



CVUUF

October 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

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This newsletter is published monthly. View this copy on our website at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the 25th day of each month at 6:00pm. Direct submissions to: 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

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This Month's Theme ~ Healing

October 1 ~ Becoming Whole ~ Lora Barnett, MDiv.

Each of us has times in our life when we feel under siege by challenges and hard times. Speaking about and to these experiences can be difficult. Yet, doing so is what brings us the care and support we need to find healing and return to a sense of wholeness. Join Lora Barnett, a Hospice Chaplain and aspiring UU Minister, as she explores the possibility of speaking our way to wholeness through the saving power of community.

October 8 ~ Making Amends ~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

Our country has a painful history of exploiting and oppressing Native Americans, African Americans and immigrants. As we honor Indigenous People's Day and delve deeply into our monthly theme of healing, we explore how we might begin to make amends as individuals, communities and a nation, to people and cultures our country has exploited and harmed.

October 15 ~ Second Chances ~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

Survivors of life threatening illnesses or circumstances are given the opportunity at a second chance. Our healing, our renewed life is a gift that allows us to look at existence with fresh eyes. How does healing impact our lives, so we can take the lessons and grow? What does survival teach us about living? During the first service, we will also be conducting our Child Dedication. Please join us to celebrate the gift of new life in our beautiful CVUUF children.

October 22 ~ Speaking Justice in the Language of Faith ~ Reverend Kathleen McTigue with Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

In the current political moment, some of our most fundamental values are challenged daily and human rights are under attack in new and dangerous ways. We know we are called to speak out and act for justice, but *how* we show up in the struggles ahead is just as important. What does our faith have to teach us about this? The Rev. Kathleen McTigue is the Director of the UU College of Social Justice. **To find out more about the college, please visit: uucsj.org**

October 29 ~ Honoring our Ancestors ~ Sam Dickerson, Merlin Snider & Thelma Williams ~ ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 AM

"Our ancestors speak through us in whispers of strength." ~ Anonymous. Day of the Dead and All Soul's Day is a time to honor our ancestors, celebrating them through stories and song. Sam Dickerson, Merlin Snider and Thelma Williams, together with our young TrUUbadors, will lead this intergenerational service. We invite you to bring photos of your relatives and friends who are no longer with us, both from this community and your families, to place on our altar of remembrance. Let us pull from their love and strength so that we may heal what troubles us, and move toward a more joyous future for all generations. Please join us for this very special service with participation from all generations at 10 am only.



Minister's Message

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Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn, Minister
minister@cvuuf.org

October 2017 Minister's Newsletter Theme – Healing

As we begin our theme of HEALING this month, we explore what it means to be a community of healing. Many of you have shared with me that upon discovering CVUUF, you experienced a sense of "coming home." I've listened to a lot of you echo that being part of this community has given you a feeling of belonging and wholeness you'd been looking for, for a long time. What a blessing to be a community where people feel at home and offer one another care and healing from our demanding lives. We spread healing to one another through worship and music, through our pastoral care givers, our Neighborhood Networks and through our Chalice Circles. It happens through sharing our joys and sorrows and in meditation and men's and women's groups. These are all places where you can show up as you are and find a welcome ear and a soulful hug. In addition, we do our best to bring healing out into the world through our Social Action activities. Ask yourself: "Where will I find the healing I need?" or "How can I best offer healing to others?" And then, stop and breathe, and listen deeply within to how your body, mind and heart respond. Best selling author Glennon Doyle Melton wrote recently:

"Here's the truth I've learned: you are not supposed to be happy all the time. Life hurts and it's hard. Not because you're doing it wrong, because it hurts for everybody. Don't avoid the pain. Don't numb it. Don't run from it. Pain is not a hot potato. Pain is a traveling professor. All the wisdom and courage you need to become the person you are meant to be is inside your pain. Be still with it, let the pain come, let it go, let it leave you with the fuel you'll burn to get your work done on this earth."

As you face the many challenges of life, I invite you to turn to CVUUF as your community of healing. I see so many of you offering smiles, hugs and a listening ear to one another. We are here for each other, to walk together through the pain and difficulties and hold each other's hands when it gets tough.

Please join us this month for our very special "Love Resists" workshop with Reverend Kathleen McTigue on Saturday October 21. There we will learn how together, as a community, we may go out and help heal the world. It is a very rare treat to have Rev. McTigue come speak at our congregation. She's based on the East Coast, so we hope to pack the Sanctuary with a lot of smiling faces and open hearts and minds.

