



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

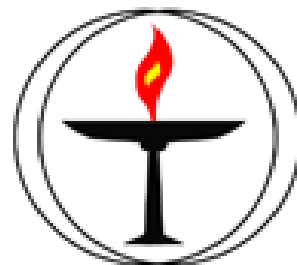
740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-4647

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

MAY 2021 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

MAY THEME: ACCEPTANCE

The word “accept” comes from the Old French and means to “take what is offered.” The Latin root *acceptare* means to “take or receive willingly.” Acceptance involves give and take, both literally (e.g., I offer acceptance and you receive it) and symbolically (i.e., there must be flexibility in the interaction). Acceptance is a transactional virtue along a relational continuum that moves from hostility/rejection/intolerance, and ignoring to tolerance, acceptance, respect/esteem, love, and unconditional love.



Sunday, May 2 Beltane - Fire Fest

Rev. Nic Filzen, Kate English

With special guest Janeya Filzen

As a way to offer recognition that we’re halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice, turning the corner to the hot summer, we’ll be focusing on ritual this Sunday. Using our Maypole on campus and sending you all something to braid at home. Rev. Nic will be reflecting on the meaning of Beltaine with his spouse, Janeya Filzen. How does Beltaine intersect with Acceptance, the theme for May?

Sunday, May 9 Music in My Mother’s House

Rev. Nic Filzen, Ellen Deeb

For Mother’s Day, let’s shower our mother figures with love and acceptance, just as they modeled love and acceptance of us. Let’s show gratitude for filling our lives with music.

Tuesday, May 11 Gathering

Rev. Nic Filzen, Tony Ybarra, & Atul Ranchod

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, which this month is Mindfulness. The music will be provided by guitar player and SB City College faculty, Tony Ybarra. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod. Led by Rev. Nic.

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



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Sunday, May 16 “An E-merge-ing Acceptance”

Rev. Nic Filzen, MaryBeth East

On the 60th anniversary of Universalists and Unitarians coming together to become one, we'll discuss how multiple coalitions embracing each other to ensure survival, emerge into something new, and do more good is often the most power-full form of acceptance.

Sunday, May 23 Jazz Standard Time

Rev. Nic Filzen, Karen Harris

On my 37th half birthday, which officially makes me closer to 50 than 25, I talk about acceptance of the wheel of life and time. It's also international jazz day, the musical form of shared improvisation. How do we say “yes, and” to our continuous, rolling jazz standard of life?

Sunday, May 30 “Holding On and Letting Go”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

On this Sunday before Memorial Day and the declining of the pandemic, perhaps it is a good time to look at what we want to memorialize - in addition to our military forebears. And we will also look at those things we want to leave behind as we move toward a “new normal” as individuals and a congregation. Bring your hearts minds, and spirits as we probe the answers to these important questions together.

HOW WE GATHER

As 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. Nic 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



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

Message from the Minister

It's tough to be in two places at once. Right now, I'm planning my big move across the country to begin my new life and ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta, Georgia. In fact, I recently flew there for a few days to close on a new house! My spouse, Janeya, and I are very excited and are dreaming *big* about what it will be like once we're there. And, we also need to keep our feet on the ground while we're still in southern California. I still have agreed to serve you all until right up until we move. How can I serve both what's happening now and the future?

Janeya and I have a vision for our future. It's simultaneously grand and simple. Grand in the way we can impact the world in coalition with some super cool folks already making huge waves in Georgia. (Isn't faith always grand?) Simple in that we also want to enjoy our lives without too much superfluous stuff or personal glory. In addition to our vision, we also have important work to do now – often just making it until the next day with all life throws at us. This moment in my life is shining a bright light on the necessity of living for the present and the future all at the same time.

So, how do I do it? How can I hold these two different important foci in the same life container? Especially since as we go we become new people based on all the things we experience. The moment is in flux. The future is in flux. Yet, it's still important to have a way of being in this world that fits my values now, and a vision for the future that fits those values. And then I need to do this in relationship with others?! That seems to complicate things more, but... maybe that's the answer. I'm so blessed I can struggle on these questions alongside Janeya. She is an excellent reminder to be grounded in the present.

How do *you* do it? How do you simultaneously radically accept where you are in this moment, while casting an expansive vision for how you'd like you and the world to transform in the future? What is your vision for the future? How willing are you to adjust that vision as life throws you new curveballs? With whom can you map out this journey and then live it together?

