



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## FEBRUARY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### FEBRUARY THEME: Love

*Your task is not to seek for Love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. ~Rumi*

### February 5 Groundhog Day Reflections

**Audrey Vincent, MaryBeth East**

We gather a few days after Ground Hog Day, a day we might understand as nature's own Earth Day, when hibernating animals emerge from their burrows and lairs, waking up the world to get moving, living. How might we get moving, living to befriend our planet home in its struggle to regain its ecological balance?

*First Sunday Plate to the Isabella Project of Santa Paula, introduced by Dr. Gabino Aguirre*

### February 12 Our Living Tradition

**Rev. Maddie, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford**

A consideration of Article Two currently under review by our Association of Congregations, which includes our Principles and Sources. The Time for All Ages will be Rhiannon Giddens new book, *Build a House*, illustrated by Monica Mikai in honor of Black History Month.

Our choir sings *Busca el Amor* and *You are Loving, You Are Loved* by David Burrows

### February 14 GATHERING

**Rev. Maddie, Barry Cooper**

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 in February is Love. The music will be provided by guitarist Barry Cooper.

### February 19 Continuing the Welcome

**Kate English with Rev. Maddie**

As we consider what it means to renew our ongoing work as a Welcoming Congregation for LGBTQ+ community members, we will explore some local and global lessons in the importance of acceptance and building beloved community.

### February 26 Love, Love, Love

**Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock**

Rev. Maddie considers our February theme of love. What are our barriers to giving and feeling love in this month that celebrates LOVE.

*UUs of Our Past with Leslie Nichols*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password uucsp93060**

**1+ 669 900 9128 to call in by phone 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

Dear members and friends,

We come again to the month when our theme this year is love...as it is most Februarys in one way or another! The UUA has celebrated in recent years with its Side With Love campaign. This is the 30 Days of Love when they lift up an annual month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice which lasts from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 16) through Valentine's Day (February 14). They say that this year's 30 Days of Love is a gift to our whole community: a love letter, a warm hug, a spiritual balm for all of the individuals, families, religious professionals, partners and communities that embody our values and work for justice and liberation year 'round. Each week they feature a spiritual theme overlapping with one of Side With Love's intersectional justice priorities, and an array of offerings to help nourish our spirits and give gratitude and affirmation. Those of you on Facebook can see when I post the weekly link or you can go on their website: <https://sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023>

Here in our congregation we will explore Love in different ways through our Sunday services and Gathering, ranging from Groundhog Day with Audrey Vincent to a consideration of our "Our Living Tradition" and values as UUs in how "revelation is not sealed" with Rev. Betty and me on February 12 to Kate and my service on February 19 as part of our Welcoming Congregation Renewal process, "Continuing the Welcome" and Ken Stock and my consideration of "Love, Love, Love" at the end of the month. How do you "answer the call of love"?

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus



# Message from Board of Trustees

*Hello to all*

*I would like to just share some gratitude as we enter the new church year in 2023!*

*If you visit us on Sundays, online or en vivo; if you come to Rise Up Singing or Concerts or Gatherings, or if you volunteer to support Maddie at these events by greeting or organizing receptions, if you work as part of a committee, if you invite friends to come check us out, if you reach out with a call or a card to those of us who are sick or grieving, if you care for our memorial roses, if you count the collection plate, or wash dishes, or bake cookies, if you sip and check in or stretch at yoga, if you pledge your time and money, if you put cash in the plate or donate online, if you are that person at coffee hour that always goes over to a new face to make sure someone feels included...*

*I see you... I see US.*

*Thank you for building this Beloved Community, thank you for contributing your unique presence and gifts to this group of believers and skeptics who embrace the mystery and hold fast to each other.*

*Yours in community and care,*

*Kate English*

*President*

*UUCSP Board of Trustees*



# 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. We host a Meditation Practice Group, the Silent Pause, on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM alternating between in person with Rev. Maddie and online with Jim Cole. We are adding occasional Sound Baths and other activities. 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](mailto: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*

***February 1 with Jim Cole online***

***February 8 with Rev. Maddie in person***

***February 15 with Jim Cole online***

***February 22 with Rev. Maddie in person***

***EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM***

*For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)*

*Free Will Offering.*



# GATHERING\*



**\*DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod

Special Guest Musician, Barry Cooper

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 February 2023

- The Atmore family has moved Allan into Memory Care at Ventura Townhouse. Cards can be sent to him there at 4900 Telegraph Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. Once he is settled in we will let folks know. Meanwhile, Jyl is at home in Santa Paula. Everyone is settling in reasonably well.
- Although life at the church has opened up a lot, some are still staying home. If you are feeling isolated, be in touch with Rev. Maddie at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or leave a message on her office phone, 805-525-4620. If it is an emergency call her mobile phone.
- If you have a joy, concern or milestone you wish to share, you can announce it in person on Sundays, or send it to Rev. Maddie 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.

[illegible]

## Rev. Maddie's Office Hours

Rev. Maddie would love to meet with you to hear how you are doing, how you are nurturing your spirit, 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).

