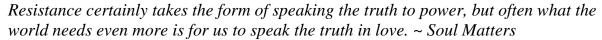


Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-4647 uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

APRIL SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

APRIL THEME: Resistance





April 2 Resistance Ahead Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, MaryBeth East

We often think of resistance as something negative, such as a door that won't open or a person who will not give up an irritating behavior. But what if we saw it as a challenge that we need

to overcome to produce a positive result for ourselves or others? That simple shift could make a big difference. Let's try it.

First Sunday Plate to Poder Popular for farmworker relief

April 9 All Things Bright and Beautiful: An Easter Service Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb

One of our Six Sources draws from Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. How do we embrace our Universalist roots on Easter Sunday? Our choir sings All Things Bright and Beautiful by John Rutter

April 11 GATHERING Rev. Maddie, Atul Ranchod

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 April is Resistance. The music will be provided by Eduardo Del Signore. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

April 16 Questions of the Spirit Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

Rev. Maddie welcomes Congregation members and friends into an opportunity to ask questions and submit suggested themes as recommendations for topics that she should address from the pulpit. Please submit your questions and/or suggestions ahead of time directly to her at minister@uucsp.org

April 23 Earth Day 2023: Invest In Our Planet Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb

The theme for Earth Day this year is *Invest In Our Planet*. We highlight the importance of dedicating time, resources and energy to addressing climate change and other environmental issues.

April 30 Beltane/May Day Kate English, MaryBeth East

Beltane is deeply connected to the element of fire. This Sunday we will explore the element of fire as encourager, convener, and as a practical force in overcoming resistance to wholeness. How can fire help us clear out and make fertile our mental, spiritual and physical spaces?

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

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,

The seasons turn once more and we have just celebrated Ostara, the neo-pagan festival for the Spring or Vernal Equinox...and it looked a lot like Easter, since the early Christians built on the older traditions. Many of us grew up with traditions involving eggs, bunnies, spring flowers and more along with a more traditional Easter stories and celebration of Passover with its stories and traditions. As Unitarian Universalists, we are informed by many traditions, passing them by the "mind on fire" as Emerson called it. Some of our members and friends...and many of my colleagues...hold that Easter is an uneasy celebration for Unitarian Universalists. My friend and colleague Mark Harris along with Carl Seaburg published an anthology back in 2000, *Celebrating Easter and Spring*. In its Preface they argue the opposite—that rather than being an "uneasy celebration", "Easter is a part of our human heritage. We may not believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus, but we can see in that celebration the message of renewal." Many among us continue to celebrate that message and find meaning still in contemplating the old stories, from those found in the New Testament but earlier stories as well. So it is that we bring out the eggs, bunnies and spring flowers on both Ostara and Easter and many eat hot-crossed buns on both occasions.

Unitarian minister Frederick May Eliot, longtime minister of Unity Church in St. Paul, Minnesota once wrote a piece, "When I go to church on Easter, I expect to be reminded of the elemental truth that in this universe of ours, with all its hesitancies and timidities and tragedy, the tides of life are flowing "fresh, manifold and free," and I expect to find myself swept into participation in the universal chant of praise for the irresistible, shining glory of the great gift of Life, which, for a brief moment and in an infinitesimal degree, I have the privilege of sharing." I look forward to that sharing some of that with you on Easter morning as the choir sings "All Things Bright and Beautiful", on Earth Day weekend when we will have an event in our Sanctuary thinking about Climate Change from our friend Cindy Piester as well as an Earth Day Service on Sunday, as well as all the other events of the month that will end with Beltane/May Day. Hope to see you in church (or on Zoom...)

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus

Message from Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Beloved Community,

As we launch into Spring this year, we have been blessed with so much rain! This has meant extra work for our Building & Grounds team as they have sprung into action to remedy leaks that have done the same. Much gratitude to all those who care for our beloved church building with your time and attention!

I am also deeply grateful to our tech team who allow us to attend via Zoom or Facebook when we have wanted to stay cozy at home while attending church and grateful to those who braved the wet weather to make sure our church seats don't get lonely.

As our world begins to warm up let's spend the season warming up our welcome! Please take a moment to do an inventory of folks you know who might be intrigued by, benefit from or find comfort in our community here at UUCSP. Then give them a call and invite them to one of our many church or Center for Spiritual Growth offerings.

