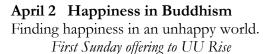
Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula



APRIL 2017 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



April 9 A Legacy of Values

We will consider the ancient tradition of the Ethical Will and what it might mean for us individuals and our faith communities today. Aren't the most valuable gifts we can leave our stories, our values, and wisdom gained from our living?

April 16 Singer of Life

The coming of Easter brings rebirth and new life. We celebrate Easter with a few Alleluias, a few Good Eggs, and words from the Unitarian Universalist tradition, as we "bestow songs that like birds can fly." Our Choir sings.

April 23 Our Inner Sloth

Rev. Hines has long joked that Sloth is her favorite of the "Seven Deadly Sins;" she was even once allowed to play that part in a presentation of The Lorax. This morning she will reflect on what part Sloth and its cousin, Acedia (look it up!), may have in our emotional and spiritual well-being; and what does it mean for the call to be activists for Justice in these times?

Rev. Hines retired -- for the second time -- in August 2016. Since the presidential election, she has become re-activated by working with the ACLU, White People for Black Lives, and a small group called Subversive Knitters.

*NEW Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 PM Gathering

A weeknight Gathering with classical music, words and silence with Rev. Maddie, soprano, Geno Palilla, piano and Christine Snipes, violin.

April 30 Bringing in the May

In Irish, Beltane means "fire of Bel" or "bright fire" - the "bael-fire." Bel is known as the bright and shining one, a Celtic Sun God. This earth-based service recognizing the Beltane festival is part of the Wheel of the Year.

May Pole in the garden following the service

CASP offering

Rev. Maddie, MaryBeth East

Rev. Maddie, Allan Noel

Rev. Maddie, CJ Starling

Kusala Bhiksu, Donna Hamer

The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

Anne Hines



Message from the Minister

As Easter is upon us in April, I am thinking of what Easter might mean to us as Unitarian Universalists. It certainly is a complicated holiday for many of us, especially those of us who have come out from other denominations, perhaps precisely because of how we felt about the way Easter was celebrated or our understanding-or lack of understanding-of it. Or perhaps it just seems irrelevant. The more I think about it, trying to argue or prove that the events recounted in the Bible were true or real is a quagmire which is probably beside the point for many of us. Trying to get at the facts of what might have happened on that first Easter or what happened at the first Passover is probably an exercise in futility, unless you are an academic or a theologian who likes to delve into such things. Frankly, I don't think the answer really matters to how we go on living our lives day to day, year to year. What does matter is that every one of us is Job sometime in our life-the world crashes down and we question everything, including what we



might take on faith. We all experience the Good Fridays and the Easters. We experience death and rebirth multiple times during our lives until we reach the time of our final death. It can seem miraculous to reclaim living after a difficult death of a loved one. It can feel miraculous to reclaim faith in your body after an accident or an illness. When those miracles occur, we need to celebrate and shout a few Alleluias. Easter Sunday is such a day when the tomb of death is opened and new possibility is before us. What do you see when the dark of winter has passed and new light shines?

Some of us do like to delve into the Biblical stories and the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Ministers are famous for enjoying them! If you would like to have a conversation about what the Bible has to say, give me a call at the church (805-525-4620) or on my cell phone (508-733-8860) or email me at <u>msifantus@uuma.org</u>. I would love to chat with you! But meanwhile, we'll sing a Alleluia and bring the May in at the end of the month.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends:

It's spring cleaning and organization time! Work is underway to revision the basement space known as "the old kitchen". Judy Triem and Luisa Haskell have worked for months to organize our church records and are very close to the end of that task. Thanks to them, we now have organized storage of our historical documents and a summary list of what we have and where to find it. Thank you, Judy, and Luisa.

If you have ideas on how to best use "the old kitchen" space, please share them with Maddie, Krystal or a Board member. As our church activities change, the storage and meeting space needs also change. Be open and creative to how we use our church building.

Next Board meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude, MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

April 2017

• We are happy that Lottie Patton remembered her mother Shirley Atkins with a Memorial Gift to the Marjorie Newlin Learning Capital Fund on the occasion of Shirley's birthday.

• The Memorial Gathering for Janine Rees will be held on Sunday, April 9 from Noon to 4:00 PM at Rancho Camulos in Piru. It will be a potluck event; silverware and paper goods will be provided. Janine was a friend and teacher to many in our congregation and her husband, Bill Faith, extends an invitation to all.

• Our friend Doris Vernon is home from rehab and would appreciate cards. Her address is 807 Camino Concordia, Camarillo, CA 93010-8471.

