Upcoming Sunday Services

Links In This Issue

Minister's Message	2
President's Message	3
RE News	4
Outreach Director	5
<u>Auction Update</u>	7
<u>Upcoming Events</u>	7-8
Calendar	12
About Us	14

March 6: "Lars and the Religious Community"

-Reverend Anne Felton Hines

What does a comedy about a man and his life-size doll have to do with religious community? All will be revealed!

March 13: "Learning from Our Children"

-An Intergenerational Service

Please join the children and youth of our Religious Education program for a service that can't help but enlighten and inspire us all.

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

Visit us on Facebook:

http:// www.facebook.com/ CVUUF



March 20: ""First in the Country"

-Reverend Anne Felton Hines

- Maricela Morales, M.A.

Maricela Morales is Executive Director of CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy), and has also recently become a Unitarian Universalist at the UU Church of Ventura! She will be speaking with us about the plight of the farmworkers, and why our UU Principles of justice and compassion call us to support a "Farmworkers Bill of Rights," the first in the U.S. if passed.

March 27: "Between Two Thieves"

-Reverend Anne Felton Hines

On this Easter Sunday, it is appropriate to remember Jesus the man – rabbi and rebel; and to ask in what way he might actually be a savior.

Today is our annual Flower Communion. Please remember to bring a flower (or more) to share!

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

back

It happened again. The choir was singing a profoundly beautiful song (I don't remember now what it was); I was sitting on the Chancel, my eyes closed, feeling transported for those few moments by this peaceful music. As it came softly to an end, I thought to myself, "Please don't applaud; please let the quiet last." But my prayer was not heard. Instead, the beauty of the moment was broken by the sound of hands clapping.

I suspect that some of your former ministers at CVUUF have written or talked about applause in worship. I suspect this because, in fact, not everyone does applaud after the choir or soloists sing; some of you raise your hands in the air and wiggle them – a fairly common sign for silent applause. But alas, that's only a small number of people.

And it's not only after beautiful music that applause breaks the silence, but after special presentations by members, and after most of the "Stories for All Ages." (It's still not as bad as one UU church I visited, where they even applauded every Announcement!) But it is most disturbing to me after special music.

Worship is so much more than just a casual get-together with friends, or attendance at a lecture or variety show. It's a time we set apart from the rest of our week – a sacred hour – to reflect on the deeper questions of our existence, to celebrate the goodness of life, to find support to look inward and gather strength to move outward. It is a time, as the Rev. Kathleen McTigue writes, "to rest for a moment on the forming edge of our lives...."

Looking at worship in this way, music isn't a performance, but an offering – just as the sermon is. Both are integral parts of the worship experience, there to enhance that experience. But neither are performances, in the way they would be in a theater setting. Applause during worship should be kept to a bare minimum – those moments when something has so profoundly stirred us up that we cannot remain silent – such as certain jazz or gospel songs by the choir, when we also might want to shout or even dance!

I know that not all of you agree with me on this, in part because after a beautiful piece of music, you want to show your appreciation – and applause is the best way we know to do that. But as both a musician and a preacher, I also know how much work goes into creating a mood – either through music or through words, and the joy of having that mood respected sometimes with silence.

So I hope that we can all use less applause during worship, waiting instead until after the service to give our verbal thanks to those who blessed us with their gifts of music, stories, or words during our time together.

And no matter what, know that I applaud you and the blessings you bring.



President's Message

back

Willie Lubka president@cvuuf.org

If you are proud of this church, become its advocate.

If you are concerned for it future, share its message.

If its values resonate deep within you, give it a measure of your devotion.

This church cannot survive without your faith, your confidence, your enthusiasm.

Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands.

— the Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler

One of the things I love about our church is that we are an intentional community. We are made up of people who come together by choice. We join together to support our mission and values, seek knowledge and truth, deepen our spirits, celebrate life, and work for justice. We cultivate an authentic, affirming community that inspires and challenges each of us to become our best selves. We provide a welcoming, family-friendly environment where everyone has both the right and the responsibility to seek out their own truth and meaning and to treat others with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Learning how to be in community in intentional and healthy ways isn't always easy. It requires honesty, humility, and courage. To further the goal of sustaining such an intentional community, we enter our Covenant of Good Relations.

