



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## APRIL 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### THEME: Awakening

*Albert Schweitzer wrote: The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.*

#### April 3 Consider the Fool

Rev. Maddie, Ruth Ricards

During these continuing difficult times, we consider The Fool and foolishness. In the words of Mark Twain: "The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

*First Sunday Plate, UUSC Ukraine Emergency Response*

#### April 10 Telling the Truth With Responsibility Kate English, MaryBeth East

We covenant each Sunday to "tell the truth with responsibility" but what does this really look like in our families, our community and in our world?

Kate English will be breaking down one of our liturgical promises in hopes of creating a deeper understanding of this sacred accountability we have woven into the fabric of our congregation's moral tapestry.

#### April 17 Flying Free: An Easter Service

Rev. Maddie, Peter Krause

The word "Easter" does not appear in the Bible and no early church celebrations of Christ's resurrection are mentioned in Scripture. Easter, like Christmas, is a tradition that developed later in church history. What does or can it mean to us as UUs?

*Our choir sings Flying Free by Don Besig with Christine Snipes Mazor, violin*

#### Tuesday, April 19 7:00 PM Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Geno, Christine

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word. The music will be provided by Christine Snipes Mazor, Geno Palilla and Rev. Maddie with original poems by Atul Ranchod.

#### April 24 Earth Day 2022

Rev. Maddie, Audrey Vincent

The theme for Earth Day 2022 is "Invest in Our Planet: What Will You Do?" How are each of us able to make a difference?

UUs of Our Past Leslie Nichols

Join Zoom Meeting: PLEASE MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Zoom Password: uucsp93060

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 Phone password: 529593

[www.facebook.com/uucsp](http://www.facebook.com/uucsp)

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

## Message from the Minister

Our theme for April is Awakening. Universalist and Unitarian minister the Rev. Thomas Starr King wrote in an 1863 sermon entitled *Lessons from the Sierra Nevada*: “I believe that if, on every Sunday morning before going to church, we could be lifted to a mountain-peak and see a horizon line of six hundred miles enfolding the copious splendor of the light on such a varied expanse; or if we could look upon a square mile of flowers representing all the species with which the Creative Spirit embroiders a zone; or if we could be made to realize the distance of the earth from the sun, the light of which travels every morning twelve millions of miles a minute to feed and bless us, and which the force of gravitation pervades without intermission to hold our globe calmly in its orbit and on its poise; if we could fairly perceive, through our outward senses, one or two features of the constant order and glory of nature, our materialistic dullness would be broken, surprise and joy would be awakened, we should feel that we live amid the play of Infinite thought; and the devout spirit would be stimulated so potently that our hearts would naturally mount in praise and prayer.”

In this budding spring and as we celebrate Easter as a UU community, whatever that means to each of us, I think pausing to notice the world around us, whether here in Santa Paula or wherever you are accessing our services from in the cyber world, will stand us in good stead as we provide compassionate self-care to ourselves in these challenging times. As we sing an Alleluia or two or perhaps splurge on chocolate eggs in April, let us know that we are called to bring as much kindness as we can to this hurting world. How can we awaken the spirit of compassion in ourselves and the joy of being alive, even in times of sorrow? Can we surrender even as we awaken?

The late John Donohue wrote in his book *Beauty*: “We live between the act of awakening and the act of surrender. Each morning we awaken to the light and the invitation to a new day in the world of time; each night we surrender to the dark to be taken to play in the world of dreams where time is no more. At birth we were awakened and emerged to become visible in the world. At death we will surrender again to the dark to become invisible. Awakening and surrender: they frame each day and each life; between them the journey where anything can happen, the beauty and the frailty.”

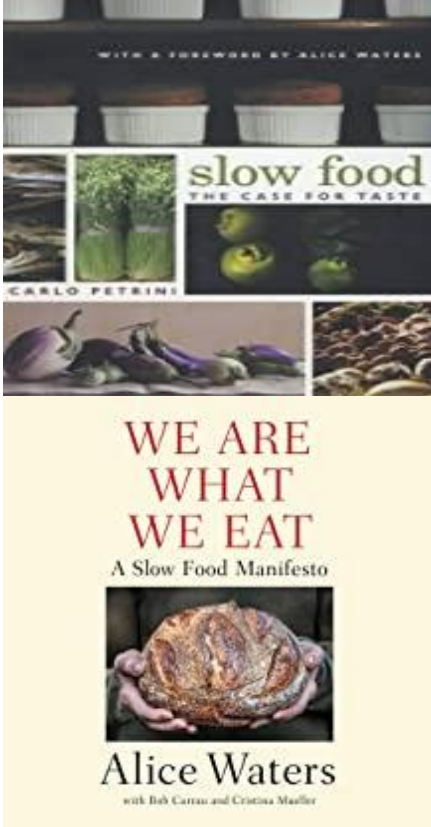
May we sit with both the beauty and frailty and wake up to our life.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

