



UU of SCV

The Flame

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PO Box 800028, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. 661-254-7866

Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Aug, 2023

Soul Matters Sacred Word for August: Soul



Rev. Victoria Safford once asked her congregation: “Do you care for your soul for its own sake, for your own well-being... or do you care for your soul for the sake of something larger, more eternal, more shared?” As a people dedicated to Love, Unitarian Universalists care for the soul by enlarging our love for one another and the Earth. As Zora Neale Hurston wrote, “Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.” This month we engage with the Soul Matters sacred word: Soul. How does the idea of soul invite us to deepen our understanding of being a people of Integrity and love?

Sunday Services

August 6th, 10:30 am

“Breaking Up is Hard to Do”

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



There can be power and peace in a good ending, but as the song goes, “breaking up is hard to do.” Come to this worship service about different “goodbyes” in our lives, and the beginnings that always follow. Join with your spiritual community as we prepare to say farewell to our lead minister, Rev. Dr. Megan Visser, later this month. This sermon topic was selected by Rev. Dr. Ken Brown and Tommie O’Sullivan, winners of the silent auction sermon topic at the Spring Fling this year.

August 13th, 10:30 am

“Closing Words: Four Years of Ministry in Santa Clarita”

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



Rev. Dr. Megan Visser bids farewell to UU of SCV in her final worship service with us. She will share stories from serving as our minister over the past four years and some tools for our journey into the future. Join Rev. Megan and our leaders in a ritual of release.

August 20th, 10:30 am

“Unitarians: From Transylvania to America, What Do We Believe”

Rev. Jo Green,
UU of SCV Affiliated Community Minister
and Chaplain



The theology of the Unitarians from Transylvania has not exactly transformed into the belief system we hold in the United States today. How did the Transylvanian Unitarians view God, how do they today, and how does it compare to our view in this country? Does our Unitarian history reflect our belief system today? Let's explore what it is we truly believe.

August 27th, 10:30 am

“Aging and Life Reflection”

Celia Young,
Interfaith Chaplain and Spiritual Advisor



As we progress through the stages of our life, questioning the meaning of life has become more urgent and vivid.

Celia Young is the founder of Authentic Living Ministry. As an immigrant, she has lived between the East and West for her whole adult life which afforded her a unique life experience and worldview. For over 30 years, Ms. Young has used her life's experience in her consulting and coaching work to achieve social justice in FORTUNE 500 corporations worldwide. She has coached and developed individual leaders and work teams to follow their north stars, preserve their integrity, and become who they truly are. These leaders and employees have become courageous enough to speak their truth, stand on their highest principles, and helped change their organizational culture to value and nurture the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of their people. Looking toward the last quarter of her life, Ms. Young has expanded her ministry and spiritual activism from the workplace into the larger society where she helps heal the traumatized and suffering, mend the broken human spirit, and restore the basic goodness of humanity.

Besides being a leadership and life coach, and spiritual activist, Ms. Young is also an inspirational speaker.

Ms. Young has a BA in Business Administration, an MBA in Marketing, an MA in Counseling Psychology, and a Master of Divinity (equivalent). She is also an ordained interfaith chaplain.

Join us, live at our Sunday services at 10:30 am ...

Vibe Performing Arts Studio,
Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,
24460 ¼ Lyons Ave
(Near Vincenzo's Pizza)

... and streaming on Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Or via phone at:
(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)
"# for personal ID

Can You Help with Setup and Cleanup of a Sunday Service?

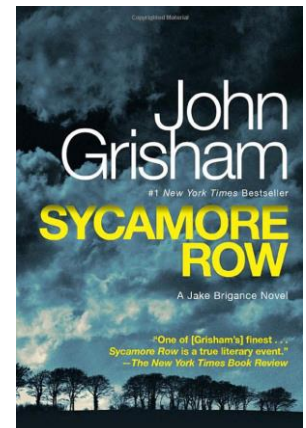
Each Sunday the crew of volunteers arrive at 9:30 am to set up and stays after the service to clean up. Be part of the team (even if it's only one Sunday a month)! It gives you a good feeling.

