



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
(805) 525-4647  
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Website: uucsp.org

## FEBRUARY 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

### FEBRUARY 7

Rev. Dr. Audrey Vincent & Pat English  
“Celebrating Groundhog Day”

After Paris and the UN Global Climate Summit is there enough hope to celebrate? We will explore what happened there, where there’s promise and movement, and revisit Marjorie Newlin Leaming’s eco-theological classic, *Saving the Earth, Saving Ourselves*. We hear a special bear will also be present.

Rev. Audrey is a retired UU minister and long-standing member of our church.

*First Sunday Plate to Santa Clara Valley Hospice.*

### FEBRUARY 14

Frances Pardee & Mary Nelson  
“The Stirrings of Compassion”

On this Valentine’s Day we will talk about a very special type of love: compassion. Nearly all major religions have a version of the Golden Rule. Clearly, feeling compassion for our fellow human beings is considered desirable. Then why are there so many examples in our society, historically and today, where suffering is ignored by those who could help? We need a new perspective; it’s not as simple as we’d like it to be. Frances is a long-time member of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and was music director for many years.

### FEBRUARY 21

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Kate English  
“The Big Disconnect”

What does the new world of Social Media, being online all the time and constantly available mean for us? How are we disconnected from nature and each other? How can we reconnect?

*Hymn Sing 10:10 am*

### FEBRUARY 28

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Pat English  
“Justice, Equity and Compassion:  
Second Principle”

Rev. Maddie continues to explore the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism focusing on our Second Principle. How does this Principle challenge us to live up to those who came before us on the path towards making ours a better world? What does this Principle call us to do today?

*CASP Food Offering*

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

# Message from the Minister

I have been a user of Social Media since about 2009. So it is that Facebook each morning presents me with something called “On This Day” that has copies of photos and words I posted on the particular date going back to 2009. So it is that this morning as I write this, I was presented with a photograph of my mailbox at my old home in Wayland from 2009 with a foot of snow on it. It was a visible indication of how different my life has become in the last year. Although my heat goes on each morning in my house in Santa Paula, it warms up to coatless weather by afternoon. Instead of snow piling on the driveway that needed to be shoveled, I worry about the predicted El Niño rains pouring down Ninth Street next to my house and driving on rain slicked highways. We humans prepare for and adapt to the changes. Here at church sandbags were put strategically to protect our lower story and we keep an eye on the roof of our historic building. We plan for needed upkeep and make decisions about the budget that allow us to have staff and programs to accomplish what we want to do as a congregation and in Santa Paula.

As we continue through our church year, I am mindful of the whole range of what we do here together, from worship to socializing to lifelong learning. I am aware of how we need always to be asking the right questions, whether in how we plan for the future or even in how we get up in the morning and decide which foot to put forward as we greet the new day. Edith Hunter, a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Unitarian educator once said, “Isn’t half the job of becoming educated learning to ask the right questions?” This last year has been a year of asking questions for me. It has been a year of making decisions about what my priorities could and should be and how to optimize what we have to offer here and not burn our members and friends—or myself—out. As my friend and colleague the Reverend MaryLouise Schmalz said in her Charge to the Congregation at my Installation in October, if we each bring our notes, we can make a great symphony together. And we need all the notes—the full sustaining ones that are the root and the little grace notes which bring new life. Which note are you?

Reverend Dr. Rebecca Parker, who was the President of our UU seminary, Starr King Theological School, wrote in a poem, “Benediction”: “You must answer this question: what will you do with your gifts? Choose to bless the world.” I hope to see you at Sunday worship, our various education and social activities or any of the times and places where we can ask the right questions and choose to bless the world.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

## Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends,

In February, your new Board of Trustees will meet following the elections at the Annual Meeting. With the start of the New Year, there is much to do and plan for the year's calendar. I encourage everyone to find an event, activity or committee of interest and get involved in your church. Options for involvement include one of the following committees.

