



CVUUF

JULY

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Upcoming Sunday Services

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July 3 : "Why I Still Love My Country, in Spite of"
—The Rev. Anne Felton Hines

Many of us are disturbed – even aghast – at some of the actions and rhetoric of our political and religious leaders in America; we are dismayed at the continuing lack of civility and compassion on the part of our fellow citizens. On this, the weekend when we celebrate our nation's birthday, it behooves us to remember what keeps us loyal to it.

July 10: "Top Ten Ways to Bless Your (New) Minister"
—The Rev. Anne Felton Hines

As you look forward to your new shared ministry with Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn, what are some of the things you can do to ensure that her ministry with you goes well?

July 17: "Of Scooters, Rivers, and Maps of the Heart: The Sequel"
—The Rev. Anne Felton Hines

Today is Rev. Hines' final Sunday as CVUUF's Interim Minister. Where have the "maps of the heart" taken us this past year? And where might they take us in the future?

First Service Only with a reception for Reverend Anne afterwards.

July 24: "Self-Care is Our Primary Job on Earth"
—The Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

Whereas we can never repay the Creation for the unspeakable gift of our existence, we can and must respond with every pore of our organism. Rev. Owen-Towle will address the six zones of his self-care regimen: mind, body, spirit, heart, soul, and conscience. This sermon will be based upon Owen-Towle's book entitled *SELF: Caring for Our Best Gift*. Copies will be available for purchase along with others of his books.

July 31: "The Bible is my Social Justice Friend"
—A.J. Blackwood, Master of Divinity, and Candidate for the Ministry

As Unitarian Universalists, many of us feel called to work for justice issues as a matter of faith and belief. Often we are resistant to claim The Bible as an instrument of justice work. During this service, we will break open the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Testaments as documents of liberation that put in cultural context can inspire our justice and advocacy work.

Rev. Anne's last Sunday service will be July 17th, but she'll have a few more days before beginning her vacation leave from July 24th to August 15th. (Rev. Nica begins on Aug. 16th!) If you have a pastoral emergency between 7/24 and 8/16, please contact the Pastoral Care Committee (pastoralcare@cvuuf.org).

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

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

Weekly News & Notes

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

Visit us on

Facebook:

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



Follow us on Twitter



CVUUF Sundays on CD: Recordings of most Sunday services are available on audio CD. They may be purchased for a \$3 donation, made at time of order. All proceeds go to the Library Fund. Order yours at the Library bookcase in Social Hall and do remember to pick up the CDs you've ordered!



In the Meantime...

Reverend Anne Felton Hines
minister@cvuuf.org

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Did you know how many light bulb jokes there are about Unitarian Universalists? A lot! And they're all quite amusing!

I think my favorite might be this one: "How many UUs does it take to change a light bulb? We choose not to make a statement either for or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that a light bulb works for you, that's fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb (or light source, or non-dark resource), and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, and halogen -- all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence."

But seriously, folks...while it may not take many Unitarian Universalists to change a light bulb (unless they're the ones in the Sanctuary ceiling!), it does take a lot to keep their church or Fellowship thriving! And CVUUF is one of the most generous with volunteerism that I've experienced.

I said in my congregational report recently how very helpful Willie Lubka has been to me in his role as congregational President.

But it hasn't just been Willie who has made my job easier. It's been the entire 7-member Board, and the 4-member (plus DRE and minister) Council; what would we do without Jake Holland tending to our technology (and prodding us to update our website!), or Pamela Lopez overseeing our community outreach and social justice, or Bart Allen ensuring that our facilities are in safe and running order, or Annie Barker lovingly overseeing our membership? I cannot imagine! How many UUs does it take to keep a Fellowship thriving! A lot!

Like the search committee that helped me hire Sam Dickerson as our DRE, and a new Religious

Education Committee that helped Sam learn the ropes.

And the wonderful cadre of Worship Associates who were such a help when I first arrived; and when their terms were up, a new group of folks (including a couple from the former group) agreed to form a new Worship Ministry Team, serving both as Worship Associates and assistants to me in recruiting guest speakers; they've also been excellent advisors!

The new Stewardship process not only required a committee to be formed, but people to become Canvassers, requiring getting trained and spending time calling on folks to ask for their pledge!

And oh my...your Ministerial Search Committee, who worked so tirelessly to find you the best minister to walk alongside you as you journey forward; and they did it! I'm thrilled that Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn will soon become your new minister.

I've been greatly impressed with the willingness of so many of you to say "Yes!" the many times you've been asked to help us move forward in some way this past year-&-a-half. I've only touched on a few of you here, aware that there are many more individuals and committees who deserve mention, including all those who have continued to offer your time and talents over the years to our music, worship, pastoral care, hospitality, fundraising, children and youth programs, finances, communications, peace and justice, and on and on and on.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "God has need of a person here." You have responded to that need, many times; and in so doing, you have been a blessing to this Fellowship, and to me. Thank you.