• If you have any News from Among Us you would like to share with our community, please let Rev. Maddie know by the newsletter deadline which is the 21st of every month.

Message from the RE Coordinator



Reverend Maddie invited the children to join in the blessing of our new church banner by asking them to place their small, adorable hands onto the banner while she shared some meaningful words. It was a special moment for all.

I have been working with Teacher Lana to prepare for the upcoming new curriculum, Spirit Play. We will be offering an orientation on April 9 for families that are interested in learning more about what the curriculum has to offer. If you have any questions, please contact Lana or myself.

For those of you that may not have attended church on March 5, I want to let you know that I lit a candle to inform the congregation that I will be resigning as the RE Coordinator in June. I plan to talk with the children about this over the upcoming months so they will have a better understanding of what's to come. The nice thing is, since I am a member of this church I am not going away. We will be able to visit during coffee hours. Just know, out of everything I do as RE Coordinator, I will miss working with the children the most.

4-Ever Learning, Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator

Spiritual Growth Center

SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend yoga in our Parish Hall led by Lisa Hammond on Tuesday's, April 4, 11, 18, & 25, and Thursday's April 6, 13, 20, & 27, at 9:30 am. There is a \$6 fee. Lisa keeps an email list to which you can be added after

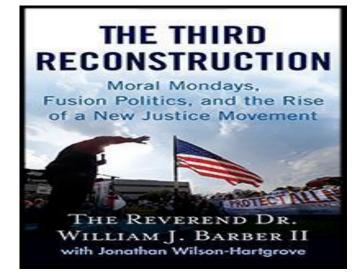
attending your first session. She has been leading yoga for us for about a year and several of our members and Rev. Maddie attend. Lisa Hammond can be reached at soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com.

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place in our Parish Hall. The group meets on Wednesdays at 6 PM. In April, we will be meeting on April 12 and 26. Looking ahead to May, we will be meeting on May 10 and 24. Enter through the front gate to the left of the main entrance and come in the side door. This group celebrates the diversity of Buddhist, mindfulness and orientations and welcomes other meditative participants from all contemplative traditions to attend. Rev. Maddie is a long time meditator from the mindfulness or Vipassana tradition of Buddhism. Allow about an hour and bring your meditation cushion, if you have one, or you can sit in a chair. The group is open to everyone; there is a free will offering (\$5 suggested but all invited regardless of funds). The meeting will begin with a reading and short discussion, with a guided meditation leading us into a time of silence. There is power in meditating together. We would love to have you join us. For more information, leave a message. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620 or email msifantus@uuma.org.

T'AI CHI CHIH

T'ai Chi Chih with Peter Gregory is back and he is leading an Intermediate program for the next 8 weeks on Friday mornings at 10:00 am. in our Parish Hall. T'ai Chi Chih-Joy thru Movement is a moving, meditative approach to increasing energy, reducing stress, improving balance and awareness, healing and growth. For more information, contact Krystal at 805-525-4647 or uucspoffice@gmail.com.



NEW DATE FOR ALL CHURCH READ Our All Church Read discussion of the book The Third Reconstruction by William Barber is moving from April 9 to Sunday, June 4 at 12:15 PM. Due to the fact that a number of our members want to go to the Memorial Event for Janine Rees, we have moved the date forward which gives you more time to read!

The Common Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association is "The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement", by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

There are three copies circulating among the congregation. A paperback edition is available for purchase at inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop, from Amazon or your favorite bookseller.

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or pot luck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Her office is located in the "new wing" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes, if something comes up. The best way to plan a time to meet with her is to call and leave a message on her private line at the church, 805-525-4620, call her on her cell phone, 508-733-8860 or email her at msifantus@uuma.org. She is happy to meet you in her office, at your home or place of work, or at a local restaurant for a cup of tea or coffee (she will buy her own!). The minister's office is in the back of the church, near the rest rooms. If the front or back doors are locked, call her, and she will come let you in through the back gate off the alley.

BECOME A MEMBER--WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

Are you an official member of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula or thinking of becoming one? Becoming a member of UUCSP is an individual decision, so some people in a family may be member while others are not. While only members can vote on church matters, both members and non-members alike are welcome to attend services and other church activities, volunteer, and contribute financially to our congregation. Like many other UU churches, we have dedicated friends who have been active in our congregation, perhaps for years, but have never signed the membership book.

The conditions for membership, according to our bylaws, are these: "This society shall welcome as members any person who is in sympathy with its purposes and program, has reviewed these bylaws, and has signed the membership book in the presence of the minister or an officer of the church."

