



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

SEPTEMBER 2020 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



HOW WE GATHER

As we stay Safe at Home, we continue to work to stay connected through Zoom and Facebook as well as our Phone Tree. The church building remains closed to all but staff. Sunday morning services begin on Zoom and Facebook Live at 10:30 AM and coffee hour breakout follows on Zoom. Please email Joys and Concerns to Rev. Maddie at minister@uucsp.org who will read them or you can put them in the CHAT function on Zoom during the service. Please mail your donation to the church at UUCSP, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 or you can set up online pay with your bank. If neither of those works for you, use the link on the homepage of our website: www.uucsp.org. Gathering is supported by a Free Will Offering. Donations can be given the same way as Sunday mornings.

Join Zoom Meeting: PLEASE MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 Phone password: 529593

SEPTEMBER THEME: Worth and Dignity

Through much of history, the value of the individual has been negligible. This has led to disastrous outcomes. Our assertion of the inherent worth and dignity of every person leads to a very different calculus in how we treat each other, including those with whom we strongly disagree, the stranger, and even our enemy. This assertion can evoke mutual respect and compassion.

September 6 Widening the Circle

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

Our theme this month is "Worth and Dignity". In the light of the recently released report of the UUA's Commission on Institutional Change, "Widening the Circle of Concern", how do we Draw the Circle wide here at UUCSP, even in this time of Zoom?

First Sunday Plate to LUCHA

Tuesday, September 8 Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Steve Werner

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on the theme of Worth and Dignity. Led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. The music will be provided by Singer Songwriter Steve Werner.

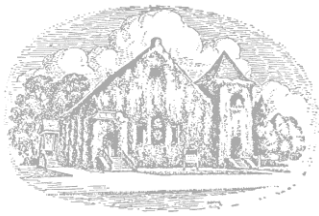
September 13 Mingling of the Waters

Rev. Maddie, Mary Nelson

It is traditional for us to come back together the first Sunday after Labor Day Weekend with our Water Communion Service, sharing water from our summer travels and close to home. Given the pandemic, many of us will not have gone far but still water is central to our lives. We will share virtual water, the story of the first Water Communion and rejoice in our beloved community.

Continued next page

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



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September 20 Mabon

Rev. Maddie, LJ and Allan Noel

Continuing the theme of the eight Sabbats of earth-based theology, we come to Mabon which is a harvest festival that is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox of each year. It is the time when night and day stand equal in duration and a time to express gratitude, complete projects, and honor a moment of balance.

September 27 Sea Change and Reinvention

Kate English, MaryBeth East

What is the difference between change & transition? How do we navigate the wildness of transition and recognize it for the seedbed of creative ideas and solutions that it is? What does this look like on an individual level, in our neighborhoods and in our world?

Our member Kate English is the Director of One Step a la Vez which serves Fillmore, Piru and Santa Paula.

UUs Back in the Day Leslie Nichols



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Message from the Minister

September is the time when normally we are gearing up for a new church year in our historic sanctuary, the choir is warming up their voices, the coffee hours are filled with new energy and we start planning for our Fall Canvas, Faith Formation activities, our concert series and all the things that make us run around here as a congregation. We connect and reconnect with those we have known for many years and with those who decide to check out our congregation at the start of a “new year.” It is a time where historically we refocus our energies as we head into autumn. It is also a time when we head into a new year in our calendar of themes from the Touchstones Project. This past church year of 2019-2020 had the over-arching theme of Building Beloved Community. I like to think that your staff, leadership, and I have made a great effort to keep our beloved community together in this unexpected time of COVID-19, especially for a very small congregation. Our Touchstones theme for the upcoming year is Deepening Connection. How can we deepen our connections to each other and our larger community, even in this time of quarantine, isolation and social distancing? How can we honor the Worth and Dignity of each one of us while centering those voices on the margins and appreciating the community as a whole?

I have been thinking a lot about the power of ritual in our lives as part of the way we make connection (and how we can do it over Zoom!). Some folks say that UUs don’t have ritual, but we actually do! Our basic Order of Service each Sunday is a ritual; it is our liturgy at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula and how we connect with what some call the holy or sacred. Service elements such as singing the Doxology melody (with whatever text we can use at this time without infringing on copyrights) and reciting the Covenant of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula that others before us adapted to fit this congregation are other aspects of our ritual. Lighting the chalice and even ringing our bell are all rituals. Each September we begin the year with a Water Communion and near the end of the regular church year we have a Flower Communion—more rituals. This year one of our themes has been the eight Sabbats or Rituals from the earth-based traditions which is one of the Six Sources we draw from as Unitarian Universalist. The next one of the eight, Mabon, takes place in September and is a harvest festival that is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox of each year.

