



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	3
RE News	4
Calendar	12

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: www.minister@cvuuf.org



August 4 — A Gay Wedding, A Verdict, and A Get Out of Hell Free Card — Rev. Lora Brandis — Or, “What I Did On my Summer Vacation....”

Returning from a less than restful (but fun!) vacation, I am realizing there is no vacation from being human. The issues of the day still follow us around as we retreat from every day stresses and settle into a different summery pace. If we bring ourselves fully to time apart from these every day stresses, we learn that there is no vacation from being human and that's a good thing to learn.

August 11 — What You See is What You Get — Rev. Lora Brandis —

“It is that simple – what you see is what you get,” writes Annie Dillard in her classic book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. We can learn from Dillard's year in the woods, just as we learn from reading earlier transcendentalists like Thoreau, Emerson and Fuller. We can learn what it is to let go and to truly see.

August 18 — Religious But Not Dogmatic — Rev. Lora Brandis — Lillian

Daniel caused quite the stir when her Huffington Post article “Spiritual but Not Religious? Please Stop Boring Me” went viral on the Web. At our Regional Assembly in April, Unitarian Universalist minister Christine Robinson amended the label, proclaiming that as UUs we are religious, but not dogmatic. Both ministers make good points about what it means to be in an intentionally religious community. **Today is our first “Invite a Friend to Church” Sunday. This is an opportunity to share your love of this community with others.**

August 25 — This I Believe — Based on the popular program on National Public

Radio, Paul Chavez, Christina Houlberg, Jessica Ann and Marcy Wingard will present their essays. If you didn't attend last August's service, this is a chance to get to know four of our members and to reflect upon your own beliefs. **Today is our second “Invite a Friend to Church” Sunday. This is an opportunity to share your love of this community with others.**

September 1 — Honoring the Sacredness of Work — Rev. Lora Brandis

—A national campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$10 an hour is getting the renewed support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association. This renewed support comes at a time when corporate CEOs of the 500 largest U.S. companies make an average salary of \$10.5 million at the same time that workers who earn a minimum wage are unable to meet basic needs. When we honor the sacredness of all work we acknowledge the inequity that corporate greed creates with others.

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

As a kid, for me August meant that school would begin soon. When I moved to Texas as a freshman in high school, it meant that school would begin very soon – the middle of August in fact. This time of year I am reminded of that uneasy mix of anticipation and dread that I felt. I loved school and always looked forward to what promises the new school year could bring. But, my family moved a lot so a new school year also brought the dreaded discomfort of trying to fit in to yet another new place.

August is often “church-shopping” month; a time when new families have moved into an area before the school year. After settling in to new homes, new jobs and new schools, families often go in search for a new faith community. It can be church-shopping time for others as well, many who have resided in a community for quite some time. There is something about the pull of the new school year in our memories that reminds us of the promises of the academic year and we are oftentimes lured by that pull into a new religious community.

People come to church for a variety of reasons, of course. Many come to this Fellowship in search of a liberal religious education for their children. Many come during times of life transitions such as job loss, divorce or a death in the family. It is a very brave act to walk into a worship service for the first time. It is a lot like the first day in a new school. A new person’s feelings can range from anticipation to dread and still they make the choice to try to fit in to yet another new place.

Knowing that August is often church-shopping month, I am working with the membership committee to have a special focus on our visitors on the 18th and 25th of August. More correctly, the focus is on you! We are designating both these dates as “invite a friend to church Sunday” to encourage you to be as brave as our first-time visitors. Step into your own uneasy mix of anticipation and dread and invite someone who feels pulled into the promise of our beloved religious community.

Both services will be good introductions to Unitarian Universalism and to our Fellowship. It’s important to remember that more new people attend a worship service than any other church activity. A first-time visitor can often feel like an awkward guest at a family dinner – someone looking in on history and tradition that they know nothing about. They are the geeky kid on the first day at a new school, wondering what they will have to do to fit in.

As members of this family, I mean church(!), it is our job to help our visitors find a way to fit in. If we first came to this Fellowship, or to Unitarian Universalism, at a time in our lives that filled us with both anticipation and dread, then we know what it feels like to enter into worship needing to get our own needs met. The spiritually courageous also know what it feels like to enter into worship intending to meet the needs of others. Come to church, invite a friend, and become spiritually courageous.

In faith,

Lora

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 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



With the new church fiscal year (FY 2014) under way, there is news to announce regarding our Council of Directors.

