

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

*St. Augustine Beach, Florida*

January 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 request.

### Board of Trustees

2014 - 2015

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

**Materials for inclusion in the February issue are due by January 23.**

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, January 4, 10:30 a.m.**

**"Atheist Spirituality"  
Martin Landegar (Video)**



Dr. Marlin Lavanhar presents “Atheistic Spirituality” in a video presentation which he originally shared at All Souls Unitarian church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It will be the first video sermon for our congregation.

All Souls has three services: Humanist, Traditional and Contemporary, in which he shares the same message with three different perspectives. In this humanist presentation he makes a distinction between Spirituality and Religion and Signs and Symbols. He provides his definition of what it means to be “spiritual”, how humanists and theists differ in regards to spirituality, and how we are all interconnected. He also points out how we each hear words, especially religious words, through our own understanding and what to do if these words interfere with our relationships with others in our congregation.

*Lavanhar is the senior pastor of the largest Unitarian Universalist Church in the United States. Marlin grew up as a Unitarian Universalist in Illinois. He majored in Sociology at Tulane and graduated with his Ph.D. from Harvard Divinity School. He is the youngest senior minister of a major congregation in the denomination.*

*After receiving his bachelor's degree, he taught English and American Culture in Kyoto, Japan for two years. He followed that with a three year around the world bicycle trip, studying Buddhism in Asia, Hinduism in India; Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions in Israel, and cycling through much of Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North America. Along the way he visited and wrote about Unitarian communities on the Island of Negros in the Philippines, in the Khasi Hills of Northeast India, and in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Rumania.*

**Sunday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.**

**"The Path of Liberation"  
Billy Thomas**



Guided by the words of The venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche, in his book “Living in Compassion”, I would like us to consider the “path of liberation”. Rinpoche says that “The basic situation we find ourselves in as unenlightened beings is that we are caught up in duality of self and other.” This self and other line of thinking speaking and doing, causes a difficult cycle of dualism. We experience things and people that we are attracted to and people and things that we are repulsed by which creates a division. I would like to offer that there are ways that we can be our natural selves, and practice a path that leads us to a more peaceful, meaningful existence with ourselves and others. I believe what the world needs most, right now, is a big dose of WE or US verses SELF or OTHER.

*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, January 18, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Holding On - Letting Go”**

**Rev. Jack Ford**



Well, its time for me to move - again! Relocating causes us to face decisions: what to keep; what to discard; and oh my goodness, what's in these three boxes never unpacked since my last move? Changing residence, employment, or relationships can be a metaphor about the spiritual endeavors in our lives. In our desire to move forward and grow in wisdom, stature, understanding; what do we take with us, what do we relinquish in our practices, behaviors and beliefs?

*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, January 25, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Why Confronting Injustice and Seemingly  
Insurmountable Odds is Not a Waste of Time”**

**Jeff Nall**

Drawing on his experience as an activist, public lecturer, professor, and father and friend Dr. Jeffrey Nall contends that many people of various ages and education levels respond to mounting injustices and ecological crisis with fatalistic resignation and cynical defeatism. Dr. Nall addresses the flawed basis of an attitude he believes is not only counterproductive to social change but also dehumanizing. Nall contends that many fail to account for the way in which our moral commitments are about much more than achieving particular “end results” or “victories”; they are core components of our self-identity and define us as individuals, too. Articulating a virtue ethics approach to social change, Nall contends that the question is not simply, is change possible, or is wholesale societal change possible? An important and too often overlooked question is what kind of person do you wish to be? And to what are you ultimately committed to?

*Jeffrey Nall holds a master's of liberal studies from Rollins College and a Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University. He is an adjunct professor at two colleges where he teaches philosophy, critical thinking, and gender studies. Nall is the author of *Feminism and the Mastery of Women and Childbirth: an Ecofeminist Examination of the Cultural Maiming and Reclaiming of Maternal Agency During Childbirth* (Academica Press, 2014). He can be reached at <http://www.jeffreynall.com/>*



## Downstairs Dialogue

### **“Our Relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association”**

**Sunday, January 11, 9:15-10:15, Downstairs**



With the hiring of our first part-time UU minister, our relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will inevitably become more important. Meanwhile, the UUA itself is evolving in a number of ways. Looking to the future, it behooves us all to know more about the UUA, how it is organized, how denominational decisions are made, and how it relates to the congregations.

