



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

MAY 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



THEME: : Nurturing Beauty

At some point in life the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint or even remember it. It is enough. No record of it needs to be kept and you don't need someone to share it with or tell it to. ~ Toni Morrison in "Tar Baby"

May 1 "Celebrating the Colors of Beltane."

Lay led, Kate English, Ruth Ricards

Gather with us as we celebrate the colors and other traditions of Beltane. Beltane is a good time for bringing hopes, dreams, and aspirations to life. To help you bring these into manifestation, you can add a wish to the "Wish Box" which will be planted deep into our Rose Garden after the service.

First Sunday Plate, UUSC Ukraine Emergency Response

May 8 Prophetic Sisterhood

Rev. Maddie, Kate English

As we mark Mother's Day, Rev. Maddie considers some of our foremothers, especially those unsung women who made up the Iowa Sisterhood, liberal women ministers of the Frontier.

Tuesday, May 10 Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Donna Lynn Caskey

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word, led this month by Rev. Maddie with music by Banjo Gal, Donna Lynn Caskey

May 15 universalism with a small "u"

Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

Rev. Maddie continues her series on the history and theologies of Universalism, reaching way back in time until our historic past became Universalism with a big "U".

May 22 Let It Be a Song We Sing

Rev. Maddie, MaryBeth East

What is your favorite hymn? How does our UU Hymnody express our theology and how has it changed? Send your favorite hymn requests, UU or no, to Rev. Maddie by May 8th.

Our choir sings Circle Round For Freedom (SLT 155)

May 29 Memorial Day A Community That Cares Rev. Pratima Dharm, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Rev. Pratima Dharm, a former US Army Chaplain and Iraq war veteran will speak on 29th May in observance of Memorial Day to remember those who have sacrificed their lives while serving our country. She will bring a message on how Unitarian Universalism can especially be a spiritual home for those seeking hope, healing and attempting to build a life after service to the country!

UUs of Our Past

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

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 May is *Nurturing Beauty*. Many of you know that my granddaughter's name is Pascale Sifantus. What you don't know is that she was named Pascale after the philosopher Blaise Pascal who wrote, "In difficult times, carry something beautiful in your heart." It seems to me to be good advice for these times which have been and continue to be difficult. They require courage, commitment, hope and self-love. And all of these are sustained by beauty. We find the courage to fight after falling in love with a beautiful vision to fight for. We maintain our commitment only by finding the beauty that nourishes us. We hold on to hope because experiences of beauty remind us that something in the universe is on our side even when all the odds seem stacked against us. We withstand dehumanization when rooted deeply in the beauty of our own dignity.

It's one of the most important secrets to successful social change and social survival: When we carry beauty, it carries us. So, this month, may I suggest that you literally find something to carry with you, for weeks on end! A pebble, poem, torn piece of paper with a quote on it, a found object. The goal is to find a reminder about beauty that will carry you through as you carry it with you. Looking ahead to June and our Flower Sunday which will be on June 12th, you will be invited to lend your object to our altar along with the flowers we will share with each other, creating a beauty of community that can hold us. And we will figure out how to share flowers and objects of beauty with and from those of you in our larger Zoom and Facebook world. Ideas?

May we continue to sit with both the beauty and difficulty which make up our lives.
On the path of our faith,
Reverend Maddie

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie would love to catch up with you, whether or not you have anything "big" to talk about it! 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. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes if something comes up. The best way to plan a time to meet with her is to call and leave a message on her private line at the church, 805-525-4620, call her on her cell phone, 508-733-8860 or email her at msifantus@uuma.org. She is happy to meet you on Zoom, 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.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Community,

With over 200 pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the works across the Country, I am pleased to be working with Carol Hardison, Rev. Maddie, and others to renew our UUCSP Welcoming Congregation status. This will be a yearlong process that will include measurable achievements in the areas of education, congregational life, and community outreach, using the Welcoming Congregation [Guidelines and Action Steps](#).

Of you would like to learn more or join our informal task force please let me or Carol Hardison know you are interested. If you would like more information please check out this web page:

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/guidelines>

Your Board President, Kate English (she/her)

UUCSP Board of Trustees meeting – Thursday, May 19 6:30 PM

Spirit Level Matching Grant

We did it!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Spirit Level Matching Grant. Rev. Maddie has submitted the final paperwork to receive our \$10,000 grant towards the technology we need to keep multiplatform going forward, improving our sound, and lighting and purchasing new sound enhancement for hearing to replace our defunct older system. Please thank our generous donors and our Tech Team who has been discussing our needs with Rev. Maddie: Kate English, Evan Holt, Monika Murillo, John Procter, and Mitch Stone. In the weeks and months ahead, you will start seeing the results of the new technology.

