740 E. Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060

(805) 525-4647 uucspoffice@gmail.com Website: uucsp.org

JULY 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

July 3 A Look at Patriotism,

Patriotism. People do not always agree on the meaning of the word. How do you define it? Is patriotism always a positive emotion? We'll take a look at some of the definitions and attitudes toward patriotism down the ages.

First Sunday Plate

July 10 You're Getting Older,

In his book Being Mortal, Atul Gawande suggests there are four or five questions those who are getting older should ask themselves. But how do you decide when you're old and it's time to start asking yourself those questions?

July 17 Why "Black Lives Matter",

Why should we choose just one group to support when there are so many marginalized people in our country? After all, we Unitarian Universalists can cite our first principle that says: We "covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth of every person." So why not "All lives matter"? On this Sunday, we will investigate this question in an effort to bring more clarity to the issue.

July 24 Superman Principle: Sixth Principle,

Maddie, Allan Noel Rev. Maddie's sermon series on the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism continues with Principle Six: the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, or as the children say, "Together we work to create a world that is peaceful and fair for everyone."

July 31 Getting Serious About Humor,

Part of what upholds life and is part of the sacred circle is a sense of humor-that ability to look on the lighter side at the things in our world, our community, and most especially, ourselves. When can humor heal? Is it okay to laugh in church? Come consider the serious business of making sure you make room for a few laughs.

CASP food offering

Mary Nelson, Loni Kate English, Peter Krause, Allan Noel, Mitch Stone

Rev. Betty Stapleford, MaryBeth East

Michael Hart, Peter Krause

Maddie, CJ Starling



Message from the Minister

I am writing these words from the dog days of summer, as I leave for my two weeks' vacation and two weeks study leave back East where I expect to catch up with friends and colleagues, do some research on Universalists in the state of Maine and just plain get some R and R. When I turn my computer on in the morning, my email program tells me what the weather and temperature at my new home in Santa Paula and my old home in Wayland, Massachusetts. As I write this it is heating up to record breaking temperatures here in Southern California. I hope everyone keeps cool! It makes me wonder why we call these lazy days, "dog days." Since I am on vacation, I had time to look it up and it turns out that the Romans related the hot, steamy days of summer with the brightest star from the constellation Canis Major which means large dog. I suspect we have taken over the phrase by watching the dogs sleep in weather like we have been having on both the right and left coasts. And thinking about how many of us just want to be able to curl up like a dog and step away from our usual work. That image brings me to thinking about all of us as we move through these summer months. A quote by Henry David Thoreau comes to mind: "Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit." What I wish for you is that you give yourself the time to breathe the air, whether in Santa Paula or on your vacation, wherever that might be (where you are bringing water back for our traditional water communion, I hope, as I will from the Atlantic Ocean). I hope you drink lots of fresh water to keep hydrated and drink in all of the experiences, old and new, that this time might offer. And I encourage you to eat of the summer bounty, whether from your own garden, a friend or neighbor's, or a Farm Market-or a thought provoking book. Take time to savor it all, find new ideas, and come back refreshed as I plan to be. Don't hesitate to be in touch if you want to chat after I am back at work on July 20th, come to meditation that evening or meet with me to tell me some of your ideas of how we can be a vibrant congregation.

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Summer is here and although many may be traveling or taking a break from routine, we hope to see you in church if you are in town.

As the Board prepares for its annual retreat on July 30, we will be reviewing the one year and five year goals the congregation created in 2015 as part of the "getting to know you" meetings held with Maddie and the congregation.

Congregation 1 year Goals		
Coalescence with minister		
Greater presence on the internet		
Awareness of the big picture		
Open the church for more events (like		
Vday)		
More discussions and forums		

Congregation 5 year Goals	
Membership growth across all spectrums	
Futuristic focused outreach	
Vibrant church whose congregation is larger	
and more reflective of the community	

Use of technology

We will be looking at our goals to see what we accomplished and what's next. If you have ideas, activities or goals you would like us to consider in our planning, please let me or someone on the Board know your thoughts.

We need you to help with being a greeter, usher or chalice lighter. Each Sunday, there is an opportunity. For activities requiring a bit more planning, sign up for coffee hour or provide flowers for the altar.

Thank you to all who are helping out a bit more to support our congregation while Maddie is away.