# Message from the Minister

## **WHAT THE PASTOR'S READING**



While I was on Sabbatical last year, I found in some used bookstore Carlo Petrini's seminal book *Slow Food: The Case for Taste*. The introduction is by Alice Waters. Last year Waters published *We Are What We Eat: A Slow Food Manifesto* and speaks about the Slow Food Movement that Petrini was instrumental in starting in Italy and which is now worldwide. This is more than just about food but rather how to take care of our planet as well as ourselves. Waters speaks about the values we need to embrace at this moment in human history: stewardship, diversity, interconnectedness, simplicity and balance. You may know Alice Waters as the chef and founder/owner of Chez Panisse in Berkley, California. Thinking about how and what we eat will play into my thoughts on this Earth Day. What are you reading?

## **REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS**

Rev. Maddie would love to meet with you to hear how you are doing, your thoughts and dreams for our congregation or your family or how you might like to be involved at UUCSP if you are newer. She is usually available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Rev. Maddie's office is located in the "addition" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. Text or call her to open the gate. 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 [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **Pastoral Coverage**

Rev. Maddie will out of town on study leave from April 10-15 to attend the annual meeting of the American Society of Aging, an organization of which she has been a long-time member, first as the Director of the non-profit elder chorus, the Golden Tones and then as a religious professional. During this time the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford will be covering for her in the case of a pastoral emergency. You can call or email the office to reach her: 805-525-4647 or [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org) or reach out to her directly.

# Message from the Board of Trustees

UUCSP Board of Trustees meeting – Thursday April 21 6:30 PM

## Spirit Level Matching Grant—Almost There!

Lights! Sound! As of this writing, we only have \$365 to raise to complete the Match of \$10,000 to receive funds from the Spirit Level Foundation's grant which Rev. Maddie last spring. They are a non-profit that funds UU congregations and initiatives in Southern California. This will make a huge difference in upgrading our technology, sound, and lighting as well as replace our old hearing enhancement system. Won't you join us? To contribute to our Spirit Level Matching Grant Technology Effort that will enable us to better minister and collaborate with our congregation and community, send a check to UUCSP, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 with Spirit Level in the memo line. Or visit our website, [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org) and click on the "Donate" link. Meanwhile we thank these generous donors:

