



CVUUF News

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Upcoming Sunday Services

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

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



We are completing our study of

Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* with the twelfth/final step: "Love Your Enemy".

August 3 — Love is a Verb — Dr. Rev. Nancy Holden — Generally the word "love" is a noun—an emotion, relationship, or state of mind. When seen as a verb, Love means action, as in the famous words of Jesus, "love your enemies." This message is really about climate change and the need for "Good Samaritans" to face the truth about our world and put love into action on behalf of the planet before it's too late.

August 10 — Who is My Enemy? — Rev. Lora Brandis — The parable of the Good Samaritan is told by Jesus after he is asked the question, "Who is my neighbor?" The expert in the law who attempts to test Jesus is forced to admit that his sworn enemy, the Samaritan, is the only true neighbor in the story because of his merciful actions. The questioner doesn't ask, "Who is my enemy?" None of us wants to ask that question, believing somewhat naively that we have no enemies.

August 17 — Love Your Enemies — Rev. Lora Brandis — Gandhi said, "A love that is based on the goodness of those whom you love is a mercenary affair." Nelson Mandela sought reconciliation rather than revenge. The Dalai Lama loves the ones who exiled him and killed his friends. There are many stories of the world's great teachers loving their enemies. How can we bring those stories down from their lofty heights and teach ourselves to love our enemies in small, everyday ways? **Today is our first of our annual "Invite a Friend to Church" Sunday. This is an opportunity to share your love of this community with others.**

August 24 — This I Believe — This annual Sunday service will focus on "Loving One's Enemies." Today's speakers include: Jessica Ann, Mike Talvola, Anahi Quiroz and Chuck Thomas. The Wednesday night Chalice Circle will assist. **Today is our second of our annual "Invite a Friend to Church" Sunday. This is an opportunity to share your love of this community with others.**

August 31 — Compassion is Possible — Rev. Lora Brandis — Karen Armstrong designed the "twelve steps to a compassionate life" as a discipline to give us the tools to break our addiction to our egotism. Although we are never finished on this journey towards living compassionately, today we'll celebrate the end of our focused time together exploring compassion. We will participate in an ending ritual and receive a token made by the loving hands of the children from our religious education classes.

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

July 30, 2014

 The Road from Phoenix Leads Now to Washington, DC

I am so moved by the commitment of our faith community to keep on pressing for justice, standing on the side of love with immigrant families and children. Four years ago, we converged in Phoenix to stop the infamous SB1070 anti-immigrant law. On Thursday, July 31st, thirty-five Unitarian Universalist clergy and faith leaders from 20 states will commit civil disobedience in front of the White House, along with over 120 pastors, rabbis, ministers, faith leaders and immigrant rights leaders from around the country. They will be joined by hundreds of others, including dozens of UUs, there to support the Pray for Relief—Not One More Family Separated Summit on July 31st – August 2nd urging President Obama to take executive action to stop the deportations. Standing on the Side of Love will be putting love into action!

Susan Leslie

UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director

July 31, 2014


 More than 100 religious, immigration activists arrested at White House

...The Rev. Susan Frederick, a Unitarian Universalist minister from Phoenix, joined a group of 10 that traveled via subway to the White House. "Faith calls us to love, not to fear," she said. "Crossing a border to protect and love your family is not a crime. Undocumented immigrants should not be treated as criminals."

[...more](#)



August 1, 2014

 Ventura County Minister Arrested In Immigration Protest Outside Of White House

A Ventura County minister did much more than speak out in favor of immigration reform efforts this week. KCLU's Lance Orozco reports she was part of more than 100 religious leaders arrested in a symbolic protest outside of the White House. [Listen here](#)

more:

[Associated Press](#)

[Reuters News Service](#)

[White House Reuters](#)

[New York Times](#)

[Boston Globe](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[USA Today](#)

[Huffington Post](#)

[Politico](#)

[ABC News](#)

[NBC Washington](#)

[Fox DC](#)

As above, Rev. Lora's July schedule is brief. 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.