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

In wonder and gratitude, MaryBeth East

News from Among Us

- 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.
- We were very happy to have Dale Peace back in church with us on June 19th.
- Rev. Maddie thanks the Ad Hoc choir who sang on June 19th. Please be in touch with her later in the summer if you want to join in the musical fun.
- It will be sad to say goodbye to our dear church friend, Cheryl Wilson. Cheryl has decided to move to Stillwater, Oklahoma to purchase a small home in co-housing community. Cheryl has placed her Santa Paula house on the market and hopes to be on her way sooner than later. We wish her the best of luck with her new adventure. We will miss you, Cheryl!
- We would like to send our RE youth camper off with positive and happy thoughts while she attends UU summer camp at Camp de Benneville Pines. I am sure she will share with us all the fun things she experienced at camp. Thank you again for all of you who donated towards her camp registration fee. She would not have been able to attend without your generosity.
- Congratulations goes out to Ruth and Joe Ricards who celebrate their 35 wedding anniversary on July 12.

Message from the RE Coordinator

Religious Education Open House - June 12, 2016

The children and youth loved showing off their projects and new toys to all that came downstairs to partake in the RE Open House festivities. Everyone seemed to enjoy the refreshments. Thank you for your support and a special thank you goes out to all of the adult volunteers that helped assist in RE this last school year.

Photo on right shows the RE children and volunteers making Gorp. For those of you who don't know what Gorp is, it is a mixture of peanuts and raisins but we added a lot more to our Gorp. Yummy!



Making a Difference

When you are a teacher or someone that works directly with children and youth, you can only hope that sometimes what you say or teach really gets through and makes an impact on them. I would like to share a comment I received from one of our RE parents (since this article is accessible on the internet, the children's' names have been left out to ensure safety for our children).

"I appreciate the activities about different kinds of families. I just finished an anti-bias education class so I'm particularly aware now of how important it is to discuss these topics with young children. Last week after our discussion about families that don't all live together, my child pretended to be a member of various families with her younger brother - a single mother with a young son (with and without a father involved); an older sister and brother on their own, etc. She made up different ages for herself and for her little brother as she described her families to me. In this game, I was her friend and she came over to my house and we had a heart-to-heart about her family and who was in it and where they lived in relation to one another. We also discussed how my husband's parents are divorced and how they love all of us, but they don't live together, and we don't live with them, and this is just one of many ways to be a family. I don't think she ever thought about any of this in this much detail before, and it was nice to have the story we read in RE be a springboard for such great conversations with her. So thanks! I look forward to more great discussions about families this coming Sunday!"

> 4-ever learning, Ruth Ricards RE Coordinator

First Sunday Plate Recipient for Second Quarter

Our 3rd Quarter recipient for 1st Sunday plate collection is Forever Found: "By awakening our communities to the cries of sexually trafficked and oppressed children, inspiring people everywhere to DO SOMETHING, and strategically enabling the rescue of more and more children globally Forever Found is seeing lives restored." Through focusing on awareness, prevention and rescue, Forever Found aims to not only rescue thousands of children from modern day slavery, but address the underlying causes of child trafficking. You can find more information at http://www.foreverfound.org

Welcoming Congregation

Rev. Maddie is gathering information about how our congregation became an official Welcoming Congregation of the UUA. Best practices include revisiting the Welcoming Congregation materials periodically. Especially in the light of the tragic events in Orlando, Rev. Maddie would like to call a meeting in late July or August to talk about how we are doing at welcoming our LGBTQ friends and neighbors, how we can get the word out that we are a safe place for teens who may be questioning, and how we are understanding the transgender issues in the news this year. Please let Rev. Maddie know of your interest and what good times to meet might be.

Committee on Congregational Life

Donna Hamer has been a church member since 1984 and is currently serving on the Committee on Congregational Life. This committee was reorganized during the interim service of Kristin Rohm. Kate English, Donna and Audrey Vincent were voted in by the congregation as members of the committee in 2013. At that time the terms of the committee were to be staggered to allow a new member to be voted in from time to time. Rev. Maddie has requested that Kate, Donna and Audrey all remain on the committee to assist her during her initial service as minister.

Our Bylaws state that this committee shall meet annually, and more often as needed, to review the congregation's ministry in areas of worship, outreach and marketing, and prepare a report to be shared with the congregation at its annual general meeting. The committee is charged to respond in a timely manner to any conflicts, expressed attitudes, or real activities that might have an adverse effect on the congregation's ministry. The duties and responsibilities of the committee will be highlighted in future newsletters, along with information about each of its members.

Donna is the current acting chair of the committee. She joined the church when she lived in Fillmore. Her children, Daniel and David Moore, were dedicated in the church in 1987 and 1989, respectively. While her membership has endured for the last 32 years, her active participation in the church diminished during the time she lived in Ventura following her divorce, from 1989 to 2010. In 2010, Donna returned to Fillmore for two years and then settled in Santa Paula in 2012. She worked first as a legal secretary and then paralegal from 1989 until she retired in 2015. In addition to membership on the COCL, Donna serves on the Worship Committee and is a Trustee of the Marjorie Newlin Learning Capital Fund.

Save Your Water!

