

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

*St. Augustine Beach, Florida*

September 2014

Fellowship meetings are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m., September through June

A program for youth, birth through eighteen, is provided at 10:30 a.m.

2487 A1A South, 3/4 miles south of State Road 312

Mail: PO Box 5117, St Augustine, FL, 32085

Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on the website [www.uufsa.org](http://www.uufsa.org)



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#### 2014 - 2015

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The *Quest* is published monthly from September through July.

**Materials for inclusion in the October issue are due by September 26.**

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

Contributions of content come from many members.

**Sunday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.**

## **“Water Communion”**



This year's water communion service will be different from previous years. We will be presenting a play, "What Will You Bring to the Feast", based on African and Chinese folk tales. The service will include an offering of canned goods for the Food Pantry, so please come prepared to bring your offering to your seat with you. In addition, bring a sample of water collected during the summer. Of course, it can be water symbolic of your summer. The Program Committee is excited about this innovation and hopes you will find it enjoyable and thought-provoking.



**Sunday, September 14, 10:30 a.m.**

## **“A Religion I Can Live With”**



**Billy Thomas**

I'm still surprised sometimes when people ask me after almost 20 years, why I converted from being a Southern Baptist to a Karma Kagyu Buddhist. I used to give long explanations, but more often now, I just reply that I needed a "religion that I could live with".

Buddhism is my religion, and it is more than my religion, it is a way of living for me. In our conversation with each other, I think it is valuable to explore what it is about our religion or faith, that makes it something we live with. What is it about our faith practice that "fits" us? How does our faith serve us and in turn, how does it help us serve others. We may not always want to explain ourselves to others, but sometimes it is our service to them. Our conversations about our own faith can help others clarify what is and is not important to them and their religious way of being.

*Billy has a BA degree from Stetson University, an MA from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and post graduate hours in counseling from the University of North Florida. He is an Academic Counselor at Florida State College at Jacksonville and the Director of the Karma Kagyu Study Group in Yulee Florida. He lives in Yulee with his wife, Rachel, and their two children, Amelia and Teddy, both second graders.*

**Sunday, September 21, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Getting Even”**



**Rev. Jack Ford**

Our UU principles guide us toward an environment of democracy, justice, and equality of opportunity for all people. The moral ideals embedded in America’s history and politics offer hope and guidance toward a goal of world community and peaceful coexistence with our neighbors.

So what in the world is going on? Beheading in Syria. Immigrant children imprisoned in Texas. Riots in Ferguson, Missouri. Could these events happen anywhere? Are we suffering a ‘cultural disease,’ as UU President Peter Morales said; “the systematic dehumanizing of people all over America?” Does our faith offer any real hope for influencing the moral arc of the universe, or are we just along for a bumpy and dangerous ride through life?

*The Rev. Jack Ford is a fellowshipped minister with the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association. He has been in UU ministry for 21 years serving in the Florida district. He is also a carpenter and a lover of nature.*

**Sunday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Robert Green Ingersoll”**



Robert Green Ingersoll, lawyer, Civil War Veteran, and political leader, died in 1899. An Abolitionist, at the outbreak of the war he raised a Union cavalry regiment from Illinois. In the years after the Civil War until his death, he was also one of America's greatest orators. A critic of religion and churches, favorite topics were freedom of thought and Agnosticism, so much so that he became known as “The Great Agnostic”.

Ingersoll could speak for hours without notes, and reportedly his audiences did not grow restless. Excerpts from his talk from 1877 entitled “Liberty for Man, Woman and Child”, will be read by Palmer Short, with biographical and historical details provided by Jerome Fosaaen.

## **Downstairs Dialogue**



### **"What's Up with our National UUA?"**

**September 14, 9:15-10:15**

Nana Royer and Dave Perkins attended the UUA General Assembly in Providence in June and will be presenting what they learned about the new directions being taken by the UUA and in which the local congregations are being encouraged to participate. This is coming about as a result of our languishing national numbers. Although more than 650,000 people identify with Unitarian Universalism, only 180,000 are members of congregations. How can these new directions affect our local congregation?

