Dr. Cornel West, known to most as “a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual.” Dr. West alone is worth the cost of the ticket.

Assembly registration (including scholarships, offsite participation, single-day options and child rates) is detailed at www.uua.org/ga/registration.



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST District News

PSWD SUMMER CAMP NEWS

Counselor In Training Program, July 5-11 (Counselor leadership training program for ages 15-18)

Our Counselor-In-Training program strives to pair quality training with an intensive camp experience. The training provides our participants with some serious skills that they will not only be able to apply to their camp staff experience, but also as leaders in their service to our congregations and communities.

Space is limited to 8 selected participants. A formal CIT application will be sent upon receipt of deposit and registration. All applications must be in by May 19 to qualify for consideration. Final acceptance notification will be made by June 1, 2014.

Cost: \$325 (no early-bird pricing available). A \$75 deposit is required to register, and an email application is sent upon receipt of registration.

The Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association supports 50 congregations in Arizona, southern California, and southern Nevada. This and six other districts comprise the Pacific Western Region of the UUA. Find out more, pswduua.org.

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."

Indiana UU Churches Respond to "Religious Freedom Restoration Act"



UU Church of Bloomington, All Souls Church Indianapolis & First Unitarian Church of Hobart

Our Indiana UU friends are acting against this bill by writing letters to the press, public witness, advocacy calls to elected officials, and relationship building with local LGBTQ equity groups.

Some churches are joining Open4Service.org, a statewide campaign in Indiana., which was created in response to the Indiana bill. It will sell stickers that Indiana businesses can display to show their support of tolerance.

Open4Service.org's purpose:


"We don't have any agenda. We're not interested in talking about businesses practicing discrimination; we're promoting businesses that practice acceptance and tolerance of everyone!

We don't plan on having a staff, or office location, or huge overhead. We want to build an expanding nationwide network of open-minded organizations, companies, and business owners recognition for doing the right thing."

CIVIC and Detainee Friends Project Present the

Direct Support Fund Silent Auction and Reception

Family Friendly Event!
Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and Music



CIVIC
end isolation

Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church
2845 Mesa Verde Drive East, Costa Mesa, California

Sunday May 17th
3PM-6PM

Donations Gladly Accepted

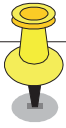
CIVIC is Fighting to End the Isolation and Abuse
of Men, Women and Children in U.S. Immigration Detention

The Direct Support Fund is a National Program,
Which Provides Grants to People in Immigration
Detention and Their Loved Ones

Can't Make it to Orange County?

View Auction Items at endisolation.org/auction
and Call in Your Bid on May 17th between 3-6PM
719-207-3699

Or Donate Directly at endisolation.org/directsupport



Church Financials Workshop

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 1pm

The Board of Trustees and Finance Committee invite all members to a church financials workshop on Saturday, May 9, starting at 1:00pm in our Sanctuary. Topics will include a review of the most recent financial reports for the current fiscal year, and the draft budget currently under development for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2015. The workshop is intended for any member with any level of proficiency or experience with financial reports. Questions and suggestions will be welcomed!

~Willie Lubka, Board President

Look who's been reading her *UU World*!

*Peter Farriday - a member of the fellowship; renewed pledge last month - has been granted Preliminary Fellowship. Reference page 44 in current **UU World** (Spring). Maybe we could congratulate him in the newsletter?*

~Margaret Kirnig

Little did she know but Peter didn't forget to invite us!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Clarita Valley cordially invites you to celebrate the ordination of CVUUF member **Peter Farriday** into Unitarian Universalist ministry.

(No RSVP is needed.)

May 17, 2015

4:00pm

UU Church of Studio City

12355 Moorpark St.,

Studio City, CA 91604



May 2015



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours | 9:30am» Citizens Climate Lobby |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:15am» Worship Service 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Membership Committee Meeting 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting | 6:30pm» Finance Committee 7pm» Mental Health First Aid Training (2 of 4) 7:15pm» Opal Covenant Group | 6pm» Feeding Hands | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Mental Health First Aid Training (3 of 4) 7:30pm» Meditation Group | 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7pm» special Board meeting 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours | 1pm» Church Financials Workshop 2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting | 7pm» Mental Health First Aid Training (4 of 4) 7pm» Women's Evening Group 7:30pm» Drop-in Book Club | 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees Meeting 7:15pm» Chalice Circle 2Tu | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 12:30pm» Chalice Circle 3W 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Climate Action Team meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group | 7pm» Sapphire group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours | 11am» Neighborhood Networks Leader meeting |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:15am» Worship Service 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:20pm» LCC Meeting 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 7pm» Chalice Circle 3M 7pm» Escalating Inequality | 7:15pm» Chalice Circle 3Tu 7pm» Music Ministry Meeting 7:30pm» Worship Ministry Team | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 12:30pm» Chalice Circle 3W 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group | 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal | 7:30pm» Movie Group 1 | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting | 7pm» Women's Group | 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» Chalice Circle 4Tu | 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Facilitators Chalice Circle 7:30pm» Meditation Group | 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| 9:15am» Worship Service 10:20am» Neighborhood Network DOT Sunday 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Membership Committee 5pm» Newcomer AA 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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Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Minister Emerita

Board of Trustees 2014-2015

Willie Lubka, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
David Barker, Vice President
Michael Teasdale, Secretary
Terry Hinricher, Treasurer
Laure McKinnon, Trustee At Large
Karina Leppik, Trustee At Large
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Like us

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!