Three wonderful leaders who have served faithfully on the Council during the past year have ended their terms. They are Mike Talvola, who served as Fellowship Director; Maria Ornelas, Outreach Director; and Dana Ryon, Council Clerk. Each of these committed UUs made substantial contributions and deserve our thanks. We fully expect each of them to continue making a difference in our community in many other ways. Thank you Mike, Maria, and Dana!

Two Directors from FY 2013 are remaining on an interim basis: Operations Director Barry Blades and Finance Director Terry Hinricher.

We are thrilled to announce that Pamela Lopez has accepted the Board's invitation to serve as Outreach Director. And there's more good news - Brian Pletcher has agreed to serve another term as Communications Director, and Annie Barker will continue in the role of Membership Director. Our Director of Religious Education, Justine Fisher, and Rev. Lora will continue serving as integral leaders with our Council.

While they are not on the Council, I am also pleased to let you know that Frances Pardee and Susan Dixon have agreed to serve another year as Pledge Committee Co-Chairs.

The Board and Council have scheduled a retreat in mid-September where we will focus on the application of "Policy Governance" in our congregation. The concept of Policy Governance was implemented several years ago, which led to the establishment of the current leadership structure which includes a Board of Trustees, a Council of Group Directors, and our professional staff team. At the time this structure was enacted, many of our leaders were influenced by a board leadership paradigm articulated by Dr. John Carver. The "Carver Model of Policy Governance" is well-known in the world of non-profit and religious institutions, and provides a framework for organizational leadership and operation. There have been many discussions and variations tested over the years to determine the most effective ways to apply the model to serve our needs and aspirations.

At the recent General Assembly in Louisville, I attended a meeting of around 60 congregational presidents, including about 15 who serve congregations with a similar number of members as we have. There was a lot of discussion about policy governance. I received several enthusiastic recommendations for a book called "Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership" by Dan Hotchkiss. I've just received my copy from the UUA bookstore and plan to share with other Trustees after I read it.

At our September retreat, District Executive Ken Brown will be here to help us review our congregation's leadership and management structure, identify what's working well, determine where we can become stronger, and to set the course for continuing to grow and carry out our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion. We'll keep you informed of the results of the retreat. Your input and suggestions are welcomed!

See you on Sunday!

Willie, president@cvuuf.org

Special Collection

August 18, 2013

MANNA

Summertime isn't a happy time for some families when school is out. Putting food on the table can be more challenging because of the absence of free and reduced school meals. Please support our local foodbank.

Make checks payable to "CVUUF" with "Manna" on memo line.



Justine Fischer,
Director of
Religious
Education

News From Religious Education

AUGUST RE

Summer programming has begun. Children entering first grade and younger will be in Child Space this summer. Children/Youth grades 2-8 will be working on character development themes. This includes adding to our large wood people mosaic. Stop by the Upper Elementary room and see how they are "developing."

8/4/13–

RESPONSIBILITY — mosaic head
Spiritual Nurturers: ???

Help is needed, please

8/11/13–

RELATIONSHIPS — mosaic heart
Spiritual Nurturers: Diniakos-Lubka family

8/18/13–

RESPECT — mosaic upper torso.
Spiritual Nurturers: Diniakos-Lubka family

8/25/13–

FAIRNESS — mosaic lower torso
Spiritual Nurturers: Carol Flanagan and
Barbara Leighton

Our characters will be complete on Sunday, August 25. Stop by the Upper Elementary room to check them out. We will have a special fun day on Sunday, September 1, to celebrate the end of summer. Look for more information in next month's newsletter and via email.

2013-2014 RE

The 2013-2014 year will be based on the book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong. The curriculum will include a focus on our mission, our principles and our sources.

The book *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong is available upstairs in the RE office. The book is \$15.00. Contact me at dre@cvuuf.org or find me on Sunday.

SEEKING THE SPIRITUALLY COURAGEOUS

The CVUUF Religious Education (RE) program is only possible with the generosity of your time and talent. Spending time in RE is a rewarding experience and you often learn and get more from the children/youth than you share with them.

We are trying something new by having a theme for a full 12 months. We are asking nurturers to **sign up for 2 times a month** for six months (Sept-Feb or Mar-Aug). We need 20 nurturers for each six-month period. A teacher training will be held on Saturday, **September 7, 2013 from 10:00 am – noon**

SAVE THE MONTH!!!!

Mark your calendars now for the month of November, yes, November!

November's focus will be on compassion for ourselves. Each child/youth will be making a mask of their face with plaster gauze strips. They go on wet and dry forming to your face. Don't worry mouth and nostrils are open for easy breathing. It's a three week process to form, seal and then decorate. **We will need lots of adult help with this project.**

NOTE: Due to the nature of the project we will only be forming the masks on the first Sunday of November, the 3rd.

