

# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### THEME: Invitation

*"I used to walk about the world pretending to be so tall. I would lift my chin higher, hopeful that in some small way I was actualizing my desired grandiosity. But I was not grand. I was not good or pure. I was only human. Now, I walk about the world aware of the grandiosity that surrounds me. And instead of feeling overwhelmed or small, I feel invited. Invited to explore a life that offers experiences much greater than any I have had thus far. -Marquita Burke De Jesus"*

### September 1 **Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda** by Rev. Dana Worsnop Ruth Ricards

Humans can be hard on ourselves, giving no quarter for not knowing something the first time, allowing no room for the grace of learning. We are hard on ourselves and each other. Rev. Dana shares a practice of grace, possibly even for the 'hot button' issues of our day.

*First Sunday Plate to Bike Ventura whose mission is to grow a safe, healthy community through equitable bike education, empowerment and advocacy.*

### September 8 **Water, Water, Everywhere** Rev. Betty and Ellen Deeb

We are surrounded and comprised of water. And on this Ingathering Sunday, we will be celebrating our connection to water and each other. Please bring a small amount of water from a special place, in a sealed container, to embody and share its importance for us in words, music, and community.

### September 15 **The Four Agreements: Live your best life!** Constancia Leshin and MaryBeth East

The wise words of healer Don Miguel Ruiz inspire us to examine ingrained habits of thought and behavior that may limit our potential. Based on traditional Toltec wisdom, beliefs can be changed and transformed into lives "filled with grace, peace and unconditional love". In his book, *The Four Agreements*, we learn about four simple and important steps that each of us can take today!

### September 22 **Never Too Late** Dr. John Horton and Sushila Wood – Ken Stock

The sermon will be based on the recently released book, *Good to Go*, authored by two locals!! *Good to Go* is a passionate and personal appeal for how we can approach our last breath with wisdom and without fear, pain, or regret. The book will be available to purchase for \$15, cash only, following the service in the Parish Hall.

### September 29 **Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?** Thomas Weisbecker and Betty Stapleford

Thomas will speak about the profound power of never giving up. He will share some real anecdotes of normal people who inspired others simply by facing their struggles with dignity and courage: The greatest possible achievement in life is to never give up, no matter what it is that you face.

*BIO - I have pulpit experience as the Minister for Congregational Life at the United Church of Christ Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas. Before that, I was a Youth Minister for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and Resident Minister at Loyola Marymount University. I graduated from LMU in 2010 with a Master's in Theology, and Sofia University in 2015 with a Master's in Transpersonal Psychology. My post-graduate studies was in mystical experience.*

*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 Board of Trustees

## *Members and Friends*

*We continue to explore our “post minister” time, hoping and expecting that this is merely a temporary state of being. Dare we call it an interregnum? Probably not a choice word for the UUCSP, where nobody rules! Meanwhile we are discovering all the bits and pieces of running the church, large and small, that we’d tended to take for granted because they were magically handled by Rev. Maddie. No more magic, just some hard work!*

*Bottom line, our committees are more important than ever to the smooth functioning of the church. This means we are relying on our members to carry more of the load. The Worship Committee is taking on a lot of the heavy lifting these days especially, filling out our Sunday services with interesting and engaging speakers. The calendar is full through January. We can’t thank Ruth and the committee enough for their efforts, but we can certainly try!*

*The Worship Committee reported to the board in August on the need to create a fee schedule for paying honoraria to both lay and ordained guest Sunday speakers. This was just another detail previously handled invisibly by the minister. The board discussed a schedule and adopted it.*

*The combined Building and Grounds Committee and Preservation committees are tackling a few projects around the church. The broken stained glass windowpane near the piano will finally be replaced by Judson Studios during the second week of September. Plans are being made to create a much more attractive and permanent tech table for the sanctuary. The committee reports that the bar sink in the kitchen backs up because of a plumbing issue. We’re not sure if it can be made to drain properly. So for now the sink is covered and should not be used.*

*With communication more important now than ever, the board hopes to receive at least one committee report every month. What is your committee doing? Please let us know!*

# Spiritual Growth Center

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

In 2015 we gathered some of activities we already did and those we hoped to do under the umbrella of the Spiritual Growth Center at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula. It provides opportunities and programs to awaken and sustain love, compassion, service and personal transformation. Our goal is to help individuals discover how spiritual practices, learning, and community service can transform their lives and move the world toward peace and justice. The activities of the center are yoga on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Meditation on Wednesday nights at 6 PM and Twilight Gathering on the second Tuesday of the month, now coordinated by Kate English. Over the years we have had Singing Meditation, T'ai Chi, Sound Baths and more. There is room for book discussions, craft events and the sky's the limit. All it takes is the ideas and someone to organize them. For questions be in touch with the office.