Invite your friends. Invite your family. You won't want to miss this.

Please register at the following link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-resists-progressive-empowerment-action-workshop-tickets-37461805268?aff=utm_source%3Dweb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text

And don't forget to let me know if you need to talk or would like a hug. I am here for you.

In love and healing,

Reverend Nica

President's Message

Tom Wolf
president@cvuuf.org



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As I write this the annual pledge drive is almost over. Most of the pledges were increases from the year before, and for this we are entirely grateful. I am also quite aware that life is full of challenges, economic and otherwise, and for those who were not able to increase your pledge we are still quite thankful for what you were able to pledge. We are a generous people, and it would be unfortunate if anyone felt that their pledge, which might actually be a larger percentage of income compared to some of the larger pledges, wasn't gratefully received or admirable.

One of the duties that I had to do in the last month was speak at the pledge receptions that were held on recent Sundays. First of all, I want to thank the Robinsons for hosting two and Susan Dixon for hosting one of them and Hilary Rosen for throwing the congregational party. Second, I want to thank Don Cooper and all of the others on the Stewardship Committee for working so hard to make these receptions a success. I also want to thank those individuals who gave testimonials at either the receptions or at services in the month of September.

Nobody really likes talking about giving, or persuading people to give more. At least I don't like talking about it. But I did like mingling and talking with a large variety of CVUUF members in the small groups in the beginning of each reception. And when it did come time for me to speak, I hope I helped at least one person figure out what would be their pledge for the upcoming year. I left the last one a little early to go play softball. The game was a blast, back and forth every inning. It would have been nice to win, but honestly - I just like the feeling of running the bases, fielding a grounder, being part of the team.

Those get togethers also reminded me a little of the Chalice Circles. Not in the spiritual nature of the Circles, but in the deepening understanding of each other as we journey through life. This month, October, begins the new year of the Chalice Circles. I know that I was reluctant to sign up the first few years I was at CVUUF. I wasn't sure if I wanted or needed another night away from family at a meeting, but I am so glad now that I have started to participate. I have shared things with those friends, and they with me, things that may have been hard to share or even say out loud. It is a little scary perhaps, but it is so worth it.

Here's to our interconnectedness, whether it is related to Chalice Circles or Stewardship, singing in the choir or singing from your seat. We are in this, together.

Tom Wolf



Religious Education News

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

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I was recently part of a discussion with several members of our congregation. What does healing mean? What does it mean to heal? I look forward to these discussions. I love the different perspectives. A word or image can often trigger so many more questions than I started the day with. I need these questions. It forces me to look within, which, let's face it, is not exactly an easy thing to do. What wounds do I carry that have yet to be healed? Where can I extend a hand and help someone who needs a little extra support in their journey of healing? If I can't bring myself to ponder these questions, and recognize my own need to recover from whatever has hurt me, how am I to be expected to share these lessons with our children and youth?

Having these discussions can be uncomfortable, so why not have them in a safe place with people who won't pass judgment. And in this safe place we can: look at ways to heal what ails us; recognize people who make it their life's work to help others in need; learn new coping skills when we are in an unhappy place; and find out what waits for us on the other side of the healing journey. We will look to our friends for help, find the healing power of music, and maybe even discover the purpose of a worry stone.

As we work through these lessons, our congregation will come together for a most lovely Child Dedication. This is our opportunity to show our youngest community members this is a place of love and respect, a place where joys are celebrated and sorrows are healed. This will take place during first service only, so show early and be prepared to be wrapped up in a warm and welcoming spirit! At the end of the month, October 29, we will once again have our service, "Honoring Our Ancestors." This will be an Intergenerational service, the first of four we will enjoy throughout the year, bringing families and friends together, sharing our rich histories. Sometimes healing requires learning a lesson or two, and many believe in learning from those who came before us. Bring a photo of a loved one who has passed, share a story or two with your children, and let us lift up our dearly departed with joyful hearts and voices.

As adults, it can be difficult to share our hurts. We are supposed to be strong. Our children are supposed to lean on us, knowing we will make it all better. But here's a thought. Maybe we could take a page from The Book of Kid. They *love* to talk about their wounds. "Check out this bruise!" "Like my band-aid? There's a huge scrape under it!" "My brother pushed me off my bike, but it's okay 'cuz I got a cast! Wanna sign it?" They will tell the story ten times a day, but they talk about it. Nothing to hide here, I'm going to talk through the sting and ache because I know telling you about it helps me feel better. And if I keep feeling better, little by little, this will all pass. Maybe I'll have a neat scar. And when someone I love is hurting, I can show them my scar, letting them know that they will get through this. We do not have to heal alone.