Please contact Sammi, Crew Chief, to learn about weekly assignments posted on Google Drive.
samanthajeansumampong@gmail.com

This Month's Activities

Book Club Suzie Rizzo

This is a welcoming and joyful group of readers who love to share their thoughts on the selections chosen. Everyone's presence is encouraged. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at **6:00 pm** at the home of Lois Linnert. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice, as well as your thoughts and your critique.



UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

The **August 9th** book is "Sycamore Row" by John Grisham. This is a true literary work, often considered a sequel, nearly a quarter-century after "A Time to Kill," Grisham's highly-regarded novel. This sequel's time is placed about three years later. The characters are finely developed, the plot line is finely chiseled and the race issues are loud and raucous. Money issues, thorny family dynamics, and legal complications all intertwine to give readers a compelling read.

Please join us for a lively discussion.

The book for September 13 is "Into the Forest" by Jean Haglman.

Contact Suzie Rizzo (baroness1@sbcglobal.net) or Marianne Bakic (mariannebakic@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

You're Invited to Small Group Ministry Retreat and Demo

Rev. Megan Visser

Thursday, August 10, 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Zoom

You're Invited!

Come to a demonstration session of our successful Small Group Ministry Program. Open to all — if you're exploring Small Group Ministry or continuing on! Before our session, just flip through the packet available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SGMretreatAugust> If you have time, try out a spiritual exercise or answer a question on page 6.

Please RSVP by 8/5 to RevMegan@uuofscv.org if possible.



Party for Rev. Megan

The Board of Trustees



In Honor of Rev. Megan



Plan to attend a party to thank our minister, the Rev. Dr. Megan Visser. The event is a celebration of our time together and will be held on **Saturday, August 12, 3:00 – 5:00 pm** at the home of Suzie R.

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please RSVP your intent to attend by contacting Chris H. by phone/text/email prior to August 9. Chris can provide the address and directions.

Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi

Our next Bend the Arc meeting will be on Wednesday, **August 16th** at Suzie Rizzo's home. **Socializing 6:00 to 6:30 pm; Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm.** Join us for an informed, respectful, and lively examination of some of the topics of the day for discussion of local, national and world events.

Please bring: Finger Food and Topics for Discussion

Contact Lou Paparozzi for the location and any additional information.

Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



Did you know UU of SCV has discussion groups? Wonder what Open Topics is about? Join us for discussion on a wide range of issues. It is fun, interesting and a great way to share ideas with thoughtful, curious people. All are welcome!

We meet the 4th Monday of each month at the home of Lois Linnert- **6:00 pm.**

Please bring food to share. Bring ideas for future topics!

The topic for **Monday August 28** will be announced via the weekly announcements.

Questions: contact Barbara McCoy (bmccoy1@socal.rr.com) or Lois Linnert (661-299-5393)

Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



There will be one remote and one in person Game night each month, on either a Friday or Saturday evening. If interested, please contact Beth Jenkins at newbethj@yahoo.com so she can coordinate the dates.

Friday Meditations on Zoom

Barbara Wampole

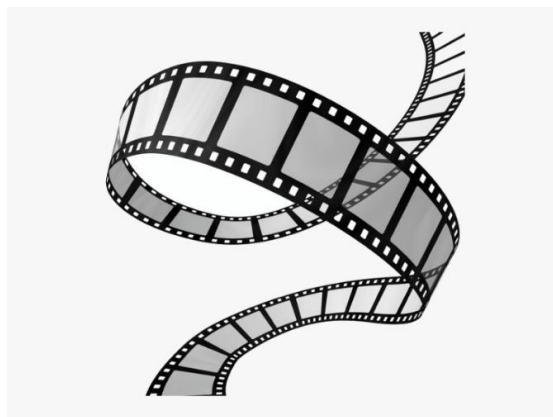
Please feel free to just drop in. No experience is necessary. It's simple. If you'd like to join us to share simple sitting meditation and mindfulness practices, we continue to have a unique opportunity to use Zoom since we began sheltering at home.