*Ariel Alexander*

*Constantia Leshin*

*Allan and Jyl Atmore*

*Diana Martinez*

*Barbara Beach*

*Spence and Millie Mitchell*

*Maria Beruman*

*John and Leslie Nichols*

*Deborah Burns*

*Ruth Ricards*

*Jim and Anna Cole*

*Rev. Maddie Sifantus*

*Linda Derbyshire*

*Rev. Dr. Betty and Tom Stapleford*

*MaryBeth East*

*Ken Stock*

*Kate English*

*Dorcas Thille*

*Donna Hamer*

*Judy Triem and Mitch Stone*

*Luisa Haskell*

*Audrey Vincent*

*Richard Hauge and Ann Hewitt*

*Margaret Wilson*

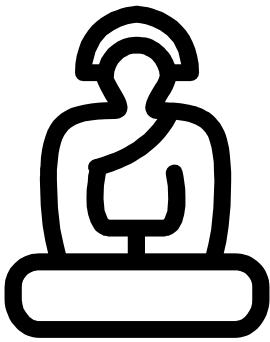
*Kevin and Judith Hills*

# Spiritual Growth Center

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

Rev. Maddie created the Spiritual Growth Center at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula when she arrived in January 2015. During the last two years of pandemic, the only three activities that have continued have been the Gathering, Yoga on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Lisa Hammond and our Meditation Practice Group with Rev. Maddie alternating with psychologist Jim Cole. In the past, we have offered End of Life planning, Singing Meditation, evenings with teacher Gurdeep Singh, and we were about to add another meditation group on Monday evening as well as hosting some Sound Baths. The Spiritual Growth Center is meant to include our adult religious education offerings and spiritual practices, providing opportunities and programs to awaken and sustain love, compassion, service and personal transformation. Our goal is to help individuals discover how spiritual practice, learning, and community service can transform their lives and move the world toward peace and justice. Our programs are guided by the set of Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism and the Six Sources they draw from. One of the Principles affirms our intention to accept one another and encourage each other's spiritual growth. As we prepare to open up more fully, please let Rev. Maddie know what activities interest you and if you know of any local teachers who may wish to provide a one time or series that fits with our UU values. [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)

## MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA



*In person in the Parish Hall and on Zoom and FB on Rev. Maddie's Wednesdays  
On Zoom and Facebook on Jim Cole's Wednesdays  
Call church office for the Zoom address and password  
Like the FB page: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula*

**April 6 with Rev. Maddie in person**

**April 13 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**April 20 with Rev. Maddie in person**

**April 27 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM**

*For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org)  
Free Will Offering.*

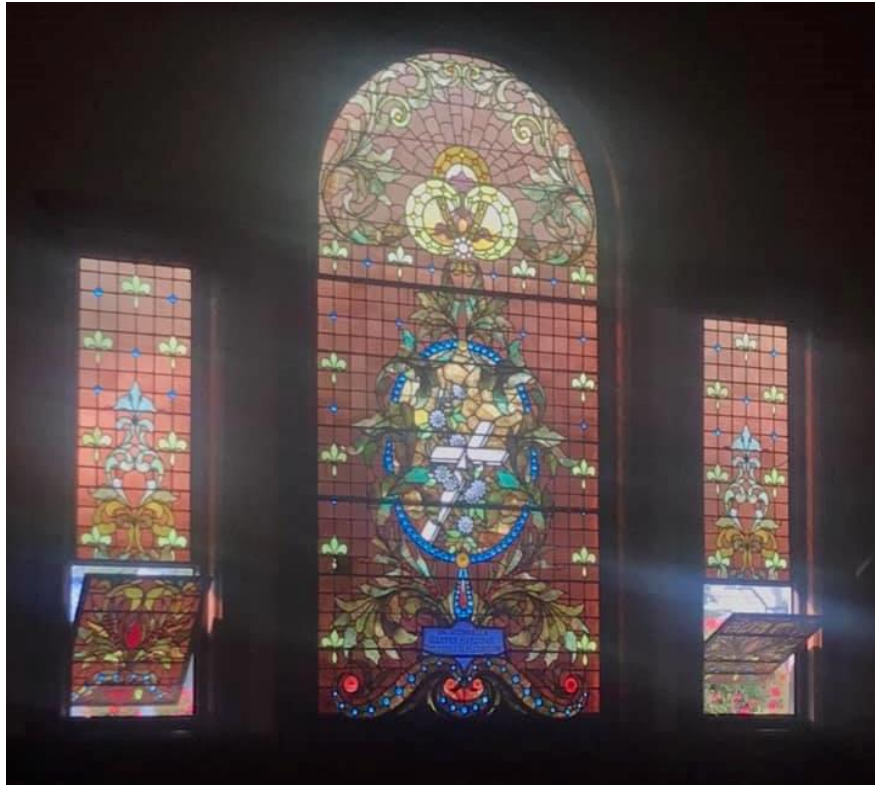
## SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Soaring Hearts Yoga has returned to the Parish Hall. Join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Bring your own mats and props.

Please contact Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or [soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com) for more information.

# TWILIGHT GATHERING\*



## \*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

an assembly or meeting, especially a social or festive one or one held for a specific purpose.

## APRIL 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.  
With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, Geno Palilla & Atul Ranchod  
In person and Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775      Password    uucsp93060  
+1 253 215 8782 (to call in by phone) ~ phone password 529593

Free will offering to UUCSP, 740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060 with Gathering in memo line



# People and Doings

## **NEWS FROM AMONG US – April 2022**

- Jan Shepherd is home and can be reached by phone or text. She is recovering slowly from pneumonia. If she is resting, she will not pick up the phone. She would love to have her daughter, or someone drive her to church one Sunday.
- Our friend LJ Noel suffered a stroke and had to withdraw from the play she was to appear in this spring in Ojai. We send her healing wishes.
- Michael Wood continues to recover from his stroke. Amiya and Evelyn recently appeared in a wonderful production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- Please let us know your birthday if we don't know it already. In these days and times, we need to celebrate our members and friends. Birthdays we know of this month are former member Judith Beay on April 18, Jan Shepherd on April 22 and Rev. Maddie on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 15th of every month.