I will be one of the delegates for our church at General Assembly in Pittsburgh this year and I am excited to be attending my first ever GA! My friends from Conejo UU assure me it is like Woodstock for UUs. I look forward to updating you all on my learnings and representing our congregational voice in the larger UU world.

I heartily recommend you read Mistakes and Miracles as it is SO RELEVANT to our own journey of building a truly inclusive multi-cultural UUCSP right here in Santa Paula!

Yours,

Kate English (she/her)
President, 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



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 for more information.





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

April 5 with Rev. Maddie in person April 12 with Jim Cole online April 19 with Rev Maddie in person April 26 with Jim Cole online

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or <u>minister@uucsp.org</u> Free Will Offering.

Spiritual Growth Center

GATHERING*







*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod

Special Guest Musician, Eduardo Del Signore from A Call To Peace

FREE WILL OFFERING

In person at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

OR

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

News from Among Us April 2023

- The congregation sends its congratulations to Jose Luis Melgar and Gilberto Moreno who were married in our Sanctuary on Saturday, March 11 with Rev. Maddie Sifantus co-officiating with the Rev. Jenny Crosswhite. Our church musician, Vincent Sorisio played, and Rev. Maddie sang the Schubert *Ave Maria* and Leornard Cohen's *Hallelujah* for the recessional. There was standing room only!
- COVID is still an issue, especially when you are traveling. We are glad that Rev. Betty and her husband Tom Stapleford now test negative, returning from their recent UUSC trip to Cuba and that Leslie Nichols now tests negative after her trip to Jordon.
- 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.

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.

2023 2nd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING April 2, May 7, June 4

The atmospheric rivers have deeply affected our local farms and farmworkers in Ventura County. If our farmworkers are unable to harvest strawberries and other crops, then they are unable to earn income to buy food and clothing.

The Social Concerns Action Committee has decided to give the 1st Sunday Plate to "**Poder Popular**". This organization serves many of our local farmworkers who will benefit from our generosity. Please be mindful of this on the 1st Sunday of April!

WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

Please note that Walking Each Other Home will suspend our regular monthly meeting time and merge with the Mistakes and Miracles book group for the foreseeable future. This book is a gift to UU's on the topic of multiculturalism in Unitarian Universalism and offers practical questions for reflecting on our role in the progress toward a truly inclusive faith and anti-racism work in search of Beloved Community.

MUSIC NOTES

There is nothing like learning music and singing with other people! 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 we choose music for the level of difficulty our singers are capable of. 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 or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

Here is the upcoming schedule (music selections subject to change):

Thursday, April 6 at 4 PM Rehearsal Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 AM Rehearsal

All Things Bright and Beautiful John Rutter

Thursday, May 4 at 4 PM Rehearsal Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 PM Rehearsal

(theme: Creativity; anthem TBA)

Thursday, June 8 at 4 PM Rehearsal Sunday, June 11 at 9:30 PM Rehearsal

Justice Choir Songbook: When We Are Singing (43) You are Loving, You Are Loved David Burrows (2-pt)

NEW! VOCAL WORKSHOPS ONCE A MONTH WITH REV. MADDIE!

WORK ON VOCAL SKILLS, READING MUSIC AND MORE

TUESDAYS, APRIL 25 AND MAY 23 FROM NOON TO 1:00 PM

FIRST CRUISE NIGHT OF 2023!



APRIL 7, 2023
5:00 to DUSK
SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!
GREET REV MADDIE
AND KEN STOCK
TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!



If you would like more information, please call

Rev Maddie at 805-525-4620

or the church office at 805-525-4647

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



Jeff (Robert Mitchum) is a man who lives with a dark secret. But what is it? He's also a man on the run. But from what, or whom? OUT OF THE PAST opens with this quintessential film noir storyline, and it delivers the goods like few others. The film proceeds to offer up as many perverse twists and turns of plot as we could hope for in a great noir. The dialog snaps like a whip. All the noir themes are here too, including unhealthy doses of despair, desperation, deceit, seduction, betrayal, and amorality. We get frame-ups, corpses, and revenge. Every scene seems to be enveloped in clouds of cigarette smoke, so much so that it quite by accident captured one of the most famed bits of smoking dialog ever recorded. It also features a treacherous gangster, Mitchum's nemesis played to smarmy perfection by Kirk Douglas. And of course no noir would be complete without a memorable femme fatale, in this film it's a gloriously self-interested Jane Greer. Two masters of the genre were involved in producing this terrific noir for RKO, director Jacques Tourneur and cinematographer Nicholas Musuraca. Also with Rhonda Fleming, Dickie Moore, Richard Webb and Steve Brodie. (1947, 1:37)

QUESTION BOX SUNDAY



What have you wanted to ask your minister?

