



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org



MAY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

MAY THEME: Creativity

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted. ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

May 7 The Creative Attitude

Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

Our theme this month is Creativity. Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is seeing what others see and thinking what no one else ever thought." We need creativity to live life. How do we cultivate that creativity?

Our choir sings A Song of Peace, Words, Lloyd Stone; Music Jean Sibelius from Finlandia, Arr. Ira B. Wilson.

First Sunday Plate to Poder Popular for farmworker relief

May 9 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 May is Creativity. The music will be provided by Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

May 14 Foremother

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

On this Mother's Day, we think of our Foremother, Lydia Maria Child, drawing from her new biography by Lydia Moland, "Lydia Maria Child: A Radical American Life."

May 21 The Humble Ones

Rev. Maddie, Kate English

Rev. Maddie continues her series on historic Universalism with consideration of the Humiliati, one of whom was the minister of the last church she served in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

In 1945, a group of young, Universalist ministers brought renewing challenges to the theology of the declining Universalist Church of America. They called themselves, "The Humiliati" from an Italian word meaning, "the humble ones." They were not, in fact, especially humble, but in bringing humanism and new approaches to the church, their legacy lives on.

May 28 Obituaries - They are to Die For!

Ruth Ricards, Ellen Deeb

Ruth will share some of her stories about grief and loss and also discuss some of the phenomenon surrounding the end of life. Due to the sensitivity of this subject, some information may be disturbing for some listeners.

This service will not be recorded to Facebook, so if you are interested in hearing the service, you will need to be in the sanctuary or on Zoom at 10:30 am, 05/28/23. Thank you for your understanding.

UUs of Our Past 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,

Fresh off the first Question Box Sunday we shared together, “Questions of the Spirit”, I am asking the **Question of the Month** you may be asking: “How do I find out what is happening at UUCSP?”

- Monthly UUCSP newsletter. Read it online or sign up by emailing office@uucsp.org
- Weekly eblast which comes out on Friday. Sign up by emailing office@uucsp.org
- Printed Sunday bulletin—Take it home; it has the week’s happenings and upcoming events.
- Facebook—We have a public page at www.facebook.org/uucsp Our events are listed there and some are on Facebook Live.
- Our website at www.uucsp.org which has our events, links to purchase tickets to upcoming Santa Paula Concert Series concerts and fundraisers and information about our congregation.
- Information and welcome tables in the Parish Hall
- Calendar in the kitchen
- Still have questions? Call our church administrator Krystal Johnson at 805-525-4647 or email her at office@uucsp.org. Or call Rev. Maddie at 805-525-4620 or email her at minister@uucsp.org. In an emergency call her cell phone.

Is there another way we can get important information to you? Let us know and we will see what we can do!

The best way to know what is going on is to participate in our events in person or online. Enjoy these spring days and warmer weather! And keep asking those questions!

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus

Message from Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Community,

In place of a Board Retreat, this year we have decided to have an event to honor the tireless work of being on a church committee!

Please join your Board of Trustees on Saturday May 13th, from 9am-1pm, for **UUCSP COMMITTEE-PALOOZA**, where all committees can share what they are working on and new members can hear about the ongoing activities and ministries of the church to see where they might like to get involved! You are welcome if you already wear 19 hats or if you just found us and are committee-curious! We strongly encourage you to attend if you chair or lead any committees or funds.

There will be a continental breakfast and snack breaks. :)

Melissa James from our UU Region Congregational Life will be facilitating this session and we are so grateful for her time planning this event!



Please email [lonikate@gmail](mailto:lonikate@gmail.com) if you can attend. We are hoping for a head count.

Looking Forward,
Kate English (she/they)
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



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.

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA



*In person in the Parish Hall and on Zoom and FB
on Rev. Maddie's Wednesdays*

On Zoom and Facebook on Jim Cole's Wednesdays

Call church office for the Zoom address and password

Like the FB page: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

May 3 with Rev. Maddie in person

May 10 with Jim Cole online

May 17 with Rev. Maddie in person

May 24 with Jim Cole online

May 31 with Rev. Maddie in person

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or minister@uucsp.org

Free Will Offering.