## **Membership Committee**

There will be a meeting of the membership committee on Sunday, **September 14, at noon in the meditation room.**

*Fred Dolgin*

## **Central American Children**

### **Amnesty Program**

**September 11, 7:00 p.m.**

Sarah Woodward, a human rights worker in Nicaragua, will speak at the Fellowship. Her talk centers on poverty in Central America and the plight of children, many of whom are flocking to the United States. . Sarah works for Jubilee House, a faith-based organization that alleviates poverty through sustainable economic development, organic agriculture, health care and education. Her slideshow will be followed by a craft sale and a reception featuring wine and Central American delicacies. Amnesty will provide information about the situation of Central American immigrant children in Florida and how we can help them. For information call

*Jo Anne Engelbert, 904-460-1190.*

## **Rally in Tally**

### **To End the Death Penalty**

**October 24-25**

Our state government, embarrassed by reports of cruel and inhuman practices during executions and the and appalling evidence of wrongful convictions, may feel more pressure as October approaches. A state-wide rally against the death penalty is gaining momentum. Amnesty will join other groups from all over the state. We will leave Friday morning, October 24 and drive to Tallahassee, take part in the demonstration, spend one night in a motel and return on Saturday. It should be a powerful experience. Please let me know if you can drive there or need a ride.

*Jo Anne Engelbert, 904-460-1190.*



## Darts Night



Darts nights are now being held at the Pub UU (Basement at the U U) 7:00 pm the first and third Friday. If you are interested get in touch with Palmer Short [palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com) or Dave Perkins [daveagain@gmail.com](mailto:daveagain@gmail.com).

*Palmer*

## Care Connection Group



Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the fellowship during times of difficulty.

We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing.

The Care Connection includes everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty.

Contact Elle Barry or Cynthia McAuliffe, co-chairs, if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Group

## Green Team



The area to the northwest of the Fellowship which has been used as a vegetable garden is now open for new opportunities. Nana Royer, who has been the gardener, is withdrawing her attentions. This provides the opportunity for someone to pick up the lance and continue a vegetable garden or transform it into a herb and/or flower garden. The choice is yours. If

more than one person wishes to participate, that would be ideal, but it is an opportunity for those of you who like to dig in the dirt! Hopefully, there is one or more of you willing and eager to plant and tend flourishing plants.

It is a good idea to continue to feed the compost area as the finished compost can be used for the fruit trees, as well as other shrubs.

Please do continue to deposit your kitchen waste in the compost bin. Do, however, remove any plastic or styrofoam, as that will not break down in our lifetime, never mind the lifetime of the compost pile and if you leave it in, someone has to fish it out--and that has been the gardener. And the more you break up the waste, the faster it will decompose in the bin.

Thank you for your efforts at building a sustainable world, which we all strive for.

*Nana Royer*



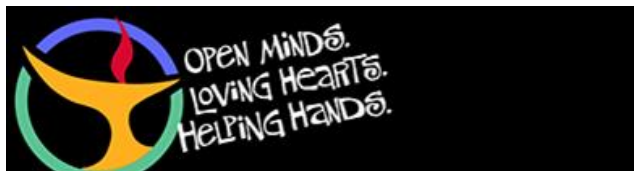
## Lifelong Learning – Youth

### **Welcome Back and Invite Other Families to Join Us**

We are looking forward to the return of our families with youth, and hope that all of you have had a good summer. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to invite families you know to join us this year for a program which will include literature, discussion, music and art as we explore our UU principles and think about what they mean in our lives. Our first service on September 7 will be an intergenerational service ideal for our returning families as well as new families who might like to visit.

### **Hiring Two Teachers**

As we start the new year, we will be hiring teachers for two positions --Nursery and Youth. We are looking for adults interested in supporting youth in learning about themselves and the world in which they live, a variety of religious traditions, decision-making and ethical living. Please pass this on and encourages anyone who might be interested to go to our website, [www.uufsa.org](http://www.uufsa.org) and request application through the “Contact Us” page or call 471-2047.



## MUUvies Film

There will be no mUUvie in September.



## September Calendar



- 3 – Work Day
- 5 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. - ?
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- 11 – Amnesty International “Central American Children” 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Downstairs Dialogue – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 14 – Membership Committee, Noon
- 17 – Program Committee 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 19 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. - ?
- 21 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 26 – Deadline for Quest contributions
- 28 – Adult Education Meeting 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

## September Birthdays

- 02 Jindy Gelow
- 07 Peggy Stephenson
- 15 Susan L. Ballantyne
- 17 David Wright
- 20 Janis May
- 22 Uldis Golts
- 22 Dave Forrest
- 25 Isobel Siegel



## September Anniversaries

- Sept 17 Forrest, Lee Ann & David
- Sept 25 Schepers, JoAnne & Eugene



# **Planning Adult Lifelong Learning**

**Sunday, September 28 at 12:30pm**

Adult Lifelong Learning for the new program year will begin by following the past pattern.