What rituals do you celebrate or mark in your lives? Come let us deepen our connections with those rituals we can craft together. See you in Zoom church.

On the path of our faith,
Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Message from the Board of Trustees

Board Notes,

John Nichols, Board President

Maddie passed along an invitation to a meeting of the Universalist Heritage Network. Did you even know there was an organization to promote our Universalist heritage? Well check out this link: <http://www.universalistheritage.org>

Mary Beth and I sat in on a Zoom meeting and got to know some of the members. One member we met was the editor of the Universalist Heritage Magazine. Mary Beth and I immediately subscribed. I was sent a couple of back issues in PDF format if anyone wants to read them. Just ask and I'll email them.

Then things got more interesting. David Damico, Universalist Herald Editor did not know about the existence of the First Universalist Parish of Santa Paula. That is what we were named back in the late 1800s. He asked for a history of our church and some photos so he could publish them. We asked Judy Triem and she had our history already written up and we sent that in. Then I sent in enough photos of our old and new church to fill up the entire back page of the magazine. We will soon be famous in the Universalist Heritage community and beyond.

As David Damico was looking at other photos I have taken he found one from the Women's March a few years ago in Ventura. He asked to use that for the cover of the next issue. Wow. Now I'll be famous along with our church.

Let's keep digging into our fabulous Universalist history. It's going to be fun.

GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus and Singer-Songwriter Steve Werner

Atul Ranchod, poet

On Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password uucsp93060

+1 253 215 8782 (to call in by phone) ~ phone password 529593

Free will offering to UUCSP, 740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060

With Gathering in memo line

Spiritual Growth Center

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER



During this time of Social Distancing and our building being closed, we encourage you to find ways to continue your spiritual practices at home. Rev. Maddie leads Meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, livestreaming from our Facebook page. We are experimenting with socially distanced yoga in our rose garden with no access to the building. Be in touch with Lisa Hammond for more information. Our Spiritual Growth Center provides opportunities and programs to awaken and sustain love, compassion, service and personal transformation in line with the Mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula: Practice Inclusiveness, Seek Justice and Foster Spirituality. 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. Would you like to offer an activity on Zoom during this time.

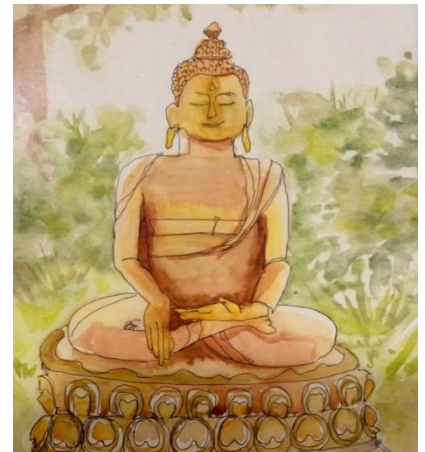
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie or Jim Cole on Zoom or Facebook livestream

September 2	Jim Cole
September 9	Rev. Maddie
September 16	Rev. Maddie
September 23	Rev. Maddie
September 30	Jim Cole

www.facebook.com/uuscpl

Thirty to forty minutes of visualization, chant, and silence together



SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Yoga sessions will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden. Bring your own mats and props. No access to the building. Due to the limited number please be in touch with Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com.

People and Doings

NEW: Meet the Members!

While we're unable to meet face-to-face in worship and coffee hour, and via committee meetings and events, we thought it would be nice to keep and deepen connections up by providing a member profile each newsletter, starting with the members of your Board of Trustees. Whether you are getting to know someone for the first time, or getting to know something new about them, we hope "Meet the Members" will help to get and keep us connected despite the need for social distancing. For more information, please contact Rev. Maddie at minister@uuscsp.org or Krystal Johnson at uucspoffice@gmail.com



Member Profile

UUCSP Vice-President Karen E. Harris
Caring Committee, Chair.
Safe Congregation Committee, member
Sabbatical Planning Committee, member

Age: 69

Occupation: Retired fashion stylist and photographer

Residence: Ventura

E-mail: kareneloise13@gmail.com

What is your faith of origin?

Theosophy

How did find out about Unitarian-Universalism?

My mother liked Unitarian Universalism.

Why UUCSP?

I used to enjoy having an occasional dinner with my mother at the Palms Assisted Living dining room, where I met a wonderful lady named Lynn Morrison. She told me how much she loved UUCSP. I started to bring my mom there.

What do you find/ hope to find here?

I found a loving and welcoming community filled with music and spiritual inspiration.

