



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

Rev. Lora	2
President's Message	4
RE News	5
Outreach Director	6
Calendar	10

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

Email: newsandnotes@cvuuf.org

Weekly e-Announcements

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

Online Calendar

Fill out form at: cvuuf.org/calendar/request

Facebook

Email: minister@cvuuf.org



The theme for September is "Circle of Life." Grounded in our sixth principle, we'll explore what it means to celebrate the sacred circle of life and to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Main reading: *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture* by Mary Pipher.

September 7 — For the Beauty of the Earth — Rev. Lora Brandis & Justine Fischer, DRE — It is our tradition to celebrate Ingathering — the first Sunday after Labor Day and the beginning of the church year — with a ritual celebration of one of the four elements. This year's element is earth. Please bring a small amount of earth from a place that holds significant meaning for you as we begin the year together gathered in as one body celebrating the beauty of the earth.

September 14 — People of the Books — Rev. Lora Brandis — The term "People of the Book" generally refers to the Abrahamic religions, meaning those who follow a revealed scripture. Because we draw from many sources upon which to build the foundation of our faith, Unitarian Universalists could say that we are a "people of the books." As such, our focus in worship and religious education for 2014-15 will be a yearlong study of the many books that can influence our faith journeys and help us more clearly define ourselves as Unitarian Universalists.

September 21 — Living in Harmony with Nature — Rev. Lora Brandis — Psychologist Mary Pipher writes, "The trauma of our personal lives and the rapidity of the deterioration of our planet are deeply connected." Yet, if we focus on convincing people of the dire nature of our situation without offering tangible solutions, the trauma would only fester and does not heal. Our sixth principle offers hope during a time when hope is what is needed most.

September 28 — Restringing the Beads — Rev. Michael Eselun — Popular guest speaker and oncology chaplain Michael Eselun will explore our relationship to our own stories and how we use them in the attempt to make spiritual sense of our lives.

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



Muusings from Reverend Lora

People of the Books: Towards a Unitarian Universalist Identity

People new to Unitarian Universalism often ask me, "Is there a book?" Is there just one book they can read that would explain what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Is there one, holy book like other religions have? We neither have one book nor one defining story of our people to share with new members. We have six sources. We are a people of many books.

The term "People of the Book" generally refers to the Abrahamic religions meaning those who follow a revealed scripture. There are nuanced definitions of the term from Muslims, Jews and Christians that use the term to specifically define their own religion. Because we draw from many sources upon which to build the foundation of our faith, Unitarian Universalists could say that we are a "people of the books." As such, the theme for the 2014-15 year will be a yearlong study of the many books that can influence our faith journeys and help us more clearly define ourselves as Unitarian Universalists.

My intention is to focus mostly on books written by UUs or included in what might be called the UU "canon," so I have also included books published by Beacon Press and Skinner House Books and books that have inspired me and other UUs on our continued faith journeys. I received input from the Creative Arts Worship Team (Claudia Barton, Mary Ellen Bruskotter, Casey Dake, DRE Justine Fischer and Merlin Snider) and our librarian Sylvia Flores Johnson. You don't have to read all of the books to follow along this year, but you may want to hang on to the list on page 3 as a bibliography that could be added on to as you grow in your faith.

If you want to go even further with this idea you can join in on social media by using the hashtag #UUReads. Beacon Press is launching a new way for UUs to discover great titles, both new and old. The first Friday of every month Beacon will recommend a title for UU readers on social media using the hashtag #UUReads. To see the month's recommendation just follow them on Twitter, like them on Facebook, or search using the hashtag #UUReads. I encourage you to join in the conversation on our Facebook page by discussing any of the books you are reading and using the hashtag.

As we always do, we'll tie the theme into worship, religious education for youth and adult religious education. The chalice circles will also be following the theme this year. Justine and I have identified a theme for each month and connected it to one of the six sources. One main book is suggested each month with additional reading for those of you feeling really ambitious. In addition, beginning in October, I'll be offering a class to view and discuss "The Long Strange Trip," a six-part film series detailing the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought from the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each film is approximately one hour in length and is Close-captioned. A discussion will be facilitated after each film, shown on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary according to the following schedule (please note that these are not consecutive dates):

- Wednesday, October 8th 7pm Part I: In the Beginning (0 CE – 1553 CE)
- Wednesday, October 15th 7pm Part II: The Birth of Unitarianism (1553 - 1794)
- Wednesday October 29th 7pm Part III: American Unitarianism (1620 - 1860)
- Wednesday November 5th 7pm Part IV: Universalism (1600 - 1860)
- Wednesday November 12th 7pm Part V: Evolution (1861 - 1961)
- Wednesday December 3rd 7pm Part VI: Unitarian Universalism

Feel free to drop in at any time to learn more about a part of our history you have always been curious about. It is not necessary to register for the class or attend each session. Come and join in the discussion and find out about how the history of Unitarian Universalism informs your own personal faith history.

