



CVUUF

AUGUST

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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August 7: "Beauty Will Save The World"
—Sarah Caine, Seminary Graduate

There are some scary things happening in the world. We are more able to witness tragedy and (dare I say) evil now than ever before. So, what use is art? What use is music? Join Sarah in exploring the cry for beauty among the activism—as one of the most defiant and important acts when things may feel so bleak.

Sarah Caine is a recent graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. She has been serving as a hospital chaplain resident in Santa Monica for the last year and aspires to military chaplaincy. Sarah is a lover of dance, theater, music, and visual arts. She is working towards finding a ministry job (in either a congregation or hospital) as her residency comes to a close and always checks for the nearest dance studio before applying.

August 14: "Pilgrimage"
—Chaplain Michael Eselun

Popular guest speaker and UCLA Oncology Chaplain, Michael Eselun will explore the idea of pilgrimage—our pursuit of inspiration and enlightenment. Internal journeys and external ones—and some in between.

August 21: "Guts Enough; A Question of Moral Courage"
—Reverend Melitta L. Haslund

Navigating in our complicated, often divided and sometimes dangerous world, we rely upon our inner compass. What is it that moves an individual or group of people to reach beyond themselves to speak or act up, especially if it is risky? What does moral courage look like? We will examine the many components involved in doing the right thing.

Rev. Melitta L. Haslund has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 23 years. Thus far, she has served The Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula as Parish Minister and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara as Consulting Minister for Religious Education. She is currently teaching Comparative World Religions at Santa Barbara City College.

August 28: "This I Believe"
—Worship Associate: Jo Ann Van Reeman

This is a lay-led service featuring four members: Mary Freed, Don Cooper, Carol Jones, and April Fernald. Each will share one of their beliefs at both services. The format is based on the popular National Public Radio program of the same name. Come and learn what some long-time members believe.

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!



Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn
minister@cvuuf.org **beginning August 16, 2016**

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On Tuesday, August 16, I am delighted to begin my ministry with the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. You have waited so patiently for your new minister and I can't wait for us to get started.

During my first few weeks, my intention is to meet as many of you as possible, and attend groups and committees, so I can begin getting to know you... getting to know all about you. I'm excited to learn more about your structure and way of working. Since worship preparation takes a significant amount of time, I will not be in the pulpit during those first few weeks. That will allow me time to get oriented and understand you better. However, I do plan to be there most Sundays so I can meet more of you.

I look forward to leading worship from our September 11 Ingathering on. Between August 28th and September 3rd, I will be in Boston to complete my 2 year Entrepreneurial/Innovative Ministry program with the UUA and UUMA. This program has trained me how to innovate, market and fund new ideas for Unitarian Universalism. It has also allowed me to be connected with our national association at the highest level. I hope to bring these ideas, connections and expertise to CVUUF as we envision and create our future together.

My husband, Michael, my son, Gabriel and I are so looking forward to being with you. I feel excited and hope-filled for a creative, loving, joyous future together.

I can't wait to see you in mid-August.

In faith and anticipation,
Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

Nica

President's Message



Tom Wolf
president@cvuuf.org

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I hope that all of you reading this, both CVUUF members and those in the local community just checking us out, are having a great summer. Whether this is the week of your big summer trip, or just another cookout in the backyard, relaxation is good for the soul. We all live in a pretty hectic world, and sometimes it is good just to slow down and breathe deeply.

We at CVUUF anxiously await the arrival of our new settled minister, Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn. She officially starts in the middle of August, just under a month away as I write this. I have had the opportunity to sit down with her and also trade more than a few emails, and I can tell you that she shares the excitement that so many of us feel.

A few weeks ago the new Board of Trustees met for the first time, and I am so impressed with the group that we have assembled. It is an energetic, committed and talented group of men and women. It was also the first meeting that I chaired as President, and if all went as planned they never saw me sweat. I am confident that together we will be good stewards of our beloved congregation.

It was also the last Board meeting that Rev. Anne was at the table. She had gotten a warm and well deserved send-off from the congregation just a few days earlier, after her last sermon on July 17th. Debbie Snider and others did a great job expressing just how much we will miss her. I just want to take the opportunity now to add to that my own personal appreciation of her time and talents. When she first came to us, we were a group pretty shaken by the unexpected departure of Rev. Lora. It seems to me that Anne brought to us the kind of humor, compassion, and spiritual strength that was able to help us move through that period. She was, indeed, exactly what we needed. Even while we await the arrival of Rev. Nica, we owe Rev. Anne a deep sense of gratitude.

This has been a difficult summer in the nation, with killings both by and of police. We have had a difficult time coming to terms with the issues facing us. The political circuses known as party conventions have not particularly helped the healing proceed. As the last weeks of summer approach us, with schools seemingly starting earlier each year, I hope you are able to find time to enjoy family and friends. Plan a fun staycation, if not a vacation, and recharge your batteries. You will need that energy soon, when we welcome Rev. Nica and begin our path forward together.

Tom Wolf



Religious Education News

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

It's August! The end of summer is just around the corner, so it's time to squeeze in as much fun as possible! I don't know about you, but my summer has already been jam packed with good times, and some of those have been right here at CVUUF.

I have been having the best time putting classes together! Our Elementary children have been using Science to explore topics such as color, bubbles, the ocean... The list goes on—and we are only halfway through our summer session! Children are laughing, playing, and maybe even learning a thing or two. Please ask our young ones about the activities they are doing! I encourage you to join in the wonder of exploring the world around us. Young and old together, there is always room to grow and learn.