If you fall into that "friend" (active non-member) category, you might want to consider becoming a member now. If you have never gotten around to signing the book, but want to become an official member now, it's easy—simply arrange with Rev. Maddie to sign the membership book. We will be having a New Member Recognition during our Flower Communion Service on June 4th.



GATHERING

Please join Rev. Maddie for a weeknight gathering of sound, silence and word. This is a new experiment of an alternate weeknight form of worship which will happen about once a month and feature music, poetry, and guided meditation. The first one will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 7 PM and be less than an hour. Music will be provided by Rev. Maddie, Geno Palilla piano and Christine Snipes. Among the music will be "Elegie" by French composer Jules Massenet (1842-1912) with soprano, piano and violin, a song by Brahms and Mozart. A free will offering will be taken to compensate the visiting musicians. In future months, we hope to have a variety of music, players and readers. Please talk to Rev. Maddie with your ideas and interest. Tell your friends!

CHOIR

All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music. We will rehearse again on Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 PM and Easter Sunday, April 16 at 9:30 AM before singing in the 10:30 AM service. Both rehearsals will be directed by Rev. Maddie and accompanied by Vincent Sorisio. All Thursday rehearsals will cover the music for that Sunday be learning music for our monthly appearances through July.

- April 16 Easter: Awake Thou Wintry Earth, first verse only
- May 14 I am But a Small Voice Roger Whittaker, John Coates Jr
- June 11 As Torrents in Summer H. W. Longfellow, Edward Elgar
- July 9 Blowin' in the Wind/America Bob Dylan, arr. Len Thomas
- Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions. All invited to sing!

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

We would like to have photographs taken at various church activities for use on Facebook, our webpage and for archival purposes. If you like to take pictures, whether with your phone or with a nice camera, please get your images to Rev. Maddie at msifantus@uuma.org or Krystal in the office at uucspoffice@gmail.com

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Friday, April 21, at 2:00 pm., after lunch. NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING due to a scheduling conflict.

THE MARY A'S

The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet SATURDAY, APRIL 22, AT FLIGHT 126 CAFE for lunch at 11:30. THIS IS OUR QUARTERLY SATURDAY MEETING, so we hope those unable to make it on the 4th Thursdays can come.

CARING COMMITTEE

The newly revitalized Caring Committee has been meeting to consider the activities of the committee. Amongst its activities is keeping a list of the Birthdays and Anniversaries of our Members and Friends. There is a list in the Parish Hall where you can add yours. We are also looking to make some cushions to be available for the seats in the sanctuary for those who find them uncomfortable. In addition, we are interested in making a Ride List for those who need rides to church on Sunday or special events at the church. Finally, we will also be beginning Lay Ministry Training for those who wish to be on our caring team as part of our monthly meetings. The next Caring Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 20 at 12:15 PM in Rev. Maddie's office. Please let her know if you are interested in helping with any of these projects or being on our caring team.

ICE OUT WORK GROUP OF CLUE

CLUE is Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice. It currently has four working groups in Ventura County, one of which is the ICE Out of Our Cities. Its goal is to reduce the fear in immigrant communities by using CA law to end the relationship between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. Current focuses are "safe cities" and the passage of SB 54 in CA legislature. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 4 at 7 PM in our Parish Hall. If you are interested in attending, please email Rev. Maddie at msifantus@uuma.org or leave a message at 805-525-4620. You can see more about CLUE at http://www.cluevc.org/.The



NEW ! PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are preparing to create a new photo church directory to replace our old (now out of date) print one. We are working with a company at no cost to us. On Friday, April 7, from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm the company photographers will be on site to photograph our members and friends. Each will receive a free photo directory and free 8"x10" portrait and additional portraits will be available for purchase. People who are not members or friends of the congregation can also have their pictures taken and buy them from the company. The directory is updateable and the company seems easy to work with. The directory will not be complete without you. A big thank you to Dorothy Camarena for diligently taking signups during Coffee Hour. We are hoping to add another date for those that could not make it to the April 7th date. Also volunteers needed to act as hosts on April 7. For more information please contact Krystal at 805-525-4647 or uucspoffice@gmail.com.

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE

This second quarter of 2017 we designate the first Sundays' offering to UURISE, a non-profit, 501c(3) organization, which empowers immigrants and refugees in the U.S. by offering one on one legal services, education, and training, including

- ---Know Your Rights
- ---DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- ----Identifying and Assisting DREAMers
- ---Immigration Relief for Marginalized Immigrants
- ---Immigration Relief for Victims of Domestic Violence
- ---Naturalization and Civic Engagement
- ---Safety Planning: Preventing catastrophic loss

Financially supporting UURISE is one tangible way we as UU's can live out our First Principle to affirm and promote "the worth and dignity of every person." By supporting UURISE we actively contribute to the national discourse on immigrant rights and immigration reform. By supporting UURise, we help create a safe and welcoming environment for all people, without discrimination.