## **2022 2ND QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING**

**April 3, May 1, June 5**

## **UUSC UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



We are longtime supporters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work around the world. We are dedicating our Second Quarter of the First Sunday Plate to their Ukraine Emergency Response. Since their beginnings serving refugees displaced by Nazi aggression during World War II, UUSC has been called to respond to unexpected crises and provide resources to communities whose needs are urgent and access to aid is limited. Donating to UUSC's Emergency Response Fund ensures UUSC is always ready to provide relief, including our developing work to protect the rights of refugees fleeing Ukraine right now.

UUSC's first step is to send emergency relief funding to groups who are working on the ground in Eastern Europe. This is happening quickly as UUSC has existing partners in the area from their Syrian Refugee work. This includes partners such as the Hungarian Helsinki Committee who are already responding to the current crisis by providing free legal assistance, counseling, and representation so that Ukrainian asylum seekers receive temporary protection immediately. Following the relief grants, UUSC's team will develop a strategy for longer-term recovery alongside these same partners. UUSC knows that our partner organizations on the ground are best positioned to identify the needs of affected communities and to respond to the most pressing needs in a way that leads to an equitable recovery and honors the right to self-determination.

There are many worthy organizations as well, but we choose the UUSC since they have the highest rating from Charity watchdogs you can have and have partners already on the ground. Please give generously on our First Sundays at the Offering: April 3, May 1 and June 5. All cash in the plates goes to First Sunday as well as any checks with UUSC in the memo line. Those of you on Zoom can give through our website: [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org) and make a note of UUSC or First Sunday.

## FIRST 2022 CRUISE NIGHT!



FRIDAY, APRIL 1,

from 5:00 to DUSK

SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!


TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!

SING A SONG!

SANTA PAULA UKELELE CLUB IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN!

SUPPORT FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE BY BUYING TIPICA!

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula



**“Tipica” Sale to Benefit  
Friendship Bridge**

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula  
740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA

*For more information call (805) 525-4647 or email [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org)*

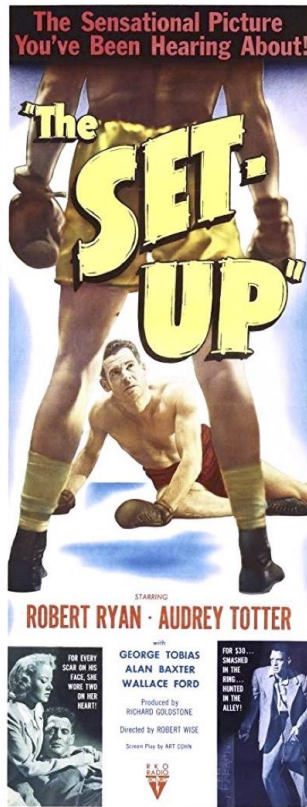


# People and Doings

## **BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION**

Your Safe Congregation Team continues to meet to look at a number of our policies and the safety of our building and practices as well as issues related to COVID 19 safety. The next meeting of the committee is Wednesday, April 6 at 10:00 AM in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

## **SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY**



Bill "Stoker" Thompson (Robert Ryan) is a prizefighter on the verge of being washed up, but somehow still convinced he's just one punch away from a title. His long-suffering wife (Audrey Totter) begs him to quit. "Bill, you'll always be just one punch away," she tells him. But Stoker isn't ready to throw in the towel just yet. Just one more fight, one more, is all he wants. This night he's going into what could be the final bout of his career. What he doesn't know as he steps into the ring is that his manager, believing he can't win, has taken a payoff from hoodlums to make certain. So this could be Stoker's last fight, one way or another.