If you could have dinner with any religious/spiritual leader, past or present, who would you choose and why?

I think I would enjoy having dinner with Gandhi, Madame Blavatsky and Paramahansa Yogananda.

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US – SEPTEMBER 2020

- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of long time and beloved member Christine Cooke who has died after a decade living with Alzheimer's Disease. Service details are incomplete at this time but will likely be a Celebration of Life masked and socially distanced in our Memorial Garden on an upcoming Saturday.
- We send healing thoughts to Delicia Niami who had unexpected surgery in early August.
- Our thoughts are with Sebastien Sifantus who had surgery on his shoulder on August 14. He is home and healing well. We pray for good results from the pathology report.
- We are grateful for modern medical technology in the uneventful change of the battery in John Nichols' pacemaker.
- We celebrate with Kate English her recent highlighting in the Ventura County Reporter's "Women Breaking the Barriers". Kate is the Executive Director of One Step a la Vez which is one of the organizations many of us support as individuals and we support as a congregation by having their LGBTQ group meet in our Rainbow Room (when we can meet in the building!)
- 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

During this continuing pandemic, Rev. Maddie is available by telephone or email if you need to talk. Email her at minister@uucsp.org or msifantus@uuma.org. You can also leave a message on her private office line which will send her a text: 805-525-4620. The fastest way to reach her is by calling her cell phone at 508-733-8860. Unless it is an emergency, please limit your calls or texts to between 8 AM and 6 PM. If you get voice mail, leave a clear message and phone number and she will get back to you. Once we can go back into the church building, she will be happy to meet with you in her office.

SAVE YOUR WATER! VIRTUAL WATER COMMUNION

As is our tradition, we will be kicking off the Fall with a Water Communion on the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 13 led by Rev. Maddie with Worship Host Mary Nelson. However, instead of being in the Sanctuary together, in this year of COVID-19 we will be mingling our waters virtually on Zoom. We ask that you bring a small amount of water from whatever source is meaningful to you to your Zoom screen or have it near you if you join us on Facebook Live or even if you watch it at a later time. The water can be either from the environs of Santa Paula or beyond if you have ventured further afield this summer.

People and Doings

SIP AND CHECKIN WITH REV. MADDIE **TUESDAYS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 22 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM**



Grab your favorite beverage and join Rev. Maddie on Zoom.

We will light a chalice, have a reading, and check in with each other.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060

BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

Your Safe Congregation Team continues to meet to look at a number of our policies and the safety of our building and practices, including thoughts about our reentry once it will be safe to do so. At this point we do not expect to be meeting as a congregation in the Sanctuary in 2020, unless things change. Your Safe Congregation Team is Rev. Maddie, Erik Halseth, Ken Stock, Karen Harris representing the board, Pat English on fiduciary safety, Krystal Johnson from the staff and our friend Sharon Kufeldt. The next meeting is September 2 at Noon on Zoom and will be led by Erik Halseth, Chair. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

Be Wary of Scammer Emails!

As you may have read before, we occasionally deal with scammer emails. These are emails that look like they are coming from Rev. Maddie, UUCSP staff, or in some cases, from other congregation members or friends. They may ask you "if you have a moment to speak," or reference some extreme predicament they are experiencing. Some may say that they do not want to speak on the phone, or they will say they are in a meeting or prayer session. They will likely ask you to send them money through gift cards or through the computer. Please be aware that these emails are spam messages. No member of staff would ask you directly for money in this way. If you believe you have received a spam message but are unsure, you can always contact Rev. Maddie at minister@uucsp.org or Krystal Johnson at uucspoffice@gmail.com.

People and Doings

CHOIR AND RISE UP SINGING

While we cannot gather at this time, you are encouraged to find ways to sing or listen to music until the choir can gather and the days when we can open the doors to Rise Up Singers. We had so hoped that we would start up again in September! The editors of Rise Up Singing and Rise Again, Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, have many suggestions to keep us singing and are still putting out "A Daily Song of Hope". They say: We need great songs right now to help us make it through this challenging time. Peter is posting a song a day. You can find these videos (by many different artists) in two ways:

- On their website: www.riseupandsing.org/dailysong
- On their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1

CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. The Caring Committee's next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, September 17 at 1 PM on Zoom. Should you wish to join this group which cares for our members and friends and deepens our connections, please be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, chair.