President's Message



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Statement on Children Seeking Safe Refuge at the U.S. Border - July 30, 2014

In recent weeks, nearly 60,000 children — some as young as three years old — have come to the United States after fleeing extreme violence and conflict in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. It is projected that at least 90,000 will enter by the end of 2014. UUSC joins with policy makers, faith leaders, and concerned citizens to call for a humane and compassionate response to the needs of these vulnerable children and teenagers.

The children arriving in the United States travel up to 1,000 miles to seek sanctuary. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees has found that at least 58 percent of these children were “forcibly displaced” due to extreme violence of “organized armed criminal actors” and that 48 percent had experienced this violence personally.

The sheer number of displaced children at this time is dramatic, but it is by no means a new issue. On average the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for caring for 7,000–8,000 unaccompanied children each year. If they have family in the United States, the children are generally released and placed with a family member within two days of arrival to await a court date. But now, due to the large influx of displaced children, many are being held for 10–20 days in adult facilities — including the infamous “iceboxes” along the border — and are then being moved en masse to locations throughout the United States.

Many of these children are alone, and many are asylum seekers. Under international and domestic law, the U.S. government has a duty to protect this vulnerable population. UUSC believes that it goes beyond legal duty — it is a moral duty. And it is one that the United States has rightfully stepped up to before: 402,382 Vietnamese people were given refuge in the United States after the Vietnam War, and more than one million Cubans have entered the United States as political refugees. It is unconscionable to ignore the needs of the children currently seeking safety in this country.

UUSC encourages policy makers to respond swiftly and with compassion and to take the following under advisement:

- This is not an immigration enforcement issue. These are displaced children fleeing violence and seeking refuge.
- Children entering the United States should be treated with dignity and respect and provided with comprehensive care.
- Many of these children are seeking asylum and should be offered what they are entitled to through international law: humane detention facilities, access to legal assistance, and relief services.
- The root causes of this crisis must be addressed, including the role U.S. policies play in continuing trends of impoverishment, grave inequalities, and violence in the children’s home countries.

UUSC applauds the efforts of the Obama administration, governors who have provided shelter in their states, and the faith and community groups that are providing services — including food, shelter, transportation, and legal support — to these children. UUSC also encourages others to join their efforts.

As this situation continues, UUSC commits to pursue the following:

- Investigate the legal needs of displaced children and determine how UUSC can help ensure their rights are honored as they work their way through the U.S. legal system.
- Urge UUSC members to call upon Washington policy makers to provide the necessary financial resources to respond to these children’s needs.
- Lift up the nonpartisan moral and ethical dimensions of this situation and highlight the obligation to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all children.

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

AUGUST RE

PreK through middle school meet at 9:15
with Justine and high school at 11:00 am.

MIXTECO INDIGINA COMMUNIDAD ORGANIZATION PROYECTO (MICOP)

SAVE THE DATE: August 9, 2014-
MICOP Annual Dinner "Night in Oaxaca."
This fundraiser supports the Tequio Youth
Scholarship Program.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Please bring new
backpacks and school supplies for
elementary and middle school age MICOP
children. Drop off **through August 10** at
the Religious Education office upstairs in
Fellowship Hall.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

It's that time of year – help is needed for
summer and the 2014-2015 Religious
Education year. **Our program is ONLY
possible by the kind donations of time,
treasure and talent of our members.**

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

*Yours in faith,
Justine*

Adult Religious Education

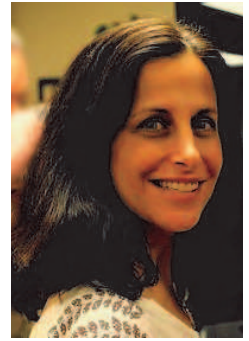
Living Compassionately

August 17 12:15-1:30pm

Rev. Lora and Justine co-facilitate the final study group of Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a
Compassionate Life* after the second service.

Drop-in!

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.

Climate Action Team meeting – Climate Action Team (CAT) is now set to meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Board Room. This new group is busy making big plans and all are welcome to join. Dick Elsley and Michael Talvola have been busy working on communications for CAT. To reach the group, send an email to cat@cvuuf.org. If you want to become part of the list who receives those emails, send a note requesting to be on the list. The CAT is busy planning programs, meeting with elected officials, working on a plastic bag ban and creating partnerships. For those who are passionate about our environment, planet and future (have I left anything out?), come and join us. **Coming up – join us on a Beach Clean-Up Day on September 20th.** Climate Action will be hosting a Community Forum in November with the screening of the UU Justice Ministry film Thirsty For Justice – the Human Right to Water. Come see where you can make a difference for our community and the planet. If you have any questions, please contact me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.

Community Forum – Do you want to present your passion? Let us know, we'll help you make it happen!

August 15th, "Inequality for All" – Screening and discussion of Robert Reich's documentary "Inequality For All". This event will also be the kick-off of our Inequality Study Group. For more information, contact Michael Teasdale.

Feeding Hands – On the 1st Tuesday of each month, a monthly dinner is provided to those in need from our local community. Your help is always welcome as a cook, server or companion to the diners. Please contact me for more details.

Mindful Eating – Ongoing each 4th Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall from 5-7pm. We share a meal together (generally potluck) and have a discussion or presentation with our meal. Topics vary by the passions of our members. All are welcome to join us for dinner. Contact: Dana Ryon.

• Special Collection •

August 24, 2014

FOOD Share

Established in 1983, FOOD Share is a critical member of our community in providing food and support to the hungry of Ventura County. FOOD Share distributes over 9 million pounds of nutritious food per year via our 150+ non-profit partners, government programs, and outreach programs. Make your check payable to CVUUF, and note "FOOD Share" in the memo.

MANNA NEEDS

Macaroni &
Cheese
Soup
Tomato Sauce
& Paste
Cooking Oil

Bottles of Juice
Cold Cereal
Juice Boxes
Toothpaste
Plain Pasta
Shampoo



Community Forum



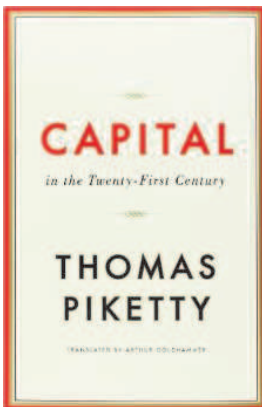
Inequality For All

Friday, August 15, 2014, 7:30pm

This award winning documentary features American economist, author and professor ROBERT REICH.

Through the lens of widening income inequality—currently at historic highs—the film explores what effects this increasing gap may have, not only on the U.S. economy, but American democracy itself. At the heart of the film is a simple

proposition: What is a good society and what role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of the nation's economic health?



ESCALATING INEQUALITY ACTION GROUPS FORMING

Monday, August 25, 2014, 7:30 - 9:00pm

This meeting is the result of two activities that overlap. One is the interest in reading the book "Capital in the 21st Century" by T Piketty. The second is that our UUA at the last General Assemble voted to create a (CSAI) Congregational Study/Action Issue on Escalating Inequality. The purpose of this meeting is to create groups around areas of interest and action concerning income inequality. Please bring your ideas and energy!!!

For the one group interested in reading the book, please read the introduction. During this meeting we will discuss the introduction and plan how we will proceed.

Contact: Michael Teasdale.

Draft Topics for Congregational Study (from uua.org)

What do the numbers show about the expansion of extreme wealth and increase in struggling households? What are the lessons to be learned from the history of movements for economic justice, here and abroad? How are social classes formed and what practices will help us transcend class barriers in our congregations and communities?