KUDOS

...Carol Flanagan, Barbara Leighton, Valerie Neal, Laure McKinnon, Jake Holland, Carol Jones, Patti Jagger, & the Diniakos-Lubka family for creating characters over the summer!

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

*Yours in faith,
Justine*



August Birthdays
Cole Allan,
Zoe Diesing,
Michelle Holland,
Spencer Pletcher,
Ruby Snowber
and Frances Zemlyn.

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION for MICOP

MICOP (Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project) is asking for our support to outfit 600 indigenous Mixtec youth with backpacks to kick off the 2013 school year. This is an ambitious goal for MICOP, but together we can achieve it!

Help the campaign by collecting school supplies, buying backpacks, or donating funds to MICOP to purchase in bulk. The last day to bring supplies to CVUUF is Sunday, August 11, 2013. Drop them at the RE office upstairs in Fellowship Hall.



California State
PTA
everychild.one voice.



MAIN

GET STARTED

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MEMBERSHIP ▼

ADVOCACY ▼

PARENTS ▼

ISSUES ▼

F

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2015



JUSTINE FISCHER

President-elect

[e-mail](#)

So... I was browsing the California PTA website... look who's the President-elect!!

Reverend Lora, Justine,
Willie, Pamela & Matthew
and others are going. Are you?

Come, Join our Table, Have Fun
and Support *A Night in Oaxaca!!*

JOIN US AT THE

*Oxnard
Performing Arts &
Convention Center,*

800 HOBSON WAY,
OXNARD, CA 93030

5 - 6 P.M.

REGISTRATION

6 - 9 P.M.

MEZCAL TASTING

AUCTION

MUSIC

DANCE

MOLE



EDUCATION
IS
LIBERATION!

*Celebrating indigenous
success in our schools and
adult education programs*

NIGHT IN  OAXACA

SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2013



I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends



Annual Auction is October 19, 2013!

This year's auction celebrates the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Beatles to the United States. Let's repeat last year's very successful auction, raise money for our beloved community and have a really good time. We will hold a raffle again, are hoping some of our local musical talent will play Beatles music for us.

Now is the time to plan what items or services to donate to the auction. Here are a few suggestions:

Dinners in your home

Trips to museums

Unused time-shares

New or nearly new items

We ask that you do not donate large items, or anything that has to be stored at the church ahead of time (no space), gift baskets, etc.

If you would like to solicit donations from area businesses, please contact Bea Ornstein or Jo Ann Van Reenan for letters to give to potential donors that have our tax status indicated.

In August there will be an easel set up in the Fellowship Hall where you can make suggestions on things you would like to see others donate.

In September we will signup members to help at the event.

Your co-chairs: Jo Ann Van Reenan, Lea Halseth and April Fernald

The Multicultural Ministries Sharing Project

Are you a person of color, a person with a disability, LGBTQ, or otherwise marginalized around ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity? The UUA is excited to announce a groundbreaking project to seek insight into your experience!

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



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS



Community Forum

Saturday, August 17, 2013, 7:30pm



ROY ZIMMERMAN

Wake Up Call—Funny Songs About Peace
and Justice

For those who have not seen Roy Zimmerman perform, you are in for a real treat.

If you have been to his previous CVUUF concerts, this is a new show with many NEW SONGS. Don't miss Roy this time!

All tickets are \$18.00 and can be purchased on Sundays after either service. Tickets are also available by mail. Send your email requests to forum@cvuuf.org and you will be sent instructions on how to obtain your tickets.

Community Forums are held at:

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, September 20, 2013, 7:30pm

Lance Simmens
"FRACKING"



Simmens is the California State Director of Gasland Grassroots, an organization designed to promote the current HBO documentary **Gasland 2** and to educate Californians on fracking. He will be discussing the various aspects of hydraulic fracturing or fracking from the perspective of one who watched a fracking frenzy during his eight years

as senior advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell

Howard Bierman, the foot soldier for striking down Prop 8, makes this comment on the following Action of Immediate Witness, and asks us to note that our congregation has already passed a resolution to amend the constitution.