**2023 1st QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING**  
**FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 5**

Our 1st quarter plate offering will go to the Isabella Project of Santa Paula. Dr. Gabino Aguirre explains that the goal of this project is to help secure funding to provide preschool to all Santa Paula children within the next few years. Ninety percent of brain development happens in the first five years so education during these years sets a child on a pathway to lifelong success.

Project Isabella is contributing funds to existing local programs as well as starting new ones in the local elementary schools. Santa Paula is eligible to receive 80% of the needed funding from State and Federal sources. To receive this funding, Santa Paula needs to secure facilities and qualified staff.

The program currently has more than 100 new openings for students. Our donations will help fund the effort to recruit students by funding community health workers and outreach materials.

*As a kindergarten and 1st grade teacher, I saw firsthand the difference preschool education makes for children. We are supporting an extremely worthwhile project. Thank you for contributing.*  
~ Ariel Alexander

# People and Doings

## **SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE ON ZOOM AT 4 PM**

**TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 7 AND 21**

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



## **MUSIC NOTES**

The choir sings once a month for a Sunday Service and occasionally for special events like our Winter Solstice. Most of the choir are not great readers; we will work with you to help you be successful and choose music for the level of difficulty our singers are capable of. Coming take part in the joy of singing with other people! 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 and take place in the Sanctuary. 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 the upcoming schedule (music selections subject to change):

Thursday, February 9 at 4:00 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, February 12 at 9:30 PM	Rehearsal
Busca el Amor (STJ 1004)	Salvador Cardenal Barquero
You are Loving, You Are Loved	David Burrows (2-pt)
Thursday, March 9 at 4 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, March 12 at 9:30 AM	Rehearsal
Prayer for Peace	David Haas

## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME**

Thursday, February 9 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 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](mailto:lonikate@gmail.com).

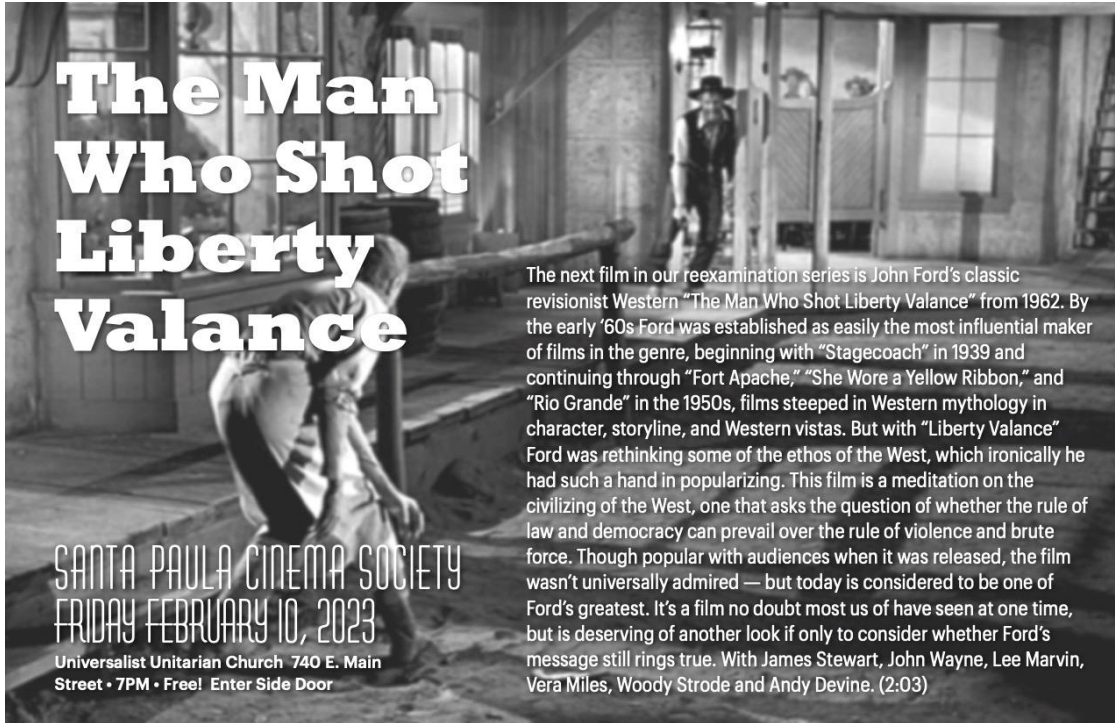


**SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**  
SCAC will meet on Zoom Wednesday, February 15 3:00 PM



# People and Doings

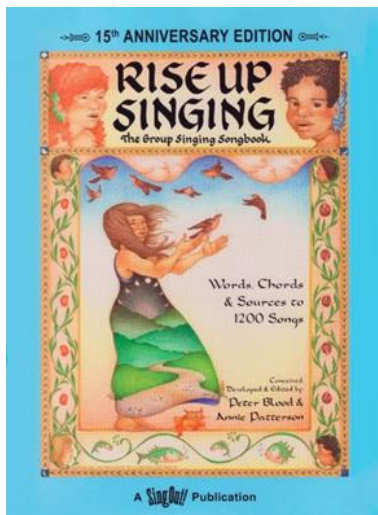
## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance**

