



# CVUUF

## March 2017

### Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

## Sunday Worship Services

### This Month's Theme – Growing Together in Vision

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#### Sunday, March 5 – 2020 Vision – YRUU

We begin our month focused on "Growing Together in Vision", with our satire-loving teens leading a service with their vision for the future. Our young people just might have a way of keeping our sights on a bright future, despite trying times for many. Please join us as YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) present their Survival Guide for 2020 vision.

#### Sunday, March 12 – Carpe Diem! – Rev Nica Eaton-Guinn

This life is a beautiful gift. None of us know how long we will get to enjoy it. It is the finite nature of life that makes it so precious. Yet many of us live as though we have forever. We can forget that each year of life is not a given. Carpe Diem encourages us to seize the day, to live with intention and make the most of every precious day we have here on this earth. Join us to live fully now.

#### Sunday, March 19 – Many Paths, One Vision? – Rev Nica Eaton-Guinn

Mahatma Gandhi said: "Belief in one God is the cornerstone of all religions so it is toward this one God that all religious people are climbing." The 2015 Parliament of World Religions brought together over 10,000 people from all over the world in Salt Lake City to share practices, social justice calls and a multi-cultural vision of faith. It was a giant experiment in seeing whether all these diverse religious paths really shared one vision. This service will explore this multiplicity of paths and whether there really is one vision.

#### Sunday, March 26 – Intergenerational Justice: Does Any Vision Matter More?

- Rev Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow

It's not just immoral; it is evil to irreparably harm the future for short-term personal or institutional gain. Yet we have a global economic system supported by governments everywhere ensuring that it's not only legal to condemn posterity, it's highly profitable. What most people don't realize, however, is that this is precisely what history teaches us. When religion fails, economics becomes demonic. What else to call a system that rewards the few at the expense of the many, measure progress by how fast we can turn the biosphere into pollution, and forces virtually all of us to betray the future just by pursuing the so-called 'good life'. Only 'ecology as theology' can save us now.

This newsletter is published monthly. Download your copy on our website at [www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org).

Deadline for articles or photos is the 24th day of each month at 6:00pm. Direct submissions to: [news@cvuuf.org](mailto:news@cvuuf.org)  
Content is placed, and may be edited by, Jill Lewis, Newsletter Editor

#### Weekly News & Notes

(Sunday handouts/ weekly email)

Email submissions to: [news@cvuuf.org](mailto:news@cvuuf.org)

#### Visit us on

##### Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/CVUUF>

 Like us

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Sunday services are now posted on our website, [cvuuf.org](http://cvuuf.org). Click on Service Archive to find a list of previous sermons and click on the title. Sermons are also found on Youtube.com and you can even subscribe there, so one will be in your email box each week. This is especially helpful for our homebound members and friends so please pass the word along. This format now replaces the audio recordings on cd.



# Minister's Message

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Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn, Minister  
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## Theme – Growing Together in Vision

Where do you think the biggest opportunity for the growth of Unitarian Universalism currently lies in the world? When I attended the International U\*U Women's Convocation recently, I learned that Africa and South America are apparently the main continents for expanding our faith. That's where liberation theology is guiding people to explore more progressive, open-minded faith possibilities. People are seeking alternatives to Catholicism and evangelical Christianity. Apparently they are discovering UUism online and are starting and growing their own UU congregations.

This is an exciting possibility for us. Of course, we're also very cautious as UUs not to impose our culture there, but we're excited to support this discovery and growth in the Southern hemisphere. The UU Women's Convocation was attended by women from all over the world, including India, the Philippines, Transylvania, New Zealand, and Europe. There also would have been a delegation from Kenya if they had not been thwarted by immigration restrictions.

It was fascinating to see the different interpretations of UUism around the world, or perhaps more accurately, Unitarianism. Our Transylvanian and Indian counterparts have a much more Bible centered Unitarian faith than we do in the US, which reflects their unique histories. In both these places, Unitarianism began and grew as a separate faith tradition, not related to ours. The asterisk between U\*U in the Convocation title reflects the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism as a uniquely American thing. Most of our international counterparts are simply Unitarian. Universalism has not been spreading as a unique faith in the same way, although most Unitarians share Universalist theology.

There were 5 different tracks at the Convocation: Education; Violence Prevention; Health and Reproductive Justice; Economic Opportunity; and Leadership Development. I took the Leadership path and learned many interesting insights about women's leadership from Hillary Clinton's personal advisor, Kathy Allen. She has also coached many of the female Presidents around the world. In each seminar we brainstormed in small groups to identify the most important action steps to take next for women's empowerment and leadership development.



# Minister's Message

...Continued

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn, Minister  
[minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:minister@cvuuf.org)

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An additional blessing for me at this conference was that I was able to attend with 2 other CVUUF women – Anahi Quiroz and Kim Henson. Please speak with them to hear their own impressions of the Convocation. Kim has also shared some thoughts below. I believe we all took away different teachings from this gathering. March 8 marks International Women's Day. The International U\*U Women's Convocation asks us to be bold for change and participate in a day of activism. They hope we may commit to forging a more gender inclusive and equal world. For more information, see: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/BeBold>.

One more thing... I am trying to get a sense of how many of you read our e-newsletter. Would you be willing to drop me a quick email <[Minister@cvuuf.org](mailto:Minister@cvuuf.org)> to let me know if you read this?

As we explore the theme of growing together in vision this month, may you develop clear inspiration for where you want your life to go. And may we collectively continue to uncover a powerful vision for CVUUF.

With vision and hope,  
Reverend Nica

## New Member, Kim Henson reports from the IWC

The International Women's Convocation was an ambitious undertaking, made more complicated—and more amazing—by the international component. There were a lot of takeaways for me, but I think I was most impressed by the language abilities of the international contingent and the commitment to developing leadership schools for women in their countries. There was a tendency to focus on U.S. issues because American attendees were a majority, of course. I appreciated the chance to become more aware of my "American privilege" and believe that is something to keep in mind whenever we are part of an international group. I will never forget the women I met at the Convocation and the amazing opportunity to talk about important issues with Unitarian women from around the world.

# President's Message

Tom Wolf  
[president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)



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Fellow Members,

It is hard to believe that March is already upon us. It is also hard to believe how much rain we've gotten here in Ventura County, but that is another story.

As an elementary teacher, three things stand out with regard to the month of March. First, it is a long month with no vacation or even a three day weekend. Second, a certain panic begins knowing that the big state testing is coming up very fast. And finally, it is women's History Month. This follows Black History Month, and one difference is that it is 3 days longer.

Our UU heritage is rich with women and women's history. I am proud that so many of UU leaders, past and present, have been women. I am equally proud that so many of the male UU leaders have also been at the forefront of social justice work, including equal rights for women and reproductive rights.

I have never liked gender stereotypes, finding that the traditional shortcuts to understanding human behavior are too restrictive, binary, and often don't work. One tribute that I admire tremendously, the ability to show and feel empathy, has long been associated in our society more with women than men. But whoever possesses it, and whatever pronoun they use, empathy is a critical emotional quality. These days it is even a critical political quality.

So let's spread the word. We can be the Standing on the Side of Empathy people, just like we are the Standing on the Side of Love people. Show your kids, your friends and coworkers, what empathy looks like. Hey, show strangers too.

Looking forward a couple of months, we have the official Installation for Rev. Nica coming up in May. Before that though, we need to spruce up our beautiful facilities. There will be a Spring Clean organized by one of our Chalice Circles, currently set for Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for more details in the next newsletter. Put it on your calendar now and come by and lend a hand.

On a final note, at the very end of March, the 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Pacific Southwest District is having a Justice Assembly in Arizona. If you can get there it looks like a great time. If you can't make it, be sure to look for events upon our return where those who went can share the experience.

***Tom Wolf***

# News From Our Social Action Director

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Pamela Lopez  
[outreachdirector@cvuuf.org](mailto:outreachdirector@cvuuf.org)



We have ten CVUUF members attending Justice District Assembly in Arizona from March 31-April 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can still register for this exciting weekend long immersion into the immigration issues we face as a country. Deadline for registration is March 15. Please see Rev. Nica or me for more details about this exciting event or go to this link: <http://justiceda2017.weebly.com/>

Our new community forum committee is up and going – presenting TWO forums this month. This Friday, March 3, we will be screening the documentary 13<sup>th</sup>. This powerful film explores the "intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the [Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#), which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime). It takes a hard look at the many ways types of slavery still exist today through disenfranchisement, lynchings, Jim Crow laws and mass incarceration of people of color. A discussion will follow the film.

On Tuesday, March 28, Rev. Michael Dowd will return to CVUUF with his talk "Faithful to the Future: Big Picture Inspiration for Chaotic Times". If you want to participate in this dynamic committee and help develop our community programs, please contact Dana Ryon at [dana.ryon@gmail.com](mailto:dana.ryon@gmail.com).

Please join Rev. Nica and me for our second Social Justice Gathering/Reflection – to be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 12 from 1:00-3:00PM. We will discuss what we have done since our last meeting in November, and talk about upcoming activities and efforts in which we want to become involved. All are welcome.

Other dates to note:

Sunday, March 5 – CROP Walk – contact Tom Stough or Mary Freed

Tuesday, March 7 – Feeding Hands

Monday, March 27 – Escalating Inequality group

Are you interested in getting involved in any of our ongoing projects or creating your own? Contact me at [outreach@cvuuf.org](mailto:outreach@cvuuf.org).





# Religious Education News

Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

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We all have a vision. For ourselves. For our families. For our careers. For the Fellowship. We all have a vision of the future filled with hopes and dreams, and we all go about those dreams in different ways. Some of us are cloud gazers thinking of all the possibilities, while others enjoy being a bit more proactive in planning the to-dos to make their dream a reality. Either way, all us dreamers and doers have a place in this great work, this great collective vision.

I think about the vision for RE, well, a lot. I listen to stories of where we were, and see where we are now. I constantly ask myself, are the children and youth happy? Are their young spirits finding a nurturing environment? How can I make this better? How can I be better for them? I often think of the grand utopia that most all DREs dream of, wondering how close we are and how close can we get. I am not necessarily a believer in perfection. After all, there is a lesson behind every mistake, beauty behind every flaw.

But... What if? What if... Every child's needs were met? And some of their wants as well? We had so many volunteers we struggled to find a place for them all? We had an endless budget? And a larger paid staff to go with that budget? So many families attending every Sunday we had to add classes? We didn't just offer activities during Sundays, but throughout the week? Our children and youth have such a profound experience here, they bring their own children? There are so many "what if's" it makes me dizzy at times.

Those dizzy spins can be a bit fun and exciting, and maybe a little overwhelming. So, I keep a mental Vision Board. I "cut" images and words from all these wonderful dreams and glue them to my Vision Board. Oh my, this Board is HUGE! It is overflowing with smiles and laughter. All children past, present, and future are seen living their values and embracing our mission. Joy, compassion, and respect for our fellow person spill out the classrooms, run down the halls, and follow us all out in to the world. At the very center of my Vision Board are the Chalice lighting words, "A place for wonder, a place for fun, welcome, welcome everyone." My vision is grand, yet simple. I know it is not the only one, but maybe I could find a few of you to share it with. Maybe, with a little work, we could turn some of those dreams and to-dos into reality.

This coming Sunday, March 5, our bright and energetic teens in YRUU will be sharing their vision with us. A sort of survival guide on how to traverse the bumps and pitfalls until we can get a little closer to the future we really want for each other. Bring your open minds, eyes, and hearts, and hopefully leave with a lifted spirit.

Dreamers and doers, welcome, welcome everyone.