CASP - LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

We collect canned goods, rice and beans for CASP, Community Assistance of Santa Paula, a non-profit food pantry located in a back building of the First United Methodist Church. Santa Paulans of limited means are served by CASP on Mondays before noon. We are pleased to add to CASP's pantry.

VENTURA WRITERS' BLOCK

The Ventura Writers' Block is presenting six original one-act stage readings on Sunday, April 2, 7:00 P.M. at the Santa Paula Theater Center (backstage). Allan Noel plays a lead in The RV Road Race written by Margaret Wilson. All plays for this premier event are written by members of The Ventura Writers' Block. Admission is "pay what you can". For more information see Facebook, "Ventura Writers' Block".

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura has extended an invitation to the women of our church to join them in their annual retreat. Please see the flier below and if you wish to have further information there are brochures available with the details and schedule of events, on the Parish Hall information table. Or Krystal can email the file. 805-525-4647 or uucspoffice@gmail.com.

For All UU Women & Friends

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura

32nd Annual Women's Retreat

April 28-30, 2017



Changing Roles of Women

Mt. Calvary Retreat House, Santa Barbara Earily bird price: \$275 *before April 2,* \$290 after *April 2* Scholarships available

includes All Meals, Lodging & 2 Saturday Workshops and evening programs Info: Dorothy 805/218-9478, dfasthorse@aol.com

CRUISE NIGHT

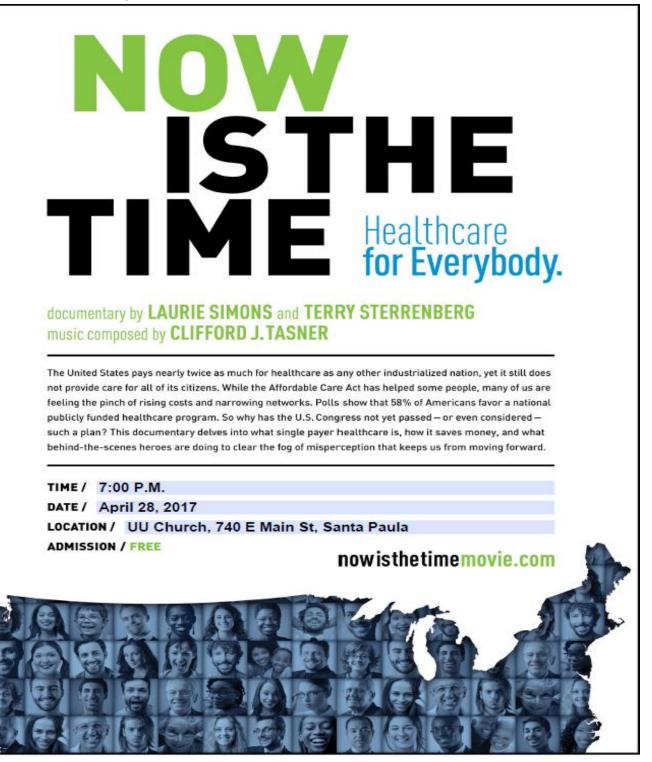
The first Santa Paula Cruise Night of 2017 is Friday, April 7th. Rev. Maddie and Ken Stock will be at a table in front of the church as usual greeting talking about passersby, our congregation and having literature available. Ken Stock will not able to be there for the May and June Cruise Nights so Rev. Maddie will need volunteers from the congregation to help out for those months. We usually are there from about 5 PM until sundown. Come by and say hello...or come by sit a spell at the table. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you can help her host visitors to our building and answers inquiries about our free faith.





The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE--Dinner and a Movie Friday, April 28 potluck- 5:45 pm, film 7:00 pm.



The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality. Welcome new member Karen Harris!

When I first met Karen, I was taken by her calmness. I took her quiet and serious demeanor as perhaps someone who is shy. Upon meeting her to discuss her background, I was surprised to find out about all the places she had lived, her education and the work she had accomplished.

Born in Jamaica, New York in 1951, Karen was the only child of Filomina Zarro and Albert Lawson whose parents were of Italian and Swedish-German ancestry. When Karen was ten her father, an engineer, was transferred to Richland, Washington to work at the Hanford Nuclear Power plant where plutonium was made. Karen recalls being with her father when President Kennedy came for the plant's opening in 1962.

