



# 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: Justice and Equity

*Poverty is the worst form of violence.*

Mahatma Gandhi

#### Sunday, February 4

##### **From the Far-Flung Universe to the Lowly Ground Hog**

**Rev. Dr. Audrey Vincent, MaryBeth East**

We'll begin with the story of the tiny blue dot, Carl Sagan's great contribution to human self-understanding and move our world of nature, community, and interdependence.

*First Sunday Plate, Poder Popular*

#### Sunday, February 11

##### **Side With Love: the Sequel**

**Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Ellen Deeb**

Rev. Maddie continues with the themes of the UUA's 30 Days of Love campaign she began speaking of in January.

#### Tuesday, February 13 at 7 PM **Twilight Gathering Maddie, Barry Cooper**

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word. The music will be provided by Barry Cooper. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

#### Sunday, February 18

##### **They Sang: "Love the One You're With"**

**Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Ken Stock**

According to Rev. Lena Breen, "Human sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful, and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community." Let's take a look of what is a good and healthy part of the lifelong human experience from womb to tomb.

*Choir Beloved Let Us Love One Another*

*Arthur Foote, Jason Shelton*

*Taboo for All Ages*

*A Snow Day by Ezra Jack Keats*

#### Sunday, February 25

##### **Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice**

**Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Karen Harris**

Third in Rev. Maddie's series on Spiritual Practices. What activities flow from our UU faith that form the basis of our values, reflection and analysis and our prayers.

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

Poet Amanda Gorman wrote: "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to *be it*." In these dark days of winter, we are starting to notice the light increasing little by little if we pause to notice. Perhaps we can be brave enough to reach out for more light as the months go by and be the light by letting all of our lights shine in our congregation and beyond our walls.

As we go through our last six months together, it may be time to share this list again that is adapted from an essay by the Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott. When is a good time to call your minister? I am not too busy to talk to you.

Here is a lengthy, but I am sure not complete, list of which it is good to be reminded:

- When you haven't met me yet but would like to.
- When you have problems you'd like to discuss, concerning your children, your job, your marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might be of help.
- When you're going in the hospital or know someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.
- When you're planning to be married or wish you could be.
- When you have a child to be dedicated.
- When you're pregnant but wish you weren't.
- When you, or a friend or neighbor would like more information about the Unitarian Universalist faith.
- When you're considering joining the congregation.
- When you'd like to show me what a good cook you are!
- When you have suggestions to make about programs for the Fellowship.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon.
- When you'd like help with committee work or with other congregational activities.
- When there are community issues you'd like to discuss or would like me to be involved with.
- When you're mad at me.
- When you appreciate something I've said or done.
- When you'd like to talk religion with me.
- When you'd like to talk parenting with me - as a parent, or as a child.
- When you've had good news and want to share it.
- When you've had bad news.
- When you're feeling overwhelmed.
- When you want to tell me your history with the congregation.
- When you've heard a great joke and want to share it.

I especially like the joke one. But whatever is on your mind, I am open.

*On the path of our faith,*                      *Reverend Maddie*

# Message from Board of Trustees

Transitions are a time for reflection, and a time for looking forward.

- Roy Cooper, Governor (D), North Carolina

The Ministerial Transition Team (Ann Hewitt, MaryBeth East, Ken Stock, Leslie Nichols, and Judy Triem) met with members of the congregation on January 14th immediately following the church service. Approximately 15 of us discussed the nature of a contract minister. As noted in the December newsletter, we have been advised by the UUA that we should seek a minister with whom we will contract for one to two years. The participants in the January 14<sup>th</sup> gathering discussed what we want in a contract ministerial candidate, and what qualities are most important in a minister. We also discussed what ministerial functions are most important to us. A paper handout related to their importance was given to those in the sanctuary, and emailed to those members who did not attend. Results will be shared at the next Ministerial Transition gathering to be held on February 18, immediately following the service. This time we invite all members and all friends of the Church.

Ministerial Transition is a time-bound process. Many changes are coming between now and when our contract minister “settles in” (likely September or October). During the upcoming time period when Reverend Maddie is preparing to leave our congregation, the Board is working to ensure that her transition is as smooth as possible. Now we are all faced with a question. During the time period when we do not have a contract minister, what roles can and should we all play so that our church continues to serve the needs of our congregants, friends and community? This includes our committees and all of us as individuals. Join us on February 18 as we collectively brainstorm this question!

Please contact the Ministerial Transition Team if you have any questions or comments.

# 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

*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 7 with Jim Cole**

**February 14 with Rev. Maddie**

**February 21 with Jim Cole**

**February 28 with Rev. Maddie**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM**



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

*For Zoom info, email [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org) ~Free Will Offering*



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

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

Special Guest Musician, Barry Cooper

[illegible]

See Friday email blast or [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org) for more information.