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.

People of the Books: Towards a Unitarian Universalist Identity

2014-2015 Study Guide

September: *Circle of Life*

Source: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Main reading: *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture* by Mary Pipher

Additional: *Sources of Our Faith: Inspirational Readings*, Kathleen Rolenz

The Sustainable Soul: Eco-Spiritual Reflections and Practices, Rebecca James Hecking

October: *Justice*

Source: Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Main reading: *A People So Bold, Theology and Ministry for Unitarian Universalists*, J G Millspaugh

Additional: *Social Action Heroes: Unitarian Universalists Who Are Changing the World*, M B Deakin

November: *Reason*

Source: Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Main reading: *Reason and Reverence, Religious Humanism for the 21st Century* by William R. Murry

Additional: *Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life*, W R Murry

December: *Transcendence*

Source: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

Main reading: *Prairie Soul, Finding Grace in the Earth beneath My Feet* by Jeffrey A. Lockwood

Additional: *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver

January: *Beloved Community*

Source: (see October).

Main reading: *The Selma Awakening* by Mark Morrison-Reed

Additional: *"In a Single Garment of Destiny": A Global Vision of Justice* by Martin Luther King Jr.

February: *Renewal*

Source: (see December).

Main reading: *Walden, Lessons for the New Millennium* by Henry David Thoreau (introduction and annotations by Bill McKibben)

Additional: *Thoreau as Spiritual Guide: A Companion to Walden for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion*, Barry M. Andrews

March: *Wisdom*

Source: Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

Main reading: *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith

Additional: *American Veda*, by Philip Goldberg
If You're Lucky, Your Heart Will Break: Field Notes from a Zen Life, by James Ishmael Ford

April: *Liberal Theology*

Source: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Main reading: *Freethinking Mystics with Hands* by Tom Owen-Towle

Additional: *Children of the Same God:: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam*, by Susan J. Ritchie

The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology, by Forrest Church

May: *Harmony*

Source: (see September).

Main Reading: *Drawing Down the Moon, Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers, and Other Pagans in America Today* by Margot Adler

Additional: *In Nature's Honor, Myths and Rituals Celebrating the Earth* by Patricia Montley

June: *Courage*

Source: (see November).

Main reading: *The Whole World Kin, Darwin and the Spirit of Liberal Religion* by Fredric Muir, editor

Additional: *Good Without God* by Greg Epstein

July: *Authority*

Source: (see April).

Main reading: *Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism* edited by Kathleen Rolenz and Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism edited by Leah Hart-Landsberg and Marti Keller

Additional: *If Yes Is the Answer, What Is the Question?* by George Kimmich Beach

August: *Prophetic Imperative*

Source: (see March).

Main reading: *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* by Paul Rasor (the UUA common read for 2014-2015)

Additional: *Stories in Faith: Exploring Our UU Principles and Sources Through Wisdom Tales* by Gail Forsyth-Vail

President's Message



Friends,

Although our fiscal year begins in July, our church year takes off in September, starting with our Annual Ingathering Service. The new thematic focus Rev Lora and DRE Justine Fisher are launching assures us of another year of deepening and transformation. Outreach programs fueled by the passion of our members are blooming. Chalice Circles will be starting soon. It's an exciting time to be in our beloved community.

Leadership Retreat: The Board and Council are kicking off the new year with a retreat in mid-September, strengthened with fresh energy from newly elected Trustee Karina Leppik (see page 7) and incoming Communication Director Jake Holland. Our goal is to finish a new strategic plan, which we will share with you.