*"A pipe dream?
So was same sex marriage.
Stay tuned to find out
how you can help bring back real democracy."*



Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech

2013 Action of Immediate Witness

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human person, and in the use of the democratic process in society at large, and because approval of the 2011 AIW opposing Citizens United paved the way for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to take the spiritual lead in the passage of a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not free speech;

WHEREAS, a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings have established corporations as persons, equated money with speech, and eliminated limits on amounts that corporations can contribute to political campaigns and political advertising;

WHEREAS, these court-created doctrines have flooded the political landscape with unprecedented amounts of money from corporations and other interests, corrupting our democratic processes and putting the entire democracy at risk;

WHEREAS, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides for amendments to the Constitution, a process that has occurred 27 times including seven constitutional amendments that have overturned U.S. Supreme Court decisions;

WHEREAS, there are pending proposals in Congress and states that need action NOW to achieve passage of an amendment;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, UUA Board of Trustees, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and various congregations have already endorsed a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Constitution is needed to overturn Citizens United and eliminate both corporate personhood and money as speech;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly instructs the UUA to make its endorsement formal and public, supporting the efforts to amend the Constitution; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly further requests member congregations to pass resolutions that support and endorse a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not speech; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly encourages [Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries](#) nationwide and other affiliated Unitarian Universalist organizations to join this important cause.

For more information, visit www.uua.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."

If you believe that all people deserve dignity, join us at the following Conejo Valley Unitarian Fellowship events, or come meet us to learn more.

VISITATION PROTEST

Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 2pm

Adelanto Detention Center

After months of negotiating, the Friends of Adelanto Detainees began their visitation program on July 15. Fifteen detainees signed up requesting a visit. The next week, the list had grown

to almost 40.

On July 24, an email was sent by ICE that the program was suspended until further notice. No cause was given.

Now, instead of going to the Adelanto Detention Center to listen to and support persons who have been detained, we must protest the abrupt suspension. Will you join us and can we carpool there? For more information, contact Gordon Clint.

Friends of Adelanto Detainees

**SAVE THE
DATE:
TUESDAY
AUGUST 6TH**

**@2pm
10400
Rancho Rd
Adelanto CA**

**Reinstate
our
Visitation
Programs!**

**Join
us for
a vigil
outside
the
Center**

CIVIC
end isolation

www.friendsofadelantodetainees.wordpress.com

Sundays, 11am

PARENTING OF TEENS SUPPORT GROUP

Is raising teens a challenge for you? A new support group for those who care for teens will meet during second service in the adult RE room.

Contact: Kathleen Holland

Sunday, July 7, 2013

GAMING AFTERNOON

Drop in. All ages will find a game that interests them. Please bring snacks to share.

Contact: Tom Smith

Monday, July 8 (every 2nd Monday), 7:30pm

PFLAG Support Group, 5450 Churchwood Lane, Oak Park, CA

Contact: dpollock@att.net

Saturday, September 7, 2013

10am to noon

TEACHER TRAINING

For our children in RE, please volunteer your time (just two times a month for six months).

For more information, contact Justine.

Friday, September 27 through Sunday September 29, 2013

CLUSTER WEEKEND RETREAT at Camp deBenneville Pines

Join the many congregations in our cluster at this weekend in the mountains. Look for coming communications and registration forms. We expect the camp to be full, so sign up early and join in a beautiful weekend with your neighboring UU congregations.

You're invited to join together among the towering cedars, oaks and pines of this beautiful camp owned and operated by the PSWD of the UUA.

The atmosphere is one of congeniality, camaraderie and friendship. This weekend is a chance for the whole family to relax, hike, sing, play games, swim and enjoy the fresh air among other UUs in our cluster.

For more information, registration, or to volunteer for programs and workshops contact Annie or David Barker. (If you would like to be your congregation's main contact for the retreat or volunteer to help, let us know!)

See you at camp! www.debenneville.org



Saturday, October 5

WALK TO END POVERTY

California Lutheran University

Sponsor: Lutheran Social Services (LSS)

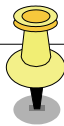
For more information, visit www.lsswalk.org



August 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	
					Annual Camp→→→→→→→→	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 12:30pm» Membership Committee 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/discussion)	6:30pm» Finance Committee 7pm» Quilters & Crafters	6pm» Feeding Hands 7:30pm» Worship Committee 7:30pm» Community Forum Planning Committee	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	2:30pm» Emerald Covenant Group 7pm» Movie Group
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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	9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7pm» Summer Book Club 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal		9am» Women's Self-care Retreat 7:30pm» Community Forum
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Parenting Teens Support Group 11am» Worship Service 5pm» AA Meeting (meditation/discussion) 5pm» Movie Group 3 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		7pm» Music Ministry meeting	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Meditation Group 7:30pm» CVUUF Council meeting	7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Movie Group 1	
25	26	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	9:45am» Gardenia Group	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Meditation 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

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
Jill Kitsuse-Fulton, Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Minister Emerita

Board of Trustees 2013-2014

Willie Lubka, Board President, 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!