Anne

President's Message

Tom Wolf
president@cvuuf.org



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First of all, I want to thank the congregation for entrusting me with such an important position. We are a thriving and vital fellowship, and I will try my hardest to lead, support, and represent us well.

Second, I want to take a minute to speak for all of us and thank Willie for four years of incredible leadership as President. He is a tireless and dedicated leader, and he will truly be a hard act to follow. I can't be another Willie, nobody could.

What I can do is bring my own talents and energy to help move us forward. And (Please don't tell my fourth grade students that I started a sentence with the word "and") what an incredible time to be a part of leadership, what with all the excitement of the beginning of the Reverend Nica era. I am thrilled to think of what we will all build together.

I am also excited to work with the great group of people who will be on the 2016-2017 Board of Trustees. Several of us have already worked well together during the last year, and the four that were elected a few weeks ago for the upcoming year are a very talented group. One characteristic of my leadership will be to use the collective wisdom and experience of many people, those on the Board and Council as well as all those amazing people who make up our congregation. We are a talented assortment of individuals, each one caring and seeking a way to serve.

Truth be told I am also a little nervous about my new responsibilities, which is why I want to include a more personal shout out to Willie. He has been incredibly helpful in the last few weeks, getting me ready to assume my post. He has shared insights, emails and his time to make sure that I am as well prepared as possible. If there are any future missteps, and as I am human I suspect there might be a couple, I will not be able to blame my predecessor. Perhaps I could look for other people to blame, reflecting the wisdom of a certain unnamed Presidential contender. But that isn't my style either.

As an elementary school teacher, the summer is a time for me to recharge batteries and work on new plans and visions. As we wait for Reverend Nica to join us, I will be doing those same kinds of things for my new role at CVUUF. In a month or so, after a certain amount of hours at a laptop and at a beach, and after having I am sure several fruitful meetings with Nica, we will hit the ground running. Stay tuned!

Tom Wolf

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY UPDATE

In June we went to Washington for the Climate Control Leadership annual conference and Congressional Lobby Day. One thousand Climate Control Leadership members attended and the conference had dozens of valuable talks.

Then we lobbied every congressional office to support a Carbon Pricing law.

It's getting more and more likely that such a law will be considered in 2017!

Our chapter meetings are on the Sunday after the 2nd Saturday of each month, at 12:30 in the Board Room.

Note: we will not have a July meeting due to vacations.

Richard Elsley dick@elsley.name

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE CVUUF ANNUAL CAMPOUT

Friday, August 26 ~ Sunday August 28

This year we will be camping at Leo Carrillo. The site is reserved from Friday August 26, 2016 at 2:00 P.M to Sunday August 28, 2016 at 12:00 noon. The total cost will be \$25 per adult and \$5 per child. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night and sharing food at other meals. It's time for adventure in the great outdoors. Join us for camping, marshmallows and more fun! Look forward to seeing you there.



Please contact Heather Bourse at HBourse@gmail.com

*Let Us Hear Your Story
"This I Believe"*



We all have a story of our religious or faith journeys, and we'd like to hear yours -- in six minutes or less! If you'd like to share your story in our annual "This I Believe" worship service on August. 28th, please contact Jo Ann Van Reeman as soon as possible. This service is one of our favorites, and is always a good experience for those who participate.



vanreenanj@gmail.com



JOIN IN!

Conejo Valley UU Member Groups
Meet People-Make New Friends-Strengthen Connections

Here are some of the open groups at this time! Group size and status changes frequently. Check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to see all the current groups.

Movie Group 3: 3rd Sunday 5-7 p.m. Contact Colleen Ryan; cryan77@yahoo.com

**Orchids Women's Group: 2nd Friday 10-12 Noon; Contact Valarie Neel;
valgal@att.net**

**Women's Evening Group: 2nd and 4th Monday 7-9 p.m.; Contact Sylvia Johnson;
sylviafj@gmail.com**

CARING COMMUNITY

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

Join us for the 6th annual Walking the Walk Justice Summit



July 16–19, 2016

Jesuit Center of the Sierra, just outside of Sacramento

Join us for the largest annual UU justice summit and gathering of justice-seeking UUs for community building, dynamic worship, practical skill development and personal rejuvenation.

Choose from dozens of expert and community led workshops. Bring the whole family! There will be youth and multigenerational programming.

Find out more and register at
uujmca.org/walkingthewalk

This leadership training program is made possible by a generous grant from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock and the support of UUs like you.

Registration is now open for UUJMCA's multi-generational UU justice conference. Spots fill up fast! So visit uujmca.org/walkingthewalk to register today.

What you can do to help us meet United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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[Call on global leaders](#) to work toward achieving universal internet access across the world. [Tell the US Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#) to expand programming for affordable internet access across the US.

Hold a cell phone drive or printer cartridge collection at your congregation to give a second life to modern technological devices and increase equality in access to technology in your community or region.

Watch "[Let's bridge the digital divide](#)," a TED Talk by Aleph Molinari on the state of the digital divide and how to address it.