Our Middle School and High School youth have been escaping to Hogwarts Summer School. The two classes have been coming together to explore divination, build wands, and will soon be looking into herbology and astronomy. And, yes, youth and advisors have all been sorted into their houses! (I was placed in Gryffindor myself.) Why exactly are we exploring the world of Harry Potter? Well, first off, it's just plain fun! Second, I see a very important parallel to the world of UUs—the search for truth in a sometimes complicated world. Everyone's journey in finding their own truth is different. So here is another opportunity to chat up the youth about their journeys. How are your instructors? Why did you end up in the house you are in? But don't bother asking how to get to Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$. That's a secret!

Oh, and there is more fun to be had! August 20th we will be getting together for Family Day at Knott's Berry Farm. Take the opportunity to take in a show, eat some ice cream, and hop on a couple of rides. Imagine what fun it would be to run into our CVUUF family while you run amok! Even Reverend Nica and her family are planning to attend! *Please see the information flyer on [Page 6](#).*

Want another way to connect with our children and youth? Consider attending the annual campout! This year it is being held at lovely Leo Carrillo State Park August 26-28. Many of our families enjoy this get-together. I look forward to it every year. *Please see [Page 5](#) for more information.*

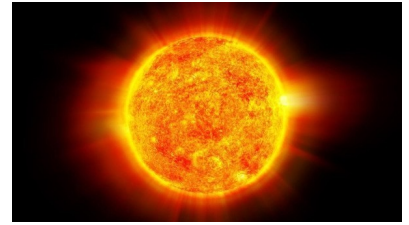
Of course, there is nothing wrong with a little break for you hard working parents and caregivers. This year we will be starting "Parents' Night Out". We will be offering childcare here at the church while parents and the like can go out for organized events to enjoy some adult time. As we are trying to attract more families to our congregation, I am very excited to offer opportunities for you caregivers to have a little fun, knowing your children are being cared for in a safe place with trusted staff. Please stay tuned...

I told you it's time to squeeze in as much fun as possible. My hope, as we move on to new paths, is to offer an engaging and fun RE program. Something our children are eager to attend, creating memories and instilling values that will last a lifetime. I dream of a program we can all be proud of. Won't you dream with me too?

P.S. If all that we do has peaked your interest, I hope you consider joining the team of amazing teachers that volunteer their time for RE. Please come speak to me, or any of the RE Committee members, if you would like more information.

Citizens Climate Lobby

2016 is well on its way to being the hottest year on record. So we continue to work to get legislation passed to rein in climate change by putting a price on carbon-based fuels. It's getting more and more likely that such a law will reach Congress in 2017! Come join our efforts. Our next chapter meeting will be Sunday, August 14th, 12:30 in the Board Room.
Dick Elsley dick@elsley.name



Stewardship Update

As of the beginning of this year the Fellowship has started tracking pledge contributions using QuickBooks software. Our administrator Dianna Mueller has figured out how to send an automated statement out by email, and we plan to do this on a quarterly basis. The statements were sent out recently, covering the nine months through the end of June. If you got a hard copy statement through the mail, then our database has an incorrect email address for you. If you did not get any statement, then your email software may have filtered it out as spam. If so, or if you have any other questions about the statement, please contact Dianna Mueller.

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.



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.

Family Day at

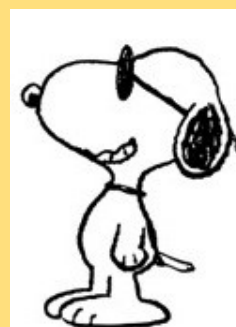


Time to squeeze in some last minute fun before summer is over! And what better way to do it than with your CVUUF family? We'll even sweeten the deal with discount tickets!

When: Saturday, August 20th
Group will depart from CVUUF at 8:00am.

Cost: Adults - \$25 (\$47 off price at the gate!)
Children (3-11) - \$20 (\$22 off price at the gate!)
Parking-\$18 Carpooling Recommended

Bring a friend and we'll knock \$5 off your ticket!*
Limited spots available! Reserve your tickets by August 13th!
Contact Sam Dickerson at dre@cvuuf.org to purchase your tickets today!



*Maximum of \$5 discount per ticket in your party



August 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01	02	03	04	05	06
	6:30pm>Finance Committee 7:15>Opal Covenant Group	2:30pm>Free Meal Commitment-Food Preparation 6:00pm>Free Meal Commitment-Serving	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm>Meditation Group	10:00am>Jonquil Women's Group		6:00pm>EastEnders pot luck.
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
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 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:30pm>Drop-In Book club	9:45am>Gardenia Group	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm>Meditation Group	7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group		7:00pm>Movie Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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 12:30pm>Citizens Climate Change 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	10:00am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:00pm>RE Committee Meeting	6:00pm>Erik's Birthday Bash/ Johann Sebastian Joust Party	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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>Humanists Meeting 5:00pm>Movie Group 3 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting		9:45am>Gardenia Group 7:00pm>Transitions Team Meeting	Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm>OverEaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:30pm>Meditation Group	7:30>Choir Rehearsal	CVUUF Campout 7:30pm>Movie Group1	CVUUF Campout
28	29	30	31	28	29	30
CVUUF Campout 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		6:00pm>OverEaters Anonymous 7:30pm>Meditation Group			

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

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 2015-2016

Tom Wolf, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
David Barker, Vice President
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!