PHONE TREE

We created a phone tree in March as the Safe at Home period began. This is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. If you do not think you are on the Tree and want to be, please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal Johnson know at uucspoffice@gmail.com.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The September "Mary A Livermore" Society Meeting! We are happy to invite you to attend a September 24th meeting of the Mary A's. on Zoom! Our special program will feature the Friendship Bridge the "Microcredit Plus" organization that offers loans, monthly educational trainings, and health care services to over 32,000 ladies so that they can create their own solutions to poverty. The meeting will start at 11:30 with a short video about Friendship Bridge and continue with a presentation that will include special guests from Guatemala and Colorado. Included will be an update on current conditions in Guatemala due to Covid19, description of the Friendship Bridge emergency food relief program, as well as a display of colorful "tipica" or traditional textiles made by Friendship Bridge artisan clients available for purchase online and delivered for your door! For more information, please contact Constanca (Connie) Leshin at 661-478-3213. (www.friendshipbridge.org)



OLIVE OIL

message from a member-

Audrey have received a fresh supply of olive oil. The bottle size is a little larger, 500 ml is now 750ml.

Please contact Audrey Vincent if you would like a bottle.

People and Doings

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

MEETING: The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, September 9, 4:00 PM to do ongoing work of social justice and "to promote the principles of democracy by working for a sustainable, just and fair world." One way we have been doing justice work is supporting LUCHA, a local non-profit organization, and the food distribution project they co-sponsor with Poder Popular ("Power of the People"). Poder Popular is an ongoing cultural and services organization begun by immigrant women some 15 years ago when a few women began to advocate for programs that focused on issues of domestic violence, economic self-sufficiency and health and nutrition. Poder Popular also sponsors various educational projects supported by the Mexican Consulate in Oxnard benefiting qualified special students. Also, this organization is collaborating with the county health department in a "COVID Education and Protection Initiative" to help prevent the spread of this terrible disease. You may have seen Poder Popular in regional Mexican or Central American dress as when they have participated in the Labor Day Parade.

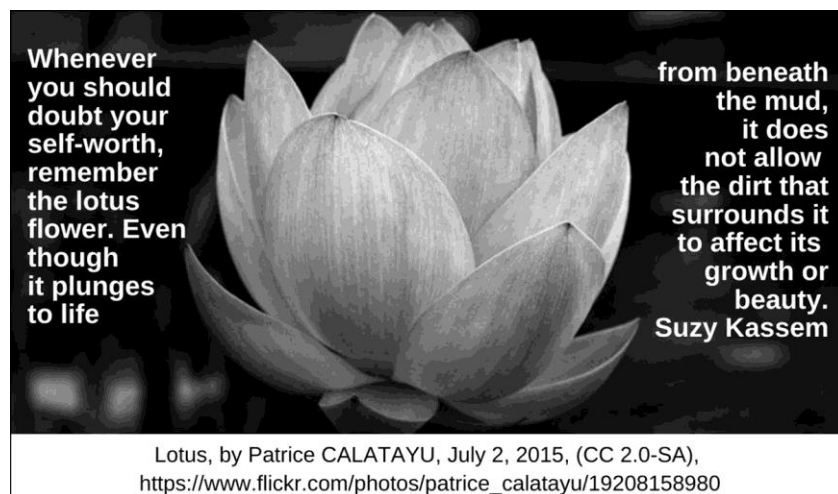
We have invited Dr. Gabino Aguirre to attend our September meeting to tell us more about this amazing, organically grown group that serves our immigrant population as well as the general public.

3rd QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING

Sunday September 6: Our First Sunday offering of the Third Quarter is LUCHA INCORPORATED, ("Struggle Inc.") a local non-profit that provides produce and meals to our essential workers many of whom are undocumented, therefore have no government support for their well-being.

Equally important is LUCHA's mask-making project funding the purchasing of fabrics for hand sewn masks made by supporters for use by local farmworkers. LUCHA seeks seamstresses! Can do? Contact Audrey Vincent who will pass your name to Dr. Gabino Aguirre or contact him directly at drgabino2gmail.com.

Our support is deeply appreciated. Make checks payable to Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula with LUCHA INC. in the memo line.



Because Black Lives Matter.

Because this is good work.

Because of the inherent worth
and dignity of EVERY person.