On Sunday, April 16 Rev. Maddie will welcome Congregation members and friends the opportunity to ask questions as part of the service. Please submit your questions and/or suggestions ahead of time directly to her at minister@uucsp.org

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING APRIL 18 at 7 PM

The Sunday morning service or "Worship" is a unifying event in the life of our congregation, a place where members and friends come together for inspiration, intellectual challenge, spiritual nourishment, community belonging, intergenerational connections, and continuity with the Unitarian Universalist faith, and where all other areas of church activity can connect, including music, other arts, religious education, social action, hospitality, and stewardship. Our Worship Team meets quarterly, together with the Minister to consider and support any and all aspects of worship services on Sunday mornings, but also special worship services and worship-related events that may take place at other times of the week like the Winter Solstice and monthly Gatherings. For more information, be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Worship Team Chair, Ruth Ricards.

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE ON ZOOM

at 4 PM on TUESDAYS APRIL 4 AND 18

Grab your favorite beverage and join Rev. Maddie on Zoom. We will light a chalice, check in with each other, and share thoughts on the monthly theme.

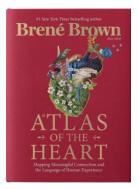


Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775
Meeting ID: 731 217 7775
Password: uucsp93060

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

will meet on Zoom Wednesday, April 19 3:00 PM

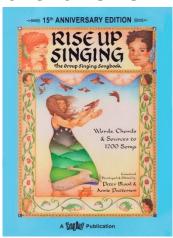
CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our Caring Committee continues to present 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*, facilitated by Rev. Maddie.

The ten participants will meet on **Thursday, April 20 from 3-4:30 PM** in the Parish Hall to discuss the next two chapters: Places We Go When Things Don't Go As Planned and Places We Go When It's Beyond Us. This group is closed at ten participants and will meet once a month through October, taking off July.

RISE UP SINGING



Come sing with our communal song circle, Rise Up Singing. Lately we have added a number of instrumentalists from Songmakers of California, another communal singing group. Their motto is "Keeping Homemade Music Alive." We will meet at **Friday, April 21 at 7 PM** in the Parish Hall with Rev. Maddie leading us. Rise Up Singing is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Bring your friends and neighbors! 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. For more information, call Maddie Sifantus at 805-525-4620 or email her at minister@uucsp.org.



Earth Day is April 22 and Everyday Join us Saturday, April 22, 2023 2 PM

> Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E Main St. Santa Paula

Our parents, grandparents, and earlier generations faced huge hardships to survive, and they did it. Today, the unwelcome existential threat of human caused climate change is at our doorstep. Droughts, fires, floods, and rising sea levels are causing water and food shortages all over the planet and scientists tell us that the temperatures of our ocean and earth are continuing to rise. We are losing the battle.

"We can still make a difference... Greed, selfishness, and war are not the answer. Knowledge is power, and the time is very short. If we don't act on climate now, it will be too late to by the time the danger hits." cindy

Join us for a presentation and discussion with climate and peace activist, Cindy Piester. Thank you. Peace.

Santa Paula Concert Series



A Musical Romance featuring Jeff and Lisa Linsky (guitar and piano) Sunday, April 23, 2023

3:00 PM

This will be their first duo concert in 2023.

Ticket reservations \$20 \$10 for 12 and under, under 5, free.

Follow the link below to make your reservation(s) with PayPal; your name will be on a list at the door on the day of the concert.

Or you can call the office at 805-525-4647 to make a reservation and pay at the door on the day of the concert.

https://uucsp.org/events/1780/a-musical-romance-featuring-jeff-and-lisa-linsky/

Santa Paula Concert Series Presents Jeff and Lisa Linsky—A Musical Romance

The Santa Paula Concert Series presents Jeff and Lisa Linsky: A Musical Romance on Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Straight from appearances in Indonesia and Malaysia, this will be their first duo concert in 2023. As part of this concert, they will be celebrating Lisa's recent release of her album, *Angels Among Us*. Admission is \$20 donation at the door, from the church office during office hours, or by PayPal on the church's website: https://uucsp.org/programs/santa-paula-concert-series/. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted at the door. Children 12 and under are \$10; children 5 and under are free. Seating is first come, first served. Proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund.