The boxing picture must be the most durable genre in all of filmmaking, proving over many decades to be remarkably adaptable to changes in American culture. The protagonists are often heroic, but even in those films, the underpinnings are typically bleak, and allegorical of another sort of struggle. The Noir sensibility in *THE SET-UP* (1949) makes no bones about where the pugilism will lead in the end. Yet this film sets itself apart from the rest of genre. First, is the literary basis, a 1928 poem by Joseph Moncure March. Second, it takes place in real time, an approach that might have played as a novelty in the hands of a lesser director than Robert Wise, who makes the very best of potentially overly-familiar material. Casting Ryan, a former collegiate boxer who still looked every bit the part, was also key to the power of this film. If any fight picture can be called essential, it is this one. (1:13)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2022  
Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street •  
7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door

## **SIP AND CHECK IN**

TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

TUESDAY APRIL 12 WITH SHARON KUFELDT

TUESDAY APRIL 26 WITH REV. MADDIE

Grab your favorite beverage and join Rev. Maddie on Zoom.  
We will light a chalice, have a reading, and check in with each other.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060



# People and Doings

## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME** Thursday, April 14 6:30 PM

**WALKING EACH OTHER HOME:** You are invited to a discussion group on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm via Zoom. This group is inspired by Beloved Conversations curriculum which is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. Our discussions are in hopes of healing the impacts of racism on our lives, in order to get free together. We will be utilizing articles, videos and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self-work. All are welcome.

This month, please watch this Ted Talk and come discuss it with us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF--2vGj7Tg>

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## **MUSIC NOTES**

Our next choir rehearsal will be Sunday, April 17 at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary in preparation for the Easter Service. Christine Snipes Mazor will be playing the violin obligato to Don Besig's *Flying Free* and we are hoping (praying?) to have some men with us. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie if you are interested and she will send you music and a link to a YouTube version of the song. Looking ahead to May 15, that day Rev. Maddie will be doing a service highlighting hymns. Please let her know of your favorite hymns, whether from one of our hymnals or from your childhood congregation. So far we have "Let It Be a Dance We Do" and "Blue Boat Home."

The choir usually sings once a month for a Sunday Service. All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music and singers who only attend church when the choir sings. Rehearsals are directed by Rev. Maddie and accompanied by Vincent Sorisio. Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

Here is our scheduled through June, subject to change! The choir will not sing in July and August.

April 17	Easter Flying Free <i>No Thursday rehearsal</i>	9:30 AM	Choir rehearsal Don Besig
May 12		4:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
May 15	Let It Be Song We Sing Circle Round for Freedom (SLT 155)	9:30 AM	Choir rehearsal
June 9		4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
June 12	Flower Sunday We are the Music	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal Carl Strommen

# People and Doings

## **CARING COMMITTEE**

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister and our Affiliate Community Minister. Would you like to help keep in touch with our members and friends? Would you like to discuss issues of care in our congregation with some loving folks? Let Rev. Maddie or Caring Committee chair, Karen Harris, know of your interest. The next meeting of the Caring Committee will be on April 21 at 3 PM on Zoom or with Rev. Maddie in her office.

## **PHONE TREE**

Our phone tree is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. We could use one or two new people willing to make occasional phone calls. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you are interested and willing. If you don't think you are on the Tree and want to be, please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal Johnson know at [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org).

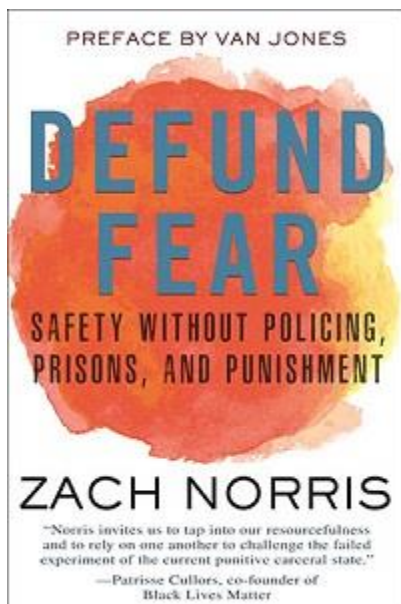
## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

SCAC meeting Wednesday, April 20 4:00 PM on Zoom

## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

The Mary A's will meet Thursday, April 28 11:30 AM for an in-depth check-in and business meeting.