Current Focus is #9



Ethical Eating: A Solution to Climate Change

On May 19, 2016 the UU-UNO and Tzu Chi held a joint panel discussion "Ethical Eating: A Solution to Climate Change" at the United Nations Church Center in New York.

This panel spoke broadly on the environmental and moral impacts of food, and more pointedly on the implications of meat consumption. As one panelist explained, "Ethical Eating is to eat to minimize adverse impacts and maximize positive impacts on the environment and yourself." Our four panelists delved deeply into an analysis of the scientific and ethical problems created by climate change and

what individuals can do in the journey towards living a more climate-friendly lifestyle.



These articles are submitted by Liza Diniakos, our liaison to the UU-UNO. ldiniakos@yahoo.com



Catch fire within
a learning community
that can change your life!

Russell Lockwood Leadership School

A Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience
in the Pacific Western Region

July 23-29, 2016
Mary & Joseph Retreat Center,
Rancho Palos Verdes, California

Join us in July
for a Transformative Experience.
Take a wealth of resources back to your
board and congregation.

Fees:
\$950 "Early Bird" tuition, room and board by May 2
\$1100 tuition, room and board by June 1
\$1200 tuition, room and board by June 30
(\$200 less for commuters)
\$350 Congregational Fee
Transportation is not included.

For more information, contact Diane Larson,
RLLS Administrative Dean, at RLLS@uua.org.

RLLS — WHERE UU LEADERS ARE MADE
WHERE UU LEADERS ARE NURTURED —
WHERE UU LEADERS GROW AND LEARN

- One week, exploring the history, values, actions, inspirations and complexities of the Unitarian Universalist liberal religious tradition.
- One week, learning from an innovative faculty and staff, and working with UUs from around the Pacific Western Region.
- One week, sharing a wide range of study and practice focused on experiencing what is meaningful and necessary for UU leaders who wish to be skillful contributors to our congregations and to our local and global communities.

I went to RLLS with interest and curiosity, but never expecting to have the "transforming experience" I kept hearing about. Well, never say never! Despite my best efforts, I did leave transformed, with renewed energy, purpose and insight into how I can best be an effective leader in my congregation while still honoring my own needs. Thank you, RLLS!

Karen Valbuena
2015 RLLS Graduate



Visit our website and register today at

<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/leadership-school>





July 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:15am>Worship Service with Religious Education for Elementary Classes; 11:00am>Worship Service with Religious Education for Middle School and High School 12:15pm>Membership Committee 1:00pm>Gaming Afternoon 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	6:30pm>Finance Committee 7:15pm>Opal Covenant Group	2:30pm>Free Meal Commitment-Food Preparation 6:00pm> Free Meal Commitment-Serving 7:00pm>Worship Committee	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Council Meeting 7:30pm>Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group		7:00pm>Movie Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:15am>Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 11:00am>Worship Service with Religious Education for Middle School and High School 12:15pm>The Dharma Workshop 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm>Drop-In Bookclub	9:45am>Gardenia Group 7:00pm>CVUUF Board of Trustees Meeting	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm>Meditation Group	7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:15am>Worship Service with Religious Education for Elementary Classes One Service Only Today with reception for Reverend Anne to follow. 5:00pm>Movie Group 3 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting		7:00pm>Music Ministry	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Council Meeting 7:15pm>Transitions Group 7:30pm> Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:00pm>RE Committee Meeting	7:30pm>Movie Group1	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Newsletter Deadline 9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for Elementary Classes; 11:00am> Worship Service with Religious Education for Middle School and High School 12:15pm>The Dharma Workshop 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>The Escalating Inequality Group 7:00pm>Women's Evening Group	9:45am>Gardenia Group 7:00pm>Transition Team Meetings	6:00pm>OverEaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:30pm>Meditation Group			
31						
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for Elementary Classes; 10:20am>Neighborhood "Dot" Sunday 11:00am> Worship Service with Religious Education for Middle School and High School 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting						

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3327 Old Conejo Road
Newbury Park CA 91320 ([map](#))
805-498-9548
www.cvuuf.org

Home

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

Staff

Rev. Anne Felton-Hines, Interim Minister, minister@cvuuf.org
Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education, dre@cvuuf.org
Greg Whitmore, Choir Director, choirdirector@cvuuf.org
Dianna Mueller, Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org
Megan Hook, Membership Development Coordinator, cvuufsocial@gmail.com

Board of Trustees 2015-2016

Tom Wolf, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
Gaye Allan, Vice President (retired)
Kathleen Holland, Secretary
Peter Schlaus, Treasurer

Additional UU resource links:

[Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#) The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

[Pacific Southwest District \(PSWD\)](#) PSWD serves 50 Pacific Southwest congregations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Service is held at 9:15 & 11:00 am, with Coffee Hour following each service. Children's Religious Education is held during the 9:15am service. Childcare is provided and YRUU (our high school RE program) meets during the 11:00am service.

Visitors are always welcome!