Charlie West has done some background research, and will lead our discussion of these matters at Downstairs Dialogue. He was a long-time Chair of Denominational Affairs at his previous congregation, has been a delegate and staffer at numerous UUA General Assemblies, and served on several district-wide committees. Come join us on Sunday, January 11, at 9:15am for enlightenment and discussion. See you there!

**Come join us at 9:15am downstairs.**

## Membership Committee

### **New Members of UUFSA**

December 2014

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce the following new members to our fellowship:

Rosita Angeli

Larry and Laura Cowart, with children Lauren (17) and Hannah (10)

Vanessa Friedman

Diana Hull, with children Ricardo Luis Garcia (5), and Adrian Wilson Garcia (2)

Christopher and Victoria Lather, with children Adelina (2), and Julian (5 months)

Eddie and Robin Mahonen

Steve Ocean and Lisa Lagrange Ocean, with daughter Mehina

Naomi Rossi.

## Hospitality



Thank you to all our kitchen duty folk this past month: Fred and Cherie Dolgin; Pat Willott and David; John Foster and Priscilla Gulliver; Judy Weisberger, Betty and Phil Funke. And as always the ubiquitous Palmer Short. When you sign up for kitchen duty, please include your last name. If you would like to be reminded the week before, include your e-mail. We still need a coffee duty sign-up for January 11. If you need reimbursement up to twenty dollars, please give me your receipts..

*Rita Golts*

# Great Decisions

7:00 p.m., Monday, January 5 at the UU



The Great Decisions discussion program is the center piece of the Foreign Policy Association's education outreach efforts. The group meets at the UU at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month and discusses different topics related to US foreign policy.

## **Monday January 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

In November 2013 as calls for closer ties with the EU failed to be met, Ukrainians took to the streets. As the Euromaidan movement pulled western Ukraine closer to its European neighbors, Russia has threatened to tear away the country's eastern half. Putin's pushback against European expansionism has us wondering: If Putin's Russia isn't afraid to take an aggressive stance against Europeanization in Ukraine, what does that mean for the rest of Russia's neighbors?

## **Monday February 2, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

The idea of "privacy" has undergone significant changes in the digital age, as has the idea of privacy "harm." The founding fathers granted citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now, concerns about what some see as a U.S. "dragnet" and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled other countries to revamp their own privacy protections. Is "privacy" as we know it dead?

Essentially Great Decisions is a learning exercise. Consensus is not our goal. Everyone's point of view carries equal weight and everyone is encouraged to share their opinions and ideas.

For more information about Great Decisions see <http://worldoregon.org/programs/great-decisions> and/or contact Jo McIntire ([jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net)) or 904-461 3175. Guests are welcome.

*Jo*

## **New Format for *Quest***

By now you have seen that the format of the *Quest* has changed for a second time since I took over editorship. It has gone back to a portrait orientation but with only one column. It may not look quite as pretty but this format has several advantages over the two column landscape version:

- It reduces the time spent doing the layout .
- It is easier for people who make copies for mailing and for the Fellowship lobby to reproduce without having alternate pages facing different directions.
- It is easier to read on hand held devices with modest size screens.

*Don Brandes*

# Lifelong Learning – Youth Program



Greta Galloway is wearing her St. Lucia crown and enjoying her golden chocolate Hanukkah coins. The children in this class have continued the World Religions curriculum, learning about Festivals of Lights as part of many religious traditions, celebrating Mohammad's birthday and learning about the five pillars of Islam.

## **Our Teen Program**

David Wright is continuing to work with the teens doing the video project about the UU Principles. They have completed three of the principles, and we look forward to sharing the final project with the congregation at the end of the year. Barbara Battelle engaged the teens in a discussion about Creation Theory and the Theory of Evolution, and how the Theory of Evolution is not incompatible with religion. We welcome two new teachers to the teen program – Diana Hull and Vanessa Friedman, who are both lifelong Unitarian Universalists.

