

# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

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



### APRIL 3

Rev. Ed Brock & Kate English  
“Adventures in Diversity”

Ed Brock is the Interim Minister at our sister congregation in Ventura. He and Rev. Maddie are doing a time-honored tradition of a Pulpit Swap this morning.

*First Sunday Plate to CAUSE*

### APRIL 17

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Allan Noel  
“Commit to Respond:  
A Service for Earth Day”

As we continue to note the mounting impact of climate change all over the world, we wonder how to bring it down to the size of we individuals faced with the consequences. How can we become more green?

### APRIL 10

Michael Guinn & Pat English  
“PKs, UUs, Strangers, Evangelism and  
Texas?”

What kind of title is *that* for a sermon?! If you're curious, please come join us as Michael Guinn (from the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara) shares how he and Unitarian Universalism both turn 55 this year and what a long strange trip it's been.

### APRIL 24

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Jerry Gray  
“Free and Responsible Search:  
Fourth Principle”

Rev. Maddie continues her exploration of our Seven Principles. Principle Four is “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” As we are on our search, how do we discern what we know? How do we make judgments and not be judgmental?

*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

We have just celebrated both Ostara (the Spring Equinox) and Easter, two ritual times in the turning of the seasons. For me this season brings to mind the beautiful words of the Song of Solomon: “For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.” How wonderful that some rains did come and flowers are blooming all around town, and we can tend our roses here at our historic building, just as each of us tidies up our steps and yards at home. What joy the rebirth of our earth brings and the increasing light. Next month we will be on to Beltane—May Day! Stay tuned for May Baskets and a May Pole.

The coming of spring also makes me think why do people join religious communities? I suspect that there are many answers to that question but at its most basic, it is to find meaning, to be reborn into a life of more meaning. We need to find connections and we need to re-connect to what is most important. We need a place to ask the big questions and we need a community with whom to share our joys and our concerns. We need companions on the wheel of the seasons as we walk through our lifetime. We need a place where we make a difference and our spiritual needs are met. Membership in such a community is a commitment. The bottom line is we replace “I can take care of myself” with “We can and will take care of each other.”

What does it mean to be faithful to the message of Unitarian Universalism in the 21st century? What does it mean to be faithful to that message here in Santa Paula? What is our purpose as religious liberals? How much does being part of our congregation mean to you? That is what we ask ourselves when we support the congregation through financial gifts, our gifts of time, and our commitment to the future of this place and its people. One way we do that is by becoming an official member of the congregation. Please see me if you want to sign our Membership book or talk more about what membership means. I will be forming a New UU class in the not too distant future—probably this summer—and would love to include you.

On the path of our faith,  
Reverend Maddie

## Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends,

Spring is a great time to kick off new projects. I will be looking for your thoughts and input on lighting for the front of the church and a rebuilding of the wayside pulpit. What elements do you think are important to make our church appear warm, welcoming and a place folks want to enter? Talk to me or one of the Board members regarding your ideas.

Please consider helping out on a Sunday morning by offering to be a greeter, usher or chalice lighter. For activities requiring a bit more planning, sign up for coffee hour or provide flowers for the altar.

Next Board meeting is Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude,  
MaryBeth East

## News from Among Us

- ❖ We are sad to hear that our friend Janice Kreider may need to leave the KOA Campground sooner than expected. She hopes that she may attend church until they leave the area for the summer at the end of April. For those who have gotten to know her, you may wish to be in touch with her at [Janice.kreider@yahoo.com](mailto:Janice.kreider@yahoo.com).
- ❖ Lynne Morrison has been unable to come to church in recent weeks. She would love to receive cards or visits at 111 North Wells Road #103, Ventura, CA 93004.
- ❖ Our thoughts are with Pat English as she deals with her recent diagnosis and the decisions she needs to be making for care.
- ❖ Our thoughts continue to be with Pat on a more joyous note as she, Loni Kate English and Delicia Niemi prepare to move into their new home in Santa Paula.