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

TUESDAY, MAY 9 ~ 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, Geno Palilla, musicians

Poet Atul Ranchod ~ *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

People and Doings

News from Among Us May 2023

- We rejoice to welcome to official membership our longtime friends Kersti and Samantha Lewis and newer friend, Karen Fort. Welcome!! We will be recognizing our new members in 2023 on Flower Sunday, June 11. Let Rev. Maddie know if you want to join the new cohort of official members.
- Our thoughts are with the family of our beloved member Jan Shepherd who died on Easter morning after a long illness. A Memorial Service is planned in our Sanctuary on Friday, July 7, probably at 11 AM, officiated by Rev. Maddie who will be returning from her vacation to lead this service.
- We send healing thoughts to our friend Ellen Deeb who had unexpected surgery while visiting her daughter Serena in Orlando, Florida. She is now recovering at home and is grateful she can attend worship on Zoom. Cards may be sent to her at 463 Arbor Lane Court, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.
- We send love and light to our friend Vanessa Acosta who is recovering from planned shoulder surgery.
- Our congratulations go to our former member Judith Beay who was recently married.
- 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.

UUJustice Ministry CA build in Tijuana

This is a picture of the house that Rev. Betty helped to build (mostly painting) with other UUs and many Mexican partners in Tijuana last weekend. It was an incredible experience, and she hopes some of our members and friends will be able to join the next trip. The build was possible because of donations to the UU Justice Ministry of California and the organizational and construction skill of Cassas de Luz from the UU church in San Dieguito, CA. The family who will own and live in the house worked with the crew on the project and is pictured at the front of the group.



Rev. Maddie's Office Hours

Rev. Maddie would love to catch up with you, whether or not you have anything "big" to talk about it! She is usually available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Rev. Maddie's office is located in the "addition" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes, if something comes up. The best way to plan a time to meet with her is to call and leave a message on her private line at the church, 805-525-4620, call her on her cell phone, 508-733-8860 or email her at minister@uucsp.org. She is happy to meet you on Zoom, in her office, at your home or place of work, or at a local restaurant for a cup of tea or coffee (she will buy her own!). The minister's office is in the back of the church, near the rest rooms. If the front or back doors are locked, call her, and she will come let you in through the back gate off the alley.

People and Doings

“WON’T YOU BE OUR MEMBER?”

This year is the 100th anniversary of the first Flower Communion celebrated by Norbert Capek and we plan to mark it on Sunday, June 11 with special music, stories and more. If you have been thinking of becoming an official member of our beloved congregation, this would be a good time to talk with Rev. Maddie and sign the membership book as we hope to have our New Member Recognition that day as well.

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

MAY 2 MAY 17 MAY 30

WHAT IS SIP AND CHECK IN, YOU MIGHT ASK?

It is a chance to check in with a small group of members and friends. After a few minutes of casual chat as people arrive, Rev. Maddie will light a chalice with a reading and then invite people to take turns checking in about what’s going on for them. If there is still time left after the individual check-in’s, the group will chat about topics of shared interest to them all or the monthly theme, which is Creativity. We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wishes to talk or ask questions.



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, those just learning to read music (or wanting to) 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, May 4 at 4 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 PM	Rehearsal
A Song of Peace	Words, Lloyd Stone; Music Jean Sibelius from Finlandia Arr. Ira B. Wilson
Tuesday, May 23 at Noon	Vocal Workshop with Rev. Maddie
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 WORKSHOP ONCE A MONTH WITH REV. MADDIE!

NO WORKSHOPS IN JUNE AND JULY

WORK ON VOCAL SKILLS, READING MUSIC AND MORE

ALL INVITED ~ CHOIR AND FRIENDS

TUESDAY, MAY 23 FROM NOON TO 1:00 PM

People and Doings

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 Ken Stock, the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and new member Leslie Nichols. This is the group who considers and evaluates the shared ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of UUCSP 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, May 4 at 6:00 PM in person at Rev. Maddie's home.**

CRUISE NIGHT

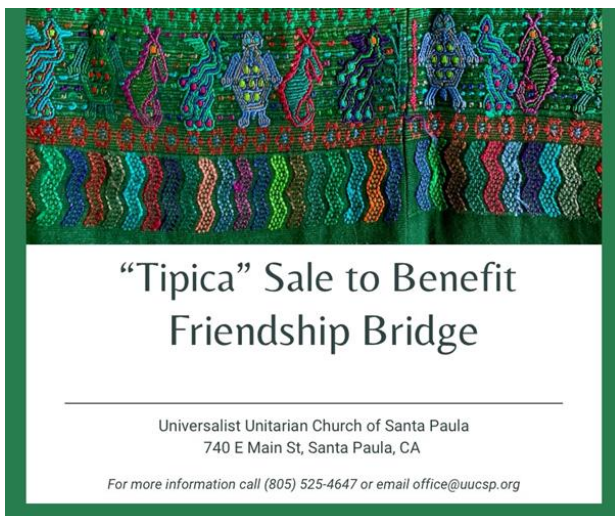
Friday, May 5

5:00 PM-Dusk

SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!

TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!

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



**"Tipica" Sale to Benefit
Friendship Bridge**

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA

For more information call (805) 525-4647 or email office@uucsp.org

FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

Straight from Guatemala: Colorful and beautiful new shipment of Friendship Bridge

(www.friendshipbridge.org) textiles and jewelry offered for sale at our May Cruise Night! Constanca will be happy to see you right in front of the Church from **4:30-7:30**. Come and feast your eyes on an array of handmade items from the artisan clients of the Handmade by Friendship Bridge program. Cash, credit

cards and checks are accepted! Hope to see you there! (Friendship Bridge offers small loans, monthly educational trainings and bi-monthly health care services to over 32,000 underserved Guatemalan women so that they can create their own pathways out of poverty!)

People and Doings

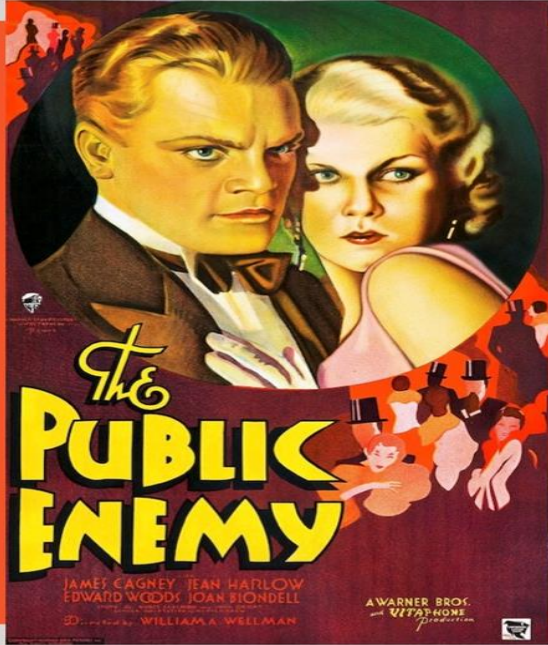
2023 2nd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

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 May and June!

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



If Warner Brothers was known for one type of film in the 1930s, it was the gangster picture — and for the studio's rising star, James Cagney. Based loosely on actual events, this 1931 film traces the story of an up-from-the-streets hoodlum who makes a name for himself among his fellow criminals and, of course, the law. Cagney had already made a name for himself in earlier crime pictures, notably *Little Caesar* the year before. But the bluntness of *Little Caesar* hardly prepared audiences for the depictions of criminality they'd witness in *The Public Enemy* — many of them taking place just off-screen, horror-picture style. The film costars Edward Woods, Joan Blondell and Jean Harlow. The latter's role was actually quite small, but was emphasized in marketing after she made her first star turn in *Hell's Angels* the year before. And it is memorable! But it's Cagney who steals scene after scene. Director William Wellman recognized what he had in Cagney and let his high-energy performance style run full bore, and it pays off. The film also includes an infamous scene with Cagney and Mae Clarke, who didn't receive screen credit for her legendary encounter with a citrus fruit! This was crime drama as it could only be made in the era before the Production Code. It and other films of the genre helped set the stage for Film Noir, but even more so the much later films of Scorsese and Tarantino.

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023
• Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula • 740 E. Main Street •
• 7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door •

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 17, 4:00 pm Social Concerns Action Committee meeting

After Earthday 2023 last month and learning in depth about climate change, we see the urgency of spreading the message. Our action will focus on organizing a writers' contest in prose and poetry to be held in the fall, inviting participation from all ages and cultures on the subject. The purpose being to give youth especially the opportunity to think creatively about the problem. After all, it is their future that's on the line.

We will schedule the contest in conjunction with COP 28, scheduled for November '23, preceding the global meeting a day or two before.