## **Teen Program Coordinator**

Diana Hull has offered to coordinate our teen program. We are excited about her enthusiasm and ideas for engaging our teens. Diana has participated at UUFSA for about four years, and has two young children in the program. The following is Diana's statement about who she is and her hopes for working with our teens: *My family has been UU for four generations, and, accordingly, my siblings and I were raised in the church school. A tremendously influential time in my life was the years spent in the Youth program. As a member of Ohio Meadville Young Adult Committee (YAC) I planned, organized, and orchestrated weekend conferences for youth, from food service to vespers service. Those years were a powerful part in forming my adult persona. As a result I am inspired to enable teens to share in their larger church heritage. In volunteering with the youth of the fellowship I hope to explore the world faiths in an effort to define better our personal interests as well as what drives those around us. I intend to build relations with other youth groups in Orlando and Jacksonville as well as the district in general. I look forward to witnessing today's youth benefit from the religious support I was afforded years ago at such an instrumental developmental stage.*

## **Teen Sleepover at UUFSA**

In April, we will be hosting a sleepover of about 25 teens from UUFSA, Orlando and Buckman Bridge. The purpose of this event is to explore sites that illustrate UU Principles. For example, the famous downtown tree – different species that have interwoven and thrived – related to people who are very different being able to live and work together constructively. If anyone has other ideas for this scavenger hunt, please let us know. This will be a great opportunity for our teens to get to know other UU teens and learn about programs in other congregations.

Thank you all for your continued support of our UUFSA Youth Program – volunteering with youth in the classes and encouraging more families to come join us.

*Beverley Cree*

# Lifelong Learning – Adult Program

## Adult Learning In 2015

We have recently completed our Adult Learning course on Seeing Systems, coordinated by Nana Royer. Many of you attended the recent Sunday service, which was “produced” by our graduating “students.”

Meanwhile, our monthly series of “Downstairs Dialogues” has continued, every second Sunday at 9:15am, on a variety of topics. And these will continue into the new year. See page 4 for details about this month’s program.

Now we need to plan new offerings for the spring season. But we need input on content and logistics. Although UUFSAsers have expressed strong interest in Adult Education in concept, there are questions of how much of a continuing commitment of time many of us are prepared to make. How long should courses be? What subjects are of the most interest?

To guide us in these matters, we’ll be sending out an informal email survey to determine preferences and constraints. Watch for it in your email inbox. And for those not connected to the internet, just give me a call, and we can discuss your interests the old fashioned way.

*Charlie West*  
*Chair, Adult Learning*

## Care Connection

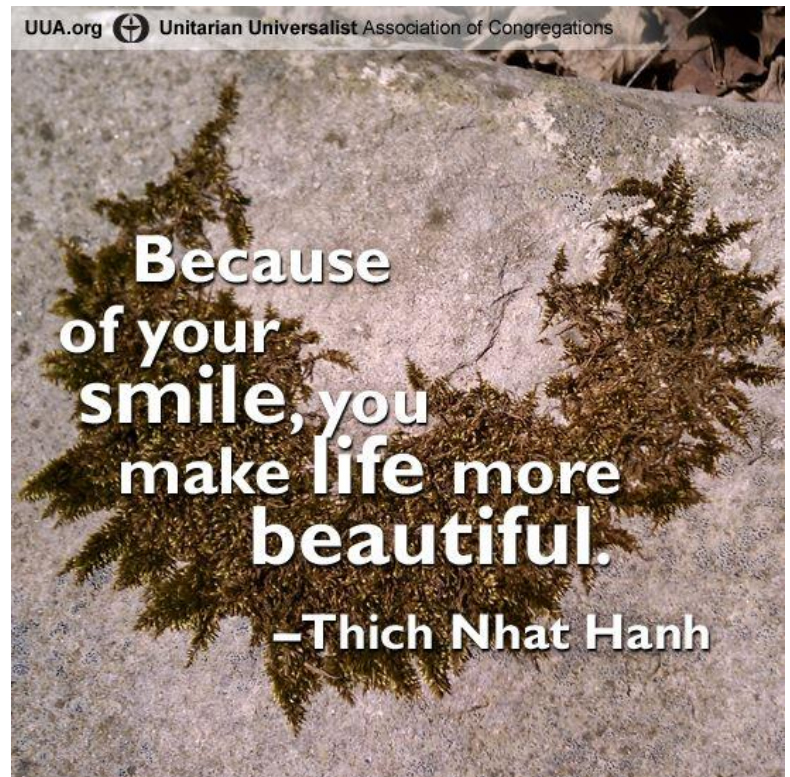


Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the fellowship during times of difficulty.

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** if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Group



## Afternoon Book Club



The Afternoon Book Club meets downstairs at the Fellowship on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. If you cannot attend every meeting but are interested in a particular book, please feel welcome to come for just that month. For more information, contact Isobel Siegel, 794-2293.