Concert	Membership	Religious Education
Caring	Social Action	Worship

Another option is to be a greeter, usher or chalice lighter on Sunday morning. Check out the signup sheet for coffee hour or provide flowers for the altar. All talents and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Next Board meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude,  
MaryBeth East

## News from Among Us

- ❖ Dale Peace has returned home with the help of his caregivers, including Judith Beay and CJ Starling.
- ❖ Former friend of the church Shirley Coons passed away on Thanksgiving morning. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 16 at her former residence at Rancho Ventura.
- ❖ We were joyful to welcome Jan Shepherd back to church on January 17th!

## Message from RE Coordinator



### “Nativity in a Brown Bag”

On December 20, 2015, our church gathered together for a multi-generational service to hear the Chalice Children sing an anthem and to perform the familiar story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Members and guests volunteered to play parts in the pageant and grabbed their costume from a brown bag. There were animals, three wise-women, an innkeeper, and of course, baby Jesus. It was a festive time for all! Afterwards, we gathered in the Parish Hall for a delicious tamale luncheon.

4-Ever Learning,

*Ruth Ricards*



*The animals; cow, pig, puppy and kitty gather in the stable around Baby Jesus*



*The little angel awaits the arrival of Baby Jesus.*



## First Sunday Plate Recipient for First Quarter

Our First Sunday offerings this new quarter of 2016 will benefit Santa Clara Valley Hospice/Home Support Group, Inc, a nonprofit organization providing services to the elderly and others with life-altering illnesses and age related decline. Services include transportation to medical appointments and therapies; lending of medical equipment, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes; counseling support for physical, psychological and spiritual needs of individuals and families; referral services; monthly flower visits; and primary caregiver relief with volunteer home visits. Services are available for Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru and Saticoy residents free of charge. Located at 133 N. Mill St., the volunteer organization has served the valley community for 35 years. [scvhospicehs@yahoo.com](mailto:scvhospicehs@yahoo.com).

## Hindsight, Humor and Hope

Rev. Maddie kicked off this six-part series which asks “Who, me, an elder?” on January 5 with sixteen participants! The second one will be Tuesday, February 2 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please bring a brown bag lunch. This is open to all adults of any age, but after this second meeting we will hope to “close” the class, as each are built on the previous one. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you want to join and she will give you the Handouts from the first class. *Hindsight, Humor and Hope* is a new UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum written by Rev. Maddie’s friend and colleague Karin Peterson. The workshops are open to all and cover the following:

Workshop 2 – February 2: Solitude and Connection – The Stuff of Life

Workshop 3 – March 1: Diving Through the Layers – The Fabric of My Life

Workshop 4 – April 5: Creating New Visions – Building on Experience

Workshop 5 – May 3: Making Friends with Mortality

Workshop 6 – June 7: Hindsight, Humor, and Hope

## Lunch with the Minister

The next Lunch with the Minister will be on Thursday, February 11 at Noon in the Parish Hall. Rev. Maddie will provide a hearty soup and a beverage. This is a chance for casual conversation and checking in on each other’s lives. There is no need to bring anything but should you wish, side dishes, a small amount of dessert or bread to share is welcome.

## Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Group is led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus in the Parish Hall. In February the group will meet on Wednesdays, February 3 and 17 at 6 PM. This group celebrates the diversity of Buddhist and other meditative orientations and welcomes participants from all contemplative traditions to attend. Rev. Maddie is a long time meditator from the mindfulness tradition. She also has a personal Christian Contemplative Prayer practice. 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 on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.

## Small Group Facilitators Still Needed!

There is quite a bit of interest in starting small groups here in our congregation. They are sometimes called Covenant Groups, Chalice Circles and other things. In order to have them work, we need three or four people to work with Rev. Maddie to become facilitators. So far only one person has stepped forward. Please think seriously about whether you can become part of a Pilot Group which will meet monthly with Rev. Maddie to experience the small group model and be trained. Then our 20+ interested folks can be assigned a group at mutually agreed on times. Until we have the facilitators, we cannot proceed. Please speak with Rev. Maddie if you are interested in being a facilitator.