Ariel Alexander

Donna Hamer

Ruth Ricards

Allan & Jyl Atmore

Luisa Haskell

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Barbara Beach

Richard Hauge & Ann Hewitt

*Rev. Dr. Betty & Tom
Stapleford*

Maria Beruman

Kevin & Judith Hills

Ken Stock

Deborah Burns

Constantia Leshin

Dorcas Thille

Jim & Anna Cole

Kersti Lewis

Judy Triem & Mitch Stone

Linda Derbyshire

Diana Martinez

Audrey Vincent

MaryBeth East

Spence & Millie Mitchell

Margaret Wilson

Kate English

John & Leslie Nichols

Spiritual Growth Center

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

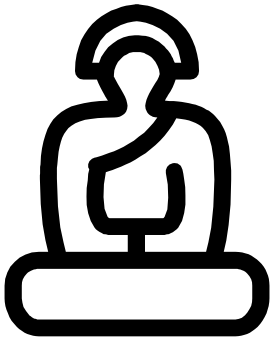
Rev. Maddie created the Spiritual Growth Center at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula when she arrived in January 2015. During the last two years of pandemic, the only three activities that have continued have been the Gathering, Yoga on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Lisa Hammond and 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

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## 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*



**May 4 with Rev. Maddie in person**  
**May 11 with Jim Cole on Zoom**  
**May 18 with Rev. Maddie in person**  
**May 25 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.*

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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 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.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.

With Maddie Sifantus with Banjogal Donna Lynn Caskey

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 – May 2022

- 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. In May we have 11 birthdays we know of! We announce birthdays during the Joys, Concerns and Milestones during our Sunday services.
- If you have a joy, concern, or milestone you wish to share, you can announce it again in person on Sundays, send it to Rev. Maddie ahead of time or write it in the CHAT on Zoom.
- 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 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

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 and make a note of UUSC or First Sunday.

BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

In recent times we have found the front gate unlocked multiple times and other doors not locked properly. The board and the Safe Congregation Team will be addressing this issue, hoping to not have to rekey the building again. Make sure when you leave the building and grounds that the doors and gates are locked. 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, May 4 at 10:00 AM in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

People and Doings



CRUISE NIGHT 2022!

FRIDAY, MAY 6, from 5:00 to DUSK

SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!

TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH! SING A SONG!

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

SIP AND CHECK IN

TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

TUESDAYS MAY 10 AND MAY 24

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



WALKING EACH OTHER HOME Thursday, May 12 6:30 PM


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.

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

According to the Bylaws of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, the Committee on Congregational Life's primary mission to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the congregation's ministry (ordained, staff and laity). The COCL is not a committee of the Board, but a committee of the congregation in special relationship to the Board. It consists of three members serving staggered terms of two years each, with no member serving more than three consecutive terms. Current members are Judy Triem, Ken Stock, and the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford. Members are encouraged to let Rev. Maddie or one of the members of the committee know if there are any issues of the ministries of the congregation of which they should be aware. The next meeting of the COCL will be **Friday, May 13 at 4:00 PM on Zoom.**

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



The **WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN**

From boxing to bikes we go for the real-life story of Burt Munro (Anthony Hopkins), a quirky New Zealander with a positive genius for making two-wheeled things go fast. This delightful 2005 film is less about motorcycles than it is about one charming oddball's fulfillment of a dream, in his case setting the land speed record in America. In the film's (somewhat fictionalized) account, Munro sets off on his quixotic odyssey from New Zealand to Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah with his modified 1920 Indian Scout motorcycle, where he expects to enter the speed contest despite nobody there having ever heard of this eccentric older gent from the other side of the world. The true story of what happens after he talks his way into the competition became the stuff of legend, and of records that stand to this day. Hopkins said Munro's view of life being close to his own made the portrayal one of the easiest of his career, and it shows. His relaxed performance is a treat to watch. The film is also the product of the obsession of fellow kiwi Roger Donaldson, who spent twenty years planning to make a film about his legendary countryman. It also features a local connection, with a supporting role appearance by Santa Paula Theater Center cofounder Bill Lucking, who passed away late last year. (2:07)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY MAY 13, 2022
Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street
• 7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