# People and Doings

## NEWS FROM AMONG US FEBRUARY 2024



- We were thrilled to host the MLK Jazz Requiem and Tribute on January 14 sponsored by the Santa Paula Ministerial Association with the Studio C Septet doing the music and the SPMA members doing the readings. The concert was dedicated to the memories of Pastor Lupita Alonso Redondo and musician Larry Cossid, both with family members in attendance.
- We are sad that our long-time church cleaner Albie Alamillo has given her notice effective immediately. She needs to stay home to take care of her husband who has serious health issues. We think she has been working for us since 1992. For issues with the building be in touch with the office.
- Best wishes to Karen Fort for her continuing recovery from knee surgery.
- Please be aware that COVID is still around and take appropriate measures for your health. If you are sick, with COVID or something else, please quarantine yourself until you are no longer contagious.
- 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

Have a concern or just want to chat? Rev. Maddie's office hours are Tuesdays through Fridays. Her day off is Monday and will respond to Monday emails, phone calls or texts on Tuesday unless it is an emergency. Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. She would love to meet with you on office hour days to hear how you are doing, your ideas for our congregation and whatever is on your mind, especially at this time. 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).

# People and Doings

## ALL ABOUT PLASTICS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 10:30 – 12:30 at UUChurch of SP

Social Concerns Action Committee partners with Poder Popular sponsoring this event whose goal is to engage local, Spanish speaking families in education and discussion about the full lifecycle of plastics, from source to sink, highlighting both the environmental justice impacts, and ideas around solutions.

We will begin in the sanctuary with a presentation and film providing an overview then move to the parish hall to gather information from participants about which messages resonate the most with our local community, so that we can then display this messaging in our Blanchard Library. Poder Popular has a small grant in collaboration with the library to provide workshops and displays in the library that speak to both plastic pollution/solutions, and the importance of healthy soil/healthy food.

Social Concerns Action Committee is delighted to sponsor this event and provide tech support, snacks and tea to help make this worthy event happen at our church during Ground Hog Day Weekend.

## 2024 1st QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

February 4 & March 3

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.

### The Groundhog Society



Join the Society by making Estate Plan bequests to the MNL Capital Fund of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

#### The Marjorie Newlin Leaming Capital Fund

An investment fund founded in 1975 with a contribution from the Estate of Marjorie Newlin Leaming. The Capital Fund accepts donations all year long and distributes funds to the church quarterly.

#### Annual Celebration of Groundhog Day! Sunday, February 4th

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jyl & Allan Atmore         | Laura Phillips           |
| Margaret Hamida Broughton* | Jerry Gray & John Robles |
| The Calhoun Family         | Jan Shepherd*            |
| Mary Beth East             | Rev. Maddie Sifantus     |
| Pat English*               | Suzi Skutley*            |
| Lois Freeman-Fox           | Judy Triem               |
| Donna Hamer                | Audrey Vincent           |
| John & Leslie Nichols      |                          |



\*in memoriam

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 STONE SOUP SUNDAY

We're beginning a new tradition this first Sunday in February (and most first Sundays after) by inviting our attendees to bring something to share that day. We know not everyone has the time to accomplish a whole coffee hour on their own, so the first Sunday is the day you can bring your favorite cookies, that casserole you have in the freezer, a salad from the greens you didn't have time to eat, that leftover bag of chips-whatever! Just one thing to share! Bring it plated (or plate when you get here) and then, take it away with you. We celebrate together with what we have. Not everyone, every Sunday, and not anyone who likes to do the shebang, but sometimes. And, also, pitching in with the cleanup at the end is appreciated any Sunday.



# People and Doings

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE

The Caring Committee's new Book Discussion group has gotten off to a great start with 8 people in attendance, including two men and two community members.

After the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the discussion will be closed to new members. The book is The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk. This #1 New York Times Bestseller is billed as essential reading for anyone interested in understanding and treating traumatic stress and the scope of its impact on society and individuals. This book is widely available from your favorite booksellers. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, Caring Committee Chair, with any questions.



### SCHEDULE

*Second Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM*

January 11 Part One: The Rediscovery of Trauma

February 8 Part One, Chapters 2 and 3; Part Two:  
This is Your Brain on Trauma

March 14 Part Three: The Minds of Children

April 11 Part Four: The Imprint of Trauma

May 9 Part Five: Paths to Recovery

June 13 Wrap Up

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



Two legendary filmmakers, Preston Sturges and Billy Wilder, had something in common. Both started out as screenwriters, and both had Paramount director Mitchell Leisen to thank for their filmmaking careers — but it wasn't because Leisen meant to do them any favors. Far from it. In fact both of them so detested how Leisen handled their screenplays they lobbied the studio to direct their own work. Wilder broke out in 1942 after cajoling the studio into allowing him to direct his first ("The Major and the Minor") — assuming he'd fail and get the directing bug out of his system. Two years earlier, Sturges was so set on making his own films he agreed to a \$10 salary for his first directing effort, "The Great McGinty."

