



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

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JULY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

July 6 *Lady Liberty: Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor* Ellen Deeb and Marybeth East

On this Independence Day, we turn our gaze to the Statue of Liberty—a symbol not just of national freedom, but of universal hope. She stands with a torch raised high, welcoming the stranger, the seeker, the exiled and the oppressed. As Unitarian Universalists, we hear in her silent stance a call to live out our values: to uphold the dignity of every person, to defend the freedoms of conscience and belief, and to build a nation where liberty is not just a monument, but a lived reality for all. May this day remind us that true independence is never isolation, but a shared commitment to justice, compassion, and the dream of a better world.

1st Sunday Offering: 805UndocuFund

Stone Soup Sunday coffee hour

July 13 *The Promise of Interfaith Dialogue* Timothy P. Helton, Ph.D. and Ruth Ricards

Dr. Tim Helton holds a Ph.D. and M.S. from Drew University, where he specialized in the Anthropology of Religion, and an M.A. in Theological Studies from Claremont School of Theology. He has conducted fieldwork among Jains in both the United States and India, with his dissertation focusing on Jain and Christian attitudes toward consumerism. A member of St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Dr. Helton is also the publicity director and a founding member of the Ventura County Interfaith Community. He serves on the boards of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice – Ventura County, the Oxnard Homeless Prevention Program, and is board president for United Parents. Join us Dr. Helton explores the practice of interfaith dialogue—its promise for both personal development and societal well-being, highlighting how the love of neighbor calls us to understand and value our neighbor's spiritual path and offer practical guidelines for meaningful interfaith engagement.

July 20 *Church is What We Do Next* Ellen Deeb and Ken Stock

With the first pope from the United States now leading the Roman Catholic Church, and our new minister arriving in September, change is all around us! Inspired by a line of the fictional future pope in the movie *Conclave*, “Church is what we do next” challenges us to shape the future of our UU community in Santa Paula—together. Church is more than a building. It's more than rituals. More than tradition and history. Church is what we do next!

July 27 *The Science of Self-Realization: Ancient Vedic Insights for a Troubled World*

Brajarani Dasi and Ruth Ricards

Brajarani Dasi will speak on *Sanatan Dharma*—the eternal spiritual truths rooted in the ageless Vedic wisdom of India. Her talk will explore the foundational practices of Yoga, Meditation, Vegetarianism, Reincarnation, and Mantra, and how these tools guide us through the challenges of the material world toward self-realization and pure spiritual love. Brajarani has been dedicated to the Vedic path since childhood, spending 30 years at Bhaktivedanta Manor in London (donated by George Harrison), where she shared these teachings with thousands of visitors. She also has over a decade of experience as a spiritually based counselor, supporting individuals and leading workshops worldwide.

The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

Message from Board of Trustees

Every so often, someone enters into our lives who seemingly changes everything. For all of us at the UUCSP, one such person was Thomas Weisbecker. The changes these singular forces create for us are sometimes hard to fully appreciate — until that person disappears from our lives, as Thomas did so abruptly and tragically this past weekend.

Thomas was the embodiment of kindness in every possible way. All knew his soft voice and forever welcoming smile, and felt that little touch on the shoulder from behind that told you he was happy to see you. But you could almost not turn quickly enough to return the gesture before he was off to welcome someone else. Everyone needed that touch. That was Thomas.

For someone who struggled with health issues his entire life, he never made this the subject of any discussion, unless you asked. Even then, he refused to dwell on it. Thomas so naturally made every conversation about you, not him, that it was easy to overlook the pastoral presence he exuded. Rev. Maddie spotted this in him when he and Vibay joined the church last year and encouraged him to pursue it.

We were rewarded by his sermons. They were intellectually deep, and deeply personal. They were informative and stimulated our spiritual imaginations. He had so much to say, and so much more he could have said. No question he would have made a wonderful UU minister, had he been given the opportunity.

The very last time I saw Thomas was at our board meeting last week. He was clearly in great discomfort, the result of a fall from a garden ladder, he thought. But no matter his physical distress, he had set up our board meeting table, before anyone else arrived, with copies of the agenda and pens set neatly in front of each chair, as always. He didn't have to do this; he just wanted to do it. That was also Thomas.

During the meeting, a small bird flew into the Parish Hall through the door opened to the evening breeze. The bird flapped around the room in helpless panic. Despite the pain he was in, Thomas leaped from his chair before anyone else could react and quickly found the bird and shooed it back out the door. This was Thomas, especially. Kindness to all before anything else. This tiny incident will occupy a permanent place in my memory, one small part of his lasting legacy.

More can be said, and I am certain it will be said in the days and weeks ahead as we process this loss. I hope you will find words to express your feelings. But for the time being at least, I am reminded of the wisdom of Dr. Seuss, who advised us, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

We can only hope to try.

Mitch

Spiritual Growth Center

Discover a deeper sense of connection, purpose, and transformation at our Spiritual Growth Center. Through engaging programs and practices, we cultivate love, compassion, service, and personal growth—empowering individuals to enrich their lives and create a more just and peaceful world. Our core offerings include:

- *Yoga – Energize and restore with weekly classes.*
- *Meditation –Our Meditation Practice Group is currently on hold. Please stay tuned for future offerings.*

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.



People and Doings



Water Lily: Symbolizes purity, rebirth, and enlightenment.

HAVE A LOOK

Our very own members, John Nichols, Atul Ranchod and Mark Fargo, have submitted articles for the magazine UUnderWorld. Please check out the link below to view the magazine.

<https://uunderworld.com/issues/july2025.html>

2025 3rd QUARTER
1st SUNDAY OFFERING



July 6, August 3, September 7

Providing short-term financial relief to undocumented residents.