Talking and writing about the crisis is the beginning of working on it.

Come join us on zoom!

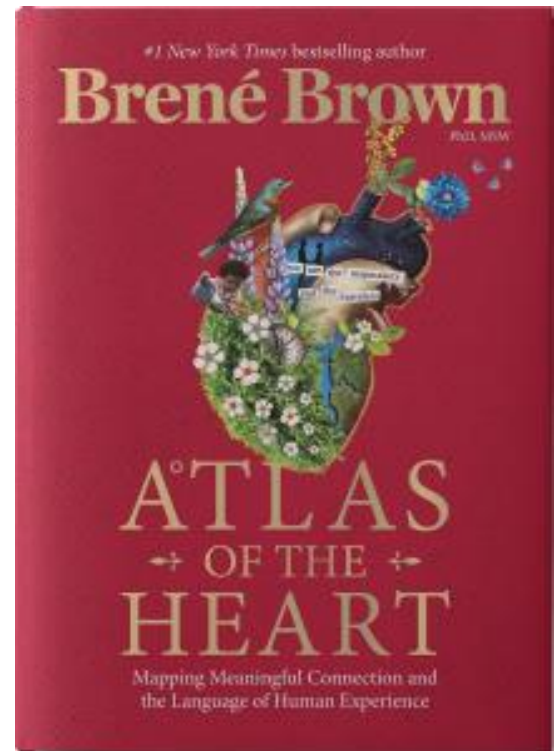
Audrey Vincent and Margaret Wilson, Co-chairs, Social Concerns Action

People and Doings

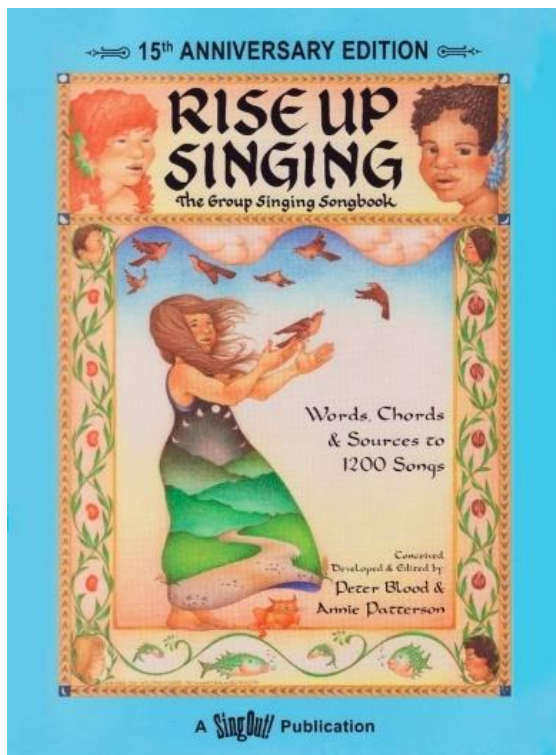
CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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, May 18 3-4:30 PM** in the Parish Hall to discuss the next two chapters: Places We Go When Things Aren't What They Seem and Places We Go When We're Hurting. This group is closed at ten participants and will meet once a month through October, taking off July.



RISE UP SINGING



Come sing a song with me! We will meet **Friday, May 19 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.

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES
PRESENTS

Honeysuckle Possums

DOWN HOME, GOOD TIMES MUSIC

SUNDAY, MAY 21

3:00 PM

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 E MAIN ST

Office 805-525-4647 office@uucsp.org

tickets: www.uucsp/sp-concert-series

\$20 for adults ~ \$10 children 12 and under
~ Under 5, free



The Honeysuckle Possums are a high energy, all-woman band playing old timey, original & bluegrass music. Their spirited harmonies blend together, driven by a flatfoot dancer, who seems to float as she makes it easy for the crowd to dance and clap along. The Possums' collective joy on stage is delightful and positively contagious!! Featuring 4 Possums: Susan Marie Reeves, guitar, strumstick, ukulele; Lisa Macker, bass, mandolin; Charletta Erb, fiddle, Ruth Alpert, flat-foot dancer.