Every Friday from 11 am to Noon. If you'd like to join us, please contact Barbara Wampole. [Connect with Zoom](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Dinner, Conversation, and a Movie

SEJ Team,
Submitted by Glenda Nowakowski



After a lengthy hiatus, Dinner, Conversation, and a Movie will resume on **September 8th at 6:00 pm** at Suzie Rizzo's home.

It will be held on the second Friday of the month. Please bring a dish to pass, preferably plant-based. After a dinner filled with lively conversation, we will watch a movie on a social justice topic. The team has been gifted with a number of DVDs that used to belong to Roselva Ungar, so we have a good selection of movies. Join us for a wonderful and informative evening.

Poets & Writers Group

Glenda Nowakowski



The Poets and Writers Group will be taking a break in the month of August. We will resume meeting in September.

Social & Environmental Justice

Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

Postcard Writing After Services

The SEJ team is setting up a table after the service on the second Sunday of the month for writing postcards to our elected officials.

The table will be up between the end of the service and noon, when the SEJ team meeting begins. Materials will be provided, as well as addresses of elected officials and a list of possible issues. You are free to choose an issue that concerns you. Be a part of democracy in action!

Grandmothers (and Others) For Peace

Grandmothers (and Others) for Peace meets on the first Sunday of the month (August 6) at 4 PM on the corner of Valencia and McBean (on the Facey side). Bring a sign promoting peace, or you can borrow one.

Mental Health

Barbara Wilson spoke to us about a crisis situation in our area. Board and care homes for seriously mentally ill (SMI) adults are closing because they cannot afford to remain in operation.

When facilities close, here are some of the ripple effects:

1. *That property is forever lost to service the SMI community.*
2. *Many of the former residents will return but now they're homeless.*
3. *Their support network is fractured.*
4. *There is a dramatic increase in tax-payer-related expenditures (e.g., emergency rooms; arrests & court time).*

5. *Aging parents are suddenly faced with the problem of locating new facilities, often with no support from social workers and/or mental health personnel. "Where do I begin???"*
6. *Trained staff with expertise are displaced. Meanwhile people with No expertise are currently being paid, often quite well.*
7. *Money to Solve Homelessness—staff often has no mental health training.*
8. *NIMBYism will only Increase when the numbers of unhoused adults who have SMI also increases.*

(Excerpted from an email sent by Barbara Wilson)

Barbara proposes a “stimulus check” of \$2000 per bed for board and care homes that have at least 75% of their beds filled with SMI patients. This is a stopgap remedy. More funding for board and care homes is needed.

Third Sunday

The Third Sunday recipient for the month of August is National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The Third Sunday recipient for the month of September is the Board’s pick.

The next meeting of the SEJ Team is **August 13, 2023 at noon** in person at Vibe Performing Arts and also streamed on Zoom. Come join us!

Camp

Louise Klatt

Our (UUSCV’s) Cluster Weekend Retreat

Save the dates: Friday, Sept 29th through Sunday Oct 1st.

Join many of our neighboring congregations for this weekend retreat in the mountains. Sign up early and join in a beautiful weekend among the towering cedars, oaks, and pines of this beautiful camp. The atmosphere is one of congeniality, camaraderie, and friendship. This weekend is a chance for the whole family to relax, hike, sing, play games, swim, and enjoy the fresh air among other UUs in our cluster.

Flyer: <https://bit.ly/ClusterRetreatFlyer2023>

Registration:

<https://bit.ly/ClusterRetreatRegistration2023>

Contact clusterretreat@chaliceuu.org



Other Camps you might want to attend include:

2023 UU Young Adult Camp “Songs of Spirit / Return to Music Mountain” -- Friday, Sept 1st — Monday, Sept 4th. Young Adult Camp is an annual summer retreat for

18- to 35-year-old Unitarian Universalists and people of all faiths. Meet new friends, connect with old ones, learn from and with social justice volunteers, dance your heart out, laugh out loud, reconnect with the land, each other, and your soul.