Emergency Response Planning: Operations Director, Bart Allen, Parish Nurse, Judy Blades, and I are registered for a training session on Thursday, September 18 called "Preparing to Respond...Preparing to Recover: Developing Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship" sponsored by several agencies, including the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

Leadership Training (page 7): On Sunday, October 19, after the second service, our Leadership Cultivation Committee is holding a leadership training workshop. The workshop is not intended just for people serving in leadership positions – it's for anyone who wants to learn about how the congregation is managed and operated. Come to learn.

Annual Auction (page 8): The party of the year is happening on Saturday, November 15th! Every member and friend is encouraged to be involved in this important fundraiser and gathering of our community. Please be there and bring friends & family; obtain community donations; donate personal items, services, or events; volunteer to help at the event. Speak with a member of the Auction Team to find out more—Jo Ann Van Reenan, Christina Houlberg, April Fernald, or Jenny Schiape.

Finance Workshops: On Saturday, December 6 at 1:00pm, our Finance Committee and Board will hold a workshop to review our financial status. Another similar workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2015. All members are welcome to attend, ask questions, and offer suggestions. At the Annual Meeting in June, our congregation adopted a budget, which if achieved, will balance income and expenses this year. These finance workshops have been scheduled in advance of the mid-year and annual congregational meetings, to provide opportunity to learn details of how and what we are doing financially.

Mid-year and Annual Meetings: It's not too early to plan for attending our mid-year meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 10:45am. The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, June 15, 2015, also at 10:45.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for our congregation and our commitment to justice and compassion. Thank you for being here. See you on Sunday,

Willie, president@cvuuf.org

Ingathering
Sunday, September 7th

Our Ingathering element this year is earth. Please bring a small amount of earth back from your travels, summer visits, beach trips or home for our ritual during both services on the 7th of September.



Justine Fischer,
Director of
Religious
Education
(DRE)

News From Religious Education

2014-20145 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.

Over the 2014-2015 year, each month we will focus on a theme and a source of the Unitarian Universalist Faith. In September our theme is Circle of Life (nature). We will also be focusing on the spiritual teachings of earth-centered religions.

Ingathering, Sunday, September 7, 2014, is an intergenerational service. There is no Children's RE on this day. Classes will begin again on September 14, 2014.

MIXTECO INDIGINA COMMUNIDAD ORGANIZATION PROYECTO (MICOP)

September 27: Each month we provide a craft for the children of our local farmworkers while their parents attend a meeting. It's usually from 2-5 at Drifill Elementary School in Oxnard.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

Our Religious Education Program relies on the time and talent of our congregation. We are still in need of two nurturers for the coming year. We need one more nurturer in grades 1-4 and another in grades 5-8. *For information regarding Religious Education, I can most easily be reached at dre@cvuuf.org.*

*Yours in faith,
Justine*



September Birthdays

Jack
Castillo,
Dexter Cho
Miller,
Marley
Fleming,
Emma
Halseth,
Tally Heys,
Calista
Loter, Liam
McGregor,
Anna Rasnow
and Jackie
Rosen.

Who:	Grades K – 6
When:	Sundays 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Beginning September 7th
Where:	Upstairs in PreK/K RE Room (the piano room)
What:	Children's Choir Practice

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We invite our children to continue the exploration of this year's 'People of the Books' themes through music!!! Join us as we prepare songs of "justice," "courage," "wisdom," "beloved community," and more, for performance at selected Sunday services. We will also learn as we play with musical concepts and vocal technique. For more information, please contact Randall Edwards.

News From Our Outreach Director



Through Outreach we take what we care most about out into the community. What is it that lights you up and stirs your soul? Talk to me, and let's see what we can do.

Feeding Hands—Tuesday, September 2, 2014—Your help is always welcome as a cook, server or companion. We have been providing a wonderful meal for about 100 guests. Any and all who want to be involved are greatly appreciated.

Mindful Eating—Sunday, September 7, 2014—The Fellowship Hour Hospitality Table will be hosted by the group. A field trip is in the works for Sunday, September 28th. Stay tuned for details.

Climate Action Team (CAT) —Tuesday, September 9, 2014—John Brooks, Senior Analyst in the City of Thousand Oaks Public Works, will be here to meet with us and discuss the City of Thousand Oaks environmental plans. It should be a very interesting, informative meeting and a good time to pop in and see what this new, dynamic group is up to. In November Climate Action will be hosting a Community Forum with Dr. Helen Cox from CSUN presenting “Thinking of Going Solar? Everything You Need to Know”.