News From Our Social Action Director



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Pamela Lopez
socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org

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Oh, are we ever Transforming the World Together through Social Justice. As you go through the newsletter, you will see a new column entitled Living Our Mission Through Justice and Compassion. We invite your submissions if you feel moved to share what you are doing. Below the announcements is a recap of what members of our congregation have been up to this month.

We will enjoy the second of our Justice and Compassion movie nights and discussions. At 7:00pm on October 10, the night after what used to be called "Columbus Day," we will screen **Smoke Signals** in the Sanctuary. This Sundance Award winning film is an all-Native American production. Screenwriter Alexie Sherman uses some humor to tell a serious story about the lives of two young men from the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. Through a transformative journey of healing and reconnection the characters question their identity as "real Indians" in the context of modern culture. All are welcome.

Are you or your friends curious about OWL? What is OWL you may say – it's Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive, factual, sexuality education program. From kindergartner to adult, age-appropriate classes provide information in a safe, positive, and healthy environment. An information session to learn more about the classes we offer will be Saturday, October 14 at 1:00PM. Classes will start early 2018. Families outside the CVUUF community are more than welcome. The contact is Robin Lindsey.

Continuing our new monthly tradition of Justice Sundays, we will have a gathering after the second service where we will reflect upon Transforming the World Together Through Justice. This month on October 22nd, in addition to our connecting with one another and learning of local activities, we will be joined by Rev. McTigue and will be able to reflect upon our justice work with her – following the workshop on Saturday. The meeting will start at 1:00, with a community pot-luck lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:15.

And – this is what our busy congregation has been up to for the past month:

Ongoing: made calls to Congress members regarding the HOPE Act, then DREAM act in order to protect DACA recipients and treat all immigrants humanely.

We attended a vigil for Charlottesville in Westlake Village.
We attended a number of DACA rallies and events throughout the county.
Our members attended "How to Be an Ally" event at Santa Paula UU church with reports from police chief, superintendent of S.P. schools and community service providers.

We spoke at the CVUSD school board meeting opposing procedures that could essentially take award winning books out of the hands of students.

On Sept 14 our members attended a California Energy Commission Hearing on Clean Energy Alternatives to the Oxnard Power Plant in support of CAUSE. We supported clean energy alternatives for environmental and racial justice.

On Sept 19 we rallied at the Federal Building in LA to obtain release from detention on bond and stop deportation of MICOP leader Raul Gomez.

News From Our Social Action Director



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Pamela Lopez
socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming and ongoing events:

Tuesday, October 3 – Feeding Hands

Sunday, October 8 – Community Forum planning meeting – 12:15PM

Sunday, October 8 – Citizens Climate Lobby meeting – 12:30PM

Tuesday, October 10 – Smoke Signals screening – 7:00pm – Sanctuary

Saturday, October 14 – OWL Open House – 1:00PM

Saturday, October 21 – Love Resists workshop with Rev. Kathleen McTigue

Sunday, October 22 – Justice Sunday gathering – potluck & reflection

Monday, October 30 – Escalating Inequality meeting 7:00PM

In addition to our Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Facebook page, we have the CVUUF Social Justice Group where many justice activities are posted as they come up. We have also created a new email list group – socialaction@cvuuf.org. This email list is intended to convey quick information on activities, marches, meetings, etc. – especially those that come up quickly – so we can have the opportunity to attend. If you are having difficulty in joining it, please contact me and I'll put you in directly.

Thank you for all you do!

If you have any questions or thoughts, you can always contact me at socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org.

The Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Presents

LOVE *RESISTS*



In today's charged and dangerous political climate, fundamental human rights are under attack. This workshop will highlight specific and practical ways to bring yourself, your organization, or your congregation into this urgent work.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn from Rev. Kathleen McTigue, the Director of the UU College of Social Justice and a founder of Love Resists. In her words, we'll learn to *"see more clearly what we face, imagine more boldly the ways we can act, and live our values more radically and courageously on the side of justice."*

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017.

TIME: 10AM TO 4PM.

9:30AM: Coffee and Gathering. Workshop to begin promptly at 10AM.