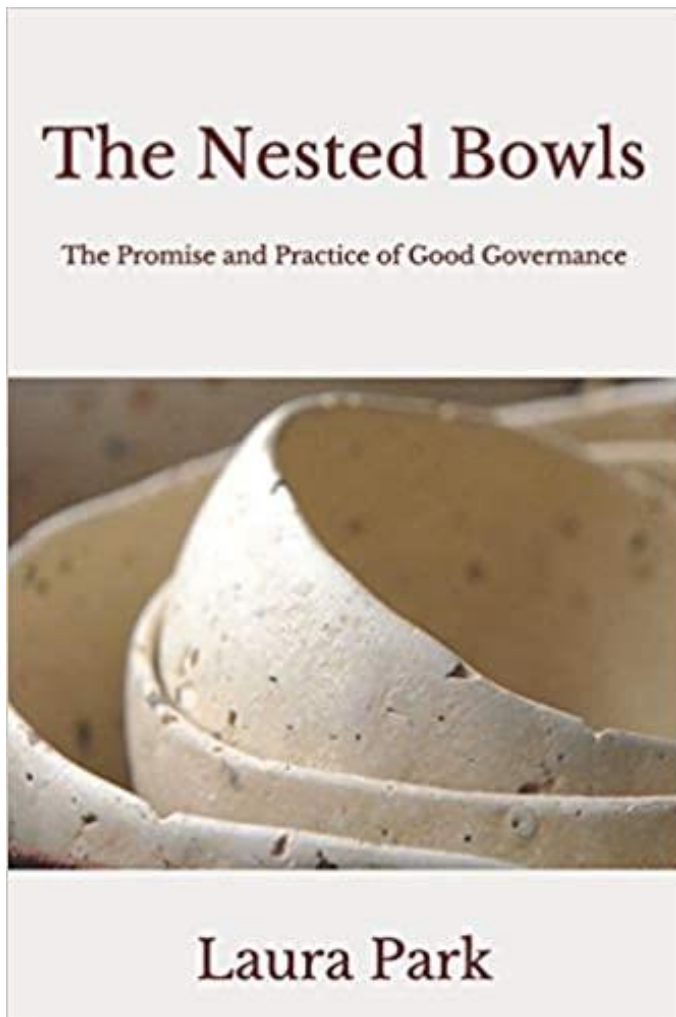
I'd love to hear your thoughts on these big questions at some point while I continue to radically accept my privilege to serve you for two more months!

Faithfully yours, Reverend Nic



Message from the Minister

“WHAT THE PASTOR IS READING:”



As I enter into my second month with you all, I'd like to give myself a solid foundation on the practice of visioning to best serve you. (Restarting a congregational visioning process is one of the primary goals Rev. Maddie asked me to address while I'm with you.) Becoming solid in that work myself is important. Especially with me as an outsider at the helm for such a short period. So, I'm reading the book "Nesting Bowls" by Laura Park, in which Park lays out a deeply spiritual values, mission, and ends discernment process for self and congregation. What are your deepest values? How can we be an agent of transformational change? Check out Park's book and see how she suggests moving through this sacred process.



Message from the Board of Trustees

NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Early in 2021, Judy Triem from our Nominating Committee approached me about serving the final year of our beloved member Pat English's term on the Board of Trustees. Having assiduously avoided all leadership responsibilities at UUCSP for decades due to commitments elsewhere, I relented. After all, in this time of COVID I really had lessened calls on my energies and I do revere this institution. Well, "abracadabra", I ended up as President and after watching and listening to the knowledge, experience, and dedication of other Board and Committee Members I knew I had ended up with the easiest task.

You, too, be you member or friend, can also sustain our church's health, longevity, and prosperity. Here are two ways to help. One, of course, is financial and not just your yearly pledge or occasional remembrance. We have the Marjorie Newlin Leaming Capital Fund which over the years has built up an endowment that will ensure our liberal presence in this community and the world at large. Make a donation. Two, the Board is looking to re-establish our House and Grounds Committee. We need volunteers. Give me a call at 805.525.9840 and find out the responsibilities. You can make a difference at UUCSP.



GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

With Rev Nic Filzen and Tony Ybarra

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 or Jim Cole lead Meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, on Zoom or livestreaming from our Facebook page. We offer socially distanced yoga in our rose garden with no access to the building. Be in touch with Lisa Hammond for more information. Our Spirit 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 Jim Cole on Zoom or

Facebook livestream

Wednesday, May 5

Wednesday, May 12

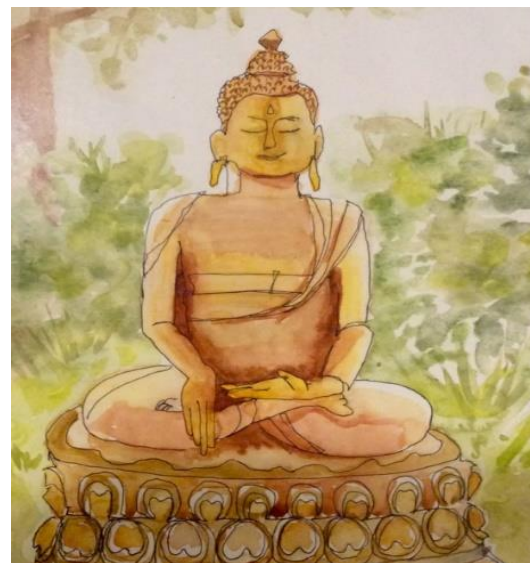
Wednesday, May 19

Wednesday, May 26

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Passcode: uucsp93060

www.facebook.com/uucsp



SOARING HEARTS YOGA

Soaring Hearts Yoga invites you to join them in their shady outdoor space on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Bring your own mats and props. No access to the building. Please contact Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com for more information.



