



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

Upcoming Sunday Services

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This newsletter is published online monthly by members of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Download your copy at www.cvuuf.org.

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 SHARF

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



June 7 - Annual Bridging Service - Justine Fischer, DRE -

Today we celebrate our teachers who nurture our children, and each class will "bridge" to the next class level. We also will recognize graduating high schoolers.

June 14 - The Power of Music - Rev. Anne Felton Hines & Greg

Whitmore, CVUIF Choir Director — According to Dr. Oliver Sacks, there

is virtually no one who is not moved in some way by some form of music -- in every culture, from infancy to death. With the help of our choir and other musicians and music lovers, we will reflect upon and experience the power of music in our lives.

June 21 - Wasting Time - Rev. Anne Felton Hines - As we enter

summer – still the period when most Americans take their vacations – it behooves us to reflect on the busyness of our lives, and our resistance to allowing idleness a place.

June 28 — Heroes & Villains in the Culture War— Casey Dake —

While Unitarian Universalist Principles may not be overtly prevalent in "pop culture" and the mainstream media, an exploration beneath the surface may reveal spiritually relevant forces at work. Lay member Casey Dake draws upon his film studies degree, his years editing video at an internet company and his experience as a father of teenage daughters to delve into the current state of the American moral compass.

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

I've been feeling a bit overwhelmed lately.

On Sunday June 7th, we'll be bidding farewell to Justine Fischer, who has been involved with this congregation for 23 years – the last fourteen of them as the director of Religious Education. Justine has created a dynamic R.E. program here that nourishes our young families – children and parents alike. She has been well-loved, and will be deeply missed.

But Justine's departure is not the only change that brings a sense of overwhelm. Your Board of Trustees have decided to embark on a new Stewardship campaign which they and I are feeling excited about, but which will also require careful planning, and the engagement of everyone in some way. You will be hearing more about that during the Congregational Meeting on June 14th and in the months that follow.

Also at that meeting, you will hve the opportunity to vote for members of the new Ministerial Search Committee, who will then begin the long process seeking your next Settled Minister. So be sure to be at that meeting so you can participate in the first step of this next chapter in CVUUF's life!

And as if all *this* weren't enough additional change for us all to manage, we learned recently that the Child Space Coordinator – Pam Van Uden – would be leaving us as well (June 14). Oh yes, I think a lot of us could use some boredom about now!

But as I have learned in my brief time at CVUUF, this congregation doesn't shy away from moving forward!

Our first concern has been the summer R.E. program. As of this writing, we are in the process of working out an arrangement to hire Sam Dickerson – one of our Child Space caregivers since 2003 – to coordinate the program during July and August; she's already begun some "orientation" from Justine.

We're forming an R.E. Committee to assist Sam, and to serve as a support to the new DRE in the fall.

And we are in the process of hiring at least one new Child Space caregiver to replace Pam.

Once everything is set for the summer program, we can begin the search for a new Director of Religious Education, who we expect will start in September. We're in the process of recruiting a search committee to assist in that search.

If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher or Child Space assistant during the summer, or serving on the R.E. Committee or the DRE Search Committee, please let Willie Lubka or me know. I'll guarantee you a place in Heaven – honest! (Do I hear snickering? Oh ye of little faith!)

I know that in due time, things will settle down a bit here at CVUUF, but probably – indeed, *hopefully* – never to a point of boredom, because that just wouldn't be <u>you!</u> Despite all the change and apparent chaos, there is a deeper ongoing momentum in this congregation, grounded in your Mission, your history, your visions for the future, and in each of you who make up the Whole that is CVUUF; it keeps you moving forward, always. And that's *not* overwhelming; it's energizing!

Blessings to you all.



Rev. Anne will be attending General Assembly in Portland, OR from June 24-28 (along with several CVUUF members); she will be checking and responding to e-mail during that time.

Before and after G.A. – June 22 & 23 and June 29 through July 3 – Rev. Anne will be on vacation leave. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact the Pastoral Care Committee, Office administrator Jessica Lesko, or congregational president Willie Lubka.

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

President's Message



As we approach our Annual Meeting (which will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 10:45am), there's exciting news in addition to the updates about our Religious Education program and upcoming stewardship efforts Rev. Anne wrote about in her column. Our community is thriving forward.