- 1) “Downstairs Dialogue”. Single-topic, drop-in presentation/discussion led by one of our members or an invited outside guest. Held at 9:15 until 10:15am on the second Sunday of the month, starting September 14. Open to the public. Provision for adding additional sessions based on demand and the availability of leaders and topics. (See September details on page 4).
- 2) Planned multi-session courses. Presentation/discussion format, using published resource materials, which may require a fee, collected at signup. Open to the public; but closed after signup. Our first course, “Seeing Systems”, is tentatively scheduled to begin on October 1, and run for six successive Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30pm. (See next item for details).

However, our Adult Ed program is a “work in progress”, and we want to make adjustments over time, based on what folks are interested in. Therefore, everyone interested in Adult Lifelong Learning (Isn’t that ALL of us?) is invited to a general meeting on Sunday, September 28 at 12:30pm (after potluck). We’ll meet in the Meditation Room, and expand outside as necessary, and discuss how to improve the Adult Lifelong Learning program so as to better meet your needs and interests. Think about topics, scheduling, presenters, etc.

Meanwhile, if you have any helpful suggestions about the program as presently planned, please send them along to us.

For those of you who are interested in UU Adult Lifelong Learning, but are not connected to the UUFSA Email network, please

telephone me and let me know of your interest, so that we can keep you “in the loop” by telephone or USPS.

**Charlie West**

*Co-chair, Religious Lifelong Learning (Adult)*  
[westjrcw@gmail.com](mailto:westjrcw@gmail.com) 904-471-0335

## **Seeing Systems Course**

**Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30pm, October 1-November 5**

Our first tentatively planned course this year will be concerned with three major societal challenges that are also key principles that are highly valued by Unitarian Universalists: Peace; Justice; and Sustainability. This reading and discussion course will show how these three principles are integrated into a “Seeing System”. It was developed by the nonsectarian Northwest Earth Institute, whose materials we have used before. Participants from the wider local community are encouraged. The coordinator will be our own Nana Royer, with leadership of the discussions rotating among the participants. Six 90-minute sessions, starting October 1. Tentatively on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30pm, a time chosen to try to accommodate both working folks and also those averse to driving at night. The workbook will cost \$30, payable at signup.

You can register for this course by contacting Nana Royer (nana@nrdp.net or 904-461-3541 or 904-377-1600) and getting her \$30 cash or check either in person or by mail at 6 Willow Drive, St Augustine, FL 32080.

Cutoff date for registration will be September 15, to allow us time to order and distribute books.

## St. Johns Food Pantry



I am happy to announce that Guy Reid, a Friend of our Fellowship, will be helping me out by taking over the Coordinator's role for this year, while I serve as Board president. A long time Food Pantry volunteer, Guy will begin attending the Food Pantry Board meetings and doing the scheduling. I am very grateful for his assistance.

There were no vacations for clients needing the services of the Food Pantry this summer. In July, 478 bags of food were given to 318 needy families. Unfortunately, some weeks the pantry was low on certain items. This is when we depend on financial donations so that our shoppers can buy what is necessary.

Please consider sending a check made out to UUFSA, with Food Pantry written in the memo line, for ANY amount. The address is P.O. Box 5117, St. Augustine, FL 32085. Or you can drop it in the collection basket when we reconvene on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Online donations can be made at [www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org). Back to school expenses are especially hard on our families and this is always one time of the year when they need food more than others. Actual food donations are always welcome and can be left in the entryway basket.

Thank you very much,

***Cherie Dolgin***  
***UUFSA Food Pantry Liaison***

## Dining with Dignity



Please support the Dining With Dignity program. For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team: ***Mary Kellough, Claudia Atkins, Nana Royer, with the Bakery Team: Joyce Peterson, Lola Sorensen and Toni Wallace***

## Drop-in Center Filling a Community Need

Imagine living in the woods, sleeping in your car or on the ground and not having access to showers or a way to keep your clothes clean! Home Again St. Johns -- the group that runs Dining with Dignity -- has opened a Drop-in Center on Rt. 207 that is filling these needs for many homeless persons. You can help by volunteering to work on Wednesday afternoon one day a week. We are planning to open the center on Sundays as well beginning in October. Gene and I have found it an extremely interesting experience; Mary Kellough will be joining us in September! We need donations of deodorant, razors, insecticide at the moment. Please do not donate large bars of soap -- only individual cakes of soap can be used -- but other toiletries are always welcome. There will be a bin near the Tom May table starting September 7. Please call me at 904-460-1190 if you would like to help.

