



CVUUF

February 2018

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

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Worship

Services

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. Be sure to **email 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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February 4 ~ 450 Years of Unitarianism

~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

We celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of Unitarianism in Europe through the Edict of Torda in Transylvania. Unitarianism has persevered through centuries of persecution by Catholicism and then communism in what is now Hungary and Romania. We honor our history as a radical faith 450 years ago, a faith that is still on the leading edge of social change, inclusivity and religious freedom today.

February 11 ~ Persevering with Love in Times of Hate

~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 9:15; — Congregational Meeting at 11

Martin Luther King Jr. taught us again and again that we cannot fight hate with hate. We must persevere with an attitude of love, and non-violence, even when it's difficult. Love is our true essence. Love is our highest call as humans. Love is the healing balm that calms discord, counters hate and brings us back to wholeness. Join us to find ways of persevering with love.

February 18 ~ Black and UU ~ Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Black and UU is my take, my experiences, my life living within the milieu of our denomination and liberal white America. This journey has been both profoundly beautiful and incredibly painful. Is there truly a place for cross cultural, interfaith human family togetherness? I think so. Our UU faith provides a model for right relationship. The only question is, are we ready to do what it takes to make this happen. *Rev. Bailey is the called minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Verdugo Hills in La Crescenta, CA.*

February 25 ~ Still I Rise ~ Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

"Up from a past that's rooted in pain, I rise" writes Maya Angelou. This service celebrates the importance of resilience, determination, and perseverance throughout life, especially for women and marginalized populations. Inspired by the Maya Angelou poem "Still I Rise" we are called to rise again and again in the face of hardship and struggle. Come be inspired in this service, so you too may continue to rise up in the face of difficult life circumstances.



Minister's Message

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

Theme—Perseverance

Every month, I discuss our monthly worship theme with the Board, the Worship Committee, Chalice Circles and other groups. Everyone reflects on their understanding of the theme, helping us build a fuller picture of what it means. Each month I'm amazed at the varieties of experience and understanding of the theme. What will speak deeply to one person may mean very little to another. Sometimes it's a matter of semantics. That particular word may not speak to you. If that's the case, I encourage you to pull out your thesaurus and see what similar words might be more meaningful to you. In other cases, the word may be too powerful, and trigger too much. In those instances it may be hard to move from your reaction to the word to being able to parse it out so you can explore your lessons around it. In one of our groups this month, someone said they were able to understand this month's theme of Perseverance better if they looked at it through the lens of resilience. A perfectly viable alternative, which helped this person enter into the theme. So, I encourage you, if a particular theme doesn't speak to you right away or you're struggling to make sense of it, persevere. See what other similar words might be meaningful.

That's what perseverance is about for me - keeping at it despite my resistance, or finding an alternative way to approach something that's a challenge. To persevere is to see the value of something and keep working at it, even when it doesn't necessarily flow or it's hard to achieve right away. I believe we're all faced with those kinds of situations in our lives. If it's a relationship, that has become difficult or fractured, it's worth persevering if we value that connection and harmony. If it's a job that has become challenging, it's worth persevering if we care about the organization or even just the paycheck. If we wish to manifest our intentions and reach our goals in life, it's worth persevering to live our best lives. Hard as it may be to continue that exercise routine, or to remember to engage in regular spiritual practice, persevering will open new possibilities for our [lives](#). If we care for our nation and world's well-being, it is important to persevere with the work of justice and environmental protection, despite the current trials we are facing. Perseverance is something we do even when it seems little progress is being made. It's a state of mind that says: "This is valuable. I may not see progress right away, but it is worth continuing the good fight, because it is the good fight."

I am reminded by a quote from the poet Jane Hirshfield: *"More and more I have come to admire resilience. Not the simple resistance of a pillow, whose foam returns over and over to the same shape, but the sinuous tenacity of a tree: finding the light newly blocked on one side, it turns in another. A blind intelligence, true. But out of such persistence arose turtles, rivers, mitochondria, figs -- all this resinous, unretractable earth."*

What might evolve if we just persevere? We won't know unless we do so.

This month in worship we'll be talking about perseverance from a number of different angles: how to persevere with love in the face of hate; how our Unitarian faith has persevered over 450 years against many odds; and how various marginalized populations have had to persevere through centuries of oppression to still be able to rise with courage and faith trusting that things will change for the better. These are times in which we need to build our capacity for perseverance. Join us throughout February as we dive deeply into this theme and learn how we as individuals and as a community might find our well of resilience and persevere.

Always persevering... yours,
Reverend Nica

President's Message

Tom Wolf
president@cvuuf.org



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We are the Love people, and February is the Love month. So everything seems to point toward us having a great month. In the legendary words of the Monkees, or Smashmouth's version in the movie Shrek if you are a lot younger, "I'm a Believer." But first, before any more talk of pop culture, let's talk about the calendar.