As is our tradition, we will be kicking off the Fall with a Water Communion, a Gathering of the Waters, on Sunday, September 11 led by Rev. Maddie. We ask that you bring a small amount of water from whatever source is meaningful to you, either from the environs of Santa Paula or from your summer travels. The combined water from our shared sources will be used in part to water some of our thirsty plants here on the Church grounds and sterilized for use in any future Baby Dedications.

Visions of Aztlan

The Social Concerns Action Committee plans to gift the Blanchard Library with our copy of, *Visions of Aztlan*, an exploration of the flowering of the Chicano Art Movement, rooted in the 1960's. If you are interested in seeing this film, sign up in the Parish Hall to borrow it before it travels to the library. We also have most of the documentaries we have screened in our series. We invite you to look them over and check out any you may have missed. -M. Wilson

Winter Solstice 2016 Planning Group—Save the Date!

Please join Rev. Maddie and Donna Nelson on Wednesday, August 3 at 7 PM in the Parish Hall to begin planning for Winter Solstice 2016 which will be on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM in our Sanctuary. This year's version will likely be based around a sort of play in the style of the old Mummers plays of the middle ages and will include music and Madrigals. The one we are looking at as this newsletter goes to press is "The Jester's Test" by Paul Brandvik, which will be adapted. We will need speaking parts, singers and musicians and are hoping to draw in folks from other congregations and the community. Please get the word out about this initial meeting and be in touch with Rev. Maddie if you have any questions.

All Church Read - Get Reading for July 24th!

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.

<u>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</u> 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, <u>The</u> <u>New Jim Crow</u>.

Hindsight, Humor and Hope - HHH

As part of our initiative looking at aging and related issues, Rev. Maddie has been offering two groups of a six-part series, Hindsight, Humor and Hope. HHH 2 had its second meeting in June and looks forward to Workshop 3 on July 21 from Noon to 2 PM. This group is now closed to new members. The group meets the third Thursday from now through October from Noon to 2 PM. Members should bring brown bag lunch. The remaining workshops cover the following:

Workshop 3: Diving Through the Layers - The Fabric of My Life

Workshop 4: Creating New Visions - Building on Experience

Workshop 5: Making Friends with Mortality

Workshop 6: Hindsight, Humor, and Hope

Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place in our Parish Hall. In the summer months, meditation will be held on Wednesdays, July 20 and August 3 and 17, at 6:00 PM. 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 and other meditative orientations and welcomes 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 on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620 or email msifantus@uuma.org.

ALAS AND OLE: A Concert of Music on Original Instruments

Our next concert in our Santa Paula Concert series features one of our own, Stuart Fox, and his musical collaborator, Mary Rawcliffe. Stuart Fox plays nylon string, electric, and MIDI guitars and Renaissance Lute, French Baroque Lute, and Theorbo and is a leading specialist contemporary music and in early music on original instruments. He has been on the faculty at CalArts since 1973 and has performed in all aspects of the music business for over 50 years. Soprano Mary Rawcliffe has performed worldwide singing music from the Middle Ages to the present. She is a noted specialist in historical vocal techniques and taught for many years at the University of Southern California.

Please note – the concert will begin at 4:00 pm. Admission is \$20 donation at the door, from the church office during office hours, or by PayPal on the church's website:www.uucsp.org. Note: If the cost is an issue in your attendance, please talk to Rev. Maddie. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted at the door. Children 12 and under are \$10, children 5 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund. UUCSP is a registered Ventura County Historical Landmark. For more information, call 805-525-4647 or email uuscpoffice@gmail.com. Parking is on the street or behind the church. WE WILL BE HAVING CHILDCARE DURING THIS CONCERT. Please let the office know if you plan to use that option.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, August 14, 2016 Grab your teddy bear (or other stuffed animal), lunch, picnic blanket, and folding chair and join us in the Church's Courtyard for a Teddy Bear Picnic immediately following the Sunday service. We will have some tables and chairs available for those in need.



Classic Movie Night



SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

Sluart Fox & Mary Rawcliffe



Join Guitarist/LutenistStuartFox and Soprano Mary Rawcliffe for an Evening of Music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, and Modern Eras

Saturday, July 30th at 4:00 p.m.

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 805-525-4647 – 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



Baby Shower for Yvon! Sunday, July 31 Parish Hall Following Coffee Hour

Come join our celebration with Yvon as she awaits the arrival of her new little one. Refreshments will be served during Coffee Hour and immediately following we will have special dessert and watch Yvon open her gifts. We asked Yvon what she wanted and she said a new baby stroller with all the bells and whistles. If you are interested in donating towards the stroller, please see Ruth. If you prefer, Yvon is registered at Target. You will need to enter her first and last name (Yvon Ortega) into their system to find her wish list. Yvon and her husband, Alejandro, do not know what the gender will be of the newborn so your guess is as good as theirs! Keep an eye out for the "voting poster" in the Parish Hall. Cast your vote for the gender of the baby and we will see which sex wins! Also, for those interested, there will be a station set up to decorate bibs for the toothless, dribbling wonder-to-be!



REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS	Rev. Maddie is away on Vacation and Study Leave in early July. After July 19th 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.
PASTORAL COVERAGE IN REV. MADDIE'S ABSENCE.	Rev. Maddie will be leaving for vacation and study leave on Monday, June 20th, returning July 19th. The remaining days of her vacation and study leave will be in the fall. Should an emergency arise during the time she is away, please leave a message on the church office phone, 805-525-4647. Should it be between our Administrator's days in the office, please call congregation president MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809. Rev. Maddie thanks the Reverends Ken Collier, Anne Hines and Betty Stapleford who will provide coverage while she is gone.
KRYSTAL'S NEW OFFICE HOURS	Krystal's new office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:30 AM to 2:30 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.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Please submit your August newsletter items to Krystal at uucspoffice@gmail.com by July <u>21</u> .
CRUISE NIGHT Friday, July 1, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Ken Stock and Laura Phillips 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 Ken and Laura between 5-7 PM.
FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, July 3	Our third quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit Forever Found.
CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday July 8, 7:00 pm	The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents <i>Hail the Conquering Hero</i> . Admission is free. Bring your own snacks.
SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, July 15, 12:00 pm	The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Friday, July 15 at noon. Vanessa Acosta will present plans for the LA Murals Tour in October. (See Save the Date information elsewhere in this newsletter.) Brown bag lunch.
STAFF MEETING Wednesday July 20, 10:45 am	Staff will meet in Minister's office.
CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, July 20, 2:00 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, July 20, 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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.
HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE GROUP 2 Thursday, July 21, 12:00 pm	Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, July 21, 6;30 PM	All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809 if you have any questions.
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DINNER & A MOVIE Friday, July 22, Potluck 5:45pm, Documentary 7:00pm	The Social Concerns Action Committee will screen NAMI Tennessee's film: Code: Correction Officers De-escalation Education, a film that revolutionizes how police departments interacts with a person experiencing a psychotic break. Even though the film is aimed at correctional officers, it offers valuable insights from national experts on how the mentally ill are treated, now that jails and prisons have become our new mental asylums. Q & A follow the one-hour film. Go green and bring your table service to potluck. See a trailer of the movie at: https://vimeo.com/119002396
MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, July 28, 11:30 am	The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet July 28, 11:30 am, at Flight 126 Café.
SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: STUART FOX & MARY RAWCLIFFE Saturday July 30, 4:00 pm	The next concert in our Santa Paula Concert series is <i>Alas and Ole: A Concert of Music on Original Instruments,</i> features one of own, Stuart Fox and his musical collaborator, Mary Rawcliff.
CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, July 31	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.
SAVE THE DATE Yvon's Baby Shower Sunday, July 31	Please join us for Yvon's Baby Shower immediately following Coffee Hour. If you are interested in donating some money to go towards the purchase of a baby stroller (no amount is too small), please see Ruth Ricards. Yvon is also registered at Target if you prefer to purchase something from the store or online. You will need to enter her first and last name, Yvon Ortega, to find her "wish list".
SAVE THE DATE Sunday August 14	Grab your teddy bear (or other stuffed animal), lunch, picnic blanket, and folding chair and join us in the Church's Courtyard for a Teddy Bear Picnic immediately following the Sunday service.
SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 15, 2016	East LA Murals - Artist(s) Studio Visit, Lunch at Home Girl Cafe - Cultural Highlights.The Social Concerns Action Committee is sponsoring a tour of Murals in East Los Angeles guided by Muralist David Botello and Vanessa Acosta. Cost is \$65.00 per person includes round trip transportation, snacks, refreshments, lunch, and Artist fee. Full Itinerary to be posted on August Issue.

July 2016 SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 1 2 Cruise Night, 5pm 4 5 6 7 8 9 3 First Sunday Plate, Classic Movie Night, 7 pm Forever Found 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Social Committee 12pm 17 19 22 18 20 21 23 Staff Mtg 10:45am Dinner & a HHH Group 2 Caring Comm. Movie, 12pm 2pm Board Mtg 6:30 pm Potluck 5:45 pm Film 7 pm Meditation 6pm 25 26 27 28 29 30 24 AllChurch 31 **Board Retreat** Read 12pm Mary A's 11:30 am **Board Retreat** Dinner 9am CASP Alas & Ole Concert 6pm Yvon Baby 4pm Shower

> Dated Material Time Value

> > Universalist Unitarian Church

740 Eat Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060