# People and Doings

## Santa Paula Concert Series

Rev. Maddie is forming a committee to support the newly reformed Santa Paula Concert Series. We held three successful concerts in 2015. As we head into 2016, we have five concerts booked, with the next concert on Saturday, February 13 at 7 PM featuring our friend and sometime Sunday pianist Geno Palilla in a program of piano music for Valentine's Day (see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition to ticket sellers and greeters, please see Rev. Maddie if you can help with the Champagne and Chocolate reception for this concert or you have interest in helping her with the Concert Series project.

The second concert in 2016 will be Saturday, March 5 at 7 PM and feature A Call 2 Peace. A Call 2 Peace multimedia events, is a concert series started in 2002 with the purpose of utilizing the avenue of music and visual arts, to bring forth a simple message about Peace, being that Peace is the responsibility of the individual. During its first chapter, A Call 2 Peace organized presentations in Japan, Uruguay, France, Denmark, Switzerland and the USA and teamed up with many humanitarian organizations, such as UNICEF, Oxfam, the Hunger Project, Handicap International, the Water, Air & Food Awards (WAFA), Echo Valley Hope, Permaculture and many others. Now on its second chapter, the goal is to bring the same initiative into local communities in the Southern California area, with the intention to expand its outreach to communities all over the USA. It features musicians Federico (Freddy) Ramos, Scarlet Rivera, Ron Wagner, and Eduardo del Signore.

Federico (Freddy) Ramos, guitarist.

Performed and recorded with Yussef Lateef, Jon Anderson and Joan Sebastian. Recorded guitar for many feature films such as *Gladiator*, *Zorro*, etc. Freddy has collaborated with Jose Luis Perez on two of their releases "Flip Flop" and "Atravesando Tiempos" and as part of the group Ritual with 3 releases. [federicoramos.com](http://federicoramos.com)

Scarlet Rivera, violinist.

Recorded and toured with Bob Dylan, Tracy Chapman, the Indigo Girls and the Duke Ellington Orchestra. With 5 solo releases and many collaborations with other artists, such as Tommy

Eyre, Scarlet has toured to promote her work in USA, Europe and Japan. [angellesmusic.com](http://angellesmusic.com)

Ron Wagner, percussion and drums.

Ron has performed and recorded with Larry Coryell, Otmart Liebert, Chick Corea, Strunz and Farah, L. Subramanium, Peter Cetera and Steve Kujala. He has toured the USA, Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia. Ron has recorded for film and TV in *Fantasy Island*, *Star Trek*, *Murder She Wrote*, the *Equalizer* and others. He has also performed for the Cirque du Soleil presentations "Zed" (Japan) and "Iris" (Los Angeles) and has 7 solo releases.

[rhythmicvisions.com](http://rhythmicvisions.com)

Eduardo (Edu) Del Signore, bass & guitar.

Eduardo has recorded and performed with Jon Anderson, Milton Nascimento, Jon Hassell, Dionne Warwick, Eduardo Mateo and Moacir Santos. Edu's discography includes 10 solo releases and 3 releases with his band Ritual. Mr. Del Signore has organized several events in colleges and universities introducing "the Uruguay Project" an initiative about cultural exchange. [signoremusic.com](http://signoremusic.com)

These concerts bring new people into our sanctuary, provide quality music and entertainment to our community and raise funds to upgrade our PA, marketing materials and our historic building.

## Ad Hoc Choir

As Russell Woollen, a long time UU church musician, a member of the UU Musician's Network and a composer of note once wrote, "It is certain that [humans have] used musical sounds in [their] worship of the mysterious and unseen forces around [them] as far back as we have recorded history. Some of those sounds were made by the human voice." Rev. Maddie as a former music director and professional singer believes strongly in the singing congregation—hence our hymn sings to improve our knowledge of less known hymns. She occasionally convenes what she calls an "Ad Hoc Choir" to perform an anthem or special song during our worship services. All are invited to sing—after all her motto is the West African proverb "If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing." She is compiling a list of those who are interested. The next selection will be sung on February 21.