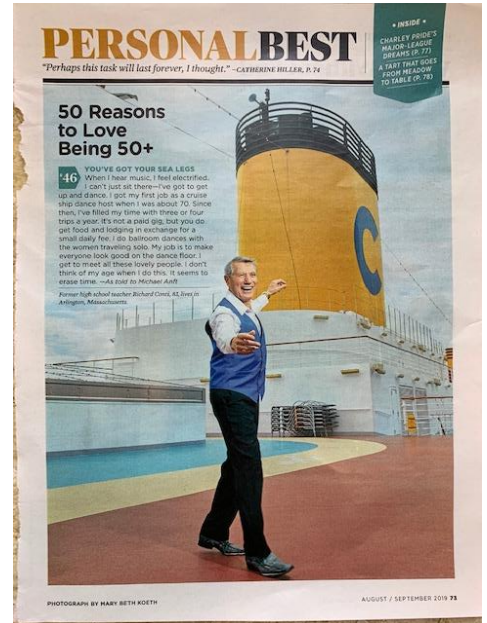
In person only. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted at the door. Ticket reservations \$20, \$10 for 12 and under, under 5, free. Follow link to make your reservation(s) on PayPal; your name will be on a list at the door on the day of the concert. You can also call the office at 805-525-4647 to make a reservation and pay at the door.

People and Doings

Mary Livermore Society Meeting Thursday, May 25, 2023 Program Featuring Richard Conti

The May 25th program of the Mary A's will feature Rev. Maddie's long time music collaborator, Richard Conti. Richard will long be remembered as a beloved teacher and mentor to students as the head of music for the Wayland, Massachusetts schools where he met Maddie when she was in the 6th grade. They often did intergenerational events together in the 20 years that she led the Golden Tones elder chorus. In his retirement, Richard has been a dance host on cruise ships around the world and was featured in the AARP magazine. He has played the accordion since childhood and continues to perform with Rev. Maddie as their schedules allow in a duo named "Song and Dance".

Come and join us in the Parish Hall at **11:30** and bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert will be waiting for you!



FUNDRAISER



**THAT' S AMORE !
;ESO ES AMOR!
QUESTO è AMORE !**

**A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE
UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SANTA PAULA**

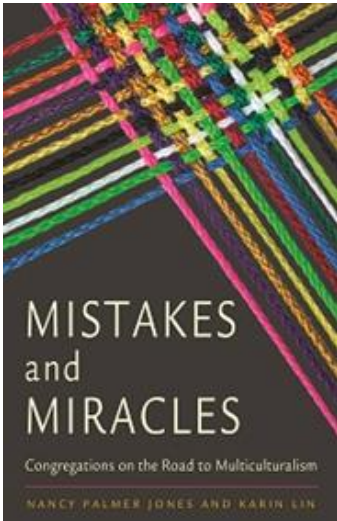
**WITH RICHARD CONTI AND MADDIE SIFANTUS
ITALIAN AND FRENCH CAFÉ MUSIC
SPAGHETTI DINNER**

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023 AT 5:00 PM

<https://uucsp.org/events/1859/dinner-and-music-fundraiser-with-richard-conti-and-maddie-sifantus/>

People and Doings

ALL CHURCH READ: MISTAKES AND MIRACLES



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SESSION

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 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 **Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism** 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 was held on April 30, facilitated by Rev. Betty, with the title of *Let's Talk About Power*. The third discussion, *History and Hope*, facilitated by Rev. Maddie will be at noon on Sunday, June 4, one week later than originally planned due to Memorial Day weekend. Another session, *Strategy and What's Next*, will 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 **Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism** (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found. The book is available from the UUA Bookstore at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx>

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY: FAITHFULLY BECOMING

Join UUA attendees **June 21–25** online or in person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. General Assembly 2023 will be a multi-platform event with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events.

We are at a threshold moment for our faith and will choose the next path in our journey, consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose), and elect a new president to lead our association as the term of the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray ends. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming Beloved Community.

Registration is open. Register before **May 15** before the rate goes up. Volunteer opportunities and financial support are available at www.uua.org/ga/registration. UUCSP is allowed two voting delegates in addition to Rev. Maddie and Rev. Betty. This year congregation president Kate English will be attending in person and Margaret Wilson, co-chair of our Social Concerns Action Committee, will be attending virtually as our delegates. All are encouraged to be part of the excitement of growing our faith.

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,

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

Dated Material
Time Value

Universalist Unitarian Church
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