JEFF LINSKY BIO

Southern California native Jeff Linsky discovered the guitar at the age of ten. Although primarily a self-taught musician, he did study briefly with both Spanish guitar virtuoso Vicente Gomez and jazz guitar great Joe Pass. While still in his teens, Jeff began traveling the world as a touring musician, eventually signing with Concord Jazz. Known for his polyphonic improvisation on the nylon string guitar, Linsky's recordings for Concord (and other labels) have featured such notable band mates as Steve Kujala, Luis Conte, Alex Acuna, Alphonso Johnson, Jennifer Leitham, Barnaby Finch, Karl Perazzo and Michael Spiro. As an award-winning composer, Jeff's music has been featured internationally in film and television, including as the broadcast theme for the Monterey Jazz Festival.

"Linsky's talent is the stuff guitarists' dreams are made of."

~ Guitar Player Magazine

LISA LINSKY BIO

When Lisa Linsky was four years old, she discovered an old upright piano, buried in the cluttered family garage. Upon playing her first few notes, Lisa immediately felt a connection with the instrument - a connection shared with her grandmother and great grandmother, who were both accomplished concert pianists. However, Lisa's music studies had to share time with her career as a child actress in Hollywood. Young Lisa was featured in numerous commercials and also appeared in movies, alongside such notable actors as Robert DeNiro, Shelley Winters and Bruce Dern. One of Lisa's fondest childhood memories is of playing the piano with actor Jack Lemmon on the set of "The Fortune Cookie", in which Lisa played the role of Walter Matthau's daughter. Although family friend and celebrated composer Henry Mancini had recommended Lisa to attend the Juilliard School of Music, after her acting career, Lisa chose to focus on raising a family. For several years, the piano remained Lisa's private sanctuary, while she raised her six children. It wasn't until her children were grown, along with the encouragement of her award-winning composer and recording artist husband Jeff Linsky, that Lisa began sharing her music with the world - and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Angels Among Us by Lisa Linsky is an album any serious fan of the solo piano genre must have at all costs, a full flowing and passionate tale, told by a pianist who is truly in touch with her musical muse." ~ Steve Shepherd, One World Music Radio

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN 2023

- SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 3 PM HONEYSUCKLE POSSUMS All female bluegrass band
- ❖ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 3 PM CHUCUMITE Veracruzian music for Mexican Independence Day

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

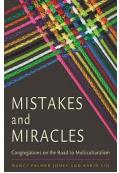
Mitch Stone is a well-known multi-talented writer, actor and historian who will be the featured speaker at the April meeting of the Mary A. Livermore Society. He has lived in Santa Paula for over 35 years!

In the early 1900's, Santa Paula was considered to be the pre-Hollywood film capital, the Queen of the Silver Screen. Mitch has lots of interesting information to share with us!

Do join us on **Thursday, April 27th** at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy! Sweets and drinks provided! All are invited! See you. then!

ALL CHURCH READ

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SESSION SUNDAY, APRIL 30 AFTER COFFEE HOUR BRING A BAG LUNCH!



Every year we participate in the UUA's Common Read which we call the All Church Read. The 2022–2023 UU Common Read is <u>Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism</u> by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, published by Skinner House Books. Our first discussion was held on March 26 facilitated by Rev. Maddie with the theme of *Every Congregation Has a Story*. The second discussion, facilitated by Rev. Betty will be at noon on **Sunday**, **April 30** with the title of *Let's Talk About Power*. The other two sessions will be *History and Hope* on May 28 facilitated by Rev. Maddie and *Strategy and What's Next*, to be scheduled later.

The authors of this book, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. In <u>Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism</u> (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found. The books is available from the UUA Bookstore at https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx



Living in Harmony with Each Other and Our Earth

Join together at Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo April 21-23, 2023

for the Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly

Click the link for complete information.

https://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/family-camps/2023-pacific-southwest-service-area-assembly/

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, Ken Stock, Vice-President Ann Hewitt, Secretary, Jerry Gray, Treasurer Mitch Stone, 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

Join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uucsp

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> 740 East Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula