



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

SEPTEMBER 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

THEME: Belonging

You hardly knew how hungry you were to be gathered in, to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely... You began to breathe again... You learned to sing. But the deal with this blessing is that it will not leave you alone, will not let you linger... this blessing will ask you to leave, not because it has tired of you but because it desires for you to become the sanctuary that you have found... ~Jan Richardson



September 4 Rest From Labors

Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris

The first Labor Day celebration and parade in the United States was held in New York City 120 years ago on September 5, 1882. As Santa Paula prepares for its Labor Day Parade on September 5, Rev. Maddie considers Labor Day Weekend. How do we give them *Bread and Roses*?

First Sunday Plate, Santa Paula Education Foundation

September 11 Ingathering

Rev. Maddie, Kate English

We come back together, looking at where we have been over the summer in our traditional water communion and looking forward to the new church year. How do we create the feeling of belonging in our congregation for those of us old and new? Bring a small amount of water from your travels or nearby to share.

Our choir sings

September 13 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 which this month is Belonging, led by Rev. Maddie with music by Christine Mazor, violin, Geno Palilla, piano and Maddie Sifantus, soprano.

September 18

"What if Love Really is All We Need?"

Rev. Dr. Karen Stoyanoff

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Life is complicated, difficult, unpredictable, and sometimes downright miserable. And who doesn't feel bad when any of those things arise for us? But what if we could cultivate an appreciation for life even in those times. Today's service will focus on what might be needed for that to happen - at least most of the time. Could it be true that love is all we really need?

Rev. Karen is a retired UU minister and former Professor. She is Minister Emerita at Orange Coast UU Church, loves the theater and is involved in social justice efforts in Orange County.

September 25 I Have Two Dreams

Rev. Liz Murphy, Ruth Ricards

Unitarian Rev. Ethelred Brown spent much of his ministry creating more spaces for people to feel like they belonged. He himself experienced exclusion within his own life as an immigrant, a Black man, and as a progressive pastor in the early 20th Century. How might we now, as spiritual descendants of his groundbreaking theology and ministry, carry on this important work as Unitarian Universalists in this time and place? We will look to Rev. Brown's words and work as inspiration for building a brighter and more inclusive future.

The Rev. Liz Murphy (she/her) is a Chaplain Resident at the VA Hospital in Loma Linda, CA. She is also the affiliated community minister at Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church. She previously served as the Interfaith Programs Assistant at the University of Southern California's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, as well as a chaplain intern at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Liz graduated from the Claremont School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 2020. Originally from Pittsburgh, she lives in Los Angeles with her wife.

UUs of Our Past with Leslie Nichols

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

Message from the Minister

I don't know about you, but I always have a little surge of excitement as September rolls around each year, our children go back to school, and we start a new church year. One of my favorite readings to start a service with is this one by Starhawk:

"We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been – a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community... a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.... A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free."

A congregation when at its best does all of these things. It is a place where we can explore what is of greatest meaning to each of us. It is a place where we can feel we belong. It is a place where we can offer our gifts: our talents and our treasure. It is a place where we can laugh, and we can cry. It is a place where we can discuss, argue, be aware of our history and make new history together. It is a place where we can look to the past for our legacy and look to the future where we create a new legacy together and with the larger community. I hope you will take the pull and push of September to engage or reengage with this beloved faith community and take time to invite your friends and neighbors to join us, whether here is Santa Paula or anywhere in the world through the magic of Zoom, Facebook, and hopefully soon, YouTube.

Each September we "officially" begin the year with a Water Communion Service and near the end of the regular church year we have a Flower Communion. Where have you been beside a body of water this summer? I have been near many rivers, lakes and both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Please bring a small amount of water to share, signifying both where you have been and how we mingle our gifts with each other. I will look forward to seeing you in church...or on the Zoom screen!

On the path of our faith,
Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Office Hours and Pastoral Coverage in September

Rev. Maddie is available to meet with you by appointment or by potluck drop-in to her office which 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.

From September 14-28 Rev. Maddie is away on Vacation and Study Leave and Rev. Betty will be covering for her. If you have or know of a member or friend of the congregation who is having pastoral issues during those two weeks, call the office at 805-525-4647 or email office@uucsp.org.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Community,

Our church community accomplished so many things these past couple months!

Rev. Maddie's connections have brought us some wonderful consultants who are helping us to plan how to have better lighting and sound in the sanctuary and on Zoom. This will improve our Sunday mornings, Gatherings and especially will benefit our treasured concert series.

I want to give special recognition to Ann Hewitt and Building & Grounds who have been responding to the needs of the building both the minutiae and for larger critical time sensitive issues! Soon we will also have increased security for our beloved church building.

Thank you to Marybeth East & Leslie Nichols for taking over the care of our Memorial Rose Garden. With my mother's place of rest so far away, her rose means so much to me as I know so many other roses mean to the families of this community.

Our new Growing the Legacy Committee was created and began meeting to discuss the long-term financial care and planning regarding our assets in relationship to our values & UU principles. This committee is open to congregational input and will also be considering input from the Santa Paula community.

I am currently working on updating a binder and our website so that everyone will have physical and digital access to the bylaws, various church policies and the Board of Trustees meeting minutes and financial reports.

It is so nice that we can be together in so many ways now. I encourage each of you to consider coming to one church activity over the next couple months that you have never been to before... Gathering? Rise Up Singing? Yoga? Walking Each Other Home? Sip & Check In? Our Church has so much to offer!

I also encourage you to think about who in Santa Paula you know that might benefit from a connection to our church... if not on Sunday morning, then perhaps at one of these other community offerings.

Yours,
Kate English
Board President

~~~~~  
**Here is the link to Worship, Meditation, and Zoom meetings of the congregation:**

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

**Meeting ID: 731 217 7775**

**Password: uucsp93060**

To phone: +1 253 215 8782

Phone password: 529593

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

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 Singth. We are now adding a second meditation group on Mondays with Corrine Carson. 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. 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

~~~~~



## 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.

~~~~~



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

September 7 with Jim Cole on Zoom
September 14 with Brenna Book in person
September 21 with Jim Cole on Zoom
September 28 with Brenna Book in person
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

*For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or msifantus@uuma.org
Free Will Offering.*

Spiritual Growth Center

SAVE YOUR MONDAYS FOR A NEW MEDITATION GROUP

STARTING OCTOBER 3 AT 6 PM

In Person Meditation with Corrine Carson



Meditation is an ancient tradition whose purpose is to develop within an individual, a creative unfolding of spiritual consciousness. As a tool, the art and science of meditation cultivates a healthy and positive attitude which helps us to enjoy our lives at a deeper level and meet the challenges of our day. Please join Corrine Carson for an ongoing gathering of instruction, guided meditation, and insightful sharing. This class will be held *in person*, is non-denominational and open to beginners. Welcome one and all.

Topics include:

- *Subtle Body and Chakras development, symbology, and psychology
- *The Path of Devotion and the Path of Knowledge
- * Active Imagination
- *World Soul/ Anima Mundi* Rituals *Sacred Space and Sacred Time
- *Re-Enchantment of the World *Synchronicity * The Living Image and Dreams
- *Western, Pagan/Earth based and Eastern Spiritual traditions

Place: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula in the Parish Hall

Date and Time: Mondays starting October 3 from 6:00-7:00

Cost: \$10.00

Corrine Carson has 49 years of experience in the study and practice of meditation. She has taught meditation for 33 years. She has a PhD. in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara Ca. She trained as a Clinical Hypnotherapist at Santa Barbara Hypnotherapy Institute. She is a retired Hospice Spiritual Counselor. Her teaching methods are based on the inspiration of nature, dreams, and a playful imagination.

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, and Geno Palilla

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: September 2022

- Jan Shepherd has been moved again, this time from a facility in Sylmar to Coastal View Nursing Home, 4904 Telegraph Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. We hope she will be home soon!
- Maria Beruman is finally home after many months of hospital and rehab!
- If you have a joy, concern or milestone you wish to share, you can announce it again in person on Sundays, or send it to Rev. Maddie, or if she is out of town, to Krystal Johnson in the office by Noon on Friday and she will get it to the appropriate Worship Host to include in the service. If you are on Zoom, you can write it in the CHAT.
- 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.

CRUISE NIGHT

SEPT 2, 2022

5:00 to DUSK

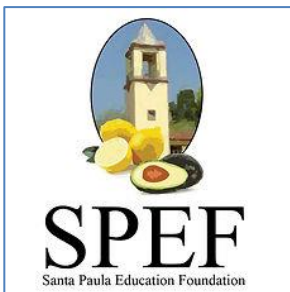
SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!

TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!

GREET REV MADDIE AND KEN STOCK



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



2022 3rd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

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

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 reviewing all the recommendations from the UUA in their Guide to Becoming a Safer Congregation. We are continuing to look at the policies 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 preparing for another fire or disaster drill, our first since the shut-down for COVID. The next meeting of the team is **Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 AM** in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

People and Doings

MUSIC NOTES

Our choir has been on hiatus during the summer. We will be so grateful to be back singing together this fall and look forward to increasing our repertoire. And we would love to have some new singers! The choir usually sings once a month for a Sunday Service and occasionally for special events like our Winter Solstice (Wednesday, December 21, 2022). 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 or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

Thursday, September 8th at 6:30pm via Church Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85431120105> Passcode: uucsp93060

As part of our congregation's commitment to racial justice, UUCSP hosts the Walking Each Other Home discussion group on the second Thursday of each month. Our discussions are aimed at healing the impacts of racism within ourselves, our congregation and beyond. We will use prompts and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self-work. All are welcome.

To be added to the email list and calendar invite, or for more information, call or email Kate English at 805-207-5013 or lonikate@gmail.com.



SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

Mon Oncle (My Uncle)

The cinematic vision of comedian Jacques Tati was unusual even by the adventurous French filmmaking standards of the 1950s. Tati appeared in his own films as Monsieur Hulot, a bumbler outfitted in a rumpled overcoat, and trademark pipe, hat, and umbrella. Hulot is almost entirely silent, and oddly detached from the modern world that completely surrounds him. Tati introduced his character with "Mr. Hulot's Holiday" in 1953, and with its positive reception he produced this more ambitious film in 1958 as a follow-up. The inspiration is equal parts Buster Keaton and his own invention. No coincidence, Tati was a huge Keaton fan (and the favor was returned). "Mon Oncle" is a bit slapstick and in some ways an obvious throwback to the silent comedy era, but the visual sensibility is uniquely Tati. The gags are inventive, remarkably elaborate, and most of all, very funny. If you've never seen a Tati film (and he made only a handful) this is one not to miss. In French, with subtitles (made almost unnecessary by the minimal dialog). (1:56)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

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

People and Doings

SHARING OUR WATER