***Jo Anne Engelbert***



# **Beyond Our Congregation**

## **What Happened During General Assembly?**

First and foremost, as delegates, we voted on the business resolution of Fossil Fuel Divestment by the UUA. There will be a small number of shares retained with fossil fuel companies; these will be retained so that UUA representatives can attend stockholder meetings and cause trouble! We are the second church to divest, the United Church of Christ being the first in 2013.

The body as a whole voted on “Escalating Inequality” as the 2014-2018 congregational study/action issue. The issue: “Upward mobility—the American Dream—has become a myth. Concentration of wealth and power has skyrocketed. King’s dream of justice and equality has fractured. Half of all Americans are impoverished or struggling, as the middle class shrinks and billionaires take the profits. Where’s our commitment to the Common Good.” So we should be hearing more about this as an issue which our congregation can take on, should we choose to do so.

As delegates, we adopted three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs): Support the Faith Summit on Stopping Deportations, Affirming Congregational Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention, and UUA Support for “Uganda New Underground Railway” to Safely Extract LGBT People from Persecution in Uganda.

The Ware Lecture was presented by Sister Simone Campbell (*Nun on the Bus*), who encouraged us to “walk towards trouble”. You can watch, and listen, to her speech here and read the text: <http://www.uua.org/economic/ga/295423.shtml> She was awesome—and funny!

The worship service prior to the Waterfire Action of Immediate Witness was an event in itself, and demonstrates the direction in which our denomination is heading, worship-wise. You can watch it here: <http://uua.org/love/ga/295863.shtml> The church is also “leaving the building” and identifying itself more as a “movement”, embracing those who long for community, belonging, and wholeness. Along with this is coming some pretty exciting music!

David Ruffin, D.Min., is a leader in this change of direction of UU. He started Sanctuary Boston, which performed the Waterfire worship service. You will see him leading it on the video. Serendipitously, an article was just published about him, and the UUA, in Boston magazine. You can read it here: <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/article/2014/05/27/unitarian-universalism-selling-god/>

We were also quite taken with Rev. Dr. Thandeka, author of the Tapestry of Faith Program for Adults. She has taught at various UU seminaries and is the author of Affect Theology. She spoke on “Neuroscience and Unitarian Universalist Faith” and is 100 percent behind the new direction of the UUA.

We returned with more material than could be put into practice, even if the congregation were willing to embrace it; hopefully, some change will be welcomed.

***Nana Royer & Dave Perkins***

## “Covenants: A How to Guide”

Northern Cluster of the Florida District is sponsoring a workshop “Covenants: A How to Guide” Saturday, October 18, beginning at 9:30 AM “ The workshop will be led by Connie Goodbread, a staff member of the UUA Southern Region specializing in leadership and faith development. The workshop will be hosted by the Mosaic Unitarian Universalist Congregation 1725 S. Volusia Ave., Orange City, in western Volusia County. Directions to the church may be found at [mosaicuuc.org](http://mosaicuuc.org). The fee to cover expenses is \$30 per person or \$25 per person if three or more come from one congregation. The event will begin with participants arriving at 9:00 AM for coffee and light food. Lunch will be provided and the workshop will end no later than 3:00 PM.

A covenant is an agreement, a promise, a commitment among the people in a congregation about behavior that must be followed to be a member. Developing or revising a covenant requires thinking about what behavior is really important. Having a covenant provides guidelines for behavior and can prevent problems.

Connie has studied Healthy Congregation development and congregational conflict identification. This interactive workshop will emphasize congregational development.



## Covenants: A How to Guide

A Northern Cluster Workshop

Saturday, October 18, 9:30 AM

Led by Connie Goodbread  
Staff UUA Southern Region

Hosted by Mosaic UU Congregation  
1725 South Volusia Ave, Orange City  
See [mosaicuuc.com](http://mosaicuuc.com) for directions

Lunch is included.

The fee to cover expenses is \$30 per person or \$25 if there are three or more from one congregation.

