



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

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



### JULY THEME: FREEDOM

*We each have a measure of freedom to do as we will. We can debase our life or dignify it; we can fill it with doubt or faith, and with hate or love. We can disavow our heritage or proclaim it. In as much as we are free to think and act, we may seem to have broken away from nature. But I believe that is part of nature's design. Wholly within nature, human nature is in the making. It has risen above the beast, but its destiny is nearer to the stars. ~ Dana McLean Greeley*

#### July 3 We Would Be One Rev. Maddie, Kate English

On Independence Day Weekend, we might ask the question, "Why do I love my country?" What does it mean to have patriotic feelings in such a divided country? We think about freedom in a land where many aren't free, and a study of our history is troubling...but many of us still love our country for a myriad of reasons.

*First Sunday Plate, Santa Paula Education Foundation*

#### July 10 Another Country Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

From the moment we are born, we are aging. Rev. Maddie looks ahead to what might be called another country, thinking about aging and the challenges and opportunities individuals and congregation have ministering with, to and for us all as we go through the cycles of life.

#### Tuesday, July 12 7 PM Gathering Rev. Maddie

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, led this month by Rev. Maddie with music by Geno Palilla and Christine Mazor.

#### July 17 Sacred Sound and Spiritual Awakening Surreina Gallegos Gerbman, Ruth Ricards

Sound healer, yoga teacher and Reiki Master Surreina Gallegos Gerbman will be sharing her path to awakening and how to connect to the power of your own spirit vibrating in tune with all that is sacred within and around you. She shares the potential of the ancient modality of sound healing, as sacred sound awakens and attunes the body, mind and spirit to higher consciousness. Experience a deeply relaxing sound bath meditation that opens your heart, inspires deep inner peace, and aligns you with the vibration of your own higher self. Learn about Surreina's personal journey and spiritual awakening guided by the ancient practice of sound healing. Surreina is a yoga teacher, sound healer and Reiki Master.

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



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## **July 24 Freedom and Other Ineffable “F” Words Pastor Joshua Berg, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford**

We just celebrated American freedom on July 4th and July 17th will be the celebration of The World Day of International Justice. Our Unitarian Universalist Second Principle calls us to act with justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Without justice, equity, and compassion, there is no freedom. Yes, so many freedoms are continually threatened, attacked, and stolen, including the freedom to live, violently denied so many, even in our own American schools and temples. These celebrations of freedom and justice must therefore be a call to re-evaluate, at long last, what justice and freedom mean in America. Let us worship together, calling up the sacred and the spiritual in the question of, “How to live justice, equity and compassion in all human relations, that we may truly be free?”

*Joshua served on the board of The Humanist Society and is a certified humanist celebrant and chaplain, having officiated numerous ceremonies in Los Angeles, Savannah, and Detroit. His published writing appears in The Humanist magazine, TheHumanist.com, The Detroit Jewish News, The LA Times online as well as other publications. Joshua graduated this past May with a Masters of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School and was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry on July 2. In August 2022, he will attend the Chautauqua institute as the UU minister in residence and then return to LA to begin a residency as a chaplain at Children’s Hospital.*

## **July 31 Our Democracy, Our Votes Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki, MaryBeth East**

Our first CLUSTER service with our Worship Host presenting the service live in person and a sermon on video from the outgoing minister of the Live Oak UU Congregation in Goleta, the Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki. At our UU General Assembly last year, delegates voted in support of an *Action of Immediate Witness*, calling on all UUs and congregations to “stop voter suppression and partner for voting rights...”. Today, as we live into our fifth UU principle, we look at the state of our democracy regarding voting rights and actions we can take to uphold the democratic process.



*Our banner at  
General Assembly  
at the Oregon  
Conference Center*

**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)

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# Message from the Minister

My next Sabbatical Month is upon me! Last year I took three of the six months I had accrued. Turns out that taking a Sabbatical during a pandemic was challenging and I wasn't able to do the research I had intended back East due to libraries and historical societies being closed. I am taking one more month this summer for rest, renewal and research—the three Rs! I am in my eighth year of serving you as your minister, amazingly enough! According to my Letter of Agreement, I accrue one month for each year of service for Sabbatical time which means I was due six months after six years...but we made the decision with previous boards that I wait to complete my service on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee which I did on June 30, 2021 after eight years.