# Schedule of Events

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS	Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or pot luck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Monday is her 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.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Please submit your February newsletter items to Christine at uucspoffice@gmail.com by Sunday, <u>February 21</u> .
HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE WORKSHOP ON AGING Tuesday, February 2, 11:00 am	Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. Workshop is open to all. Bring a brown bag lunch.
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, February 3, 6:00 pm	All are invited to a meditation practice group in the Parish Hall led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. 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). There is power in meditating together. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.
FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, February 7	Our first quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit Santa Clara Valley Hospice.
LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER Thursday, February 11, 12:00 pm	Rev. Maddie will provide a hearty soup and a beverage. This is a chance for casual conversation and checking in on each other's lives. There is no need to bring anything but should you wish, side dishes, a small amount of dessert or bread to share is welcome.
CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday, February 12, 7:00 pm	The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents <i>Ninotchka</i> . Admission is free. Bring your own snacks. See page 10 for more information.
CONCERT Saturday, February 13, 7:00 pm	Join us for <i>Music for a Romantic Night: Classical Piano Music with Geno Palilla</i> . This concert for Valentine's Day will feature a champagne and chocolate reception with the artist. The program will feature shorter works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms, Schumann, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, and Debussy. See flyer on page 9.
SURPRISE BUDDIES Sunday, February 14, Coffee Hour	Join us during Coffee Hour for the revealing of the Surprise Buddies. The RE kids finally get to meet their buddy who has been sending them hints and clues in the mail.
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG Sunday, February 14, 12:00 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
V-DAY EVENT Sunday, February 14, 2:00 pm	Please join us on V-Day to protest violence, celebrate women and learn about the resources available in our community for victims of violence. See flyer on page 11 for more information.
CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, February 17, 2:30 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.

# Schedule of Events

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 pm	All are invited to a meditation practice group in the Parish Hall led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. 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).
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, February 18, 6:30 pm	All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 341-8809 if you have any questions.
STAFF MEETING Friday, February 19, 10:00 am	Staff will meet in Minister's office.
RE COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, February 19, 11:30 am	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE Friday, February 19, 12:00 pm	Aracely Preciado, Community Organizer for CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) will discuss the Ventura County Farmworker Bill of Rights and how our committee might help. Bring a brown bag lunch.
ARTS AND CRAFTS Saturday, February 20, 10:00 am	We will be making art with jars. Dig out an old mason jar and bring it in with you to see what cool things you can do. One of the things Delicia would like to do is make a fairy lantern. Now, anyone who has experience with real fairies knows that it is not a good idea to stuff them into jars. They will pinch and nip and basically make your life unpleasant if you treat them rudely. These jars are a fairy friendly alternative. Perfectly dreamy as a little nightlight, or magical accent. Delicia will bring all supplies needed except jars...please bring in your own jar. And if you want a special silhouette, please bring that as well. It needs to be a cardboard silhouette. There is no fee for this class, but a donation for supplies is much appreciated.
HYMN SING Sunday, February 21, 10:10 am	Rev. Maddie started the monthly Hymn Sings so that we can be a better singing congregation. Everyone of all ages are welcome to come early at 10:10 AM (note earlier time). The prelude will start at its usual time just before 10:30 AM and the Ringing of the Bell.
AD HOC CHOIR Sunday, February 21	Rev. Maddie occasionally convenes what she calls an "Ad Hoc Choir" to perform an anthem or special song during our worship services. All are invited to sing—after all her motto is the West African proverb "If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing."
MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, February 25, 11:30 am	Mary A's will meet at our new location, Flight 126 Café.
DINNER & A MOVIE Friday, February 26 Potluck: 6:00 pm Film: 7:00 pm	<b><i>Salt of the Earth</i></b> (1954), made during the height of the McCarthy years and blacklisted, was based on an actual Mexican American miners' ten-month strike in New Mexico. The film deals with not only racism, the miners' fight for safe conditions, and higher wages, but the minors' wives' struggle to help with the strike and the resulting explosive challenge to gender roles in the home.
CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, February 28	The children will collect the non-perishable food items for CASP during the service. Please bring your food items with you into the sanctuary for collection.