January 20 ..... *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie, led by Pat Moore

February 17 ..... *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by Steven Galloway, led by Janet Jamel

March 17 ..... *The Submission*, by Amy Waldman, led by Barbara Brenner

April 21 ..... *March*, by Geraldine Brooks, led by Judy Weisberger

May 19 ..... *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho, led by Uldis Golts

June 9 ..... Lunch – place to be determined

## Green Team



**"The Endangered Right Whale"** will be presented Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m., at the Fellowship by Joy Hampp, Director of the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project. This is the time of year when these whales are off our coastline giving birth and nursing their calves. With only 500 North Atlantic Right Whales left, we can all do our parts to ensure their survival, and subsequently, perhaps, our too. Come learn about these majestic animals and how you can help.



**Green Team Meeting**-- Tuesday, Jan 27, 2:00 p.m. downstairs. If you would like to be an active participant in helping bring about a healthier, more sustainable congregation, nation, and planet, please attend. We await your ideas!

*Nana Royer*





# **St. Johns Food Pantry**

## **HOLIDAYS AT THE FOOD PANTRY**



Your generosity continues to help sustain the Food Pantry for those who depend on it for food on their plates. This is true throughout the calendar year and yet somehow it seems more critical than ever over the Holidays. I think part of that is the emotions that run high this time of year, including gratitude for family, friends, and loved ones. We also pause and consider our blessings including a roof over our heads and the material necessities of life. The contrast of people who don't even have a place to call home or who have bare cupboards is pretty grim this time of year. That is why it is more important than ever for us to give thanks for our full plates by helping those who need the basic necessities for survival. But then I am preaching to the choir since, after all, the UUFSA has been generous in making donations and contributions to the Food Pantry throughout this year.

Just to share a couple of statistics, the bag count at the Food Pantry was 14% greater in November than this time last year. A record was set for the number of bags given out in one day at 54. The need continues at a somewhat accelerated pace, with an expected increase in December. There is no better way to give thanks during this Holiday season for our countless blessings than to give to those who need our help.

Remember, too, that cash is always welcome. Just give your cash donation or check made out to the UUFSA with a note that it is for the Food Pantry, to Ruth Weber, UUFSA Treasurer and she will get it to the Food Pantry on your behalf. You can also use PayPal. This extra step documents UUFSA generosity on our own records.

A reminder that some of the Food Pantry resources have disappeared and we can continue to donate items like canned meat, cereal, pasta/sauce, dried beans, rice, and soup, to help replace donations from Nourishment Network.

Our Holiday stars this month representing you as volunteers are, Nana Royer, John Porter, Lee Ann Forrest and family, Lenny Gemsky, Lou and Jill Cerulli, Hannah Lore, and Guy Reid. Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire continue to be food shoppers for The Pantry whenever there is a fifth week in the month. Thank you Cal and Pat, and a big Ho Ho Ho of thanks to all of our volunteers from the Man in the Red Suit! A special mention that Nana, John, Lee Ann and family, and Guy will be there the day after Christmas!

*Happy Holidays!*  
*Guy Reid*  
*Food Pantry Coordinator for UUFSA*

## **Dining With Dignity**

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, January 4, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team:  
*Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Claudia Atkins*



## January Birthdays

- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 04 Laura Cowart            | 12 Barbara Lynch  |
| 07 Barbara Bacon           | 13 Nena Vreeland  |
| 08 Claudia Adkins (Hansen) | 17 Jerome Fosaaen |
| 08 Mary Kellough           | 28 Cal Marshall   |
| 11 Patricia Moore          | 30 Pat Griffin    |



## January Anniversary.

Jan. 2 Beverly Cree & Charlie W. West, Jr.