**CVUUF Annual Auction Night  
In the Fellowship Sanctuary  
Saturday, March 11, 5:30 to 9:30pm**

**Best Auction Yet!**

CVUUF is on track to have its most successful auction. The auction takes place Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 9:30pm, with check-in as early as 5:30pm. As always there will a silent and live auction and raffle prizes all evening.

**Saturday Night Fever!**

This year's auction features a disco theme with prizes for outfits and dancing. Wine will be available for sale and free sandwiches and finger food for attendees.

[Silent Auction](#) over 160 goods and services will be available including a Restaurants.Com \$100 and twelve other gift certificates for local stores and restaurants. If you have never attended before, you are entitled to three complimentary raffle tickets. Be sure to bring a friend with you.

[Live Auction](#) prizes include 3 stays in rental properties, a virtual reality party, a golf swing evaluation, Angels tickets, and artwork.

If you can't attend the silent auction, you can pre-bid online. There will be a link to the online catalog at [www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org) or [www.togethераuction.com/cvuuf](http://www.togethераuction.com/cvuuf). To bid, you need to log in with the phone number the software has for you. Once logged in, peruse the catalog and put in your bids. You may still be outbid later but you should receive notification if that happens. You can also be outbid at the auction. If there's something you must have and you cannot be there, you can always get someone to bid for you at the event.

This is the church's biggest fun and fundraiser. ***Don't miss it.***

## Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn's Installation



### **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday May 6th - 3:00pm**

Yay!! CVUUF is throwing ourselves a giant party! On Saturday, May 6, at 3:00pm we are officially installing Reverend Nica into our Fellowship as our Minister.

Installation is a commitment to a deep lasting relationship, a covenant, and an affirmation of commitment between Reverend Nica and every member. We hope that everyone will take part in the preparations, and the experiences of the day!!

Please contact Hilary Rosen at [hilary@tdjax.com](mailto:hilary@tdjax.com) or 805-766-0662 (Voice or text) to let us know how you would like to contribute!

### **A Shine, A Sparkle and...a Little Elbow Grease**

A clean-up of our fellowship home is being planned for Saturday, **April 22**, most likely from **10:00am-4:00pm**.

One of our Chalice Circles is coordinating this effort. We welcome all members and friends to come pitch in for a couple of hours. Please watch for details and contact information in the April newsletter.





## Movie "**13th**" Oscar Nominee for Best Documentary Film

Friday, March 3 at 7:30pm

The film begins with the idea that 25 percent of the people in the world who are incarcerated are incarcerated in the U.S. although the U.S. has just 5 percent of the world's population. "13th" charts the explosive growth in America's prison population; in 1970, there were about 200,000 prisoners; today, the prison population is more than 2 million. The documentary touches on chattel slavery; D. W. Griffith's film "The Birth of a Nation"; Emmett Till; the civil rights movement; the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Richard M. Nixon; and Ronald Reagan's declaration of the war on drugs and much more. *Written by Ulf Kjell G r*

## Support the Chalice Lighter Program Pacific Western Region UUA

The Pacific Western Region of the UUA offers a wonderful grant program that allows congregation to fund facility expenses or professional leadership. All it takes is for 20% of the membership of our congregation to become a Chalice Lighter. That involves giving 3 donations of \$20 a year - \$60 a year in total. If 20% of us sign up (which is about 37 members) then we are eligible for a much bigger grant to our congregation.

I have signed up and I know several of our members are already participating. You can find out more information and how to sign up at this link: <http://www.pswduua.org/about-us/about-the-district/programs/chalice-lighters/>. We'd all be so grateful if you would participate, so that we can help our congregation in significant ways. As soon as we have 20% participation, we can apply for a grant. Let's see if we can get that done in March!