People and Doings

REV. NIC'S OFFICE HOURS

During the time of the Rev Maddie's Sabbatical Leave, our half time minister, Rev. Nic, is available on his ZOOM Tuesday and Thursdays, 3:30-5pm or by appointment. The best way to plan a time to meet with him is to call and leave a message on the Minister's line at the church, 805-525-4620, or email him at minister@uucsp.org

Please note this is a different Zoom meeting ID than the usual Sunday meeting ID.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6432398489>

Meeting ID: 643 239 8489



SABBATICAL TEAM AND COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

While Rev. Maddie is gone on Sabbatical from April 12 to July 12, the Sabbatical Team that has been planning for this time will meet monthly on Zoom with Karen Harris as the Convener. The next meeting of the Sabbatical Team will be Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM. They have prepared the Sabbatical Call Sheet that is in this newsletter, so folks know who to call in the areas of life in our congregation.

The Committee on Congregational Life (COCL) will also be meeting monthly on Zoom with Judy Triem, chair. The COCL meetings are scheduled on the second Thursdays of the month at 4 PM: May 13 and June 10.

Rev. Nic Filzen is half time Sabbatical Minister and can be reached at 805-525-4620 or minister@uucsp.org.

People and Doings

SABBATICAL CALL SHEET

April – July 2021

PLEASE CONSULT THE CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact Nic Filzen, Sabbatical Minister, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4620 or send him an email at minister@uucsp.org

SABBATICAL COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Name	Representing
MaryBeth East	Finance Committee
Kate English	Life-Long Learning, Community Engagement
Karen Harris	Board, Caring Committee, Safe Congregation
Krystal Johnson	Staff, Administration
Ruth Ricards	Worship Team, Multigenerational
Rev. Betty Stapleford	Social Concerns Action Committee (SCAC), Pastoral Care, Committee on Congregational Life (COCL)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name	Position/Title
Leslie Nichols	President
Karen Harris	Vice President
Jerry Gray	Treasurer
Anne Hewitt	Secretary
Jyl Atmore	Member At-Large

HOW TO REACH THE CHURCH OFFICE

To contact Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4647 or send her an email at office@uucsp.org.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Building and Grounds Committee	Board acting on behalf of committee
Caring Committee	Karen Harris
Committee on Congregational Life	Judy Triem
Finance Committee	MaryBeth East
Mary A's	Anne Hewitt
Safe Congregation Committee	Krystal Johnson
Social Concern Action Committee	Margaret Wilson, Co-Chair Audrey Vincent, Co-Chair
Worship Team	Ruth Ricards

rites of Passage

Please contact church office.

PASTORAL CARE

Need/Concern and what to do	Name	Position
If someone becomes ill or is hospitalized, or unexpectedly dies	Krystal Johnson	Office Administrative
Phone Tree and other Caring Committee business	Karen Harris	Caring Committee, Chair

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWCOMER INFORMATION

Please contact church office

NEWSLETTER, ORDER OF SERVICE, e-BLASTS

Item	Name	Deadline
Newsletter	Krystal Johnson	15 th of month
Order of Service	Krystal Johnson	10 am Wednesday before Sunday Service
e-Blast	Krystal Johnson	Emailed on Fridays

People and Doings

NEW ROSES IN OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN

We have recently added five new rose bushes to our Memorial Rose and Rock Garden. They are in memory of Margaret Broughton, Christine Cooke, Patricia English, Jean McGregor, and Dale Peach. Reverend Maddie emailed the families and asked what their loved one's favorite rose color was. There is a peach-colored rose for Pat, red for Dale, purple for Jean, an orange rose for Christine, and finally a variegated red and white rose in memory of Margaret. Reverend Maddie plans to have a small ceremony on October 31 following our annual "el día los Muertos" service, where we traditionally honor those who have passed.



CRUISE NIGHT IS BACK !

FRIDAY, MAY 7TH the Santa Paula Police Department will be closing Main Street from 5PM to 7PM and will be resuming their first Friday of the month Cruise Night tradition. Let's make our presence visible in the community with a table and chairs in front of the Church. We will NOT be able to give Church tours, but we can give out information, such as our newsletter, and water to the people on the street. Please contact Ken Stock if you can help set-up a canopy, table, and chairs. Come out and enjoy the vintage cars, and meet the neighbors, as our community starts to open again.