## January Calendar

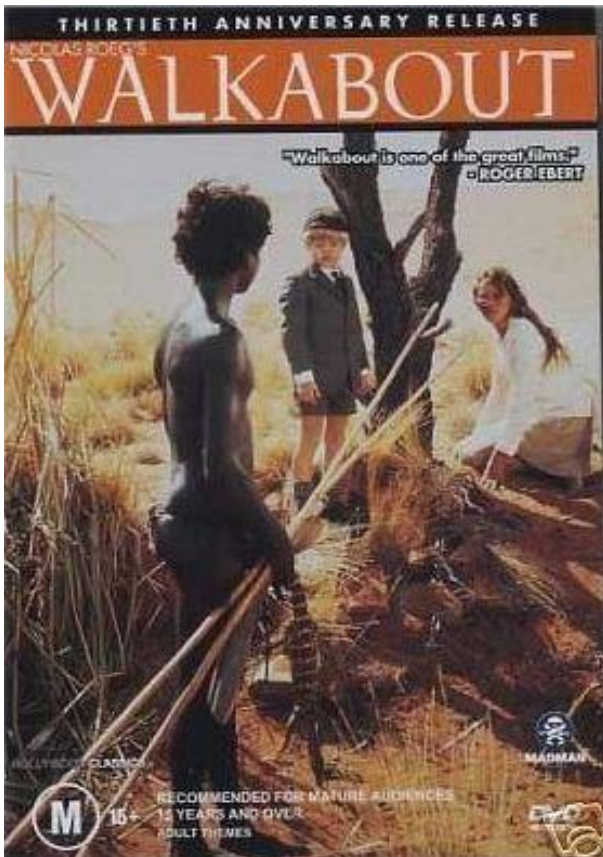


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|--|---|
| 5 – Great Decisions 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.             | 15 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.             |
| 2 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. -                       | 16 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. -                     |
| 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.         | 20 – Afternoon Book Club 1:00 p.m.-             |
| 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.                 | 21 – Program Committee Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. |
| 9 – mUUvie <i>Walkabout</i> 6:30 p.m. -          | 23 – Deadline for Quest contributions           |
| 11 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.       | 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.               |
| 12 – Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  | 25 – Potluck lunch after service                |
| 13 – The Endangered Right Whale 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | 27 – Green Team 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.                |



# MUUvies

Second Friday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.



**1/9/15 - Walkabout** (1971) 100 minutes - adventure/drama - Rotten Tomatoes/93% - Two young siblings are stranded in the Australian Outback and are forced to cope on their own. They meet an Australian boy on "walkabout": a ritual separation from his tribe.



## Winter and Spring 2015

**2/13/15 - Groundhog Day** (1993) 101 minutes - comedy/drama/fantasy - Rotten Tomato-97% Smart, sweet, and inventive, Groundhog Day highlights Bill Murray's dramatic gifts while still leaving plenty of room for laughs.

**3/13/15 - The Quiet Man** (1952) 129 minutes - comedy/drama/romance - Rotten Tomato-89% - Director John Ford and star, John Wayne, depart the Western for the Irish countryside, and the result is a beautifully photographed, often comedic romance.

**4/10/15 - The Innocents** (1961) 100 minutes - horror - Rotten Tomatoes-97%. Creepily atmospheric, The Innocents is a stylishly crafted, chilling British ghost tale with Deborah Kerr at her finest

**5/8/15 - Cedar Rapids** (2011) 87 minutes - comedy - Rotten Tomato-85%. It's as conventional as its Midwestern setting, but Cedar Rapids boasts a terrific cast and a script that deftly blends R-rated raunch and endearing sweetness.

**6/12/15 - Lone Star** (1996) 135 minutes - drama/mystery/romance - Rotten Tomato-93% When the skeleton of his murdered predecessor is found, Sheriff Sam Deeds unearths many other long-buried secrets in his Texas border town.

# Beyond Our Congregation



## Buckman Bridge January Events

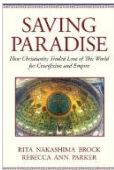
8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244

**Faith Like a River** classes continue. Faith Like a River explores the dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies. The schedule for the next three classes is:

January 7: We're All Swimming in the Stream Together – Covenant

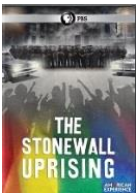
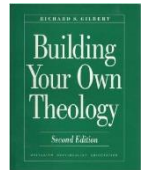
January 14: Gently Down the Stream – Polity

Please contact Scott Cromar at [pr\\_communications@bbuuc.org](mailto:pr_communications@bbuuc.org) if you will be attending so that we can send you the discussion materials.



**Saving Paradise.** On Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m., the [Religious Texts and Society](#) group will be discussing [Saving Paradise](#) by Rebecca Ann Parker. Religious Texts and Society meets on a semi-monthly basis to discuss the origins of the Bible, the Koran, and other religious texts. Please contact [pr\\_communications@bbuuc.org](mailto:pr_communications@bbuuc.org) if you plan to attend.

