



CVUUF MONTHLY

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Our mission is to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.

Upcoming Sunday Services

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This newsletter is published monthly. Download your copy on our website at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the 24th day of each month at 6pm. Direct submissions to: newsletter@cvuuf.org
Content may be edited by the newsletter editor.

Weekly News & Notes

(Sunday handouts/ weekly email)
Email submissions to: newsandnotes@cvuuf.org

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February 7: "On Being Spiritually Courageous"
—Reverend Anne Felton Hines

The Mission of CVUUF "is to nurture spiritually courageous people..." but what does that look like? How do we know when we are "spiritually courageous?" And what does it mean for who you are as a congregation? (re-scheduled from January 24th)

February 14: "Faith, Race and Justice:
Moving Beyond Our Comfort Zone"
—Reverend Anne Felton Hines, Pamela Lopez

Today's service culminates the "30 Days of Love" project sponsored by the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign. Several members involved in planning CVUUF's Conversations on Race will speak about how this work has moved them beyond their comfort zones.

The entire Offering during our Feb. 14th worship services will be contributed to the Unitarian Universalist Association for the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign for racial justice.

February 21: "Erasers and the Illusion of Separateness:
A Sermon on Sin"
—Reverend Anne Felton Hines

Need more be said? Join Rev. Anne as she reflects on the meaning of sin, both as individuals, and as communities.

February 28: "Our Work on this Planet"
— Reverend Anne Felton Hines, Rabbi Jonathan Klein

Rabbi Klein is the director of the Los Angeles chapter of CLUE – Clergy & Laity for Economic Justice. He comes to us this morning at the invitation of Rev. Hines, and will address how communities of faith are challenging the circumstances that create economic inequality.

Rev. Hines will be holding "office hours" at Conejo Coffee on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month, 3:00-5:30 p.m. Drop by for informal conversations with her and others about CVUUF, or whatever else is on your mind!

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!



In the Meantime...

Reverend Anne Felton Hines

minister@cvuuf.org

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The issue of racism in America has been important to me since I was a child growing up in an all-white neighborhood in Altadena. I thank my parents for not hiding from my siblings and me the evils of segregation and bigotry, and for teaching us that working for human rights for all people – especially for those who so clearly were suffering oppression from members of our own race – was some of the most important work to be done.

That commitment to ending racism and other forms of injustice has remained with me throughout my life. So I was thrilled when I first began as your Consulting Minister last March to learn that four Fellowship members (Lorella & Todd Hess, Liza Diniakos & Willie Lubka) would be participating in the 50th anniversary of the great march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery. A few weeks later, they generously shared their experiences with us all during a Sunday worship service.

Since then, we have all watched with dismay as continuing racism has tragically and violently forced itself into our lives: the murders of nine African Americans by a white supremacist they'd welcomed into their midst at an AME church during Bible study; suspicious fires at black churches; killings of unarmed black males by over-reactive police; the lack of indictments for many of these shootings, including that of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, and the death by illegal choke-hold of Eric Garner. It goes on and on and on.

And I think that many of us have felt powerless to respond adequately. While I have delivered sermons here a few times on the issue of racism in America, there hasn't been a lot we have tried to do as a congregation.

So when David Wood asked Board president Willie Lubka one day about the possibility of starting some conversations for the wider community about race and racism, and when Liza Diniakos approached me about engaging this congregation in some conversations about the topic, I jumped at the chance. (Well, to be honest, it was more like a small hop; other activities have slowed my response!)

A small group of people met recently with me to start planning what steps we could take at CVUUF to begin this conversation: Liza and David, of course, along with Pamela Lopez, Gordon Clint, Barbara Leighton, and Lorella Hess. We brainstormed lots of ideas – guest speakers at worship, special community forums, partnering with a local African American church, supporting local actions, even creating a kind of "Truth & Reconciliation Council;" but finally we determined that the first step needs to be education and self-reflection.

So beginning February 17th at 7:00 p.m., we will be offering a bi-monthly (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) book study group. Facilitated by me, with the assistance of Liza Diniakos and Barbara Leighton, our first book will be *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. It won't be necessary to read the book to join in the conversation, nor is attendance at every meeting required; but obviously, reading and attending will make the discussion far more meaningful. Please see the announcement of the group elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am so excited to be embarking on this important conversation with you during this time. Do feel free to contact me or members of the planning committee if you have any questions.

Blessings.