People and Doings

SIP AND CHECK-IN WITH SHARON KUFELDT

Tuesday May 11 & Tuesday May 25

AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

Grab your favorite beverage and join 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 will meet on Zoom Wednesday, May 12 at 11:30 AM

The team continues to research and discuss the safety and practices of our building. Foremost in our discussion will be the safe reopening of our beloved church.

What are your thoughts on how this should happen? What safety measures would you like to see?

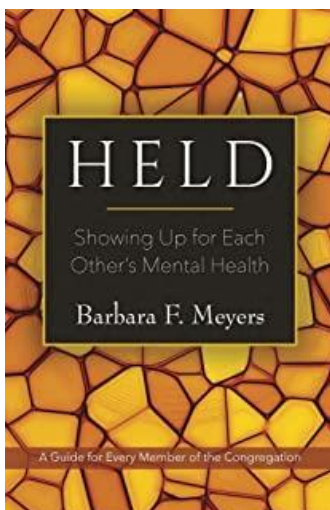
We would love to hear what you have to say. Send us an email at office@uucsp.org or call the office at 805-525-4647.

The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.



THURSDAY, MAY 20 AT A NEW TIME 2:00 PM ON ZOOM

CARING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MENTAL HEALTH



Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. Often those with mental health issues are overlooked by congregations. This year the Caring Committee is considering Reverend Barbara Meyers new book, *Held*, during its regular meetings along with our normal discussions. The Caring Committee's next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, May 20 at the new scheduled time, 2PM, on Zoom when we will be discussing the chapter, "Facing the Ultimate Crisis: Suicide", pages 81-90. Discussion leader, Karen Harris, chair of the Caring Committee with Affiliate Minister, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford.

People and Doings

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, May 19, 4:00 PM.
Laura Espinosa, President of Santa Paula Latino Town Hall will speak.



MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary A Livermore Society will meet Thursday, May 27, 11:30 AM.
We will welcome guest speakers Erin Valenzuela and Jeanne Beach from the Santa Paula California Oil Museum. Here is a little preface.

California Oil Museum first became a Museum in the 1950s, called the Union Oil Museum. We are housed in the original headquarters of Union Oil of California, which signed corporation papers in our upstairs offices in 1890. We have rotating exhibits on earth science, culture, transportation, and local interests. Our Education department hosts around 5000 students every year (well not in 2020-2021!) Students get to learn about Earth Science topics such as rocks and minerals, fossils, earthquakes, soil, sands, and petroleum seeps. During most of pandemic, we switched gears to online content and outreach programs. We recently reopened the Museum and are excited to welcome back guests and students.

Erin Valenzuela
Educator at the California Oil Museum
In the Education department at the Museum since 2014

Jeanne (pronounced Jean) Beach
Executive Director at the California Oil Museum
Started with the Museum- Jan 2020



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. 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



People and Doings

2021 2nd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERINGS TO BENEFIT

APRIL 4, MAY 2, JUNE 6

The Social Concerns Action Committee has chosen the UU Justice Ministry of California to be the recipient of the second quarter first Sunday offering.

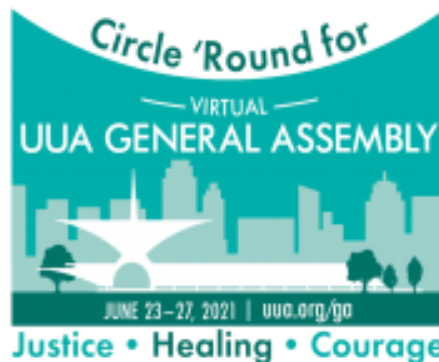
The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California is **to advance justice in our state by cultivating and connecting leaders and communities, and by empowering the public voice of those who share UU values and principles.**

We seek to develop the skills of civic engagement and faith-rooted organizing so that UUs across California can educate, organize, and advocate for public policies that:

- uphold the worth and dignity of every person
- further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ensure use of the democratic process
- protect religious freedom
- promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence

Through the generation of faith-development resources, accessible programming, and accountable relationships, UUJMCA serves to support all UUs in California in putting their faith into public action.

For more information, please visit <https://uujmca.org/>



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**

Why Virtual General Assembly?

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. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

office@uucsp.org

www.uucsp.org

www.facebook.com/uucsp



June newsletter deadline MAY 15

*Accept what is
Let go of what was
And have faith
In what will be
~Buddha*

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Rev. Nicholas Filzen, Sabbatical Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Albie Alamillo, Custodian

Board of Trustees:

Leslie Nichols, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Evan Holt Monika Murillo

Michael Gonzalez Mitch Stone

*Dated Material
Time Value*

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