## Schedule of Events

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES  
PRESENTS

# *Romantic Classics*



## *Geno Palilla, Pianist*

Join Us for an Evening of Music of the Romantic Period  
with a Special Chocolate and Champagne Reception

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060

Donation \$20.00 at the door

Proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund. UUCSP is a Registered Ventura County Historical Landmark

# Schedule of Events



It's Valentine's Day cheap date night again at the SPCS, the time we set aside for breezy classic romantic comedies. The selection this year is "Ninotchka," from 1939, starring Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas, directed by the king of suave, Ernst Lubitsch.

Who made a larger impact on movie culture than Greta Garbo from so few films? In her penultimate effort, Garbo takes on comedy for the first time in her brief career, which ended just one film later—after which the famously shy Garbo never performed anywhere again. Yet the less she was seen, the more the Garbo legend grew, and not without good reason. MGM wisely marketed this film with the tagline "Garbo Laughs," which audiences would have understood as a reference to her first talkie in 1930, then billed as "Garbo Talks" —at the same time inviting them to forget that this film did not actually feature Garbo's first screen laugh! Still it was a genuine novelty, given her reputation for being cast in brooding roles.

The film's piffle of a storyline with plot elements involving comic communists in Paris was almost instantly dated by the outbreak of World War II, but in the hands of Lubitsch, none of that mattered much then, and matters even less now. This is a farce with not a hair out of place, a pure Hollywood comedy in the best sense of the term. And yes, Garbo laughs!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2016, 7:00 PM

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E. Main Street (enter side door)

ADMISSION FREE

Bring your own snacks!



# Schedule of Events

**REVOLUTION** **1** BILLION  
Rising  
**LISTEN**  
**ACT**  
**RISE UP**

**SANTA PAULA V-DAY 2016**  
**CASA DEL MEXICANO**  
**218 S. 11TH STREET**  
**SANTA PAULA, CA 93060**

**14** FEBRUARY  
2-5pm **2016**

One Billion Women around the world will be raped or beaten in their lifetime.

**Please join us on V-Day to:**

- \* celebrate women
- \* Learn about the resources available in our community
- \* protest the violence

There will be Music, dancing & Presentations from 2-5pm

Organizations will include:

COALITION FOR FAMILY HARMONY  
LIDERES CAMPESINAS  
PODER POPULAR Y MAS

A Special thanks to:

CASA DEL MEXICANO

Please wear comfortable clothing that is **Red, Black** or **Pink** to show your support.

This event will be held in Spanish with English language interpretation available.



# February 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Aging Workshop, 11 am	3 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	4	5	6
7 First Sunday Plate	8	9	10	11 Lunch w/Minister, 12 pm	12 Classic Movie Night, 7 pm	13 Concert, 7 pm
14 Surprise Buddies, After Services Worship Comm. Mtg, 12 pm V-DAY 2 pm - 4pm	15	16	17 Caring Comm., 2:30 pm Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	18 Board Mtg 6:30 pm	19 Staff Mtg 10:00 am RE Comm., 11:30 am S.C.A.C. 12 pm	20 Arts & Crafts, 10 am
21 Hymn Sing, 10:10 am Ad Hoc Choir <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Deadline</u>	22	23	24	25 Mary A's 11:30 am	26 Dinner & a Movie, Potluck 6 pm Film 7 pm	27
28 CASP	29					

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*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*