Anne

President's Message

Willie Lubka
president@cvuuf.org



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At the Mid-Year Meeting on January 24, our Treasurer, Terry Hinricher, shared some positive news. As of the midpoint in our year, total income was at 53% of budget and expenses were at 44%. Income in October, November, and December were the highest on record! And, that's without our annual auction, which will happen in March. This is a good update any year, and especially so during this year of transition.

Terry also reported that the congregation responded to the Thriving Forward Stewardship campaign, led so capably by Stewardship Committee co-chairs Don Cooper and Lea Halseth, with total pledges of more than \$354,000, representing a 9% increase. That increase is even more remarkable considering that several members had to reduce their pledges due to economic setbacks.

During this time of transition at CVUUF, we are fortunate to be a community of faithful people who believe in our mission and our role in the world. We are making serious commitments to ensure that this congregation will be here - for us and for future generations.

It is inspiring to witness how we are strengthening our congregation's financial condition after living through the experience of moving into a new building with substantial obligations, then being hit by the great recession and having to contend with difficult deficits. Many of us have made heroic contributions to ensure this congregation will survive, achieve sustainability, and thrive forward. We have cause for gratitude and celebration. Great thanks to all who are giving generously. You make a difference.

Last year was the first year since we moved into our location in 2008 we did not end with deficit spending. That accomplishment wasn't easy, and was possible in large part because of unexpected, one-time cost reductions. Now, it appears likely, presuming we keep pace with pledges and have a successful auction, that FY16 will provide an even more improved financial basis. That will help next year, which will bring increased mission and ministry expenses as we welcome a minister.

The Board will begin developing a budget for FY 17 this month. The budget will include a new minister at fair compensation. The Board is also committed to paying down and paying off a deferred rent obligation; to funding the staff support needed to serve a growing congregation; to a stronger "rainy day" reserve for potential expenses such as unexpected building repairs; and most importantly, to supporting programs and ministries that *"nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion."*

Stewardship is an awesome responsibility. It requires us to wrestle with diverse attitudes, make wise decisions informed by our principles, overcome discouragement and stress, and discover joy in asking, giving, and receiving. Leaders must ask: *Where are we? Where do we want to be? What is most important?*

We are more successful, as a community of faith, when we realize and embrace the connection between values and money, and when we nurture a healthy culture where giving is part of our worship and the desire to foster a generous heart among people of all ages is a core value.

See you on Sunday!

Willie



Religious Education News

Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
dre@cvuuf.org

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Hello all!

2016 is off to a great start! With the holidays officially over, our classes are back to their regular curriculum, with a focus on understanding and embracing people of different backgrounds and beliefs. It's been wonderful seeing our youth excited to be in class.

Another reason for the great start to the New Year is the fantastic workshop the RE Committee participated in this past month. Start Up Workshops are given when a congregation has a new DRE and committee. Emerson's DRE, Emmalinda MacLean, lead this wonderful workshop. We were given a ton of information to help us find our focus and see what we want for our RE Program. I am so excited for the future of RE!

I would love to take a moment to spotlight our Middle School teachers. The youth in this class are joined by Erik Halseth, Jake Holland, and Kathleen Holland. Earlier in the year we were also graced by the aide of Jill Lewis, Dana Ryon, and LeAnn Walters. These six teachers are leading discussions based on the UUA curriculum *Building Bridges: Religions from Around the World*. This has been an amazing class! These wonderful people have done a fantastic job of engaging these youth, bringing knowledge and experience that only enhance the lessons. I am so proud of these volunteers and how they have connected with the youth. THANK YOU for the time, love, and appreciation you have given to your students.

Of course, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to any and all who celebrate in the month of February!



Looking for Children Chalice Lighters!

We are changing things up a bit when it comes to inviting our young ones to light the chalice during first service. We now have sign-ups for our families to commit to coming in on a particular Sunday of choice and take a small but important part in the service. This will allow us to stop the last minute rush in finding a chalice lighter and, as an exciting bonus, add the child's name to the Order of Service. If your young one is interested in assisting at a service during the month of February, please contact Sam Dickerson.

News From Our Outreach Director

Pamela Lopez

outreachdirector@cvuuf.org



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This Tuesday, **February 2**, is our monthly opportunity to join in community and help our neighbors with Feeding Hands at Calvary Church. Cooks, servers and greeters are always welcome to come and join and we provide a wonderful meal and welcome each month to over 100 of our neighbors.

Friday, February 5 – 7:30PM in the Sanctuary. Community Forum - David Klein Ph.D. will discuss Capitalism & Climate Change: The Science & Politics of Global Warming.