LOCATION: Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

3327 OLD CONEJO ROAD, Newbury Park CA LUNCH

will be provided.

CHILDCARE is available upon prior request by 10/16 through the Eventbrite registration portal.

Suggested donation \$10 at the door; but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-resists-progressive-empowermentaction-workshop-tickets-37461805268>

Transforming Our World Together



October's Theme

Healing

On the Art Wall in Fellowship Hall, we will be exploring healing thoughts and concepts through coloring and doodling. Share a coloring page filled with caring thoughts, UU principles and beautiful images just waiting to be awakened through your colors. Grab a pen and doodle your own ideas to answer the questions about Healing:

- ⚙ **What brings you back to wholeness?**
- ⚙ **What heals your heart?"**
- ⚙ **How do you envision a world of healing?**

Share in the fun! Join the creativity! Color your world!

Contact person: Gwyn Vanoni at Artwall@cvuuf.org

ART WALL

Benefits of

Coloring & Doodling:

- **Attention flows away from ourselves.** A simple act, such as coloring, takes your attention away from yourself and onto the present-moment event, like a meditative exercise.

- **It relaxes the brain.** When thoughts are focused on a simple activity, your brain tends to relax, and even creates its own reward sensation.

- **Low stakes make it pleasurable.** The fact that the outcome of coloring is predictable also can be relaxing. It is hard to screw up coloring, and, even if you do, there is no real consequence.

According to the Cleveland Clinic Health Essentials 11/2015

If you can...

*Bring some
colored pencils
to share.*

Living Our Mission of Justice and Compassion

These letters have been submitted by members of our fellowship. The editor of the CVUUF Newsletter welcomes articles related to the mission of our church written by members and friends. They will be published as space is available. The deadline is one week before the first of the month.

Healing from the Columbus Legacy by Gordon Clint

In today's political climate, some people feel encouraged to express their hate and prejudices. They are reacting to preserve their birthright, the 500-year old legacy of white supremacy. At the same time, non-white minorities, growing into majority, are demanding equality and the end of oppression. As people of color draw attention to systemic racism, support for immigrants and groups like Black Lives Matter has been increasing.

Much has changed since the age of Columbus when the Pope created the Doctrine of Discovery. As a "God and Bible" based international law, it entitled European explorers who "discovered" non-Christians to steal their land and property as well as to enslave, torture or murder them. This doctrine became part of U.S. law and our dominant culture. It influenced policies of "Manifest Destiny" as well as treatment of Black Africans and Native Americans. Now, slavery and genocide have been widely recognized as America's original sin.

Two examples that are transforming legacies from the past give me hope. In 2012, the UU General Assembly (among other denominations) passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and called for full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

More recently, Los Angeles, and other cities, replaced **Columbus Day** with **Indigenous People's Day**. By a 14 to 1 vote, the LA City Council changed the name of a Federal holiday which had honored the Italian explorer since 1937. This would not have happened without the increased recognition and concern about the atrocities and genocide against the native peoples which began with Columbus.

Denying historical realities, some people whose sense of identity comes from past legacies may believe that going backwards can "make America great again". Yet, many other people are pushing forward against present inequities to transform our culture with more justice and compassion for all. May we be called to join the struggle to help heal and transform our culture.

Living Our Mission of Justice and Compassion

Please Don't Deport Me

By Anahi Quiroz

Dear Neighbors,

I need your support. I don't want to be deported. When I was brought to this country without inspection as a child, there was no immigration law that could help me find a path to eventual citizenship. Growing up here, I worked hard and saved my money to eventually go back to Mexico and reinvent my life.

Everything changed when President Obama used his power of Executive Order to create Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA). Suddenly, I could apply to any job that I dreamed of and put my education and skills to work in the U.S.

I have never stopped being grateful for my mother's difficult migration to this beautiful city. I am sure I have outlived the dreams my mother had for me. The last 14 years I have dedicated my life to contributing to our society by volunteering, paying taxes, being a good student, daughter, sister, friend, neighbor, and colleague.

I have had the blessing to attend the same schools your children may have: Conejo Elementary School, Thousand Oaks High School, and California State University, Channel Islands. I worked to support myself and put myself through high school and college. Professionally, I have been able to use my customer service skills in the insurance monitoring industry.

At 31 years old, I can live in Thousand Oaks on my own without a car. I am an American at heart and I believe I have earned my right to be recognized as one. Between my bilingualism, having a college degree and my overall experience, I strive to be an asset. I have not taken anything away from anyone. I have a lot of memories here and want to continue to live here.