The last week of January was Kay Crider's visit for the interviews portion of her Feasibility Study. As I write this she is literally in flight coming to LA, but as you read this the interviews will be over. Her report is due to the Board on February 5th, and we are planning a congregational vote on the Capital Campaign on the following Sunday the 11th.

I truly believe that the Capital Campaign is what we at CVUUF need to solidify our future and live out our mission. If you haven't heard Reverend Nica's sermon of January 21st go to the web site and play it now. Right now. I can't imagine a better argument and vision for the future than what she presented! If you are reading this in the middle of the month, hopefully we will have just overwhelmingly voted to proceed with the campaign.

Now, back to love and no more talk about money. There are all different kinds of love, way more than just the romantic kind that monopolizes Valentine's Day. It seems to me, just like in the seasonal holidays that just finished, many people are actually put off by or depressed because of all of the hype and pressure. As if you aren't worthy if you aren't in the middle of a loving relationship. And of course nothing beats the head over heels beginning of one. It seems to me that focusing on this singular idea of love is not healthy, and is in fact just plain wrong.

Love yourself, love your kids, love your neighbors, your world, your values in action. There are lots of ways to show the love inside you, so let it shine wherever and however you can. Show kindness, a caring word and love to a stranger. Think random acts of kindness, and make someone's day.

Now that I think of it, ignore my Monkees reference above. Stupid manufactured pop group. Instead sing the great Beatles' song "All You Need Is Love." Really, do it. And then teach it to a friend and sing it a few more times.

Tom Wolf



Religious Education News

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

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Most of us know the story of the tortoise and the hare. The hare was fast at everything and made sure everyone knew it. He didn't care so much about the journey. His concern was getting it done as quickly as possible. To make matters worse, no one cared for him much. The hare was quite cruel, knocking others down as he bragged about his accomplishments. The tortoise was the one who seemed to take most of the jabs. The tortoise could only take so much teasing, finally challenging the hare to a race. The hare thought this was hysterical, but of course agreed.

During the race, the hare was so fast and so far ahead of the tortoise, he stopped for a nap. The tortoise moved slowly and surely toward the finish line. He did not concern himself with where the hare was, instead only focusing on his own path. The hare woke from his nap realizing the tortoise was about to cross the finish line first. With the tortoise as the victor, the hare was greatly embarrassed. There was no teasing from the tortoise, only a great sense of accomplishment, for he had completed his task successfully and in the best way he knew how.

I greatly admire the tortoise. He has no ego, only determination and patience. He decided on a goal and moved toward it in a purposeful way. At the pace society moves at, it can at times very much resemble the hare. "Go, go, go! Move, move, move!" It can seem that sometimes there is no consideration for who gets knocked over or disrupted in the wake of the commotion. "Stop to smell the roses! Please! I've got things to do! I ran over people on the way here? Well they should have been moving faster or get out the way!"

Maybe it's time to be the tortoise. Stop and take notice. Smell the dirt that is under your feet. Taste the crispness of the air that fills your lungs. Admire the smile of the person next to you. Take their hand and feel the warmth of their skin. Here's the thing. When we slow down enough to truly notice our surroundings, that is when we are more likely to find the purposes that will call to our heart. The dirt under your feet? I do care about the land our food grows on, and the people who tend it! The air you're breathing? Why yes, I do want to fight for better air quality! That hand you're holding? That person can finally feel a great burden lift from their shoulders because they have you to help lift their voice to right the wrongs they have endured for so long. These are not overnight wins either. These fights take time, determination, and patience. They take a tortoise.

This is the image our children and youth will be using to understand what it means to persevere. With its shell to protect it, the tortoise will keep moving forward, no matter the obstacle. And what lessons will we pick up along the way with our trusty tortoise? We will persevere with love, with kindness, and with a good dose of laughter. We will share love with those who walk with us. We will show kindness to those we help (and even those who try to stop us). And when we need a boost, we will laugh out loud to boost our spirits.

Imagine all we can do when we become the tortoise!
Slow and steady, my friends. Slow and steady.

News From Our Social Action Director



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Pamela Lopez
socialactiondirector@cvuuf.org

Well, we started our new year with our feet on the ground. 10% of our congregation marched on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and then enjoyed the program where Rev. Nica gave a stirring invocation. Then 15-20% of us walked just a few days later in one of several Women's Marches across the country. Our yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirts were seen everywhere.

Speaking of Standing on the Side of Love – it's now officially called "Side With Love", and the 30 day celebration will be posted weekly on our CVUUF main Facebook page.

Our justice ministries are all getting off to strong starts. Please join the one (or several) that speak to your heart. AND, did you know that you could be a champion of your own community forum? Randall Edwards and Kim Henson invite you to bring them your ideas – whether it is through your Chalice Circle, justice ministry, or something that speaks to you so strongly. Randall and Kim always invite your input.

My personal big news is that after four years of serving as your Outreach/Social Action Director, it is time for me to step down. I love my service and justice work in the community and will still be there. It is just time to hand over the baton.