Consider joining the all-day interactive workshop being co-sponsored by the Escalating Inequality group "Ventura Stories" on **Saturday, February 20th**. The event will focus on economic issues that we all face in Ventura County. See full details below.

Keep your eyes peeled for many upcoming Community Forums. I am pleased to report that they are being put together by many members of our congregation. If you have an issue or program you would like to present, let me know. We'll see if we can make it work.

For information on any of the activities mentioned above, please contact me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



CVUUF Community Forum

The mission of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.

**David Klein Ph.D. discusses Capitalism & Climate Change:
The Science & Politics of Global Warming
February 5, 2016 7:30pm**

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3327 Old Conejo Road (enter at Ruth Drive) Newbury Park 91320

The climate crisis is the greatest threat humanity has ever faced. Climate change threatens not only global civilization, but perhaps even the survival of our species. Possible scenarios for the future based on climate science will be presented. Technological solutions already exist and the only barriers to implementation are political. The role of capitalism in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis will be described. Dr. Klein will explain why adequate solutions to the climate crisis are not possible within the framework of global capitalism, and therefore an alternative economic system is necessary.

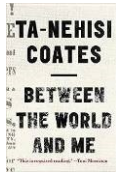
David Klein is a mathematical physicist with a Ph.D. from Cornell University. He is a professor at California State University, Northridge, where he is also director of the Climate Science Program, a NASA funded educational program.

PROGRAM IS FREE (Donations gratefully accepted)

INFORMATION: 805-498-9401 or ghclint@yahoo.com

Conversations on Racism

The Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is launching a new group to actively engage in ongoing discussion on racism that addresses white privilege and may develop into healing action in our congregation and the larger community.



All are invited to attend the first meeting, **February 17, 2016, 7pm.** Initially, we will hold a book study on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month on Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*. The author writes to his teenage son about being black in the United States. (Reading the book is encouraged, but not required to participate.)

The Ventura County Women's Forum is presenting *A Candid Conversation About Race* on **Monday, March 14, 2016, 6pm.** Panelists Dena Rogers, Tina Urias and Elaine Crandal with Moderator, Carina Armenta will share their reality as women of color in Ventura County. For more information, contact vcwf.org.



The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) will hold its 2016 Intergenerational Spring Conference from **April 7 through 9th, 2016.** UU youth and adults will gather in New York City to dig deeply into the issue of **income inequality** and racial discrimination around the world. Together, we will consider UU engagement with issues like:

- Rich versus poor disparities within countries and worldwide
- Globalization's impact on income inequality
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Poverty alleviation
- Inclusion of women, LGBTQ individuals, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups in economic activity
- Political instability caused by income inequality
- Structural discrimination based on race

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar>

Save the Dates:

- Community Forum-Climate Change: Friday, February 5, 7:30pm
- Racism Study Group –February 17, 7:00pm
- Escalating Inequality Interactive Workshop: Saturday, February 20, 9:00am—2:45pm
- Annual CVUUF Auction: Saturday, March 19, 6:00pm
- PSWD District Assembly, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, April 29 – 30, 2016

CARING COMMUNITY

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marjorie Loring Gauley on the passing of her husband, Sherman Gauley, on January 28, 2016. Sherman was a seminal founding member and past president of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. He was a kind and generous soul, young at heart and blessed with a sweet disposition.

If you are in need of pastoral care, a listening ear, a ride to church, or care while you are ill, our pastoral care team and neighborhood networks are here to help. For more information, call the office: 805-498-9548, email: pastoralcare@cvuuf.org, or find out who your neighborhood leader is at neighborhood@cvuuf.org.

CVUUF Auction — March 19th, 6:00pm

Join The FUNdraising and Support Our Fellowship

The annual auction will take place at CVUUF on March 19th beginning at 6 PM. Donations of services and dinners are especially welcome. It's a chance to have fun and benefit our fellowship. If you have or know anyone who could donate time-shares, that would be appreciated by our travel-loving members. We will not be doing a boutique this

year. We are asking folks who wish to donate items or services to fill out forms in the fellowship hall between services and the auction committee members will input donations into the online catalog which should be available for viewing in mid-February. For questions about donations, please contact Jo Ann Van Reenan, Marcy Wingard or Bea Ornstein (business or vendor donations.)

Workers are needed to help with set up March 18th and to check in and do sales on the day of the auction. Training will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Liza Diniakos or Jo Ann Van Reenan.

The auction is always a great opportunity to socialize and contribute to our beloved community.

Auction Questions?



At coffee hour, go to Auction table to donate, volunteer and ask more questions.