I need your help. Please contact Congressman Paul Ryan at [202-225-3031](tel:202-225-3031) and ask him, as Speaker of the House, to bring the American Hope Act to the floor in the House of Representatives for discussion and a vote.
We are all in this together!



Mosaic Makers: Leading Vital Multicultural Congregations National Conference 2017

It is with great delight and anticipation that we announce the opening of [registration](#) for **Mosaic Makers: Leading Vital Multicultural Congregations National Conference 2017**.

Mosaic Makers is a dynamic gathering and learning community for teams from congregations deeply engaged in the work of building intentional multicultural community. We gather together in spiritual community for two and a half days of workshop, experiential learning, and community building around the theme of strengthening the fabric of Unitarian Universalist multicultural ministries.

This year, we are opening the conference to all congregational leaders who are seeking a path to justice, as this moment in our denomination and society requires us to not only address injustice in the larger world but also in our denomination. We're inviting everyone who wishes to embrace this avenue for disrupting, and eventually dismantling, white supremacy in our culture and in our denomination. Learn to do it – or do it more effectively.

Among our attendees will be UU congregations from around the country who are leaders in multicultural welcome and inclusion, and whose congregations are providing some of the most exciting and dynamic transformation in our movement. Many of these congregations are engaged in combating white supremacy culture. We know that we can learn from each other. We're delighted to help foster real peer-to-peer learning between congregational leaders – professional and lay.

This year's conference has a host of programs and speakers who will develop, enlarge, and amplify our capacity to do this important ministry.

Date: Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29; optional Professional Day for UU religious professionals, Monday, October 30

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA

Program Highlights:

In addition to the list below of our speakers and thought partners, conference attendees will have an opportunity to tour the US/Mexico border with First UU Church of San Diego partner groups, visit the [South Bay Campus](#), celebrate a culturally authentic Día de Muertos, and more.

[Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray](#), our new UUA president
[Dr. Takiyah Nur Amin](#), Black Lives of UU (BLUU),
[Chris Crass](#) Longtime organizer, educator, and author
[Dr. Mark Hicks](#) Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education

[Rev. Mitra Rahnema](#) Biracial Iranian American lifelong Unitarian Universalist.

[Rev. Dr. Susan Moore](#) Associate Minister of Congregational Life and Pastoral Care at All Souls Church

[First UU Church of San Diego](#) Congregational Staff, Leaders, and Local Partners, led by minister [Rev. Kathleen Owens](#), will share learnings from their journey in embracing and authentically living multicultural ministry.

Registration:

We request that participants come as part of a congregational team who are prepared and empowered to deeply engage in this important ministry. We recommend teams of 3 to 5 persons.

Registration Cost: \$300

Registration includes three meals and daily transportation

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 4

Cancellation Fee \$50 until October 4; after October 4, refunds cannot be issued.

[Register online.](#)

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

All visitors are invited to a Newcomer Orientation on **Sunday, October 8, 2017, from 12:30-1:30** in the church sanctuary. Meet with Rev. Nica and church members to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our local congregation. Light refreshments will be served. Child care is available with reservation. Please R.S.V.P. to Nancy Cooper: ngrbm@aol.com; 805.660.2188 or the church office (492-8751).

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Are you considering becoming a member of CVUUF? You are cordially invited to attend our Path to Membership class on **Sunday, November 12, 2017, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. Join Rev. Nica, as well as church members, and learn more about membership as a Unitarian Universalist and our fellowship. Light refreshments will be served. Child care is available with reservation. Please contact Nancy Cooper, ngrbm@aol.com (805.660.2188) or the church office if you would like to attend.

NEW DATE

The **Cabaret Concert and Singalong** with Reverend Nica, Michael Guinn & Joel Rieke is postponed from September 16 to Saturday, November 11. Thank you for your understanding. If you would like to purchase a ticket for this concert to benefit CVUUF, please contact JoAnn van Reenan at vanreenanj@juno.com.

No Experience Needed!

We need someone to **usher the first Sunday, second service and fifth Sunday second service**. You'll be one of the first members to greet visitors and members alike, pass out orders of service, take the collection and pass out News and Notes at the end of the service. This is a once a month commitment. If you are interested, please contact Jo Ann Van Reenan, vanreenanj@gmail.com or [805-382-9794](tel:805-382-9794). Thanks



Congregational Stewardship Visit Nov. 3-5!