May 2022 Program

There are 20,000 indigenous people from the state of Oaxaca in Southern Mexico who live and work in Ventura County. The Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project's (MICOP) mission is to support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant communities, estimated at 20,000 people, on California's Central Coast. MICOP is also the home of Radio Indígena, 94.1FM one of the first U.S. radio stations with programming in Mixteco, Nahuatl and other endangered indigenous languages from Southern Mexico.

Arcenio Lopez is the Executive Director of MICOP and will be the featured speaker at the May meeting of the Mary A's on Zoom. Mark your calendars NOW for **Wednesday, May 26th at 11:30** and join us. These people are part of our community, and this will be a great opportunity to get to know them and learn about MICOP!

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

SCAC meeting Wednesday, May 18 4:00 PM on Zoom

People and Doings



MUSIC NOTES

Our next choir rehearsal will be Thursday, May 19 at 4:00 PM in preparation for singing at the service on May 22 when we will be doing a service highlighting hymns. Please let Rev. Maddie 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 or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

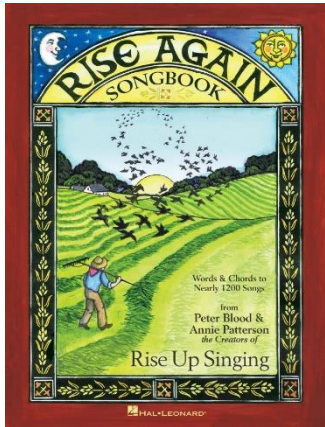
Here is our schedule through June.

Note that the May dates changed since the April newsletter.

The choir will not sing in July and August.

May 19	4:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
May 22	Let It Be Song We Sing 9:30 AM	Choir rehearsal Circle Round for Freedom (SLT 155)
June 9	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
June 12	Flower Sunday 9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal We are the Music Carl Strommen

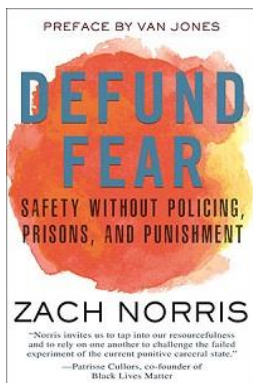
People and Doings



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. We will meet **Friday, May 20 at 7 PM** in the Parish Hall. We will keep the door and windows open. 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.

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 or 805-525-4647

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 **May 26 at 3 PM** on Zoom or with Rev. Maddie in her office. On the agenda will be a continuing discussion of sessions Rev. Maddie attended at the American Society of Aging including planning for a Death Café.

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.

People and Doings

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 25th 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.

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# SAVE THE DATE!!

Santa Paula  
Concert Series

UU Church  
of Santa Paula

Sunday, June 5  
3:00 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,

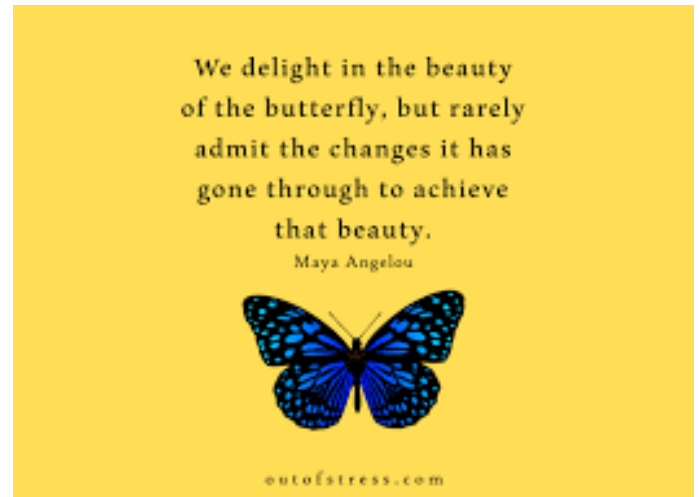
Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Donna Hamer, Member at Large

**Tech Support Team:**

Evan Holt   Monika Murillo

Mitch Stone



**June newsletter deadline May 15**

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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of Santa Paula  
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