Each fall we share together a Water Communion where we collect water from our members and friends in a common container as part of our ingathering service. After the service, it is boiled and used for child dedications and other special occasions. This year our service is on **September 11**. Those of you who attend in person will bring water as usual, gathered from your travels around Ventura County or beyond...or from the tap in your garden. Those who are joining us from home, have some water near you.



SIP AND CHECK IN

ON ZOOM AT 4 PM

TUESDAYS

SEPTEMBER 13 AND 27 WITH SHARON KUFELDT

Grab your favorite beverage and join together 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

RISE UP SINGING

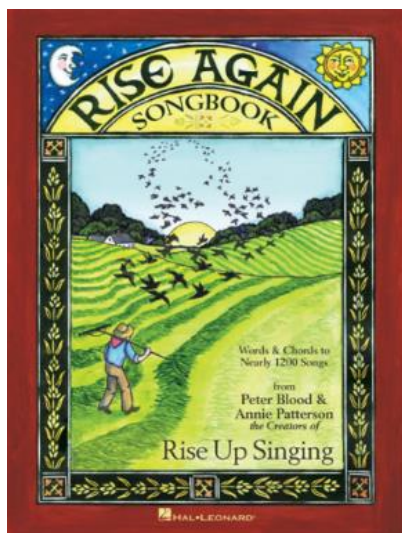
UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN ST.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:00 PM

LED BY STEVE BERMAN FROM SONGMAKERS AND FRIENDS
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) ~



SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

SCAC will meet Wednesday, September 21 4:00 PM

UU THE VOTE

Six of us (so far) are participating in the UU the Vote effort which is a letter writing campaign in an effort to encourage voting in the elections in November. We are collaborating with UU Ventura and would love more participants. If you would like a packet or to know more, speak to the co-chairs of the SCAC, Audrey Vincent and Margaret Wilson or to Rev. Maddie or Rev. Betty, who are all writing along with Karen Fort and Constancia Leshin. Thank you to our friend Rena Pezzuto for being our UU Ventura contact.

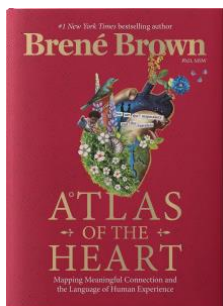
People and Doings

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Mary A's September 2022 Meeting UU Newsletter Thomas Jefferson famously wrote, "A well-informed electorate is a prerequisite to democracy." For the sake of our democracy, take an active part in educating yourself before filling out your ballot this November. Seven statewide ballot propositions have qualified for this election in California. It is helpful to many of us to understand and discuss the propositions before the election so that we can be informed voters. Join the Mary A's on the 4th **Thursday in September 22nd at 11:30** in the lovely back garden of Judy Triem and Mitch Stone. We will be in the fresh air and socially distant. Bring your lunch! Dessert will be served along with hibiscus tea.

CARING COMMITTEE

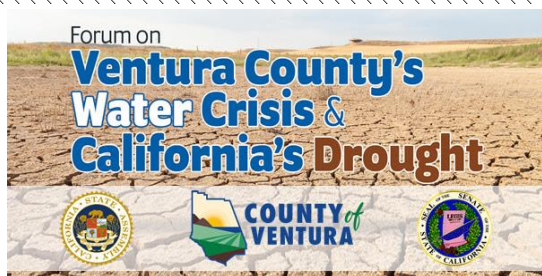
Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister and our Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice. The Caring Committee will not meet in September but will reconvene on Thursday, October 27 at 4:00 PM. Let Rev. Maddie or Caring Committee chair, Karen Harris, know if you are interested in joining with us. The current members of the Caring Committee are Karen Harris, Constanica Leshin, Sharon Kufeldt, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and Judy Triem.



This fall the Caring Committee will sponsor two new things: a small group for those wishing to talk with each other coming out of Rev. Maddie's sermon on aging, "Another Country" and a book discussion group. Our first book will be Brené Brown's most recent book, Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience.

PHONE TREE

Our phone tree is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. 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.



Forum on Ventura County's Water Crisis & California's Drought

Join me, [Senator Monique Limón](#), the [County of Ventura](#), along with local water experts, to learn about the threats of the extreme drought and potential regional aridization conditions that threaten Ventura County and California.

Discussion Topics will include:

- Current water supply and demand projections
- Methods to improve water conservation, reliability, and resiliency
- Potential long-term solutions, particularly for Western Ventura County

Thursday, September 8 5:30 - 7:45 p.m.
Ventura County Government Center - Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

This event will be in-person and livestreamed. Please RSVP to receive virtual access information.

Submit questions for our panelists in advance at Assemblymember.Bennett@assembly.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please call my Ventura District Office at (805) 641-3700.

Best,

Steve Bennett
Steve Bennett Assemblymember, 37th District

People and Doings



*Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of the Conejo Valley
3327 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park
For more information,
eMail: forum@chaliceuu.org*

Please join us for this
Virtual Community Forum
Friday, September 16th - 7:00 p.m. PT (via Zoom)

River's End: California's Latest Water War - Panel Discussion

With

Caty Wagner, MPA

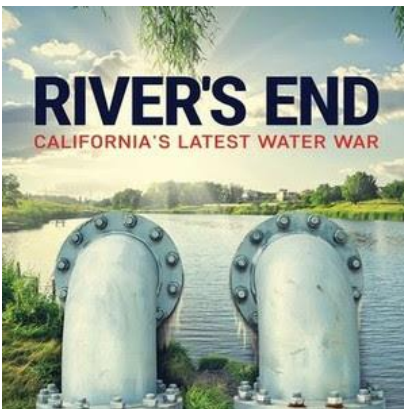
Southern California Water Organizer, Sierra Club

Jennifer Molidor, Ph.D.

Senior Food Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity

Lynn Rodriguez

Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, Project Manager,
Integrated Regional Water Management Program



Topics to include...

- California's Delta Tunnel Project
- Impacts of animal agriculture and industrial farming
- Local water concerns and projects
- What we can do

**River's End* reveals California's complex struggle over who gets fresh water, and how moneyed interests game the system. Constant battling over uncertain water supplies heralds an impending crisis – not just in California but around the world." Join us to hear updates from expert panelists and find out what can be done. Registrants will receive a link to view the award-winning documentary **River's End: California's Latest Water War*.

Please register for the forum in advance here:

<https://bit.ly/RiversEndPanelDiscussion>

Registration is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Contributions will be shared with the non-profit organizations represented by our presenters and to support future Chalice Community Forum programming.



THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

office@uucsp.org

www.uucsp.org

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, Giselle Larios,

Monika Murillo, Mitch Stone

October newsletter deadline September 15



Dated Material
Time Value

Universalist Unitarian Church
of Santa Paula
740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060