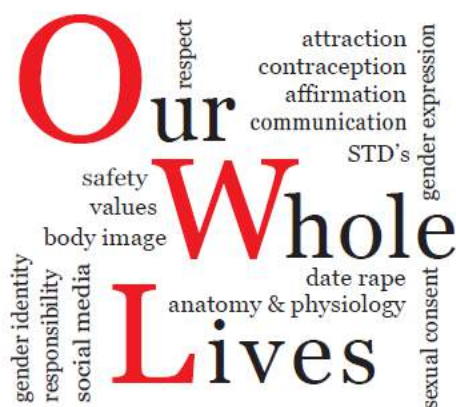
Stewardship Coach, Kay Crider, will be with us November 3-5. She will meet with our board and staff on Friday evening, and with committees all day on Saturday to hear about our culture, concerns, and our hopes and priorities for moving forward. A core focus of the visit will be on identifying recommended next steps and practical information to help us successfully achieve our stated goals.

On Sunday after the second service Kay will present her initial observations and recommendations to our entire congregation including a Q & A time. A detailed written report delivered within two weeks of the visit will contain congregational survey results, data analysis, techniques for successful campaigns, UUA and district/regional resources applicable for our fellowship, and a timeline of recommendations customized for us.

Childcare will be provided during Kay's presentation after the Sunday service, from 12:45 - 2:00pm, with a light lunch 12:15 to 12:45.

Please make room in your schedule to participate so that we will get the most out of this endeavor. Thank you!

Tom Wolf, President and Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn



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OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 14, 2017
1pm

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3327 Old Conejo Road
Newbury Park, CA 91320

To enroll and for more information, contact OWL@cvuuf.org.

Sexuality is Honored Here.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, factual, sexuality education program. From kindergartner to adult, age-appropriate classes provide information in a safe, positive, and healthy environment. **Classes starting early 2018.**

**OWL is a secular program created by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church.*

The CVUUF 2018 Annual Auction Saturday, February 24, 2018!



The Auction Committee is seeking your input to help make this the best and most successful auction ever.

Do you patronize any businesses that you'd like to invite to donate to our Fellowship auction? Please reach out to Auction Committee member Katie Smith for help, or she will be happy to contact the establishment on your behalf. Contact Katie by email at katiebug93065@gmail.com or via her mobile phone number, 805.341.9970.

Please think about offerings to be auctioned. The auction provides a vital contribution to our church budget, and is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of other members, make new friends, and share common interests. Would you like to host an event such as a dinner, tea, a concert, or a tour? Could you offer items, services, or special talents? Do you have access to a vacation/getaway opportunity that could be offered at our auction? These are examples of popular offerings that generate income to support the mission and the well-being of our congregation every year.

Many hands and volunteers are needed to make our auction successful! We need folks to help plan the event, manage donations and bidder data, work with the auction software, organize volunteers, and more. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

You can contact the Auction Committee by sending an email message to auction@cvuuf.org.

***Covenant Between
The Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn
And
The Reverend Doctor Betty Stapleford
September 10, 2017***

Tom Wolf: The relationship established between a Minister and a congregation is special, interdependent, rewarding, and complex. It is important that both the members and the Minister seek to keep the best interests of the congregation in mind. We also recognize that the relationship between a congregation and its former Ministers, especially a Minister Emerita, is unique, and that the Minister Emerita's continued presence in the community poses distinctive advantages, as well as challenges. In these circumstances, it is wise for these ministers to develop a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the congregational system, as well as articulate how they can best support each other and the general ministry and flourishing of the congregation. This covenant acts in the same way that our covenant of good relations acts, in that it is both aspirational and in deed.

Reverend Dr. Betty Stapleford served the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 1998 to 2010, and was voted into Minister Emerita status by the congregation on her retirement.

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn was called to be the Settled Minister of CVUUF, beginning in August of 2016. Both have agreed to now enter a Covenant with one another, grounded in the Professional Practice and Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

This covenant is based on the understanding of the unique relationship a minister has with the membership of a congregation. Mindful of Reverend Betty's longtime relationship with the congregation, this covenant reaffirms the need for Reverend Nica to have time to develop and deepen her own relationships with the congregation.

Reverend Nica: In celebration and recognition of the 12-year ministry provided to CVUUF by Reverend Betty, and the honor of Minister Emerita bestowed on her by the congregation, and respecting the best practices for ministry, I covenant to be faithful to the letter and spirit of the Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines of the UUMA, as we enter into a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring.