---



### 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  
Call church office for the Zoom address and password.  
Like the FB page: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula*

**September 4 with Jim Cole**

**September 11 with Thomas Weisbecker**

**September 18 with Jim Cole**

**September 25 with Thomas Weisbecker**

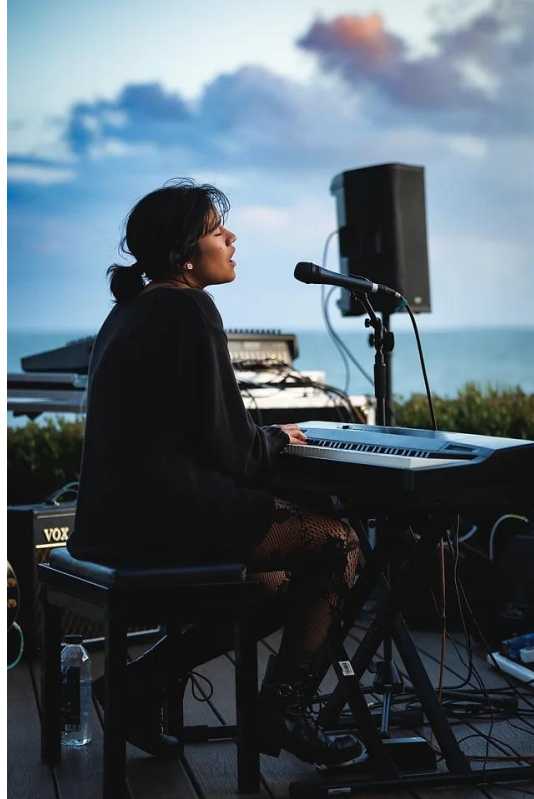
*EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM*

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



# TWILIGHT GATHERING\*

Please join us for September Gathering with the lovely musical prodigy  
Gaby Montiel!



**\*DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

**Tuesday, September 10**

**7:00 PM**

Listed in Music Connection's 2022 Top 100 Unsigned Artists of the Year, Gaby Montiel has been nationally recognized as a soulful singer songwriter. As a recording artist, Gaby performs throughout southern California and has been requested to write and record songs for social advocacy organizations like AwarenessTies and Fear of Return. Gaby is the founder of Conejo Valley's monthly Youth Mic Night.

<https://www.gabymontielmusic.com/>

Kate English will be hosting and sharing poetry alongside this talented young musician. You do not want to miss this one!

Free Will Offering (\$5-20)

# People and Doings

## 2024 3rd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING September 1



Our mission at BikeVenturaCounty is to grow a safe, healthy community through equitable bicycle education, empowerment, and advocacy.

Our third quarter plate offering will go to **Bike Ventura County**. We became involved with Bike Ventura when they offered to give us at least 12 refurbished bikes for deserving children in Santa Paula. However, to follow through with this project we must give each child a helmet. Since helmets are expensive, we have made this group our Third Quarter First Sunday Offering. This organization advocates for bike paths throughout the county, leads free bike maintenance and safety workshops, and has a rigorous social justice policy. They regularly donate bikes that they have refurbished. They have family social outings on their bikes. Any excess funds raised will go to Bike Ventura for general operations.

### NEWS FROM AMONG US

- If you have any News from Among Us you would like to share with our community, please let Krystal know by the newsletter deadline which is the 15th of every month.

### THE WORSHIP TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are looking for a few members or friends of the church to be willing to share a 5-minute story about gratitude. What does gratitude mean to you? Who/what are you grateful for? Did something come your way that made you angry, but later turned into a blessing in disguise?

Please consider sharing your story of gratitude with the rest of us on **Sunday, November 24 “Counting Our Blessings”**

. The worship team will be *mighty grateful!*



# People and Doings

## SIP AND CHECK IN WITH SHARON KUFELDT TUESDAY, September 10 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

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. We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wishes to talk or ask questions.

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

Password: uucsp93060



## CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee will meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday September 12, at 4pm.

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) is a Frenchman who made it big in Hollywood at a time when dialog appeared only on the inter-title cards. But when sound recording came along in the late 1920s, he soon found himself among the casualties – an actor with a perfect leading man's face, but lacking the voice to match. He is forsaken, sustained only by his devoted dog – and soon by Peppy Miller (by name and by nature, Bérénice Bejo), a rising dancing star.

*The Artist* could have played as a series of Golden Age film tropes, and fans of the period would have smiled in recognition of the in-jokes that others less in the know might miss. But the miracle of this film is it being so much more than a pastiche of the era before spoken word took over the movies. Sure, the plot is drawn from any number of warhorses, including the many versions of *A Star is Born*, or later films based on the silent-to-sound era – most obviously *Singin' in the Rain*. This film has everything, and nothing, to do with these progenitors.

*The Artist* far exceeds being simply an homage to the silent movie era by being witty, inventive, sentimental, and simply a nonstop pleasure to watch from start to finish. The fact that it is shot in a deliberately bygone style, in glorious black and white with (practically) no voice dialog against a wall-to-wall musical score is besides the point. The result is perhaps the single-most beautiful and entertaining film of the last twenty years, one that is only incidentally a movie about the movies. *The Artist* is guaranteed to satisfy in ways the greatest films of the Golden Age were designed like precision instruments to satisfy. Anyone who says "they don't make movies like *that* anymore" hasn't seen *The Artist*. Showered with more deserved awards than can be listed, including Best Picture and Best Director in 2012.

**SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY**  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2024  
Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula • 740 E. Main Street •  
7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door

# People and Doings



Please join us for a New Member Luncheon and orientation on September 15, immediately following coffee hour. Lunch will be provided.

This session is intended for New Members who have joined the church in the past year or so, as well as those who may have been attending for a while but would like to know more about our church community and what it means to be a "UU". Even if you are in our church community with no intention to formally join, we encourage you to participate and learn about the church's offerings, ministries and opportunities to serve the community. All are welcome.

Please RSVP to Krystal, 805-525-4647 [uucspoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uucspoffice@gmail.com), no later than Sunday September 8th or sign up on the form in the parish hall and let us know if you have any food restrictions or preferences.

For additional questions, please reach out to Ruth Ricards, [rgricards@gmail.com](mailto:rgricards@gmail.com), or Kate English [lonikate@gmail.com](mailto:lonikate@gmail.com).

# People and Doings

## THE SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

meets by Zoom at 3:00 pm, Wednesday, September 18. Everyone invited.

## MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary Livermore Society will meet in person in the Parish Hall on Thursday, September 26th at 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited! Mark your calendars!!! Please bring a sack lunch, your own good energy and prepare to be entertained! See you then!

## Channel and Neighbors Retreat at Camp deBenneville Pines



*Friday, September 27 –  
Sunday, September 29, 2024*  
<https://bit.ly/ChaliceRetreatRegistration>

Several UU congregations in the greater Ventura County area are retreating together at the UU Pacific Southwest Service Area's beautiful camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. ([www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)). This is your opportunity to relax, hike, meditate, play games, enjoy nature and participate in other activities that may be organized by fellow campers, all in

the company of members of neighboring congregations.

In addition to campers, we are looking for volunteers to conduct workshops, children activities and other programs that would interest our fellow campers.

Registration includes meals: Friday Dinner - Sunday GrabNGo Lunch. For an extra fee campers are welcome to come up on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, however no meals will be served until Friday evening.

Fees start at \$200 per adult, \$125 for youth, \$75 for children 3+ yrs. Scholarships available!

For more information: <https://bit.ly/ChaliceRetreatEvent>

For registration: <https://bit.ly/ChaliceRetreatRegistration> contact one of the following people:

David Barker (dean), [davidabarker@gmail.com](mailto:davidabarker@gmail.com), 805-415-4919

Annie Barker (registrar), [anniezbarker@gmail.com](mailto:anniezbarker@gmail.com), 805-415-4918



# People and Doings

| DAY       | DATE   | TIME      | EVENT/MEETING                    | Zoom/In-person |
|-----------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Sunday    | 1-Sep  | 10:30am   | Worship                          | both           |
| Tuesday   | 3-Sep  | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Wednesday | 4-Sep  | 6:00pm    | Meditation                       | both           |
| Thursday  | 5-Sep  | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Friday    | 6-Sep  | 7am - 1pm | Church Cleaning                  |                |
| Sunday    | 8-Sep  | 10:30am   | Worship                          | both           |
| Monday    | 9-Sep  | 6:30pm    | COCL                             |                |
| Tuesday   | 10-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Tuesday   | 10-Sep | 4:00pm    | Sip & Check In                   | zoom           |
| Tuesday   | 10-Sep | 7:00pm    | Gathering                        | both           |
| Wednesday | 11-Sep | 6:00pm    | Meditation                       | both           |
| Thursday  | 12-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Thursday  | 12-Sep | 4:00pm    | Caring Committee                 | In-person      |
| Friday    | 13-Sep | 7:00pm    | Santa Paula Cinema Society       | In-person      |
| Saturday  | 14-Sep | 1:00pm    | Finance Committee                | zoom           |
| Sunday    | 15-Sep | all day   | Newsletter Deadline              |                |
| Sunday    | 15-Sep | 10:30am   | Worship                          | both           |
| Sunday    | 15-Sep | 12:00pm   | New Member Orientation           | In-person      |
| Tuesday   | 17-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Wednesday | 18-Sep | 3:00pm    | Social Concerns Action Committee | zoom           |
| Wednesday | 18-Sep | 6:00pm    | Meditation                       | both           |
| Thursday  | 19-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Thursday  | 19-Sep | 6:30pm    | Board of Trustees                | Zoom           |
| Friday    | 20-Sep | 7am - 1pm | Church Cleaning                  |                |
| Sunday    | 22-Sep | 10:30am   | Worship                          | both           |
| Tuesday   | 24-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Wednesday | 25-Sep | 6:00pm    | Meditation                       | both           |
| Thursday  | 26-Sep | 9:30am    | Yoga                             | In-person      |
| Thursday  | 26-Sep | 11:30am   | Mary A's                         | In-person      |
| Thursday  | 26-Sep | 7:00pm    | Worship Team                     |                |
| Friday    | 27-Sep | 7am - 1pm | Church Cleaning                  |                |
| Sunday    | 29-Sep | 10:30am   | Worship                          | both           |

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
Office: 805-525-4647



[office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org)

[www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

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

---

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister Emerita  
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister  
Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator  
Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Board of Trustees:

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

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