When we first meet Dan McGinty (an underrated Brian Donlevy) he's tending bar in a flyspeck joint in an unnamed country south of the border. Serving drinks to customers even more down-and-out than himself, he tells a story in flashback about his rise from soup kitchen bum to governor under the wing of a crooked political boss (Akim Tamiroff). All goes to plan until McGinty makes a huge mistake — he turns honest! The political and social satire may play a little tame by current standards, and the pace is practically sedate compared to the Sturges screwball comedies to follow, but the dialog still has all of his trademark crack and wit (Academy Award winner for Best Original Screenplay). Also starring the seldom-seen Muriel Angelus as Mrs. McGinty, and William Demarest, among several other future members of the Sturges stock company. (1:23)

### SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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



# People and Doings



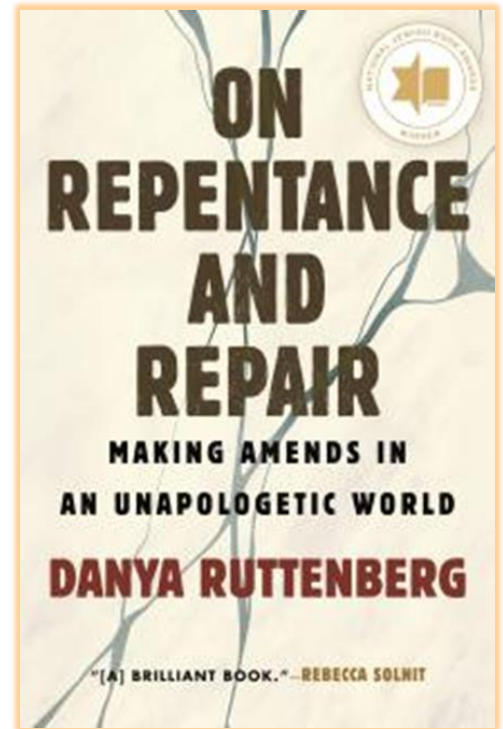
Saturday, Feb. 10 5:30 pm UUCSP Parish Hall 2nd Dinner for 16 hosted by Leslie, Mary Beth, Margaret, and Ruth to benefit our church. ALL AFLUTTER-a sumptuous meal with salad, meat or vegan entree, and dessert. A John Nichols created Signature Cocktail for the season! Come celebrate a festive Valentine's♥Day with us. \$75.00 per person Seating Limited. Contact Mary Beth East for your reservation: [mb526e@gmail.com](mailto:mb526e@gmail.com) or 805.341.8809.

## ALL CHURCH READ

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy. The Common Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association for the year is [\*On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World\*](#) by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides. *On Repentance and Repair* invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

**We will begin our discussions after church and coffee hour on Sunday, February 11 Rev. Maddie's office by considering the Author's Note and the Introduction, pages ix-x, and 1-19.**

It is available from the UUA Bookstore at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/On-Repentance-and-Repair-P19765.aspx>



## SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

### 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, we light a chalice with a reading and then invite people to take turns checking in about what's going on for them, answering the question, "How is it with your spirit today?" 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 in November is Generosity. We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wishes to talk or ask questions.



# People and Doings

## MUSIC NOTES

Note that choir rehearsals are now at 5 PM on Thursdays and last an hour. In addition, the schedule has changed slightly with different dates in May. I would love to have you join us for my last six months in Santa Paula! There are many benefits of singing in a choir, from physical, to keeping mental acuity, socialization, and the joy of making music with other people and for our congregation. 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](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4620.

|  |         |                                      |               |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| February 15  | 5:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal                      |               |
| February 18  | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service |               |
| <i>Beloved, Let Us Love One Another Arthur Foote, Jason Shelton</i>        |         |                                      |               |
| March 28   | 5:00 PM | Rehearsal                            |               |
| March 31   | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service | EASTER        |
| <i>Halle Halle Halle</i>   |         | <i>Hal Hopson, arr.</i>              |               |
| April 11   | 5:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal                      |               |
| April 14   | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service |               |
| <i>Over the Rainbow</i>  |         |                                      |               |
| <i>Words, E. Y. Harburg, Music, Harold Arlen</i>                           |         |                                      |               |
| May 16   | 5:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal                      |               |
| May 19   | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service |               |
| <i>Still, Still With Thee Fred Gramann</i>                                 |         |                                      |               |
| <i>The Gift of Love, Hal Hopson</i>  |         |                                      |               |
| <i>When We Are Singing, Kevin T. Padworski, Mexican hymn</i>               |         |                                      |               |
| June 6   | 5:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal                      |               |
| June 9   | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service | FLOWER SUNDAY |
| <i>Let There Be Music, Gordon Young or We are the Music, Carl Strommen</i> |         |                                      |               |
| <i>Life Calls Us On Jason Shelton</i>                                      |         |                                      |               |

## **VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JUNE 20 - 23, 2024**



### UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024—ALL VIRTUAL

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us online Wednesday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024, for this 4-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our virtual exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who participate. You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large! In addition to Rev. Maddie and Rev. Betty, UUCSP is allowed 2 voting delegates who will be appointed by the Board. Anyone is allowed to attend. This year is all virtual. For more information and costs go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

#### Registration

Registration is available at [UUA.org/GA](https://www.uua.org/ga). Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 15.

There are those who may find it more manageable to spread out their GA registration fee in smaller, periodic installments rather than one lump sum. When you register, you may now choose to pay with a payment plan option to spread out your payments over several months. Registration can be paid in installments, with as little as \$50 down.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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



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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

## HOW TO CONNECT WITH UUCSP

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

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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