Community Forum—

Friday, September 12, 2014—Peter Mathews, author of “Dollar Democracy,” critiques but also provides solutions that will bring Liberty and Justice for All, and will help the bottom 99% of Americans Reclaim the American Dream and make it a Reality once again! Sponsored by Income Inequality Study Group.

Saturday, September 20, 2014—“AT THE FLASH” - A captivating new play written by Sean Chandler and David Leeper about the history of the last five decades as seen through the lives of the denizens of one gay bar. We are proud to be presenting this brilliant drama for one night only. Admission is FREE. Donations gratefully accepted.

CAT Beach Clean-Up Day—Saturday, September 20, 2014—For details, please email the Climate Action Team at cat@cvuuf.org.

Income Inequality Study Group—Monday, September 29, 2014—Launched last month, this group will meet on the last Monday of each month. If you are interested in exploring this very troubling growing dynamic in the US, please stop in.

Kristine Olsen, a 2011 Community Forum presenter, is participating in and asks for your support for:

Alive And Running
Sunday, September 28, 2014
Walk/Run 5K for Suicide Prevention

Contact Kristine for more information.

MANNA NEEDS

Granola/Fruit
Bars
Dry Rice
Tomato Sauce
& Paste
Juice Boxes
Pancake Mix .

Ramen
Mac & Cheese
Toilet Paper
Pasta Sauce
Shampoo &
Conditioner



GETTING TO KNOW...

Karina Leppik

Karina Leppik may be new to CVUUF, but she is no stranger to Unitarian Universalism. In fact, Karina is a fifth generation Unitarian and recently learned that her great-great grandfather was a Unitarian minister in Boston.

Karina grew up in Minneapolis and was involved in her fellowship there as a teenager. She was the editor of the Prairie Star District youth newspaper and was also involved in the district youth steering committee and held the young adult chair in the planning committee.

Before she and her family moved to Southern California, Karina was President of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ohio.

Karina currently works as Mission Director for a NASA airborne observatory. In her previous life, she has held such varied jobs as high school Physics teacher, researcher by way of babysitting a telescope in the South Pole, and running a food bank in Ohio. She enjoys camping, hiking, traveling and singing. Her 3-year-old son, Sam, also keeps her busy.

One of the aspects that Karina finds special about CVUUF is its welcoming atmosphere. No new visitor to the fellowship leaves without having someone to welcome them. The key, she says, is that it is not only the welcoming committee that greets the newcomers, but that members of the congregation make an effort to introduce themselves and engage visitors in conversation at coffee hour.


Karina is currently involved in our congregation serving on the Board as Trustee At Large. We are excited to have her in our CVUUF family. Please welcome Karina!

Training for Leaders (and Wanna Be's)

How does CVUUF work? How are we governed? What's the budget like? What are our policies and procedures?

If you are a current leader or think you would like to be, please attend this two-hour session on Sunday, October 19th after the second service in the Board Room. New Board member Karina Leppik will facilitate this discussion. Bring a sandwich and we'll provide drinks and childcare (if needed). If you would like to attend, please notify Jo Ann Van Reenan.





SAVE THE DATE!!
Dig out your Bobby Socks
& Rock 'n Roll!

CVUUF
Annual Auction
November 15, 2014
6pm

“I’ve heard the...

BOUTIQUE TABLE will have a Kitchen theme, include a bake sale, homemade goods, and vintage kitchen items. They are hoping to get donations of baked items, homemade jars of jams and salsas, and kitchen items from linens to dishes.

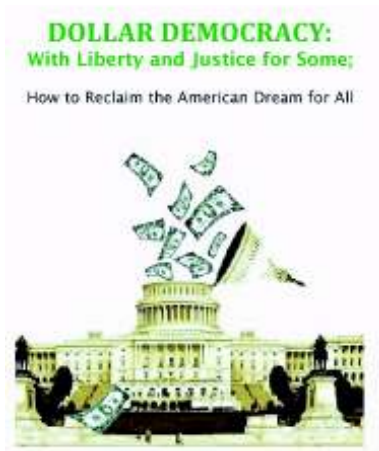
ONLINE SITE IS UP! Go to www.cvuuf.org/auction and click on **Login** in the upper right corner. You’ll find ways to get up and running; please donate items or services, volunteer for the evening, and definitely ATTEND!!!



Community Forum

Dollar Democracy

Friday, September 12, 2014, 7:30pm



Author/Educator Peter Mathews discusses his new book on money in politics, its negative effects on our lives, and how to change it.

Corporate & money-bought politicians have voted to benefit their donors, not the American public. Decisions that led to: outsourcing good middle class jobs; dismantling our public education system through college; deteriorating health care that leaves Americans in danger, sick and broke; destroying our environment; polluting of our food through deregulation of Big

Agribusiness, pesticide use and the proliferation of Genetically Modified (GMO) foods; the crash of Wall Street and the Great Recession, from which the bottom 99% of Americans have not yet recovered, while the super wealthy top 1% are doing just fine!

SPECIAL THEATRICAL EVENT!

At The Flash

Saturday, September 20, 2014, 7:30pm



At The Flash is a captivating new play written by Sean Chandler and David Leeper about the history of the last five decades as seen through the lives of the denizens of one gay bar. We are proud to be presenting this brilliant drama for one night only!

Community Forums are free, but donations are appreciated!

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

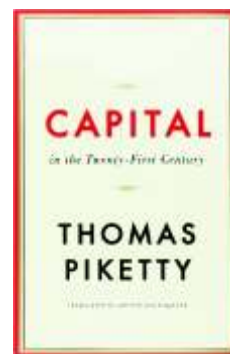


PSWD Annual Cluster Retreat Camp deBenneville Pines September 26 to 28, 2014

It's that time again! Actually, we are a little late, so we really have to get moving! If you have been on this retreat before, you know want to go back! If you haven't been to our annual retreat in deBenneville Pines, it is something that you truly need to experience! Beautiful locale, a lake, hiking, community, food ;-) and other wonderful activities. If you have an idea of something that you would like to share for programming, please contact Dana with your ideas. Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall, or you can email our Camp Registrar, Jake, directly to have one emailed to you. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask! All are welcome!

ESCALATING INEQUALITY STUDY GROUP Monday, September 29, 2014, 7:00 - 8:30pm

The UUA at the 2014 General Assemble voted to create a (CSAI) Congregational Study/Action Issue on Escalating Inequality.
We are using the book "Capital in the 21st Century" by T Piketty, for study and discussion.
Please read through Part One.
Contact: Michael Teasdale.



CVUUF Welcomes You!

People come to our congregations in many ways.

- *Some research carefully, devouring every word on a congregation's website before entering the building.*
- *Some are drawn in by a newspaper story or an event poster, and decide to come and check the congregation out.*
- *Some have been wounded in their former faith communities and seek a community more in line with their values and theology.*
- *Some have never belonged to any faith community, and are longing for spirituality and community.*
- *Some seek religious education for their children and youth that teaches strong values while allowing for theological diversity.*
- *Some want to be part of a faith community that believes social justice work is at the heart of what it means to be religious.*
- *Others long for worship that moves their spirits and engages both heart and mind.*

All of these people, and many more, come to the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hungry for what we offer. Whether you are new to UU, a lifelong UU, member or visitor, we welcome you. We're glad you came, and hope you will spend some time getting to know us and getting involved in the work that we do towards our mission.

Please join us on **October 7, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm** at CVUUF for our **New UU**

Class. This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and CVUUF and a great preparation for membership. In a small group setting you will spend time with our minister covering the historical roots of our denomination, our beliefs and principles, and personal spiritual journeys. Please RSVP to Annie Barker at membershipdirector@cvuuf.org

On Sunday, January 11th, 2015 we will induct all new members who sign the book between July 2014 and January 2015 at the 9:15 am service.

Welcome Jason Hall, April Shiflet, Venessa Griffith, Alice Jordan, Rita Buckley, Liz Sidener, Eric Mirabelli, Susan Anderson and Chuck Thomas our newest members inducted in June 2014!



\$400 Annually, Thank You!

September is the annual re-enrollment in Ralphs Community Rewards Program.

NEW ENROLLMENTS:

In Fellowship Hall, locate the Ralphs flyer with the enrollment barcode. Take the flyer the next time you market and have the barcode scanned with your purchase.

OR RE-ENROLLMENTS:

- Log in to www.ralphs.com
- Click **Sign In**
- Enter your email address and password
- Click **My Account**
- Click **Account Settings**
- View all your information and edit as necessary
- Re-enroll your card to our organization:
 - Find **Community Rewards**
 - Click **Edit**
 - Under **Find Your Organization**, enter **80805**

Library Receives Gift of 55 Books

The Church of the Larger Fellowship sadly had to dismantle their library when they moved to their new location in Boston. Fifty-five items of their 900 book collection have found a new home at CVUUF. Many thanks to Arlene Bloom for donating the shipping charges.

These and others of our 1700 plus titles can be accessed at the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Library Catalog [online at: www.cvuuf.org/library](http://www.cvuuf.org/library) by keyword, subject, author and title. Questions, donations, or title recommendations may be referred to our librarian, Sylvia Flores Johnson at library@cvuuf.org.





Supporting Spiritual Growth through Reflection, Connection and Service

Registration begins for our 2014-2015 Chalice Circles on Sunday, September 7th.

Lead by trained facilitators, Chalice Circles are small groups of 8 to 10 people that meet monthly for a finite number of sessions. They are designed to give participants an opportunity to get to know each other while developing deeper self-knowledge. Through the spiritual practices of deep listening, authentic sharing and respectful silence, Chalice Circles affirm and promote our third UU principle - acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.

Every Chalice Circle reflects upon the same topic each month to create opportunities for congregation wide reflection. During the year the members of each Chalice Circle create and complete one service project together to serve the congregation or the wider community.

Groups form anew each church year to help develop wider connections over time. Come share your stories! Look for more information about the Chalice Circles to be distributed at the Program table in Fellowship Hall on September 7, 14, and 21. The program will begin in October and run through June 2015.

Contact Carol Flanagan at ChaliceCircles@cvuuf.org for more information.

New Women's Group

The **Orchid Women's Group** (formerly Gardenias 2) has begun meeting at 9:45am on the 2nd Friday of each month. We meet at member's homes with the September meeting at Valarie Neel's home. Come and check us out, we welcome new members and those who would like a smaller group. Contact Valarie for more details.



2015 Women's Retreat

The 2015 Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Women's Retreat is scheduled for March 13-15, 2015 and now is the time to register. The weekend is a great opportunity to renew your spirit and deepen connections with women in the congregation.

Camp de Benneville Pines is a beautiful UU mountain retreat located in the San Bernadino Mountains. The group will gather for fellowship and themed discussions. There will be music, creative expression through art and personal time for hiking or other recreation.

To sign up simply fill out a registration card and drop your name into the box labeled **Women's Retreat**, available in the Fellowship Hall from September 7 until October 12 at 12:15pm. A lottery will be held if interest exceeds available space. Last year we were able to accommodate everybody who wanted to attend, in spite of an initial waiting list. The cost to participate in the retreat is \$160, which includes meals and study materials.

Jill Schlaus will be organizing the event and is available for any questions or additional information. Look for the sign-up box and don't miss out.



Friends,
Merlin Snider and I were fortunate enough to attend the UUMN conference in San Diego this past July. We networked with many UU composers, music directors, conductors, and performers from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Merlin even performed for the Variety Show!

We also had six sessions of sight singing through packets of new music. We are bringing back songs and many new ideas for incorporating music in our worship and RE programs.

Stay tuned!

~ Randall Edwards





September 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm» Finance Committee	2 6pm» Feeding Hands	3 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:15pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	4 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	5 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	6
7 9:15am» Worship Service 10:25am» Children's Choir Rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15» Auction Planning Committee 12:30pm» Membership Committee Meeting 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	8 7pm» Women's Evening Group	9 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm» Drop-In Book Club	10 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	11 7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	12 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Community Forum	13 2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
14 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	15	16 7pm» Music Ministry Meeting	17 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	18 7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	19 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	20 8pm» Community Forum—AT THE FLASH!
21 9:15am» Worship Service 10:25am» Children's Choir Rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 7pm» Women's Evening Group	23 9:45am» Gardenia Group	24 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	25 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	26 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 12pm» Channel Islands Cluster Retreat 7:30pm» Movie Group1	27
28 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	29 7pm» Income Inequality Study Group	30				

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

Staff

Rev. Lora Brandis, Minister, minister@cvuuf.org
Justine Fischer, Director of Religious Education, dre@cvuuf.org
Pam Van Uden, Religious Education Administrator
Robin Swenson, Choir Director, choirdirector@cvuuf.org
Jessica Lesko, Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org
Eliseo Zavala, Custodian

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
Don Vernardos, Trustee At Large



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!