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST District News

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY-- Draw the Circle Wider: The Prophethood of All Believers
Friday and Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2016
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
1535 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Keynote Address: Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, President, Professor of Unitarian Universalist Ministry and Heritage, Starr King School for the Ministry
Questions or to register: pswd.district.assembly@gmail.com.

CHALICE LIGHTERS FUNDING REQUEST

PSWD Chalice Lighters will assist Throop Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasadena, in their building revitalization efforts for their historic church. The building is being turned around by the generous donation of time and effort by church staff and members but it needs help from the Chalice Lighters too.

The Chalice Lighters funds will be focused on upgrading the three ground-floor restrooms so they are clean and visually appealing.

For further information about the PSWD Chalice Lighters program and to learn more about renovations to Throop, visit pswduua.org.

Two Women Nominated for UUA Presidency



The Race for the 2017 election of the next UUA president begins with the nomination of Alison Miller and Sue Phillips. For more information, visit <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/miller-phillips-nominated>.

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."

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

"...We must not face terrorism with fear; love is the only thing that I know that can truly conquer hate. I call on our elected officials to lead on the side of love for refugees."

—Rev. Peter Morales, President
Unitarian Universalist Association

"... We can be our best selves, offering relief and resettlement to Syrian refugees who are survivors of the terrorism that killed the victims who lie dead in Beirut and Paris. Or we can close our borders and leave millions of refugees literally out in the cold this winter."

—Bill Schulz, President & CEO
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

RACIAL JUSTICE

Thirty Days of Love

Kicking off in the New Year on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend and concluding with a Valentine's Day transformation, the national Standing on the Side of Love team will be honoring and observing Thirty Days of Love---a time for love, community, and prophetic action. From Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, February 14, 2016 people of faith and conscience will show up for Black Lives Matter and racial justice throughout the country as part of this observance. Look for more details at www.standingonthesideoflove.org

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Chipping away at ROE v. WADE

In November, the Supreme Court announced that it will hear its first abortion case in nine years. *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, is focused on two new restrictions in the Texas law that will narrow access to abortion services by forcing some clinics to close. The earliest the Court will begin hearing the case is February 2016. Follow this case at www.supremecourt.gov.



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February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm>Finance Committee 7:15pm>Opal Covenant Group 7:30pm>MSC meeting	2:30pm>Free Meal Commitment-Food Preparation 6:00pm> Free Meal Commitment-Serving	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Worship Committee 7:30pm>Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm>Community Forum	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:15am>Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15>Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am>Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—Upper Elementary OWL High School RE; 12:15>New UU Class 1:00pm>High School OWL 2:30pm>Coming of Age Superbowl Party 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm>Drop-in Book Club 7:30pm>MSC meeting	9:45am>Gardenia Group 7:00pm>2nd Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00pm>CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	12:30pm>Daytime Book Club and Potluck 6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Stewardship Committee 7:30pm>Meditation Group	7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group 7:30pm> Choir Rehearsal		7:00pm>Movie Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am>OWL Parent meeting 11:00am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 12:15>The Dharma Workshop 12:30pm>Citizens Climate Lobby 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	1:45>3rd Monday Chalice Circle 7:30pm>MSC meeting	7:00pm>Music Ministry	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>3rd Wed Chalice Circle 7:00pm>Racism Study Group 7:15pm>Transitions Group 7:30pm>Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal		9:00am—2:45pm> Ventura Stories: Conference on Economic Justice in Ventura County
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 11:00am>Upper Elementary Owl 12:15pm>Huumanists Meeting 1:00pm>3rd Sunday Chalice Circle; 1:00pm>High School OWL 5:00pm>Movie Group 3 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm> MSC Meeting	9:45am>Gardenia Group	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Facilitators' Circle 7:15> Transitions Group 7:30pm> Meditation Group	7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm>Movie Group1	
28	29					
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 11:00am>Upper Elementary OWL 12:15pm>Dharma Workshop 1:00pm>High School OWL 1:00pm>Middle School OWL 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:30pm> MSC 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 ([map](#))
805-498-9548
www.cvuuf.org

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

Staff

Rev. Anne Felton-Hines, Interim Minister, minister@cvuuf.org
Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education, dre@cvuuf.org
Greg Whitmore, Choir Director, choirdirector@cvuuf.org
Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Minister Emerita

Board of Trustees 2015-2016

Willie Lubka, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
Gaye Allan, Vice President
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Terry Hinricher, Treasurer
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Matthew Weisman, Trustee At Large
Tom Wolf, 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!