By 1964 the family was back in New York where Karen graduated from high school in Garden Center, Long Island in 1968. That year the family moved to Palos Verdes, California. Her father was transferred and her mother continued as an elementary school teacher. Karen attended Pitzer College that year, part of the Claremont Colleges. Her mother encouraged her to go into teaching, but after seeing how hard her mother worked, she decided on a different career, taking a year off to work before attending the San Francisco Art Institute in 1970. She began classes in photography, attending lectures by Imogene Cunningham who was ninety at the time. She enjoyed the excitement and cultural life of San Francisco while using it as a backdrop for her black and white photography.

Karen returned to Southern California the following year attending Harbor Community College, taking more academic classes prior to attending the Art Center College of Design between 1972 and 1977 where she continued classes in photography and film. Upon graduation, Karen worked in the fashion industry as a stylist or photo assistant, arranging props or selecting clothes. Getting to work with celebrities such as Linda Evans, Lionel Ritchie and Priscilla Presley was an exciting part of her job.

In 1983, while working as a stylist, she married Ray Harris, who had also been a graduate of the Art Center and was working for Disney. After their daughter, Sophia was born in 1987, Karen became a "stay at home" mom. Prior to Sophia's birth, Karen worked briefly, modeling maternity clothes. Getting back into her photography, Karen entered a portrait of her young daughter in the Los Angeles County Fair and won a photography award.

In 1998 the family moved to La Canada in search of a better school system for their daughter and a larger house. Karen returned to work this time in the retail field, becoming part time and then full time manager of the Pendleton Store in San Marino. She liked working with people and helping them "look their best."

After Sophia left home and Ray left Disney to pursue an art career, the couple decided to downsize. Karen had heard about the WAV, an artist work/live co-op in Ventura from a customer at the Pendleton store. They moved in 2009 living with friends until the building was completed. Karen moved her mother to Ventura and they both attended the UU Church in 2015 for a while until her mother was moved into the Palm's Memory Care facility.

Karen spends much of her time now visiting her mother in addition to pursuing photography with her new camera. She likes shooting urban scenes, nature and portraits. Her hobbies include walking, swimming, yoga and knitting. She loves reading as well. Perhaps we can talk her into sharing some of her photography with us.

As part of getting to know our membership, we will be publishing bios on new members from time to time.

Judy Triem, March 2017

Calendar of Events



2017

Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sun. Sat. 1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 10:30am-Worship 9:30am-Yoga 9:30am-Yoga 10:00am T'aiChiChih FirstSundayPlate PhotoDirectoryShoot 11:00am-7:00pm 5:00pm CruiseNight 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 6:00pm-10:30am-Worship 9:30am-Yoga 9:30am-Yoga 10:00am T'aiChiChih Meditation 12:15pm-Worship 7pm-Choir Reh 7:00pm-Classic Committee Movie Night 17 18 19 20 22 16 21 9:30am-ChoirReh 9:30am-Yoga 10:00am-StaffMtg 9:30am-Yoga 10:00am T'aiChiChih 11:30am-MaryA's 10:30am-Worship 4:00pm-RE 12:15pm-Caring Com Mtg Comm Mtg 2:00pm-Social **Concerns Mtg** 6:30pm-BoardMtg Newsletter Deadline EASTER 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 9:30am-Yoga 6:00pm-9:30am-Yoga 10:00am T'aiChiChih 10:30am Meditation Worship Dinner& a Movie 5:45pm Potluck 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Movie Maypole CASP

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of Santa Paula Universalist Unitarian Church

Santa Paula, CA 93060 740 East Main Street

Dated Material

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Next newsletter deadline: Friday, April 21

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister Ruth Ricards, Religious Education Coordinator Lana Moore, RE Assistant Vincent Sorisio, Music Director Albie Alamillo, Custodian Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator Board of Trustees: MaryBeth East John Nichols Patricia English Luisa Haskell Kate English

740 Est Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060

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General Assembly 2017 June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

Planning has begun for General Assembly 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130. Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa, it is one of America's most culturally and historically-rich destinations. It is a city known for its music, food, architecture, and festivals. The average high temperature in June is 89 degrees and the average low is 71.

New Orleans is also known as a place of re-

birth following the devastation of Katrina in

2005. Many Unitarian Universalists have

contributed time and funds in the effort to

rebuild both the city and the congregations in the area. By going to New Orleans, we can both celebrate our successes and

recommit to the relationships that have been

forged with this community.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNTARIAN CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA