

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

*St. Augustine Beach, Florida*

**February 2014**

**Fellowship meetings are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

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

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

**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)

### **Board of Trustees**

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The Quest is published monthly from September through July.

**Materials for inclusion in the March issue are due by February 24.**

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

**Sunday, February 2, 10:30 a.m.**

## **“The Love Church”**



**Rev. Jack Ford**

A look at our Universalist past and hopes for our U.U. future. At the 1870 Universalist Centennial, the Rev. Edward Everett Hale said, “If America is to succeed, it is because God is love, and loves each and all of his children.” What does this say for our society? For our faith? Is it true, as many UUs proclaim on Sunday morning, that “love is the doctrine of this church”? How does the ‘Gospel of Love’ translate in our evolving, humanistic, trans-Christian movement?

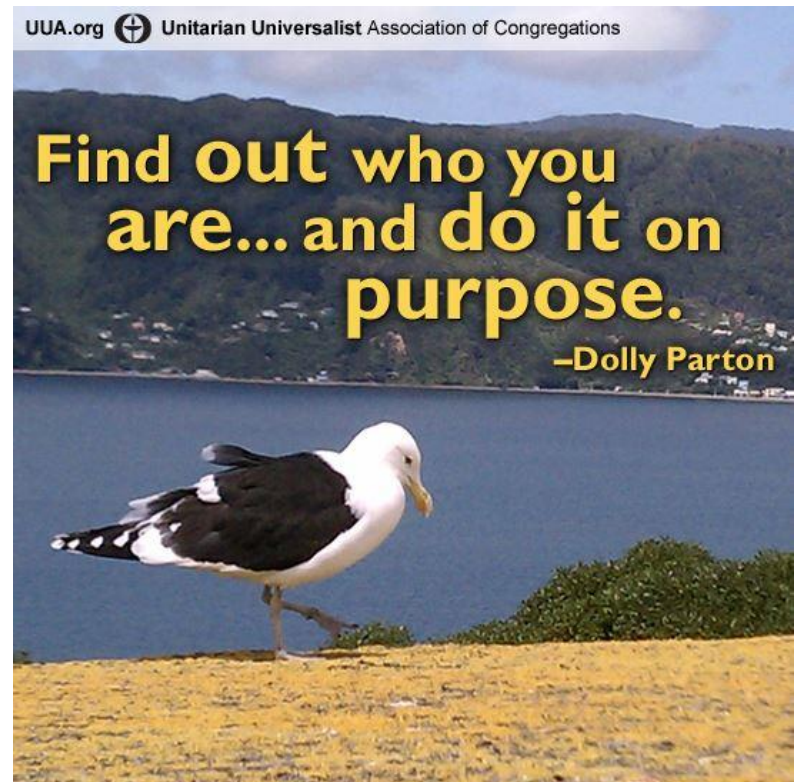
*The Rev. Jack Ford is a fellowshipped minister with the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association. He has been in UU ministry for 21 years serving in the Florida district. He is also a carpenter and a lover of nature.*



**Sunday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.**

## **To be announced.**

*An update will be sent to email subscribers.*



**Sunday, February 16, 10:30 a.m.**

**“The Communion of Life:  
Climate Change & the Unitarian  
Universalist Response”**



**Rev. Jack Ford**

We are part of this world and its destiny is our own. Life on this planet will be gravely affected unless we embrace new practices, ethics, and values to guide our lives on a warming planet.... We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

*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, February 23, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Peace Corps Experiences:  
From Geopolitics to Personal Politics  
and UU Principles”**

Part of the prolonged Cold War between the West and the Soviets was to influence newly independent third world nations. In this geopolitical context, President John F Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961. Sergeant Shriver, Peace Corps' founding Director, had to convince US foreign policy and Wall Street elites, that Peace Corps Volunteers could be effective peacemakers. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Pat Maguire, Calvin Marshall, Robert and Geri Melosh will discuss their international service and how it shaped each of their personal lives and continued community service and activism. They will also draw connections between volunteerism and Unitarian Universalist principles.



Dr. Pat Maguire Was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica 1977-79 and is Professor Emeritus, Western New Mexico University. Pat was involved with the Peace Corps for 20 years. After two years service in Jamaica, Pat trained US Peace Corps Volunteers and host nationals for 9 years in both the US and West Africa. In 2000, she co-founded a Peace Corps Fellows Program at WNMU, through which

Returned Volunteers put to use the skills and understandings they honed in Peace Corps in some of the economically poorest communities on the edge of the Navajo Nation. Pat will discuss how her Peace Corps Service helped shape her approach to research, (particularly feminist participatory research and teacher action



research) as well as community service in domestic violence, food insecurity and girl scouting.



Cal Marshall was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica 1977-79. He also served as a combat officer in the US Coast Guard in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam as well as a career Commissioned Officer in the U.S Public Health Service, Indian Health Service. Cal recently retired from 27 years as a Trauma Nurse Specialist in the emergency room of the Gallup Indian Medical Center, which provides health care for members of the Navajo and

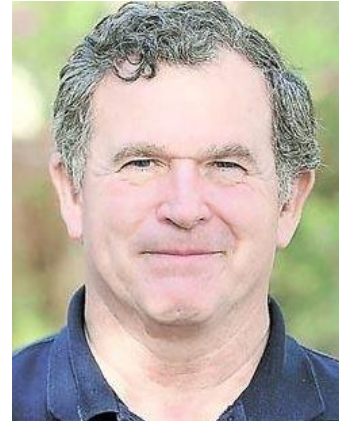
Zuni tribes. Cal will discuss how his Peace Corps experiences continue to influence his community service through food pantries, youth groups, and Kiwanis. One of Pat and Cal's daughters was as a US Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador (2009-2011).



Geraldine Martin Melosh, Ph.D., was stationed in Liberia as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1972-1976. During her first three years, she taught English at the secondary level. In 1976, she was contracted by Peace Corps to conduct teacher training with incoming Volunteers and to supervise current education Volunteers in the coastal counties. In 1976, she returned to the USA to work on a Masters degree and

later lived and taught in Mexico. She moved with her husband and three children to Florida in 1986 and from 1992 to 1996 served as Superintendent of Schools in Putnam County, Florida. In 1999, she founded the Children's Reading Center, Inc. (CRC) – an educational nonprofit committed to improving literacy levels in young children -- and still serves as its executive director. In 2003, she received her doctorate in Instruction and Curriculum from the University of

Florida with a specialization in Reading Education. She currently serves as the principal of the Children's Reading Center Charter School. Since 2009, Dr. Melosh has led the successful Liberia Reads! initiative to train kindergarten – 3rd grade classroom teachers in how to teach reading to emergent readers and has been key in the development of Liberian instructional materials that are used in the program.



Robert Melosh, M.D. was stationed in Liberia as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1972 – 1976. He taught high school science for two years and transferred to the Liberian Ministry of Education where he served in the textbook development department as a secondary science expert. While there, he authored a Liberian chemistry textbook that was printed and distributed to high schools throughout Liberia. While living in Monrovia, he also taught at the JFK nursing school. Upon returning to the USA, he

attended medical school, became a board certified general surgeon, and moved with his family to Florida. After returning from a medical stint in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010, he authored a children's picture book about the experience. After retirement, he began writing literacy texts for the Liberia Reads! project and became a literacy teacher trainer for the Children's Reading Center, Inc. He has been a key person in the development of the LRL Reading Kits combining his science expertise with experience in the development of Liberian instructional materials.



## Great Decisions



### **February 3 "Defense Technology"**

Great Decisions, our local branch of the Foreign Policy Association's network of discussion groups, meets every first Monday at the UU to share information and opinions about foreign policy and international issues.

The subjects up for discussion in the 2014 cycle are 1. Defense technology, 2. Israel and the US, 3. Turkey's challenges, 4. Islamic awakening, 5. Energy independence, 6. Food and climate, 7. China's foreign policy, and 8. US trade policy.

Jo McIntire will lead the discussion on "defense technology" on February 3 at 7:00 pm.

We would like to expand the core group. For more information, please contact Jo McIntire at (904) 461 3175, [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net).

**The meetings are open to the public.**

## Downstairs Dialog



### **Sunday, February 16**

Before Service: 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### **“Current Mental Illness Issues in St. Augustine”**

Please join us for an enlightening discussion about Current Mental Illness Issues in St. Augustine. Pattie Hunt, a member of the St. Augustine chapter of NAMI, (National Alliance for Mental Illness) will present information on changes in local resources, how mental illness affects the homeless population in our city, and the status of the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) program, which is run through the Sheriff's Department.

Pattie is a seasoned mental health advocate and a wealth of information. She will welcome your questions and listen carefully to your concerns.

## Darwin Day



Come to a party! On Sunday, February 16th, we will hold a celebration to honor the 205th birthday of Charles Darwin. During the service, a brief meditation on Darwin's revolutionary ideas will be led by our resident biologist Barbara Battelle. The older children will engage in a hands-on natural selection activity in order to help them

understand that organisms with traits that are favorable to their survival are more likely to pass along these traits to the next generation. Our little ones will also explore variations in the animal kingdom.

Following the service, we will have songs, birthday cake for all, and a surprise guest. Don't miss it!

## Hospitality



Thanks and gratitude go to Nick and Cynthia McCauliffe, Connie A. (need a last name here), Betty London, Claudia Atkins, Mary Kellough, Richard Galy, and Barbara Bacon for coffee duty this past month. And a big thank you to Palmer Short, who is making coffee duty so much easier by actually making the coffee bright and early. If you haven't already got one, pick up a "Guide to

Coffee Duty" from the coffee table by the kitchen door. It would be good to pair experienced coffee makers with uncertain ones. Please let me know if you are a bit uncertain, so I can pair you a "been there, done that" person.

*Rita Golts*

## Afternoon Book Club



Okay, so you cannot make every book club meeting, however, if you have read a book on our list, you are welcome to join us the Tuesday that we discuss the book.

*Isobel Siegel*

The Afternoon Book Club will meet downstairs at UU at 1:00 p.m. We will discuss the following books:

February 18, 2014

***A Land Remembered*** by Patrick D. Smith, led by Rita Golts

March 18, 2014

***The Night of Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern, led by Joyce Peterson

April 15, 2014

***The Bonobo and the Atheist*** by Frans de Waal, led by Barbara Brenner

May 20, 2014

***And the Mountains Echoed*** by Khaled Hosseini, led by Pat Maguire

*Isobel Siegel 794-2293*

## St. Johns Food Pantry



. The 2013 counts are in. The St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries Food Pantry distributed a total of 4977 bags of food last year. These went to 3476 families and provided 119,448 meals! This is quite an accomplishment and could not be reached without the commitment of our UU volunteers, as well as the monetary and food donations

from so many of you. Once again, a sincere THANK YOU!

With the cut back in extended unemployment benefits, the Food Pantry is expecting to become even busier. Please remember to bring in canned goods (fruit and veggies especially) and other staples. If you wish to donate monetarily, you can give me a check or put a check in the collection basket made out to SJEM Food Pantry. You can also contribute online by going to [stjohnsfoodpantry.org](http://stjohnsfoodpantry.org). Any type of donation is greatly appreciated.

*Cherie Dolgin*  
*UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator*



## Dining with Dignity



Once again, our volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty at our Dining with Dignity event last month. All together, we served an amazing Mexican feast to over 100 very thankful people in downtown St. Augustine.

We'd like to thank everyone who spiced up their recipes and delivered an outstanding array of

Mexican food, especially to those of you who were adventurous enough to make Mexican Lasagna! But an extra helping of gratitude goes to Claudia Hansen for picking up and delivering all of the donated food from La Cocina Mexican Restaurant. Their dishes were a tremendous addition to our menu.

In addition to all of the good food, we had a bevy of donated toiletries and personal hygiene items from the Second Time Around Store, and an assortment of blankets, knit hats, and scarves that were eagerly scooped up by many of our homeless friends.

And finally, we would be remiss if we didn't thank those of you who stayed after the meal to clean up the tables and return them to the storage shed. Not a glamorous job, but necessary. We truly appreciated all of the help.

Next month, we'll be serving up a "Tailgating Menu" for Superbowl Sunday, February 2nd. See ya there!

*Lee Ann & Dave Forrest*



# Children's Religious Education

Dear UUFSA Fellowship Members and Friends,  
Time has flown by since September, and the children have been busy with many projects in their RE Program. I'm sure you are aware of many of them, and of course, we are always glad to share what is going on to interested visitors.

We started the year by reinforcing the UU Sacred Water ceremony with understanding the special qualities of water, including reflection of human intention, as shown in the photographs of Masuru Emoto. Later we explored the breathtaking complexities of snowflakes, shared with the world through the works of Wilson Bentley and Kenneth G. Libbrecht. Bentley's enthusiasm for photographing snowflakes was often misunderstood in his time, but his patience and determination revealed two important truths: no two snowflakes are alike, and each one is startlingly beautiful. His story is gracefully told and brought to life in *Snowflake Bentley*, a book we read which gave the children insight into a soul who had not only a scientist's vision and perseverance, but also a clear passion for the wonders of nature. The lovely woodcuts illustrating this book won the 1999 Caldecott Medal.

The snowflake then became our UU ornament of the season for our Christmas tree. The children also helped design a rainbow for displaying in the community area downstairs and made raindrop sayings, which reveal the way the precious substance of water in its varied forms has influenced human thought. We will continue to explore this theme of the value of water as the year progresses.

The children planted their fall garden with peppers, eggplant and tomatoes generously donated by Nana Royer. They always enjoy this activity and will be planting their spring garden very soon.

Another activity the children love participating with is the Fellowship's Dining with Dignity outreach. So far they have made 78 peanutbutter & jelly sandwiches, bagged umpteen snack mixes

and decorated 160 cookies. Wow! Their enthusiasm for community service and openness to compassion for others will be gifts to us all as they go on with their lives.

Priscilla Cain was instrumental in requesting the children to make Christmas cards to augment the Alternative Gifts and Home Again St Johns fundraising programs. This opportunity really appealed to developing their creative expression. More fun and learning is coming up. Here is an outline of the

## **February classes:**

**February 2:** The children will be preparing food to share with Dining with Dignity and discussing the meaning of compassion.

**February 9:** The most radical teachings of every faith and every great religious master include love, yet none of them focused on romantic love. As people of faith, the time has come to reclaim Valentine's Day as an opportunity to serve the wider world. Let's celebrate the radical call to love our neighbors as our selves, and to reach out in love to help end oppression, as we explore the Sixth Principle.

**February 16:** Our celebration of the birth of Charles Darwin, including many festivities and contributions by Fellowship members, will be an occasion not to be missed! Mr Darwin contributed his world-rocking theory of natural selection to humanity in 1859, which radically changed our understanding of God's role in creation.

**February 23:** Lee Ann Forrest and I are planning a special project for the children to give as a gift to the UUFSA Fellowship. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but it is going to be fantastic!

I want to thank the UUFSA members who have been kind enough to volunteer assisting the Children's RE Program since the recent insurance requirement to have two adults present during class time. Your enthusiasm and ideas touch my heart—together we are a family!

*Joan Kramer*

*UUFSA Children's RE Program Instructor*



## Lifelong Learning for Youth



### **Meeting**

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 9,  
12:00 in the Meditation Room

The agenda will include the transition to the UUA curricula, working with classroom volunteers, and the Compassion Project.

Everyone interested in our families is welcome to join us.

### **Direction for Our Youth Program**

In a recent meeting, hopes and expectations for our program was discussed. The following is some of what we are working toward.

#### **What are the most important lessons of UUism?**

Beliefs and values that provide a good foundation for life, understanding ourselves and the world in which we live, critical thinking skills, an understanding of life opportunities and responsibilities



#### **How would we want parents to describe the program?**

Values education including learning to live our values, focus on principles, sense of community

#### **How would we want to describe graduates of our youth program?**

Engage with others in ways that demonstrate a balance of having fun and being productive and responsible citizens of the world, lifelong learners who live their beliefs and values

*[bjcree@gmail.com](mailto:bjcree@gmail.com) or 904.471.0335.*

## MUUvies Films



### **Identity**

(2003) USA

**February 14th, 7:00 p.m. at the UU**

Directed by: James Mangold; Staring: John Cusack, Ray Liotta and Amanda Peet. Approx. 90 mins

Caught in a savage rainstorm, ten travelers are forced to seek refuge at a strange desert motel. They soon realize they've found anything but shelter. There is a killer among them and, one by one.

A Psychological thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat and a climax that will have you talking long after the movie has ended.

*Cooney's achingly clever script has more up its sleeve than just Agatha Christie -- he also evokes "Psycho," "The Sixth Sense," "Poltergeist" and "The Omen" -- and the final third dishes up a twist that isn't just surprising, it's revealing.*

John Powers, L.A. Weekly



## February Calendar

- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Caring Committee 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 5 – Building You Own Theology 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 10 – Board Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- 11 – Strategic Planning Team 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 12 – Building You Own Theology 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – MUUvie – 7:00 p.m.
- 16 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15
- 18 – Book Club 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 19 – Building You Own Theology 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Program Committee 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 23 – Potluck lunch after service
- 25 – Night 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 26 – Building You Own Theology 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



*For the most up-to-date calendar, always go to [uufsa.org](http://uufsa.org) and click on Events Calendar (left side)*

## February Birthdays

- 03 Ann Jaffe
- 07 Toni Wallace
- 13 Brenda Verbeck
- 14 Alice Sheff
- 20 Richard Lahey
- 25 Tristin Woolsey



## February Anniversaries

- 14 Lynch, Barbara & Pilkington, Jerry
- 17 Holmes, Linda & Roy

Please let me know if I have missed you.

*Don*

## Beyond Our Congregation



## **The Mountain Happenings May 19 – 24, 2014 Appalachian Spring Program**

Plan now to join UUs from around the country to enjoy The Mountain. The program includes appreciation of nature and Native American traditions, orienteering in the forest, wild edibles, music, hiking, exploring waterfalls, ziplining, rafting or rock climbing (depending on group interest), a variety of workshops and enjoying the fellowship of others and the peacefulness of The Mountain.

More info at The Mountain display downstairs or contact Beverly Cree, Lyn Klarman or Priscilla Gulliver, or check out the website: [www.mountaincenters.org/calendar](http://www.mountaincenters.org/calendar). Group transportation can be arranged if there is interest. Please register soon – it will be a great way to get to know each other better while we enjoy a great program at a great place.



## **Backstage View from The President**



We held our Winter Congregational Meeting on January 12th, with food provided by your Board, and Rita and Uldis Golts. In spite of the large turn-out to hear our guest speaker, the charismatic Caren Goldman that Sunday, there was ample food to go around. So an appropriate thank you to Rita and Uldis for their generosity is in

order. Of course since Rita's culinary skills would grace any table, we are fortunate that she shares them with us often. The meeting was held primarily to bring the Fellowship up-to-date on the activities of your Board, the Special Planning Team, and the state of our finances. Dave Perkins provided an overview of the Special Planning Team's impressive progress to date.

We also took this opportunity to introduce some ideas for you to consider between now and our May Congregational Meeting, which included a well done report by Charlie West on conversion to Green Energy choices. Your Board will present its recommendations at the May meeting, which may address among other topics the idea of extending our services to a full calendar year and green energy options. Finally, we took this opportunity to review our financial state with input from Ruth Weber, Treasurer, and Nick McAuliffe, Finance Chair. The Fellowship finances are sound and we are very fortunate to have two such dedicated people looking after that side of the Fellowship's business. Two more Rock Stars giving stellar performances for the Fellowship!

We need a volunteer(s) to organize and conduct our Service Auction in May of this year. So if you like a challenge involving raising money, here it is. Just let me know via e-mail, [guyreid1938@aol.com](mailto:guyreid1938@aol.com). Or, you may have another passion for a fund raiser that is a potential Fellowship money maker you would like to

chair. Just send me an e-mail with your master plan! We need to move forward with platinum plans to help meet our current budget fundraising goal of \$6,000. We have raised \$2,704 YTD so this is your opportunity to take the spotlight and garner the \$green.

It is with great pleasure and with gratitude to confirm that Irene Klaw is now co-chairperson of the Hospitality Committee. Between Irene and Rita Golts, as well as Fellowship volunteers to handle Sunday coffee/potluck duties, we now have this area under control in excellent hands. A special thanks of gratitude to all of you who volunteer for this duty. Our downstairs social time is made the more enjoyable because of you. Otherwise we would only have coffee on Sundays. Speaking of coffee, kudos to Palmer Short who frequently makes the coffee for Social Time on Sunday mornings. Palmer is another unassuming provider of his time and talents, with many years of dedicated service to the Fellowship under his belt. Besides, he sings like an angel (yeah, I'm green since the last solo request I had was to remain silent).

Stay warm, and remember we have alternate parking available at City Hall just down the street from the Fellowship..

*Guy*