<https://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/adult-camps/2023-uu-young-adult-camp/>

Art Camp for Adults -- Thursday September 7 to Tuesday September 12th.

<https://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/adult-camps/2023-art-camp-for-grown-ups/>



Church Workings

Food Donations for After-Service Fellowship The Board of Trustees

The Board is grateful to those individuals who have contributed snacks for after-service fellowship on Sundays. The Board wishes to re-emphasize its policy regarding snacks for after-service fellowship which specifies that snacks should be individually wrapped and not require plates or utensils.

Your snack contributions are welcomed. Thank you for adhering to this policy.

Mobile Phone Texts

Chris Hankla

Mobile phone texts are used by UU of SCV for essential reminders and emergency alerts. Should you get a text from (833) 313-0483, know that it comes from UU of SCV through our church database. You can save that phone number in your mobile phone contact list as UU of SCV and the next time an important message is sent from that number you will know it is a message from the church.

Board of Trustees Highlights

Chris Hankla

(who is graciously filling in for Carmela Camp)

- Diane L. and Chris H. were welcomed to the Board.
- The search for a new minister continues.
- Rev. Megan will be honored at a farewell event on Saturday, August 12, 3-5 PM.
- There are plans to have a joint meeting of the Boards from UU of SCV and UUFKC to discuss scheduling shared services.

Board Officers

President - *unfilled*

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla (**welcome!!!**)

Secretary - Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large - Rick Kamlet

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Diane Lin (**welcome!!!**)

Pastoral Care

In Times of Crisis or Need

The Pastoral Care Team and volunteers from the congregation are here to help you in times of crisis or need. We can provide meals, rides, do errands, and/or offer one-to-one support. Please contact Barbara McCoy at (818) 438-8351.

Membership

Membership Team

Birthdays

Beth Jenkins	08/03
Lucy Bates	08/04
Rick Kamlet	08/05
Warren Eckles	08/11
Torrey Longetieg	08/13
Gloria Burr	08/27
Quinn Rigdon	08/28

Need to Speak to the Minister?

For Rev. Megan, please make an appointment during Rev. Megan's office hours:
<https://calendly.com/revmeganvisser>

Gratitudes

Membership Team



To **Diane T.** and **Dru** ... for their two-year service on the Board of Trustees.

To **Ken** and **Eric** ... for continuing to serve a second term on the Board of Trustees.

To **Diane L.** and **Chris H.** ... for serving as new members on the Board of Trustees.

To **Emily** and **Mirna** ... for agreeing to serve as next year's Nominating Committee.

To **Louise, Ingrid,** and **Tommie** ... for serving as pulpit hosts during July services.

To **Lucy, Ed,** and **Ingrid** ... for making after-service fellowship happen in Gordon's absence.

To **Kevin** ... for doing a great job as tech host in July.

To **Barbara McC., Lucy, Chris,** and **Louise** ... for altar set-up in July.

To **Suzie** ... for offering her home for Rev. Megan's farewell event.

To **Rev. Megan** ... for serving our congregation so well during the last four years and bringing innovative ideas and programs to our beloved community.

Welcome UUA President Sofia Betancourt

From UUA Newsletter, July 2023



It is with great enthusiasm that the UUA welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as the tenth UUA President! We also note that this is not the first time the Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served as leader of the Association. She was appointed co-president for an interim period in 2017 and provided guidance and care during a significant moment in our history. This time, she will be in the presidential role for a six-year term, and we are eagerly anticipating her leadership, working together to continue to advance Unitarian Universalism and live our values deeply in the coming years.

Her presidency comes with a number of historic firsts – she is the first openly queer person and first woman of color to be elected UUA president. She has served Unitarian Universalism for more than twenty years as a religious educator, minister, scholar, and member of the UUA national staff and many volunteer committees at the regional and denominational levels. She most recently served as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor on Justice and Equity at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University as well as an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, where she also served on the faculty. She is the author of [*Ecowomanism at the Panamá Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics*](#) (2022). You can learn more about her in [a new Q & A with UU World magazine](#), including how early life experiences shaped her path to ministry.