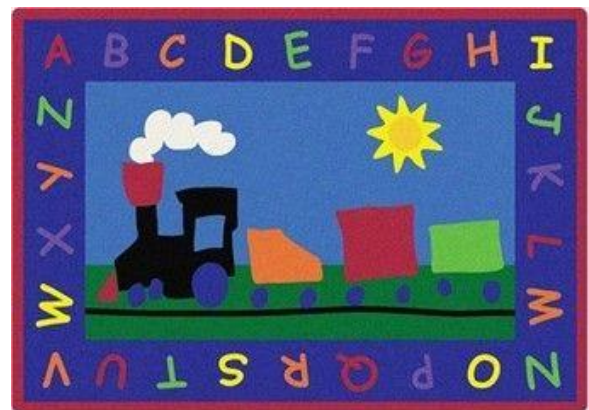
# Message from the RE Coordinator

## \$500 donation given to Religious Education!

I am so thrilled to share with you that our long time member and friend, Jason Johnson, has donated \$500 to the UUCSP Religious Education program. The timing couldn't have been better. Some of you may know that many years ago a church member at the time constructed a play sink and oven for the RE program. The RE kids have played with the pretend kitchen for years, but unfortunately, as time goes by, toys become unsafe and in RE we strive to create a safe environment for our children and youth. The time has come to "retire" the old play sink and oven...too many sharp nails and splinters. Thanks to Jason, we recently purchased an adorable pretend kitchen set. Below is a picture of the play kitchen we purchased for RE.



There is another safety concern in the RE room. The area rug that is underneath the craft table is too big and the edges are curled up waiting for someone to trip over them as they walk by. Actually, the rug has tripped a few adults but luckily they caught their balance and did not fall all the way to the floor. I am pleased to let you know that I had enough money from Jason's gift to purchase a brand new area rug that will fit under the table and chairs. How cool is that? I can hardly wait for the items to arrive. It will be like Christmas in RE!



We couldn't have done this without the generosity of Jason. ***A big THANK YOU to Jason!***

4-ever learning,  
Ruth Ricards  
RE Coordinator

# People and Doings

## First Sunday Plate Recipient for Second Quarter

Our First Sunday offerings the second quarter of 2016 will benefit CAUSE, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy which now has an office in Santa Paula. CAUSE's two big projects this year are 1) to get out the vote and 2) the Farm Worker Bill of Rights, a campaign using the powers of local governments to curb the labor abuses like wage theft experienced by far too many workers in the fields.

## Hindsight, Humor and Hope

The group which is asking "Who, me, an elder?" is now closed but the good news is a second group will be starting on Thursday, May 19 at noon and will meet monthly for the full six sessions into the fall! Please let Rev. Maddie know if you want to join this second group. The third meeting of group one will be Tuesday, April 5 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please bring a brown bag lunch. The remaining workshops for the first group cover the following:

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

## Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Group is led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus in the Parish Hall. In April the group will meet on Wednesdays, April 13 and 27. 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. Arrive a little before 6 PM and allow about an hour. 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. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.

## Wanted – Umbrella Stand

The RE program is looking for a sturdy, metal, outdoor, umbrella stand for our upcoming Maypole festivities. If you have a stand and would be willing to loan it to us for a day, please contact Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator at [uucspre@gmail.com](mailto:uucspre@gmail.com). Thank you.



## All Church Read—

### A Common Read in The UUA

*We will ultimately not be judged by our technology, we won't be judged by our design, we won't be judged by our intellect and reason. Ultimately, you judge the character of a society ... by how they treat the poor, the condemned, the incarcerated.*

– Bryan Stevenson

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We are planning to discuss it after coffee hour on Sunday, July 24. There are two copies of the book on the shelves in the Parish Hall. If you want your own copy, it is available at the regular outlets and the UUA Bookstore which you can access online from [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (2014, Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House) is this year's selection. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on our recent All Church Read, *The New Jim Crow*.

# People and Doings

<p>REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS</p>	<p>Rev. Maddie will be in Boston to sit on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from April 6-12. During that time the Reverend Betty Stapleford will be covering for her, should there be an emergency. She will be also be out of Santa Paula for two Pacific Southwest District events in April but will be reachable those days by cell phone and email.</p> <p>She 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.</p>
<p>CHRISTINE'S OFFICE HOURS</p>	<p>Please note that Christine has changed her office hours to Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you need to reach her outside of those hours, email her at uucspoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at 805 525-4647.</p>
<p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>Please submit your May newsletter items to Christine at uucspoffice@gmail.com by Thursday, <u>April 21</u>.</p>
<p>RE COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, April 1, 11:30 am</p>	<p>Committee will meet in Minister's office.</p>
<p>CRUISE NIGHT Friday, April 1, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>The church will be open, inviting newcomers to experience what we already know is a wonderful, loving and certainly caring community in the heart of the Citrus Capital of the World.</p> <p>Rev. Maddie and Ken Stock will be in attendance at a table in front of the church, having brochures about our church and Unitarian Universalism. Drop by or spend some time with Maddie and Ken between 5-7 PM.</p>
<p>FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, April 3</p>	<p>Our first quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit CAUSE.</p>
<p>HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE WORKSHOP ON AGING Tuesday, April 5, 11:00 am</p>	<p>Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch.</p>
<p>CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday, April 8, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents <i>They Live By Night</i>. Admission is free. Bring your own snacks. See page 9 for more information.</p>
<p>MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, April 13, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.</p>
<p>STAFF MEETING Friday, April 15, 10:00 am</p>	<p>Staff will meet in Minister's office.</p>