In faith, love and justice,
Pamela



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

"Sandra Fluke Gives Her State of the State"

Friday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Sandra Fluke is the California State Director of an advocacy organization that has focused on climate change, economic inequality, campaign finance reform, immigration, healthcare, and criminal justice reform. She will bring us up to date on the issues being addressed right now in Sacramento, and how we can be advocates for local and national issues right here at home. Ms. Fluke was a State Senate candidate in 2014. Prior to that run she garnered national attention by testifying before members of Congress regarding insurance coverage for birth control, and became nationally known when she took on Rush Limbaugh.



For more information eMail: forum@cvuuf.org

PROGRAM IS FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3327 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park

Website: <http://forum.cvuuf.org>



The Promise and Practice of our Faith

In October 2016, the UUA Board issued a charge to all Unitarian Universalists, calling us to invest collectively and significantly in the leadership and organizing of Black Unitarian Universalists. To live into that commitment they asked all congregations to do a service entitled "The Promise and Practice of our Faith" centering Black voices and raising funds for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU).

CVUUF held this service on January 14, 2018 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. You can see the service at this link: <https://cvuuf.org/services/promise-practice-faith/>. Our goal was to feature the voices of People of Color and draw attention to the richness in our past and present if we truly live into our multi-cultural, multi-racial, anti-oppressive commitments.

We also raised funds for BLUU to meet the matching UUA grant of \$10 per member, and have sent our contribution to BLUU. If you did not get an opportunity yet and wish to support BLUU, please know that your dollars will be matched. Kindly write BLUU in the memo-line of your check. Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to dismantling racism wherever we can.

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



CVUUF Members and Friends can now access our 2018 Auction catalog at <https://www.charityauction.bid/CVUUF>. This site is for viewing catalog items only. There is no bidding on line currently.

The auction is fast upon us: Feb. 24th to be exact. The theme of this year's auction is Mardi Gras. This event will include food, beverages, music, a costume and dance contest and a live and silent auction. Child care will be available. In other words, something for everybody. We are looking forward to your participation and donations. Visit our auction table during social hour between services on Sunday. We can answer any questions you may have and provide you with donation forms and the proper tax information and letters to solicit donations.



THOMAS FIRE BAKE SALE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 FELLOWSHIP HALL

On **Sunday, February 4th**, the Third Monday Chalice Circle is putting on a bake sale to raise funds for our displaced Thomas Fire neighbors. All proceeds will go directly into the United Way/Red Cross fund which is set up to help those who lost their homes and/or possessions due to the fire.

Please open your hearts for this pre-Valentine's Day event and give generously. Although the fires are no longer foremost in the news, those with losses remain in need of our help.

There will be baked goods for sale and a donation box. Eat some and save the rest for later-or for your Valentine. Give a bit extra to maximize the impact of this effort.

For more information, please contact Candy Gantka cgantka@verizon.net or Marcia Wingard mwingard@hotmail.com.



2018 Pacific Western Regional Assembly Portland Oregon April 27-29

Plan to join attendees from 185 PWR congregations as the four districts of the Pacific Western Region convene in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29, for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Three dynamic speakers will address the theme, *Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience*. The Rev. Dr. William Barber, a national figure in civil rights activism, will be in the pulpit for Sunday's worship service. Saturday's keynote speaker will be Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to U.S. Congress. Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will speak at Friday evening's opening ceremony. Frederick-Gray will share her emerging vision for the future of the UUA and the wider movement.

Several workshops will be offered during Saturday's programming. If you prefer, you may opt to participate in a local social justice activity. Full details about workshops and the social justice activity will soon be posted on the Pacific Western Region website (www.uua.org/pwr).

All four districts of the Pacific Western Region will hold concurrent annual meetings on Saturday afternoon. Meeting materials and delegate information will be distributed in February/March.

Regional Assembly registration will be open by January 4. You will be able to access full details and the registration form through the Pacific Western Region website (www.uua.org/pwr).

The Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly, is offering discounted room rates through March 29. You can reserve your room [here](#). If you book through another link or by phone, be sure to use the group code, UU8. Full details will be posted on the PWR website before registration opens January 4.

PWR staff is working hard to keep registration costs low. An Early Bird adult registration fee will be available through January 31 and fees for young adults, youth, and children will be discounted. Still, could your congregation consider either subsidizing or fully funding the costs for at least one person to attend Regional Assembly? What a great opportunity for someone identified as a potential leader in your congregation!

Be sure to check the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) after the first of the year for full Regional Assembly details.



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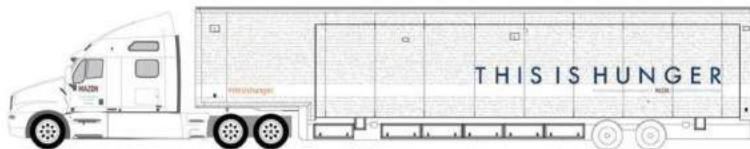
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February 10-14, 2018
1600 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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.***

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Additional UU resource links:

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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.