As significantly, she also brings to the role theological depth, a commitment to communal care, and a pledge to continue to organize for justice. She has also expressed an appreciation for the diverse voices and leaders in our community as well as for the hard work that UUA staff do every day. We know that Unitarian Universalists (UUs) across the country and UUA staff will all benefit from her experience, wisdom, and sense of care.

Carey McDonald, our Executive Vice President, expressed his keen anticipation in this way, “we are excited to have the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt at the helm as UUA President to lead us in the next chapter of our faith’s journey. We are already inspired by her deep theology and commitments to community care and imagining the way forward together.”

We are entering an exciting time for both the UUA and Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Dr. Betancourt’s presidency and the General Assembly vote by delegates to continue consideration of changes to the Article II bylaws mark a key moment in our faith tradition. With her leadership, we are positioned to move forward in faithful community, in recognition of our shared values and the important work ahead.

CALENDAR

(Events and activities may change. Check the Friday weekly announcement emails for updates.)

Meditation – Every Friday at 11 am (to noon), Zoom (see article)

Game Nights -- Dates, times, and locations (Zoom vs in-person) to be announced. Contact Beth Jenkins

Sunday

6 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Breaking Up is Hard to Do
Rev. Dr. Megan Visser

Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Zoom

9 Book Club, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home

10 Small Group Ministry Retreat and Demo, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Zoom

11

12 Party for Rev. Megan, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

Sunday

13 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Closing Words: 4 Years of Ministry in Santa Clarita
Rev. Dr. Megan Visser

Social & Environmental Justice Team
12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom

16 Bend the Arc, Socializing 6:00 pm & Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

Sunday

20 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Unitarians: From Transylvania to America. What Do We Believe?
Rev. Jo Green

Sunday

27 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Aging and Life Reflection
Celia Young

28 Open Topics Discussion Group, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Lois Linnert's home (see article)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Sept 8th -- Dinner, Conversation, and a Movie, 6:00 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

Sept 29th to Oct 1st -- Cluster Weekend Retreat, Camp deBenville Pines

Snapshots

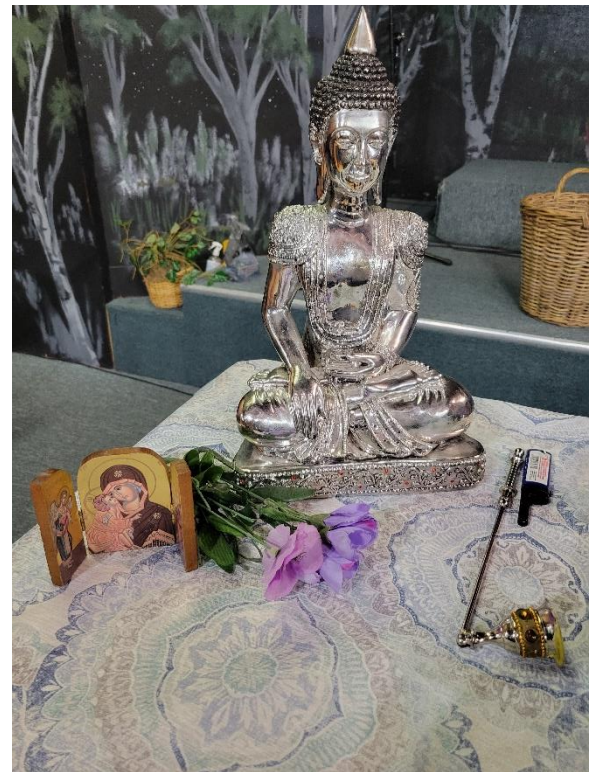
New Members



Wonderful June & July Services









Sharing Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County's Service



Fifth Sunday Forum