Walking Each Other Home

Thursday September 10th at 7pm via Zoom

Register: <https://bit.ly/weohuucsp>

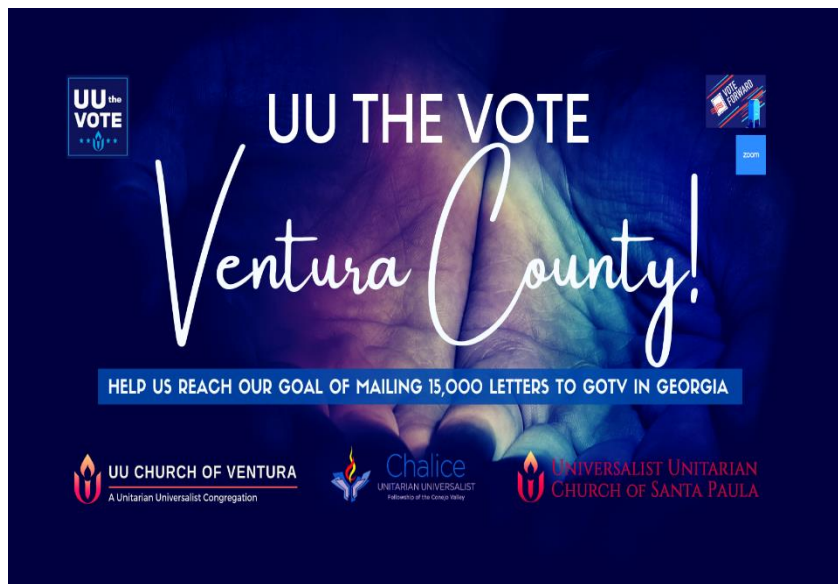


A monthly discussion group until we can resume our Beloved Conversations curriculum. We will be utilizing articles, videos and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self work. Kate English will facilitate. For more information call or text 805-207-5013.

People and Doings

UU the Vote

As we all know, this next election is very important! Our friends at UU Ventura and Chalice UU of Conejo Valley have been collaborating on this campaign for a while now, which includes a letter writing campaign. We have now joined them. We can meet weekly with them on Zoom on Thursdays at 2 PM for information, camaraderie and support. If you are interested in joining with this effort please email the Membership Coordinator of UU Ventura, Jimmy Vasquez, at jimmy@uuventura.org and speak to Rev. Maddie.



Other Ways to Help:

Join our private Facebook Group to share information and help amplify our messages. Feel free to invite your friends; this group is open to everyone, not only UU's.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/535923090376200/>

FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE "TIPICA" STORE OPEN!



The Covid19 pandemic has been devastating for underserved people in Guatemala. There is a curfew, markets and public transportation are closed and people are increasingly unable to get food. [Here is a way you too can help out.](#)

Many of you came to last year's presentation about Friendship Bridge with its "Microcredit Plus" program of loans, education, and health care services. We serve over 32,000 poor, mostly indigenous ladies in Guatemala. Our local Southern California Friendship Bridge Support Circle has opened an online store selling many beautiful handcrafted items or "tipica" made by many of these women!

<https://www.handmadebyfriendshipbridge.org/antelope-valley>

Please follow these instructions: It is important **not** to press **the green "shop" button** at the top of the website. Each item in our virtual store **must** have **Antelope Valley Circle** listed with the name of the item. Finally, as we are hand delivering items to your door, type in **EMPOWERWOMEN** in the shipping space and you will not be charged for shipping. Wherever you live in Ventura County, your purchases will be hand delivered to your doorstep! Donations gratefully accepted as well!

Questions: Call Constancia 661-478-3213!

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

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www.uucsp.org

www.facebook.com/uucsp



OCTOBER newsletter deadline September 15

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:

John Nichols, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Jerry Gray, Secretary,

Pat English, Treasurer

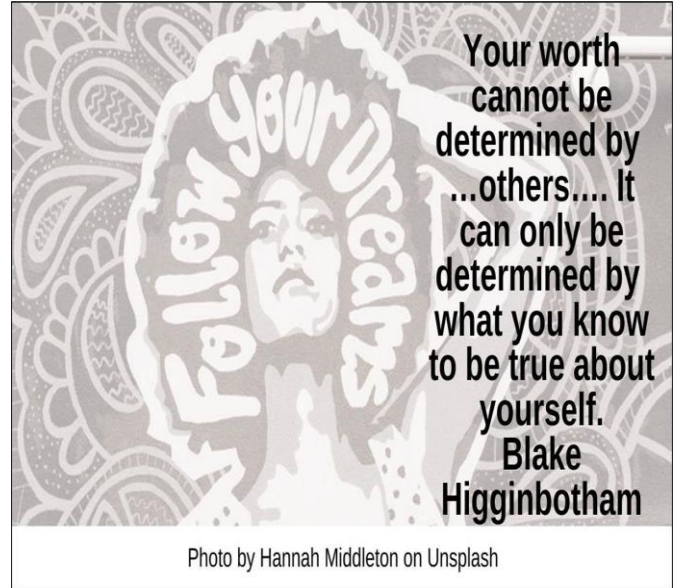
Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Erik Halseth

Michael Gonzalez

Evan Holt



Dated Material
Time Value

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