Our Leadership Cultivation Committee has completed its task of developing slates of candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee, Board of Trustees, and Conflict Resolution Committee. Our congregation will vote for the Ministerial Search Committee members at Special Fellowship meeting on June 14, and the other elections will take place during the Annual Meeting.

The seven candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee are: Penny Smith, Tim Snowber, Arlene Bloom, David Barker, Sloane Powers, Casey Dake, and Chris Blasman.

Candidates for the Board of Trustee are: Gaye Allen (Vice President), Kathleen Holland (Secretary), Lea Halseth (Trustee at Large) and Tom Wolf (Trustee at Large).

Randall Edwards, Carol Jones, and Carol Rosenthal have agreed to stand as candidates for the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Wow - what a tremendous group of people! We are very fortunate. Please join me in thanking each of them - and please join me in in pledging our support to each as they take on new responsibilities.

The members of our Leadership Cultivation Committee dedicated extensive time, energy, and care to identifying and securing agreement to serve from all the wonderful candidates listed above. They deserve our thanks and congratulations for a job well done. The Leadership Cultivation Committee members are: Jo Ann Van Reenan, Riley Neel, Claudia Barton, Matthew Weisman, Ellen Smith, Anne Ewell, and Ashly Barth. Give them some love!

Heartfelt thanks are also in order to our departing Board members, each of whom has served our congregation with integrity, intelligence, and love. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with David Barker, Michael Teasdale, Laure McKinnon, and Karina Leppik. It has also been a gift to have the opportunity to get to know and enjoy them as friends. They will be missed on Board. I take comfort in knowing the friendship and their wisdom will remain.

I hope you will be able to attend the Annual Meeting. In addition to the elections, the agenda will include reports from the Minister, Treasurer, and President, the adoption of an annual budget, and a presentation about the stewardship and development efforts being planned as we progress through the upcoming year of Interim Ministry with Rev. Anne Hines and the search for a new settled Minister. Our Covenant of Good Relations includes these words: "In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model, and I will assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business." Attending the Annual Meeting is good way to practice this covenant and to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission. Our community is thriving forward. I hope to see you there.

See you on Sunday,

Willie, president@cvuuf.org



Justine Fischer,
Director of
Religious
Education
(DRE)



June Birthdays

Joy Alsadek,
Jonah Cook,
Ryan
Fernald,
Finn
McCauley,
Seamus
McLean
(18!), Jake
Venardos
and Tasha
Stuart
Shuman.

News From Religious Education

It feels right. But it's emotional. Saying goodbye to anything you've done that long is hard.

-Angela Ruggiero

Summer RE will be coordinated by Sam Dickerson who currently cares for our littlest ones in Child Space. If you could help over the summer, that would be appreciated. Sam will be assuming the dre@cvuuf.org email address.

It's also with great love and gratitude that we say good bye this month to Pam Van Uden. Pam has been in child space loving and caring for our little ones for the last twelve years. Pam is leaving us to care for her mother who needs consistent love, care and attention. Thank you Pam for your beautiful and open heart and your care and compassion of all. Pam's last day will be June 14.

I will be answering email until June 10th at dre@cvuuf.org.

Yours in faith,

Justine

JUNE 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 **Courage** and we will also focus our attention on humanist teachings as our source.

BRIDGING

At the service on June 7, we will perform our annual recognition of our children moving up to the next level of their religious education. We will also recognize graduating high school seniors.

KUDOS

...to Pam Van Uden for her loving care of our smallest ones for the last 12 years;

our COA Facilitators and congratulations to all our COA youth;

and to Liza Diniakos, Tom Wolf and Dana Ryon for helping with summer programming.

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JUSTINE CELEBRATION Sunday, June 7, 2015

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

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.

News From Our Outreach Director



May was a month of local and national political outreach—from lobbying in Sacramento for immigrant justice to meeting with Congresswoman Julia Brownley and her staff to talk about climate change. Our members are out there making a difference.

The **Escalating Inequality study group**, under the dynamic leadership of Michael Teasdale, is focusing their efforts on advocating for: a \$15 minimum wage; increased funding for universal pre-school education; as well as affordable housing – especially for seniors. In the Fall, they will present Sunday services on the consequences of economic inequality. Their next meeting is **Monday, June 15 at 7pm.**

Our Climate Action Team (CAT) has partnered with the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) (hence the lobbying in Congresswoman Brownley's office). Citizens' Climate Lobby's mission is to bring about a carbon fee and dividend with then intent of creating an economic environment strongly favorable to renewable energy. CVUUF's CAT, in addition to work on CCL's mission, continues its focus on a broader range of climate issues. Meeting times have changed. On Sunday, June 14 at 12:30pm, following the annual meeting, we will start with CCL business, then we will immediately follow with the CAT meeting. Please bring lunch or plan to order food in. For more information, please contact Dick Elsley.

Thanks to Maria Ornelas who will be taking over Justine's work with the **Mixteco** youth. Please contact Maria, if you are interested in helping.

Our ongoing free meal service to the community continues with **Feeding Hands on Tuesday, June 2nd**. Home cooks, servers and greeters are always welcome and encouraged to come. Please contact Anne Ewell for more information.

Are you interested in being an advocate for reproductive rights? We are looking for someone to represent CVUUF at the monthly Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network (VCRRN) meetings. Please contact me for more information. outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly will take place in Portland, OR June 24-28th. It is an incredible way to delve deep into our faith and the issues we address as a community. If you are able to attend, I strongly recommend it. If not, many of the sessions will be **streamed from the UUA website**. You have the opportunity to be a delegate from CVUUF either in person or virtually. For more information, please contact our ADR (Association/District Representative) Liza Diniakos.

Good news about our January Special Collection: Isabel Rosenda Nuñez, a 68 year old woman from Belize is free. Isabel has needed hip replacement surgery. She had not been able to receive this treatment and was confined to a wheelchair because the procedure is not available in detention where she has been for a few years. With help from an attorney with Public Counsel, a non-profit agency, who got her bond lowered to \$1,500, and First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles Bond Fund (our Special Collection recipient), Isabel was recently released from detention.

If you have any questions, please find me on Sunday or email me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.



Friday, June 19, 2015, 7:30pm EYES ON THE SKY



What if you turned on the tap ...and nothing came out?

For the past four years California has undergone one of the most devastating droughts since rainfall has been measured in the state. Farmers have left fields fallow. Municipalities are starting to reconsider their plans for provision of water including sea water conversion.

Ventura County filmmaker Steve Nicolaides went on the road to see first-hand how the drought is affecting the lives of people from Ogallala, Nebraska to San Diego, California. The result is Eyes on the Sky, an impartial look at the present and the future of fresh water in our cities and farmland. A panel discussion will follow.

Starting from the ground up, STEVE NICOLAIDES worked in Saturday morning kids programing, gradually gaining experience to become a production manager. In 1991 he produced John Singleton's Academy Award-nominated "Boyz N The Hood." His production credits include "The Forgotten" and "The School of Rock".

Saturday, June 2, 2015, 2:30—5:30pm MUSES IV



Presenting the 4th eclectic afternoon of sharing the collective talents and voices from our community and beyond. Poets, musicians, singers, storytellers, magicians, dancers, artists, jugglers...all forms of creative expression are welcome in a safe, supportive family atmosphere.

2:30 to 3 pm- Sign up for open microphone spot.

3 to 5 pm- Performances. A limited number of spaces for performing are available, so show up early to

ensure a spot.

5 to 5:30 pm- Tea and light snacks follow the performances. A small table space will be open for open mic

performers who want to sell their books, DVDs, or CDs.

Community Forums are free, but donations are appreciated always!

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



2015 UUA General Assembly BUILDING A NEW WAY June 24-28, 2015

Get Hooked Up as Off-site Delegate

In order to participate off-site, delegates must:

- Represent a congregation certified for General Assembly.
- Obtain a delegate credential from the congregation (during the off-site registration process, the delegate will need enter unique ID information found on their credential).
- Register as an off-site delegate to General Assembly no later than 8 p.m. EDT on June 19, 2015.
- Have access to a computer with internet access compatible with Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) streaming video protocols (Technical Notes: test a computer's internet connections by playing video from the 2014 GA. If this video plays without pauses, your computer and internet connection are adequate.)
- Be willing to download and use online voting software furnished by the UUA
- Have an active email account
- Have access to a telephone while using the computer

Registered off-site delegates will receive instructions via email regarding credentials and training.



Boko Haram - As the new Nigerian president is sworn in, Boko Haram continues to present a serious threat in the north of the most populated country in Africa. The terrorist group spreads fear, using sexual violence against women as a common tactic, but the US has recently indicated willingness to lend military support to Nigeria to help defeat Boko Haram.