Before disaster hits, 805 UndocuFund works with a lean team that focuses on developing community partnerships, advancing inclusive policies for immigrants in disaster, and helping shape local and state disaster planning, community preparedness, and long term recovery work.

When disaster hits, we distribute emergency one-time financial relief to undocumented residents in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and we work with key stakeholders to share critical information with our community. Much of our work is possible thanks to the invaluable support and leadership of hundreds of bilingual and trilingual immigrant volunteers who deeply care and wish for better treatment and opportunities for their community members.

<https://www.805undocufund.org/>

[illegible]

Sip And Check In with Sharon Kufeldt
Tuesday, July 8 at 4 pm on Zoom

Each month, on the second Tuesday, Sharon Kufeldt graciously offers members of the congregation an opportunity to connect with one another on Zoom. This unstructured segment of time (between 4 and 5 p.m.) gives those who do check in, whether regularly or occasionally, a chance to share. Oftentimes one doesn't wish to express anything directly, yet it is another avenue for fellowship with one another.



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

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY Friday, July 11 7:00 PM



The Social Concerns Action Committee – Wednesday July 16 at 3:00

Our UUCSP Social Concerns Action Committee has been very busy in the past month holding a Fundraiser at the Wilson Ranch on June 1st for local families whose breadwinner has been arrested/deported and a Rapid Response Training in the Sanctuary on June 8th. Both were well attended. Our UU commitment to Social Justice is needed now more than ever. Join us for our next meeting on Zoom at 3:00 on July 16th!

Caring Committee meeting on Thursday, July 17 at 4pm in the parish hall

UUCSP Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 pm.

Worship Team will meet pm on Zoom Tuesday, July 22 at 4:00 pm.

Mary A. Livermore Society – Thursday, Thursday, July 24th at 11:00

Mary Livermore was a woman's rights activist, educator, journalist/editor, and nurse who lived during the late 19th Century. Our Mary A. Livermore Society ("Mary A's") has held meetings for over 100 years and is the longest standing women's group in Ventura County. We meet in the Parish Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:00 am. Our programs are interesting and relevant! Attendees bring their lunches and often there are delicious goodies available. Come join us!

Our July meeting will be a potluck picnic starting at 11:00 in the beautiful backyard of Mitch and Judy in The Oaks. Please contact Constancia and let her know what you are thinking of bringing!

People and Doings

A group of our members have diligently researched and put a recycling program together for our church building.

Athens Services Recycling Guide – Santa Paula Businesses

Businesses in Santa Paula must separate waste into **three main containers**:



Recycling (Blue Bin)

Place clean, dry recyclables loose (not bagged) in the blue bin:

- Accepted items: paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass bottles, and plastics labeled #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE), and #5 (PP).
- Beverage containers: Must be empty, uncrushed, with labels on. Glass lids go in recycling; mixed-material lids go in trash. Plastic lids can stay on.
- Contamination (like food residue or plastic bags) can lead to non-collection or fines.



Organics (Green Bin)

Used for yard waste and, where city-approved, food scraps and food-soiled paper:

- Athens offers food scrap collection to many commercial accounts—check availability for Santa Paula.
- Bag guidelines: Only clear or translucent-green compostable bags are accepted. These are not composted—only used to collect scraps.
- Ziploc bags and non-compostable plastics are not allowed.



Trash (Black/Grey Bin)

For all items that can't go in recycling or organics:

- Not accepted: hazardous waste, electronics, bulky items, hot ash, or construction debris.
- Consider donating usable items instead of throwing them away.



Special Notes on Plastic Bags & Film

Plastic bags and flexible films **like bubble wrap, cereal box liners, produce bags, padded envelopes, and Ziploc bags** are **not accepted in curbside recycling** due to their tendency to jam machinery.

- **Best practice:** Take clean, dry plastic film to a designated drop-off location.
- If you can't drop it off, place it in the trash bin.
- Always remove closures, staples, and receipts, and make sure items are clean and dry.

Reminder: Reducing waste is even better than recycling. Encourage your staff and customers to bring **reusable bags** and minimize single-use packaging when possible.

For detailed sorting instructions by item, visit the [Athens “What Goes Where” guide](#).

People and Doings

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	Zoom/In-person
Tuesday	1-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	in- person
Thursday	3-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	4-Jul	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	6-Jul	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
Tuesday	8-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Tuesday	8-Jul	4:00 PM	Sip & Check In	zoom
Thursday	10-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	11-Jul	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Friday	11-Jul	9:30 AM	Finance Committee meeting	zoom
Friday	11-Jul	7:00 PM	SP Cinema Society	zoom
Sunday	13-Jul	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
Tuesday	15-Jul	all day	August Newsletter deadline	
Tuesday	15-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Wednesday	16-Jul	3:00 PM	Social Concerns Action Committee meeting	zoom
Thursday	17-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	17-Jul	4:00 PM	Caring Committee meeting	In-person
Thursday	17-Jul	6:30pm	Board of Trustees meeting	zoom
Friday	18-Jul	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Saturday	19-Jul	1:00 PM	Sound Bath & Tipica Sale to benefit Friendship Bridge	In-person
Sunday	20-Jul	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
Tuesday	22-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Tuesday	22-Jul	4:00pm	Worship Team Meeting	zoom
Thursday	24-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	24-Jul	11:00 AM	Mary A's meeting	In-person
Friday	25-Jul	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	27-Jul	10:30 AM	Worship service	In-person
Tuesday	29-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	31-Jul	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person

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SANTA PAULA

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www.facebook.com/uucsp



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

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Board of Trustees:

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

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Tech Support Team:

Monika Murillo Giselle Larios

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister Emerita

*Dated Material
Time Value*

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