What do studies say about the indirect social outcomes of growing economic inequality? Explore hidden effects on hierarchy, discrimination, segregation, minorities, physical and mental health, education, violence, punishment, political polarization, and public services.

Study root causes of inequality, such as corporate globalization, "free trade," outsourcing, privatization, tax shifting and evasion, subsidies and bailouts, monopoly, suppression of labor, money in politics, "externalizing" social and environmental costs, "free market"/libertarian ideologies, deregulation, unlimited income/wealth.

Where to begin: Money out of politics, minimum/living wages, debt servitude/predatory lending. Justice and fairness in taxes and trade. Re-regulate Wall Street and empower workers. Grow opportunity through better healthcare, education, public services, cooperatives, media, democracy. Develop a deeper understanding of classism.

Distinguishing among the moral, social, economic, political, and sustainability implications of inequality.

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, find a seat at the following justice programs.

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR REFUGEES

DONATE

A Refugee Fund at the PSWD (Pacific Southwest District Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) has been established for those who want to contribute money to help with the work with the refugees. Collected funds will be shared by PSWD to local groups working directly on the situation.

Checks payable to PSWD with Refugee Fund in the notes can be sent to PSWD @ 2052 Norma Street, Oxnard, CA 93036-2711.

FRIDAY VIGILS

Vigils are being held weekly to show concern, care and compassion for the kids housed at the Base in Port Hueneme (Pleasant Valley Dr. and Ventura Rd) at 5pm sharp! Vigils last one hour. Come with signs (positive and supportive only), prayers, songs (musical instruments welcome!), community updates and kind words for the children and your fellow activists! For more information, find us on Facebook [here](#).



August 8, 2014, 6:15 - 8:30pm

Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

2845 Mesa Verde Dr. East, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Come to the pre-screening of "Detention Stories"

Join us at the CVUUF table for a positively fun night. Contact Justine for information.



NIGHT IN AXACA

**HONORING INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**AUGUST 9, 2014~6PM
OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS & CONVENTION CENTER**

Save-the-Date!

**Politics, Sex & Cocktails
Friday, September 19, 2014**

This annual event held in Santa Barbara features Houston Mayor Annise Parker, a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood's mission and dedicated to ensuring that women and men have access to reproductive health care. Under her leadership, Houston has become a bright spot for progressive social policies in a state that is determined to undermine access to reproductive health care services.. Mayor Parker is the first openly gay mayor of a major US city. She and her wife, Kathy Hubbard, have three daughters and a son.



**Planned
Parenthood®**

Action Fund of Santa Barbara Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties



SAVE THE DATE!!

Dig out your Bobby Socks
& Rock 'n Roll!

CVUUF
Annual Auction
November 15, 2014
6pm



August 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	2
3 9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Worship Service 12:30pm» Membership Committee Meeting 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	4 6:30pm» Finance Committee	5 6pm» Feeding Hands 7:30pm» Community Forum Planning Committee	6 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Facilitators Chalice Circle 7:15pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	8 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	9 2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
10 9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	11 7pm» Women's Evening Group 7pm» LCC Meeting	12 9:45am» Gardenia Group 7pm» CVUUF Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm» Drop-In Book Club	13 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group 7:30pm» Climate Action Team	14 7pm» Sapphire covenant group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	15 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Community Forum	16
17 9:15am» Worship Service 10:30am» Writing to Prisoners in Solitary 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Adult RE: Living Compassionately 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	18	19 7pm» Music Ministry Meeting	20 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» CVUUF Council Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	21 7am» Opal Covenant Group 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	22 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Movie Group1	23 9am» Chalice Circles Facilitators
24 9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 31 9:15am» Worship Service 10:20am» DOT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday 11am» Worship Service 5pm» Newcomer AA meeting	25 7pm» Women's Evening Group	26 9:45am» Gardenia Group	27 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	28 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	29 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	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

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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!