The event will begin with participants arriving at 9:00 AM for coffee and light food.

Connie has studied Healthy Congregation development and congregational conflict identification. This interactive workshop will emphasize congregational development.



## Happenings at The Mountain

*Come to The Mountain for a great program at an amazing place in the Blue Ridge Mountains – join us and let your spirit soar!*



A place. An experience.  
A way forward for all ages.

Cost of events includes program, lodging and meals. For more information about Mountain programs: [www.mountaincenters.org/calendar](http://www.mountaincenters.org/calendar) or 828.526.5838 or Beverly Cree at 904.471.0335.

### **Day Hiking Retreat for Seniors 55+ September 21 - 26**

Come celebrate nature and the Fall Equinox with an Educational Hiking Retreat for Seniors and accompanying adult family members along trails in the Highlands-Cashiers mountains. Moderate Hiking can be expected with knowledgeable guides providing natural history education along the way. 3-night \$300; 5-night \$425

### **Southern Unitarian Universalist Fall Institute (SUUFI)**

October 6 – 10. “The LIFE in Your Years” theme features Rev. Amy Carol Webb, award winning musician and songwriter who brings insights and inspiration to support personal growth and wholeness. Activities are varied: indoors and outdoors – mental, emotive, physical, and soulful. Develop practical ways to optimize health in your body and in spirit, care more comprehensively and compassionately for ourselves and our families, and keep learning and growing into our best selves! \$475

**UU Womenspirit** October 15 – 19 The theme for this event is “Rhythm of Being.” The program offers the opportunity to leave your daily life behind for a time and to tune into the cycles and

rhythms that exist within yourself and the natural world, and to explore how the two are inexorably connected.

Institute: October 15-17, \$250 Gathering: October 17-19, \$250

**Mountain Thanksgiving** November 26 – 30 For all ages, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy family, friends, workshops and hiking, relaxation, entertainment, and the traditional Thanksgiving feast.

## What's At the Heart?

November 15, 2014

9:30 - 4:30

Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

322 15th St W

Bradenton, FL 34205

Join Congregational Life staff member Connie Goodbread at Manatee UU Fellowship in Bradenton, FL, as she explores these questions: What is it that we serve to people when they come to us hungry? Are we a generous people? Are we a trusting people? Why do we exist? Why it is important? What are we called to be? Fee for the session is \$25.

For more information, email: [butcherj13@gmail.com](mailto:butcherj13@gmail.com)

To register: <http://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/whatsattheheart>

## Southern Region UUA Events in Florida

October 11, - Southeast Cluster, Treasure Coast UU Society, Stuart,

October 18, - Central Cluster, Mosaic UU, Orange City

November 15, - West Coast Cluster, Manatee UUF, Bradenton

## A Peace of Mind From The President



Welcome back to all – those of you who traveled to interesting places and those of you who hopefully had an interesting time right here in HOT St. Augustine! We have an exciting Fellowship year ahead.

We will be continuing our discussion about hiring a part-time minister, with Board and

Congregational input. The Ministerial Reserve Fund stands at \$14,180.00, just \$820.00 short of our \$15,000.00 goal. There are members on both sides of the issue of hiring a minister. I am asking everyone to approach conversation on this subject in a civil, respectful way. It is an emotional issue but I truly believe that we can work through it together.

An Interpersonal Effectiveness Training workshop, lead by Dee Lexandra, PhD., will be held at the Fellowship on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am until noon. It is open to the entire Fellowship, with the goal of assisting us in improving our communication skills. Please make a note of the date and plan to attend.

Special thanks to John Porter, who has handled many of the building's needs over the summer. John has initiated a Work Day to spruce up the Fellowship before services

resume. It will be held on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am and should take only two hours or so. Please call John at 904 303-8147 or e-mail him at [dynamojp@gmail.com](mailto:dynamojp@gmail.com) and let him know that you can volunteer.

As I write, it is two days before the annual Board retreat. One issue we will be talking about is a plan to resume manning the Guest Table downstairs for new visitors. I am hoping this year that everyone will take initiative and reach out to those new to the Fellowship. It is everyone's responsibility to introduce themselves to a newcomer and make that person feel welcome. So when you see someone standing or sitting alone at coffee hour, that is your cue...don't wait for someone else. This is how we will help to grow our Fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

In Fellowship,  
***Cherie Dolgin***