Refugees in Europe - In an address to the European Parliament, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged leaders to work together to resolve the Mediterranean migrant crisis, which is being called that region's worst ever. Many of these migrants are fleeing persecution in their countries of origin.

Indigenous Rights - At the end of April, the UN Headquarters hosted 14th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, with a particular emphasis on ending indigenous youth suicide. Representatives from indigenous populations of various countries participating in the forum discussed the most important issue facing their group and what they hoped to achieve at the UN.

Prison Conditions - One UN Peacekeeper from Burkina Faso is working to improve the terrible conditions within prisons in Central African Republic where he is posted. He says: "The objective of peacekeeping operations is to help give a smile to people struggling... when you have the opportunity to live in peace, it is your duty to work to bring that smile, that hope to other people."



WELCOME TO NIGHT IN OAXACA

August 15, 2015, 5 to 9pm Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center (805) 535-8861







OAXACAN MOLE DINNER

Savor the famous mouthwatering dish of Oaxaca prepared from a local Mixtec famly recipe.



OAXACAN TASTING TABLE

Experience traditional treats including memela corn cakes, flor de calabaza zucchini flower quesadillas, and don't miss chapulines: fried grasshoppers!

ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

Browse and purchase homemade jewelry, bags and clothing from local vendors.



TEQUIO YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulate our young indigenous leaders as they receive college scholarships.

OAXACAN MUSICIANS AND DANCERS

Enjoy the beauty of this rich culture, performed by Oxnard residents.



ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 14, 2015, 10:45am

There will be just one worship service on Sunday, June 14, 2015. The Annual Meeting of the Fellowship will immediately follow. The agenda for the Annual Meeting will include the election of Trustees; members of the Conflict Resolution Committee; the adoption of an annual budget; and reports from the President, the Minister, and the Treasurer.

The Board will also call a Special Fellowship Meeting to elect members of the Ministerial Search Committee.

Each member is encouraged to attend, keep informed of church business, and foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission. Our faith community affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

~Willie Lubka, Board President



Stay Tuned!

We are thrilled to announce that Michael Teasdale has recently joined the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Just Economic Community (UUJEC), a nationwide network of over 1500 UU activists committed to living out UU values by working for economic justice.

UUJEC aims to engage, educate and activate all citizens on issues related to economic justice. To learn more, visit http://uujec.com.

Michael has been leading our CVUUF Income Inequality group. Members of the group can testify that he empowers all to understand the trickier parts to economics. You are invited to find out more. The next meeting is Monday June 15, 7pm.



June 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm» Finance Committee 7:15pm» Opal Covenant Group	6pm» Feeding Hands	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	9:30am» Citizens Climate Lobby
,	8	9	10	11	12	13
2:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 10:45am» Farewell Celebration or Justine Fischer 12:15pm» Membership Committee Meeting 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	7pm» Women's Evening Group 7:30pm» Drop-in Book Club	9:45am» Gardenia Group 7:15pm» Chalice Circle 2Tu	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Chalice Circle 2W 7pm» Pledge Captains' Quarterly meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Sapphire group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
4	15	16	17	18	19	20
2:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:25am» Children's Choir ehearsal 10:45am» CVUUF Annual Meeting/Special Fellowship Meeting 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 2:30pm» Climate Action Team neeting ipm» Newcomer AA Meeting	7pm» Chalice Circle 3M 7pm» Chalice Circle 3T 7pm» Escalating Inequality	7pm» Music Ministry Meeting	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 12:30pm» Chalice Circle 3W 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» CVUUF Council meeting 7pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7pm» Community Forum	2:30pm» MUSES IV
.1	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15am» Worship Service 10:25am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» Chalice Circle 4Tu	6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm» Movie Group 1	
	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						

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- •Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- •The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- •Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- •The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- •Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- •Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- •Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Staff

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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
Don Vernardos, Trustee At Large



additional UU resource links:

<u>Unitarian Universalist Association</u> (UUA)

The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

Pacific Southwest District (PSWD)

PSWD serves 50 Pacific Southwest congregations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Service is held at 9:15 & 11:00 am, with Coffee Hour following each service.
Children's Religious Education is held during the 9:15am service. Childcare is provided and YRUU (our high school RE program) meets during the 11:00am service.

Visitors are always welcome!