Therefore...

- I will value the contributions and participation of Rev. Betty as part of the rich tradition of ministry in this congregation and our faith
- I welcome Rev. Betty and her husband Tom's, presence at Sunday worship services, as well as other agreed-upon church events.
- I agree to be Rev. Betty's minister, her colleague and her friend.
- I understand that through her involvement with organizations in the wider community, she will sometimes be working with members of the church, and I will be supportive of those outside CVUUF relationships;
- I will strive to remain aware of the challenges for a Minister Emerita remaining in relationship with her former congregation, and listen with an open heart to Reverend Betty if she comes to me with concerns;
- I will speak directly, privately, and honestly to Reverend Betty about any concerns I have with her return to CVUUF.
- I agree to speak and meet with Reverend Betty on a regular basis to maintain collegial connection. We will have bi-annual meetings to ensure our Covenant is serving the relationship.

Reverend Betty: In celebration and recognition of Reverend Nica's ministry to CVUUF, and respecting the best practices for ministry, I covenant to be faithful to the letter and spirit of the Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines of the UUMA, as we enter into a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring.

Therefore...

- I will honor the congregation's call to Reverend Nica as the current settled and sole Minister of this congregation

- I will let Rev. Nica know when I plan to attend Sunday worship or other agreed-upon Fellowship events. I will let Rev. Nica know when I plan to attend Sunday worship or other agreed-upon Fellowship events.
- I will not seek or accept any leadership roles in the congregation until there is a mutual desire to change the agreement.
- I will decline any requests that might come to me for pastoral care, or for participation in rites of passage such as weddings, memorial services, child dedications, etc., and will refer them to Reverend Nica; I will also inform her of those requests.
- Before accepting invitations or requests for other involvements at CVUUF, I will consult with Reverend Nica about the advisability.
- I will not participate in any conversations with church members/friends about Reverend Nica's ministry, or any controversial issues at CVUUF; if I find myself in a situation where such a conversation begins, I will absent myself.
- If I am concerned with anything to do with Rev. Nica's ministry, I will speak directly, privately, and honestly with her about my concerns.
- I agree to speak and meet with Reverend Nica on a regular basis to strengthen our collegial connection. We will have bi-annual meetings to ensure our Covenant is serving the relationship.

Revs. Betty and Nica: As Unitarian Universalist ministers, we covenant to be mindful in our actions and to speak the truth to each other in love, to keep the best interests of this congregation above all, so that this Fellowship may continue to thrive and live out its Mission.

Tom Wolf: While problems are not anticipated, Reverend Betty and Reverend Nica agree that if problems do arise, they will address them quickly and forthrightly with one another. Should further assistance be needed, they will reach out to the "Good Officers" from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Having witnessed this covenant, it is our intention as a congregation to support and affirm this covenant to ensure the health and flourishing of the congregation and its ministry. Although this covenant is between two individuals, two ministers, all of us at CVUUF have a stake in the success of it. Each of us must strive to ensure the success of this endeavor, as we strive to make all of the interests of our congregation succeed. Each of us must both speak and act in such a way that encourages this covenant, and supports rather than diminishes this covenant.

I now invite the members and friends of CVUUF to speak the following shared words of support:
 "We the members and friends of CVUUF support and uphold this covenant by turning to Reverend Nica as our settled minister, looking to her for leadership, guidance, pastoral care, justice and worship. And we welcome back Reverend Betty as our former minister and now long-time friend and member of our community. We too endeavor to support and participate in a relationship of mutual honor, respect and caring with our Minister and our Minister Emerita. We strive to be advocates for the health of this congregation and the flourishing of its ministry."

May it be so!

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 Shared 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

[Home](#)

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

Staff

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn minister@cvuuf.org
Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education, dre@cvuuf.org
Joel Rieke, Music Director, musicdirector@cvuuf.org
Dianna Mueller, Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org

Board of Trustees 2016-2017

Tom Wolf, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
David Barker, Vice President
Kathleen Holland, Secretary
Peter Schlaus, Treasurer
At-Large Trustees: Dalila Sankaran, 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 and 11:00am with Coffee Hour following each service. Children's Religious Education (RE) is held during the 9:15am service, and Childcare is provided. During the 11:00am service, our high school RE program (YRUU) meets.

Visitors are always welcome.