What *is* Sabbatical Leave? It can look many different ways. Last year I read 34 books, took two continuing education courses (on Zoom of course) and tried to recover from the challenges that ministry in the time of COVID had brought. Of course, those challenges continue despite the opening up of things in recent months. In the four weeks I am taking this summer, July 14 to August 15, I will once more focus on self-care along with doing some of the research on Universalism in Maine that I couldn't do last year. Keeping in front of me rest and renewal along with personal growth, I have planned more reading, reconnecting with friends and colleagues and seeing family. I will be minister of the week from July 16 to 23 at the Sandy Island YMCA Family Camp on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire where I have led Sunday services many times in the past, very close to my late friend Jane's Lake House where I used to spend a lot of time and Geneva Point Center where I went growing up with my family. I have few responsibilities at the camp which will allow me plenty of time to do the reading for historical research I want to do before I head from there to Winslow and Caribou, Maine to do research on the founders of our congregation. From there I will go to my sisters in South Hadley, Massachusetts. I will be helping to lead and doing the Eulogy at Jane's Memorial Service, sing at three concerts with the Rowan Brothers in Massachusetts and Connecticut, sing solos at First Parish in Concord on August 7 and end my time back East with a family wedding in State College, Pennsylvania. In the midst of all that I will be focusing on my spiritual practices.

During this time, should there be emergencies, Krystal Johnson, congregation president Kate English and the your Board of Trustees will know how to address them and will inform me should it be necessary. Take note of the Sabbatical Call Chart in this newsletter and that our Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice, the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, will be available for pastoral care if necessary. Please know that I will miss you and will be holding you in my meditation and prayers each morning, sending love to our beloved friends and members here at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula and the larger community in which I serve.

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie

## **Rev. Maddie's Office Hours and Pastoral Coverage During Sabbatical**

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 available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday, July 5 through Wednesday, July 13. She will then be on a one-month Sabbatical until returning to the office on Tuesday, August 16. For pastoral issues during that time, call the office at 805-525-4647. 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. She is normally in the office from Tuesday through Friday. 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)

# Message from the Minister

## SABBATICAL CALL SHEET

July 14 through August 15 2022

**PLEASE CONSULT THE CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name	Position/Title
Kate English	President
Karen Harris	Vice President
Jerry Gray	Treasurer
Anne Hewitt	Secretary
Donna Hamer	Member At-Large

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Building and Grounds Committee	Ann Hewitt
Caring Committee	Karen Harris
Committee on Congregational Life	Judy Triem
Finance Committee	MaryBeth East
Mary A's	Anne Hewitt
Safe Congregation Committee	Krystal Johnson
Social Concern Action Committee	Margaret Wilson, Co-Chair Audrey Vincent, Co-Chair
Worship Team	Ruth Ricards

### rites of passage, membership and newcomer information

To contact Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4647 or send her an email at [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org).

### PASTORAL CARE

Need/Concern and what to do	Name	Position
If someone becomes ill or is hospitalized, or unexpectedly dies	Krystal Johnson	Office Administrative
Phone Tree and other Caring Committee business	Karen Harris	Caring Committee, Chair

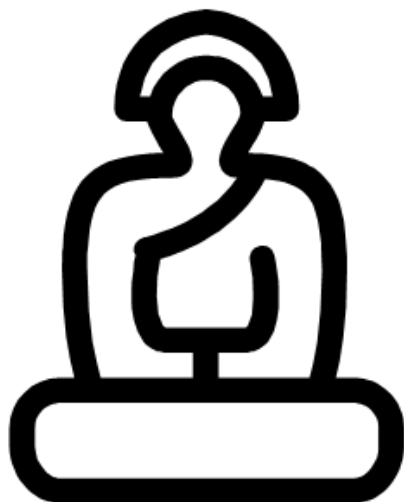
### NEWSLETTER, ORDER OF SERVICE, e-BLASTS

Item	Name	Deadline
Newsletter	Krystal Johnson	15 <sup>th</sup> of month
Order of Service	Krystal Johnson	10 am Wednesday before Sunday Service
e-Blast	Krystal Johnson	Emailed on Fridays

# 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*

**July 6 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**July 13 with Rev. Maddie in person**

**July 20 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**July 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 meets in 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.