We also depend on stewards. Stewardship is a way of life centered on gratitude for the gifts we receive. Stewardship is an ethic that embodies responsibility. Stewards see themselves as caretakers who assume a sense of ownership and accountability for their own role in the well-being of the community, and by "giving forward" – considering the common good and needs of others, in the present and in the future, ahead of their own ego and desires. Stewards, ask the question: what legacy will we choose to leave? Our congregation encourages each member to grow in maturity and to embrace the identity of steward. We are fortunate to have many wonderful stewards among us.

Every member is invited to help bring our mission and vision to life by developing as a steward. As a group of people covenanted together in our spiritual community, a healthy church is the responsibility of all members. If this Fellowship and our liberal religious faith are to live into future generations, we must care for this community and keep it strong.

This is an exciting time for our beloved congregation. We are in a period of transition. Over the next few months, we will begin a new journey together as we call a new settled minister to lead us. A transition is a time of transformation. We are moving from the church we were to the church we can become. Our church is self-sustaining. Its members contribute time, talent and treasure, by attending services, volunteering, becoming engaged in the many activities we offer, and giving financial contributions. We strive to be a congregation of generous stewards who recognize the joy and satisfaction that comes from building a community where our values flourish, a community that makes a difference in the world.

I encourage you to be an intentional steward. Help ensure that our church and its resources will be here now and in the future. Revisit our Covenant of Good Relations regularly and endeavor to live by it. Promote strong and healthy relationships. Keep to the promise that "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." Together, we make our church a vibrant and thriving community.

See you Sunday!

Willie



Religious Education News

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

back

Call me a broken record, but I'll say it again—my job is fun!

Every week as I put lessons together, I can't help but smile. I love finding fun ways to get our kids engaged, encourage them to think, and maybe even teach them a thing or two. Yes, I say "our kids." I truly believe in the philosophy that it takes a village to raise a child. We all have a place in this village, whether you realize it or not. We are a community that provides a safe harbor and unconditional love. Some do this as parents, others as teachers, and yet others show this love and support through warm smiles as we sing our children off to class. I, for one, leave the Fellowship every Sunday with a warmth in my soul because, not only have I touched these young lives, but they have touched mine as well.

I want to introduce you to some members of our village—Ayanna Gaines, Carolyn Gass, and Tom Smith. This trio has the amazing job of working with our teens in YRUU. This year the teens have asked to learn more about the Bible. Ayanna, Carolyn, and Tom lead these discussions with an open mind and a light heart. These teachers set an amazing example for our youth who stand so close to adulthood. I feel confident that YRUU is led by mentors who love and respect our teens the way they deserve to be. Thank you for all you do!

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Alex Holland and all others who celebrate their special day in the month of March!



We are 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, please contact Sam Dickerson at dre@cvuuf.org. We look forward to seeing you and your young one at service.

News From Our Outreach Director

Pamela Lopez outreachdirector@cvuuf.org

back

Start the month off with our **Feeding Hands**, Tuesday, **March 1st** 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.

We have begun our twice-monthly **Conversations on Racism**. Join us as we begin by discussing the book Between The World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates the 1st and 3rd **Wednesdays** – this month **March 2 and 16.**

Friday, March 4th - 7:30PM in the Sanctuary. **Community Forum** – Screening of the film "After Tiller", a documentary that intimately explores the highly controversial subject of third-trimester abortions in the wake of the 2009 assassination of practitioner Dr. George Tiller.

Sunday, March 6th is **CROP WALK!** Come join CVUUF kids, teens and adults for the 38th annual Conejo Valley CROP Hunger Walk! 10K/6.2 mile charity walk, begins and ends at Cal Lutheran University. This event is sponsored by Church World Service, an ecumenical relief organization founded in 1946. 25% of funds raised stay in our community and benefit MANN, Meals on Wheels and Lutheran Social Services Community Care Center. 75% of donations provide clean water, nutritious food, sustainable agriculture and disaster relief worldwide. Please see Tom Stough or Mary Freed during Coffee Hour if you would like to join them or make pledges.

Sunday, March 13th is the monthly meeting of our chapter of **Citizens Climate Lobby** in the Board Room at 12:30pm.

Sunday, March 20th is our monthly **HUUmanist Group** meeting in the Middle School classroom at 12:15pm.

This year's annual Pacific Southwest District Assembly and Annual meeting "Draw the Circle Wider" will be held **April 29 and 30**th –at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

If you have any questions on any of the activities mentioned above, please contact me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.

~Save the Date~

- Racism Study Group March 2 and March 15, 7:00pm
- Community Forum, March 4, 7:30pm "After Tiller"
- Citizens Climate Lobby, Sunday, March13 12;30pm
- Annual CVUUF Auction, Saturday, March 19, 6:00pm
- Huumanist Group Meeting, Sunday, March 20 12:15pm
- CVUUF Flower Communion—March 27, either service—bring a flower (or more) to share
- PSWD District Assembly, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, April 29 30, 2016

AFTER TILLER

Friday, March 4, 2016 - 7:30pm



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

AFTER TILLER intimately explores the highly controversial subject of thirdtrimester abortions in the wake of the 2009 assassination of practitioner Dr. George Tiller. The procedure is now performed by only four doctors in the United States, all former colleagues of Dr. Tiller, who risk their lives every day in the name of their unwavering commitment toward their patients.

Directors Martha Shane and Lana Wilson have created a moving and unique exploration of one of the most incendiary topics of our time, and they've done so in an informative, thought-provoking, and compassionate way.

A discussion will follow the film.

PROGRAM IS FREE (Donations gratefully accepted)

CVUUFAUCTIONUPDATE

Improv Group will entertain at the March 19, 2016 Auction

The players are all from the Ventura area and have been practicing their craft for at least 12 years; some have been at it for 27 years. All are alums of The Ventura Improv Company. Their shows are therefore deeply rooted in local life: a theater of community, dedicated to creating joy in the audience.

Important Auction details:

- Dessert will be the only food item sold at this year's auction, please plan your dinner accordingly.
- Childcare is available. Please RSVP to Sam <u>cvuufsam@gmail.com</u> so we know how many caretakers are needed.
- Last day to donate to the auction and have your item in the catalog is Sunday, March 6, 2016.
- Catalog is online for viewing! http://www.cvuuf.org
- Early Check In: receive a paddle number and catalog, Sunday, March 13, 2016 at the Auction Table in Fellowship Hall
- Troubles, or questions? Speak with an Auction committee member at the Auction Table, or email Fundraising@cvuuf.org.

Special Fellowship Meeting Sunday, April 3, 12:15pm

Announcement: The Board of Trustees is calling a Special Fellowship Meeting, on Sunday, April 3, at 12:15pm. This special meeting was requested by our Escalating

Inequality Group. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on a resolution to endorse the Farm Worker Bill of Rights. The articles referenced here provide additional information. Please take a few minutes to learn more.



Groups urge officials to strengthen labor protections for farmworkers http://www.vcstar.com/business/groups-urge-officials-to-strengthen-labor-protections-for-farmworkers-2a5698de-0eb6-579a-e053-010000-366779861.html

Activists Demand A Bill Of Rights For California Farm Workers
http://www.npr.org/sections/
h

New Office Administrator ~ Welcome Dianna!

Welcome to our new Office Administrator, <u>Dianna Mueller</u>, who has begun training with Jessica this past week. Dianna has extensive experience with both the bookkeeping and the office management requirements of the position, and I think she is going to be great to work with. She is scheduled for 20 hours/week which will include hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She'll also be at the Fellowship two Sundays each month, so you'll have a chance to get to know her then as well. Her email addresses are admin@cvuuf.org or cvuufdiana@gmail.com.