## **ALL CHURCH READ: DEFUND FEAR**

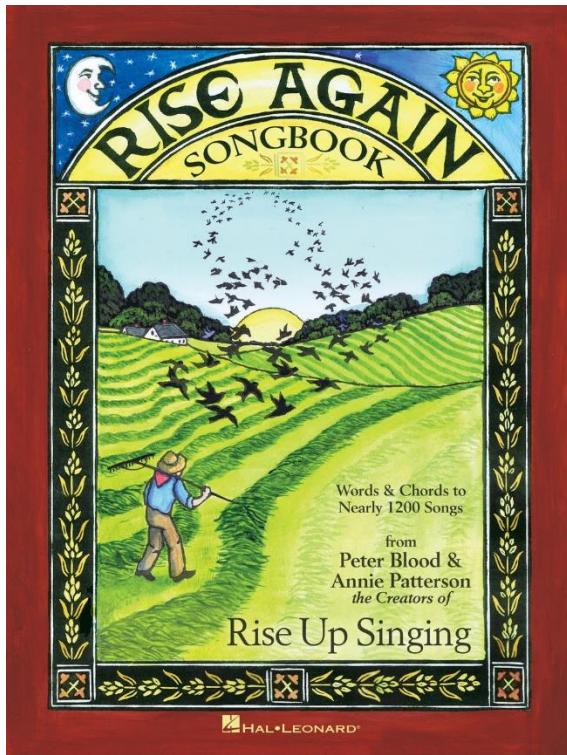


Our first All Church Read since the pandemic will be on Sunday, May 22 at 12:30 PM after Coffee Hour. *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons and Punishment* by Zach Norris (Beacon Press: 2021). Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community. Norris is a lawyer, a community organizer, and Executive Director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, California. [Learn about the Center's work](#) and [read his bio](#). The book is available from the UUA Bookstore: inSpirit at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Defund-Fear-P18793.aspx>

We will make a determination closer to the date whether it will be in person, on Zoom or hybrid. Let Rev. Maddie know of your interest at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4647

# People and Doings

## **RISE UP SINGING TO RETURN**



As we look forward to the restart of various activities of our congregation and our outreach to the community, Rev. Maddie is looking ahead to the restart of our communal singing program, Rise Up Singing, hoping for Friday, May 20 at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. We will keep the door and windows open. In the past we have met on the third Friday of the month from 7-9 PM. Rise Up Singing is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested). Bring your songbooks (*Rise Up Singing*, *Rise Again* or your favorite book) or a song you want to sing. We will have songbooks available to use or buy (\$20). Let's keep the message of music going through singing together. Rev. Maddie is looking to revitalize our program as we restart it and is open to your suggestions. For more information and to give your ideas, call Maddie Sifantus at 805-525-4620 or email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **CONCERT PRODUCTION TEAM NEEDED**

It has been over two years since our last Concert Series concert which was the wonderful Reggie Harris on February 9, 2020. Reggie was the 25<sup>th</sup> concert in the series that started after Rev. Maddie's arrival in 2015. The concert production team that helped with the early concerts is no longer in place and a new one needs to be formed. In addition, the world has changed since the pandemic and we are planning to be hybrid once we start again, having both in-person in our Sanctuary and a paid way to attend on Zoom for those of whom are at a distance or who can't leave home. In addition to a Tech Team, we will need a production team including box office at the door, a greeter, front of the house, and setup and tear down crew. We will likely keep it simple at first and forego a reception as we used to do. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you can help at 805-525-4620 (private line) or email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).



# SAVE THE DATE!!

Santa Paula Concert Series

UU Church of Santa Paula

Sunday, June 5 at 3 pm

## JOHN ROBLES AND CHUCUMITE!!





THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

[office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org)

[www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

[www.facebook.com/uucsp](https://www.facebook.com/uucsp)



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**Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am**

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Albie Alamillo, Custodian

Board of Trustees:

Kate English, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Donna Hamer, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Evan Holt   Monika Murillo

Mitch Stone

**May newsletter deadline April 15**



## TECH TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are looking to expand our Tech Team, with Evan Holt less available due to his new job at Community Memorial Hospital. We want one or two more people on call who would receive our stipend and another volunteer or two willing to sit behind the Tech Table on Sunday and help out. Having a team will help us not burn anyone out. Please let Rev. Maddie, Krystal Johnson or Monika Murillo know if you are interested. We plan to stay hybrid going forward, including when our concert series begins again, as we move past the time of COVID, reaching beyond Santa Paula and into the homes of those who can't make it to church for services and events. Join the team that brings UUCSP out into the world!

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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of Santa Paula  
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