# People and Doings

<p>HYMN SING Sunday, April 17, 10:10 am</p>	<p>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). Our next Hymn Sing will be April 17 at 10:10 AM. The prelude will start at its usual time just before 10:30 AM and the Ringing of the Bell.</p>
<p>WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG Sunday, April 17, 12:00 pm</p>	<p>Committee will meet in Minister's office.</p>
<p>CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, April 20, 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Committee will meet in Minister's office.</p>
<p>BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, April 21, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809 if you have any questions.</p>
<p>DINNER &amp; A MOVIE Friday, April 22 Potluck: 5:45 pm (new time) Film: 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Social Concerns Action Committee presents: <b>Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret</b>, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, a groundbreaking environmental documentary, follows intrepid filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today, animal agriculture – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it. More about film: <a href="http://www.cowspiracy.com/">http://www.cowspiracy.com/</a></p>
<p>CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, April 24</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.</p>
<p>MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, April 28, 11:30 am</p>	<p>Mary A's will meet at our new location, Flight 126 Café.</p>
<p>SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: JOHN ROBLES &amp; CHUCUMITE Saturday, May 7, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Join us as Santa Paula native John Robles and his ensemble, Chucumite, present a concert of exciting folk music of Veracruz, Mexico, performed on traditional folk instruments. Donation \$20, children 12 &amp; under \$10, free for children under 5. Proceeds benefit the UUCSP Building and Historical Fund.</p>
<p>SAVE THE DATE! CAMP WANNAGO Saturday, May 21, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Mark your calendars for May 21 at 6 pm to attend Camp Wannago! The evening will be filled with fun, food, crafts, campfire songs and s'mores! Our goal is to raise \$420 to send Yvette to junior high summer camp at Camp de Benneville Pines. We hope you join us. For more information, please contact Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator at <a href="mailto:uucspre@gmail.com">uucspre@gmail.com</a>.</p>

# SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

## JOHN ROBLES

&

# CHUCUMITE



Join Us as Santa Paula Native John Robles and His Ensemble, Chucumite, present a Concert of Exciting Folk Music of Veracruz, Mexico, Performed on Traditional Folk Instruments!

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

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805-525-4647 – [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

**Donation \$20.00 Children 12 & Under \$10.00**

**Free for Children 5 and under**

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



# People and Doings

## THEY LIVE BY NIGHT



SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

PRESENTS

It's strictly "love on the run" for Cathy O'Donnell and Farley Granger, and we know right from the first frames that it can't end well. The theme might seem overly familiar to us today, but this debut feature from director Nicholas Ray essentially invented the genre. As with so much of Ray's work, this low-budget Film Noir masterpiece from RKO was largely dismissed on its release in 1949 as just another "youth gone wild" picture, but it is now admired for its energy, directness and sympathetic treatment of outsiders clinging to the edges of society, a theme Ray revisited in many later films. Adapted from the Edward Anderson novel "Thieves Like Us" (which in turn inspired the 1974 Robert Altman film of the same name).

APRIL 8 2016

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Santa Paula  
740 E. Main Street  
7PM • Free • Enter Side Door

# People and Doings

Pacific SouthWest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
and Camp de Benneville Pines

## 2016 District Assembly & Annual Meeting



Draw the Circle Wider:  
The Prophethood  
of All Believers

April 29th @ 7pm  
& April 30th 'til 5:30pm

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara  
1535 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

\* Reception \* Vendors \* Opening Celebration \* Worship \* Banner Parade \*  
\* Keynote Address by Rev Rosemary Bray-McNatt \* Youth Caucus \*  
\* Workshops \* Bridging Ceremony \* Awards \* Annual Meetings \*

**Registration opens online February 15th**

# April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 RE Comm., 11:30 am Cruise Night, 5-7pm	2
3 First Sunday Plate	4	5 Aging Workshop, 11 am	6	7	8 Classic Movie Night, 7 pm	9
10	11	12	13 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	14	15 Staff Mtg, 10:00 am	16
17 Hymn Sing 10:10am Worship Comm. Mtg, 12 pm	18	19	20 Caring Comm., 2:00 pm	21 Board Mtg 6:30 pm <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22 Dinner & a Movie, Potluck 5:45 pm Film 7 pm	23
24 CASP	25	26	27 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	28 Mary A's 11:30 am	29	30

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*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*