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Reverend Nica

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER



### INTERFAITH POTLUCK

**Sunday March 19th, 5-7pm**

**LDS Chapel 1600 Erbes Rd., Thousand Oaks**

- **SHARE A POTLUCK DINNER** with Members of our Welcome Team's Faith Groups: *UMC Westlake, St. Jude's, Malibu UMC, Epiphany Episcopal, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, UMC Thousand Oaks, St. Matthew UMC, Sisters of Notre Dame, Temple Adat Elohim, Moorpark UMC, Conejo Valley Islamic Center*
- **CELEBRATE** Coming Together to Help Refugee Families Settle in Our Greater Community
- **HEAR** from the Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service
- **LEARN** of Our Future Efforts for New Refugee Families

## New guests and visitors... Learn more about CVUUF

### NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and CVUUF? You are invited to a Newcomer Orientation on **Sunday, March 5 12:30pm to 1:30pm** in the church sanctuary.

Meet informally with Reverend Nica and members of the congregation to hear a brief history of our church, enjoy light refreshments and take a tour of our facilities. Childcare is available with a reservation! Please R.S.V.P. to Nancy Cooper, [ngrbm@aol.com](mailto:ngrbm@aol.com) ; phone 805.660.2188

### PATH TO MEMBERSHIP CLASS

A **Path to Membership Class** will be held on **Sunday, April 9, 1:00pm to 4:00pm.** in the church sanctuary.

This class is for all of those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and CVUUF specifically. Meet with Reverend Nica and other church members, learn more about the Unitarian Universalism (UU) history and enjoy light refreshments.

Please R.S.V.P. to Nancy Cooper at [ngrbm@aol.com](mailto:ngrbm@aol.com), phone 805.660.2188 or the church office at 805.498.9548. Child care will be available by reservation - please let us know if you need it.

# Sip & See

**Sunday March 23, 2017**

**2:30pm - 5pm**

Fellowship Hall

Come welcome Nathaniel Seals 'Tate' Hall!

Proud Parents April Shiflett and Jason Hall

Please consider contributing to a Fellowship gift- see Liza Diniakos. Refreshments provided by Meadow Wood Neighborhood.





'Sanctuary' is a word that many faith communities are engaging heavily with since Election Day. This word means many things to many different people. For some, it is about making sanctuary in our places of worship. For some it refers to policies that create sanctuary for undocumented people in cities and towns. For others, it signifies the kind of organizing communities are taking on to protect and defend Muslim communities, undocumented communities, LGBTQ communities, and Black Lives Matter activists who are being targeted by Trump's administration. However, we are defining the word - we all have questions. The questions are basically stemming from a place of love, as we try to concern how we can show up for ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods and communities as specific communities are targeted for attack, violence, and removal.

In recent weeks and months an abundance of new and updated resources have been created to respond to these questions, to the call for local community defense networks, and the call to scale up the skills of folks across the country. **It is important that we draw from tools people who have first hand experience with this kind of community work and organizing - after all people's lives and livelihoods are at stake, and we must take great care to not share tools that are not grounded in experience.** We would not let a surgeon who had never performed surgery before operate on a loved one. We must value experience in this case as well. Thus, we take special care to share tools here that come from leaders who have organized in communities--across red states and blue, across race, and across age.

We are working with the UUSC and UUA on long term opportunities for Unitarian Universalism to support, flank and resource expanded sanctuary campaigns being launched across the country.

In the meantime, we have compiled [just a few helpful resources](#) on expanded sanctuary, action planning and know your rights as well as a number of organizing tools for your local work. Do you know about something we should consider adding here? Please email us at [love@uua.org](mailto:love@uua.org).

# 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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Newbury Park CA 91320 ([map](#))  
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[www.cvuuf.org](http://www.cvuuf.org)

### [Home](#)

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

### Staff

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### Board of Trustees 2016-2017

Tom Wolf, Board President, [president@cvuuf.org](mailto:president@cvuuf.org)  
David Barker, Vice President  
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Peter Schlaus, Treasurer  
At-Large Trustees: Arlene Bloom, Kelly Castillo, Tim Snowber

### 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 Pacific Southwest congregations including the States of California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Services are 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!