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2023  
Universalist Unitarian Church 740 E. Main Street • 7PM • Free! Enter Side Door

The next film in our reexamination series is John Ford's classic revisionist Western "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" from 1962. By the early '60s Ford was established as easily the most influential maker of films in the genre, beginning with "Stagecoach" in 1939 and continuing through "Fort Apache," "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," and "Rio Grande" in the 1950s, films steeped in Western mythology in character, storyline, and Western vistas. But with "Liberty Valance" Ford was rethinking some of the ethos of the West, which ironically he had such a hand in popularizing. This film is a meditation on the civilizing of the West, one that asks the question of whether the rule of law and democracy can prevail over the rule of violence and brute force. Though popular with audiences when it was released, the film wasn't universally admired — but today is considered to be one of Ford's greatest. It's a film no doubt most of us have seen at one time, but is deserving of another look if only to consider whether Ford's message still rings true. With James Stewart, John Wayne, Lee Marvin, Vera Miles, Woody Strode and Andy Devine. (2:03)



## RISE UP SINGING UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 7:00 PM

BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN BOOKS  
IF YOU HAVE THEM  
ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME! COMMUNITY SINGING!  
FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended)

LED BY MADDIE SIFANTUS ~ ALL AGES

## ENGAGING OUR TRADITION: NEW UU

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know more how things work around here and the history of our building and congregation? Please join Rev. Maddie and others in her office after our service and coffee hour at **11:45 AM on Sunday, February 19th** for casual introduction to engaging Unitarian Universalism and the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula. Hear about our history as a congregation and how it fits into the larger movement of Unitarian Universalism. Bring your questions about how we do things around here. Who makes decisions? What about Social Justice? What about Faith Formation? Who is the Caring Committee or the Committee on Congregational Life? Inquiring minds want to know. Please come if you have been around the place for a while or if it is your first day in the door.



# People and Doings

## MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

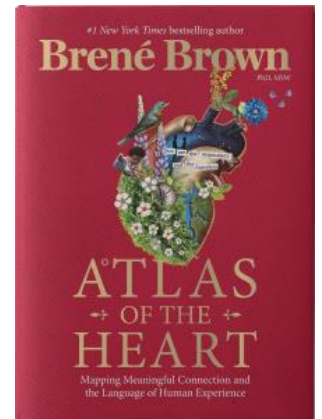
February 23, 2023

### Sharing of the Heart and Chocolate!

February is the month of chocolates and the heart! **Our February 23rd meeting, to be held in person in the Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m.** will feature each of us telling a 5-minute story of a life experience that truly touched our hearts. Then, a yummy part of our meeting will include an array of our favorite **chocolates!** (*You are invited to bring your favorite to share!*) And some **chocolate tea or hot chocolate** will top off this mouth-watering experience! Meeting will conclude with a short check in and more. Join us!

## CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Caring Committee presents a book discussion group based on Brené Brown's most recent book, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*. We will have sessions monthly through June discussing parts of the book. The first session will on **Thursday, February 23 at 3:00 PM** in person in Rev. Maddie's office or, if we have a larger group, in the Parish Hall. Please read the Introduction and the first two sections in preparation for the first discussion: #1 Places We Go When Things Are Uncertain and #2 Places We Go When We Compare. Open to all. For more information email [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or call Rev. Maddie at 805-525-4647 or her mobile phone.

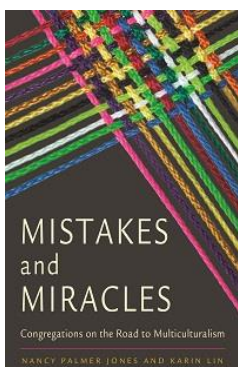


## PHONE TREE

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](mailto:office@uucsp.org).

## ALL CHURCH READ

Every year we participate in the UUA's Common Read which we call the All Church Read. The 2022–2023 UU Common Read is *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, published by Skinner House Books. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Rev. Maddie preached about this book when it was first released several years ago, and it is a natural fit for us as we think about how to welcome our neighbors to our activities and services and be involved with our community here in Santa Paula.



What calls Unitarian Universalists to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? What do congregations need when they embark on this journey? What common threads run through their stories? In *Mistakes and Miracles*, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—share how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey. The world has seen much turmoil, pain, and yes, glimmers of hope, in the three years since the publication of *Mistakes and Miracles*. As we enter a Common Read of this book, we find ourselves receiving its report with a changed spirit, an urgent need, and perhaps new hope for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our movement. We will be discussing it together in early 2023 so start reading now!

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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Santa Paula, CA 93060

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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:

Monika Murillo Giselle Larios Mitch Stone

**HOW TO CONNECT WITH UUCSP**

**JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM IN PERSON,  
ON ZOOM OR ON FACEBOOK**

Read our newsletter which you can find at

<https://uucsp.org/newsletter/>

Contact our office if you want to be added to our  
Friday email and our monthly newsletter email or  
want to have a nametag for in person events.

Visit our website to see more about UUCSP and see

what's new at [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

Join our Facebook page at

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

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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