CARING COMMUNITY

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.

back



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.





UUA General Assembly —Columbus, Ohio REGISTRATION AND HOUSING OPEN MARCH 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. EST

HEART LAND: WHERE FAITHS CONNECT

The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future for all.

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

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

Registration begins March 1!



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 <u>pswduua.org</u>.



The Santa Paula Concert Series has been revived and will have its fifth concert, "A Call 2 Peace: An Evening of World Music for Peace", on Saturday, March 5th at 7:00 PM at the historic Universalist Unitarian Church, located at 740 East Main Street, Santa Paula.

NEW CANDIDATE FOR UUA PRESIDENT TO BE NAMED MARCH 6

Sue Phillips, one of the original nominees for UUA president has withdrawn. UUA Moderator Jim Key announced that a second candidate will enter the race by petition. Phillips withdrew and stated "To my great disappointment, it has become clear that I cannot serve as Regional Lead and mount a campaign for President of the size, complexity, duration, and cost required to compete within the demands of our uniquely UU brand of democracy."

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

UU Justice Journey to the Border sponsored by the UU Justice Ministry of California

Join us as we immerse ourselves for 3 full days in Tijuana, MX, right by San Diego. Connect with human realities of the U.S. created immigration system. Attend and witness separated families talking through the wall. Time included for education, reflection, worship, and the natural beauty and good cuisine of Mexico. Stay with UU friends in their giant center in Playas de Tijuana. You will come home enriched in many ways with new ideas on how to get your congregations involved.

\$470 per person all inclusive room & board, programs, transport beginning and ending in San Diego. Please visit <u>uuborders.org</u> to register and for more information.

2016 UU Borders trips:

March 18-21, July 22-25, Nov 4-7

RACIAL JUSTICE

SisterSong's "What does reproductive justice look like in 2016?" Webinar

<u>SisterSong</u> is hosting a monthly webinar series about what reproductive justice looks like in 2016. The last one was on Reproductive, Criminal & Restorative Justice. You can view more about it here. The next call will be about Reproductive and Birth Justice, and is expected to take place in March.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Abortion Access Supreme Court Case

As you may know, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for the Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt case—which if it stands could seriously undermine Roe. Learn more about the details of the case here.

The UUA is organizing a rally to Protect Abortion Access on March 2 in Washington.



back

March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		2:30pm>Free Meal Commitment-Food Preparation 6:00pm> Free Meal Commitment–Serving 7:00pm>Parent and Caregiver as Sexuality Educators Program	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Racism Study Group 7:30pm>Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm>Community Forum-screening and discussion "After Tiller"	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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; 12:00pm>Crop Walk 12:15>Membership Committee 1:00pm>High School OWL 1:00pm>Gaming Afternoon 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	-	9:45am>Gardenia Group	12:30pm>Daytime Book Club and Potluck 6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous	7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group 7:30pm> Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm>Leader Retreat	7:00pm>Movie Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children— Upper Elementary OWL High School RE 12:15>The Dharma Workshop 12:30pm>Citizens Climate Lobby 1:00pm>High School OWL 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm>Drop-in Book Club 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		6:00pm>Live Auction GALA Event
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children;	1:45>3rd Monday Chalice Circle 7:30pm> MSC Meeting	9:45am>Gardenia Group	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm> Meditation Group	Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm>Survivors After Suicide Support Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm>Movie Group1	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children;	7:00pm> Women's Evening Group 7:30pm> MSC Meeting		6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Facilitators' Circle 7:30pm> Meditation Group	5:30pm>Survivors After Suicide Support Group 7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal		



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>) 805-498-9548 www.cvuuf.org

back

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

Staff

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

Board of Trustees 2015-2016

Willie Lubka, Board President, <u>president@cvuuf.org</u>
Gaye Allan, Vice President
Kathleen Holland, Secretary
Terry Hinricher, Treasurer
Matthew Weisman, Trustee At Large
Tom Wolf, Trustee At Large

Additional UU resource links:

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