**TUESDAY, JULY 12**  
**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 – July 2022**

- Our thoughts continue to be with our friend Maria Beruman who is much improved and now in Rehab with intensive PT and OT and back Zooming to church!
  - Healing thoughts to our member Audrey Vincent after a recent fall and medical adventures.
  - Wishes to the many who are recovering from COVID, most recently our new member Atul Ranchod.
  - 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. 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.
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## **CRUISE & SING NIGHT**



**Friday, July 1**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!**

**TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!**

**BRING YOUR VOICE OR  
INSTRUMENT!**

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

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## **2022 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING**

**JULY 3, AUGUST 7 and SEPTEMBER 4**

Our Third Quarter recipient is the Santa Paula Education Foundation (SPEF). The SPEF was established in 1983 and is devoted to raising and managing funds for the purpose of providing scholarships and assistance to Santa Paula Unified School District students and educational

programs. You can see more about SPEF at [www.spedufoundation.org](http://www.spedufoundation.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. We are currently going through all the recommendations from the UUA in their Guide to Becoming a Safer Congregation. In June we looked at their recommendations for Financial Safety which were passed along to the Finance Committee after discussion. In July we will be looking at the section on Destructive Behavior, Safety and Covenant. Should you wish to see the UUA document, it can be found at: <https://www.uua.org/safe/handbook>

In the fall we will be thinking about preparations for another fire or disaster drill. The next meeting of the team is **Wednesday, July 6 at 10:00 AM** in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

## **SIP AND CHECK IN**

**TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM**

**JULY 5 WITH REV. MADDIE**

**JULY 19 WITH SHARON KUFELDT**

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



## **SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY**

**T**his film is often billed as a historical biopic about George III and the rare hereditary disorder that led to his erratic behavior, or as a study of the often barbaric 18th century medical practices used to treat it. But **The Madness of King George** is a far more interesting and ambitious film than that. At its heart this is the story of a man whose entire existence is defined by not being seen by anyone as an ordinary human being, even to himself. How is his behavior to be judged. Is it a mere illness or something otherworldly? How can such a person's maladies be cured? According to Alan Bennett's witty and darkly comic screenplay (based on his stage play), by finally being seen as a real, mortal person by those around him, and by the man to himself. But set aside all of these deep ideas if you like, and simply enjoy the portrayal of George III by Nigel Hawthorne, it being so perfect and memorable, and worth the time all by itself. This intelligently constructed film combines superb writing, and strong performances throughout, to create a rare movie-watching experience. With Ian Holm, Helen Mirren, and the Ruperts (Everett and Graves). (1994, 1:51)



**SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY**  
**FRIDAY JULY 8, 2022**

Universalist Unitarian Church •  
740 E. Main Street • 7PM • Free! •  
Enter Side Door

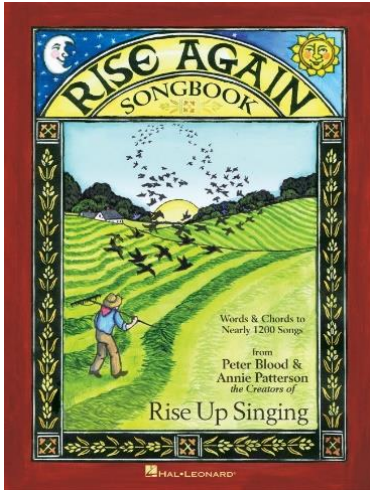


# People and Doings

**WALKING EACH OTHER HOME**

**Thursday, July 14**

**6:30 PM**



**RISE UP SINGING**

**UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA PARISH HALL  
~ 740 E MAIN STREET**

**FRIDAY, JULY 15 AT 7:00 PM**

**BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN BOOKS**

**IF YOU HAVE THEM**

**ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME!**

**COMMUNITY SINGING! SONG CIRCLE!**

**FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended) ALL AGES**

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, July 20 at 4:00 PM on Zoom

**MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

**Thursday, July 28**

**11:30 AM**

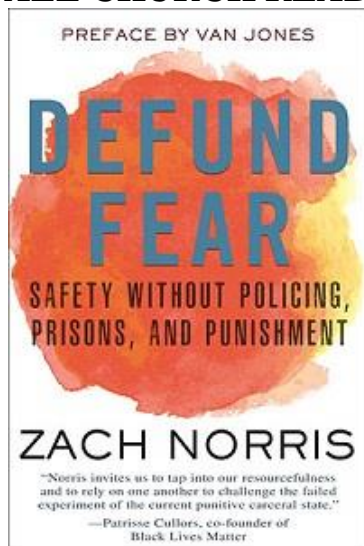
The July meeting of the "Mary A's" will be held with the purpose of taking care of business and checking in with each other! Bring a sack lunch and meet us at a picnic table under one of the shade trees at Ebell Park, just outside the Santa Paula Theatre Center on Main Street! We will provide a delicious dessert and hibiscus tea! (If you are reading this, you are invited to join us!) Also, please note that we will not have a meeting in August. The next meeting is Thursday, September 22nd and will feature a very relevant program about the November election! This program will be on zoom and promises to be both helpful and interesting! Mark your calendars now!

## **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 **Thursday, August 18 at 4:00 PM on Zoom.**

# People and Doings

## ALL CHURCH READ PART TWO: DEFUND FEAR



A group of us had an interesting discussion of *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons and Punishment* by Zach Norris (Beacon Press: 2021). We realized that there were others who wanted to read the book and more to discuss. The Social Concern Action Committee has agreed to buy three copies of the book. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you would like a copy. Our next meeting will be on Zoom on **Sunday, August 21 at 1 PM** to continue the discussion. We will briefly review the first session and move to discussing what needs to be done to address the harms discussed in the book, building a culture of care and why we as Unitarian Universalists in particular are called to this work.

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>

Be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4620.

## CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister and our Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice. The Caring Committee will not meet in July but will reconvene on Thursday, **August 25 at 4:00 PM**. Let Rev. Maddie or Caring Committee chair, Karen Harris, know if you are interested in joining with us. During Rev. Maddie's one month Sabbatical from July 14 to August 15, you can reach out to the Caring Committee if you just want someone to chat with or to Rev. Betty for pastoral care. The current members of the Caring Committee are Karen Harris, Constancia Leshin, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and Judy Triem. Their numbers are in your Directory or you can reach out to Krystal in the office to contact them at 805-525-4647.

## 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).

## MUSIC NOTES

Our choir is now on hiatus until the fall. We are so grateful to be back singing together and look forward to increasing our repertoire. The choir usually sings once a month for a Sunday Service. Our first Sunday of the new church year will be Water Sunday, September 11. We will rehearse on Thursday, September 8 at 4:00 PM and Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 AM. 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! We would love to have new singers.

## People and Doings

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

**3:00 pm**

### *Landmark String Quartet*



## **De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts**

**2nd Annual Tardeada “An Afternoon Delight”**

**A Social Mixer for Music & Art Lovers**

**Saturday, July 23, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.**

At the home of De Colores friend Rita Stafford  
827 Roger Road, Santa Paula

Come Meet Local Artists and Musicians

Please RSVP with Vanessa Acosta (805) 616-8272

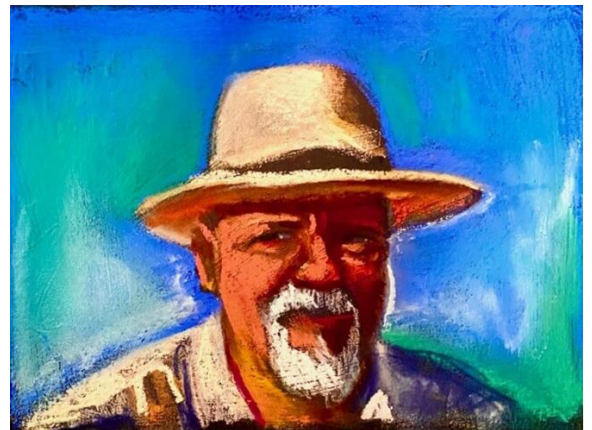
\$40.00 Ticket · Art for Sale · Food · Refreshments · No Host Bar

Donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 135, Santa Paula, CA 93061

Your contribution helps us to empower our community youth through art & music activities

De Colores is a nonprofit organization Federal Tax ID# 85-3840231

*Peace Through Music & Art*





THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

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

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



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

**August newsletter deadline July 15**



*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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