**Building Your Own Theology.** BBUUC's "[Building Your Own Theology](#)" workshop will be held on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. between January 15 and March 19. Please contact [religious\\_ed@bbuuc.org](mailto:religious_ed@bbuuc.org) if you are planning to attend, or for more information.



**LGBTQ Film Series January 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – “Stonewall Uprising”:** “...explores the dramatic event that launched a worldwide rights movement, told by those who took part in this experience at a time when homosexuality was considered a mental disease.” No fee. If you have any questions, please direct them to [ivylakesdrive@gmail.com](mailto:ivylakesdrive@gmail.com)

**Universalist Convocation 2015.** BBUUC is busily preparing to host the 2015 Universalist Convocation at Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church (BBUUC). They are asking UUs to help publicize the event on any blogs or social media accounts we have access to. Artwork is available that you can use, a [simple file that can be used as a banner ad](#), or a [larger file that can be used as a content block](#).

For more information about the Convocation, please speak with Rev. Pat Ray or go to the Convocation web site at [www.BBUUC.org/uc2015](http://www.BBUUC.org/uc2015). Artwork to help advertise the Convocation is available at:

<http://www.bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/UC2015-logo-.png>

[http://www.bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/herald\\_ad-.jpg](http://www.bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/herald_ad-.jpg)

**Thirty Days of Love.** BBUUC is holding a "Standing on the Side of Love" class on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. between January 21 and February 11. This coincides with the UUA's annual celebration of "Thirty Days of Love,," which helps UUs accomplish small tasks while working towards the larger goal. Together, participants will strive to keep up with each days challenges, using one another as both resources and support. Please contact [religious\\_ed@bbuuc.org](mailto:religious_ed@bbuuc.org) if you will be attending or for more information.



**Universalist Convocation 2015**

**Shining Our LIGHT on Universalism**

MAY 29-31, 2015 • JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Held at  **Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244  
 Phone: (904) 276-3739 • www.BBUUC.org

*Come to sunny Jacksonville for great worship, inspiring sermons, and workshops on Universalist history, the changing image of Jesus in art, starting a UU Christian Fellowship in your congregation, creating a welcoming environment for all ages (presented by youth leaders). In addition, there will be music, entertainment, delicious meals and a Black history tour of St. Augustine. Child care is available throughout the event.*

For registration & additional information, visit <http://bbuuc.org/uc2015>



Friday  
Opening  
Presentation

The Reverend  
Andrea Greenwood



Saturday  
Keynote  
speaker

Sunday  
Worship

The Reverend  
Mark Harris



Saturday  
Worship

The Reverend  
Jack Ford

## Future Florida Events

**January 31**, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within," UU Church of St. Petersburg

**February 6-8**, the UU Church of Tampa will offer this Renaissance Module: Administration as Leadership.

**March 7-8**, the Florida UU Choral Festival will be hosted by the First Unitarian Church of Orlando.

**March 21**, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within", First Unitarian Church of Orlando

**March 20-22**, 5th Annual Florida UU Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk Conference Center in Lithia.

**May 2**, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within", First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches

**May 29-31**, 2015 Universalist Convocation at Buckman Bridge UU Church.

For more information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar

at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html>



# Marching in the Arc of Justice, Re-Visiting Selma: A Conference Honoring the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign

March 5 - 8, 2015

Join the Living Legacy Project, and answer the call to return to Selma to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing. Join the Living Legacy Project as we invite Unitarian Universalists to Selma to honor our martyrs, the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, and reflect with one another about what their courage and the courage of countless others require of us in 2015.

<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/selma2015.html>

In early 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference appealed to people across the United States to join in the struggle for voting rights in Selma. Many Unitarian Universalists answered the call, including President Dana Greeley and members of the UUA Board of Trustees. Fifty years later, March 5-8, 2015, UUs are gathering with others in Alabama, for a significant civic, political, and interfaith celebration.

Thousands of people from around the world will be converging on Selma, Alabama, March 2015, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing.

- March 5 & 7 - Gather in Birmingham for a dynamic program
- March 6 - Visit historic sites in and near Selma. Return to Birmingham along the route of the Selma-Montgomery march
- March 8 - Travel to Selma to attend local church services and participate in the re-enactment of the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



## District Annual Assemblies

April 17 - 19, 2015

Please plan to join us from April 17-19, 2015, in Orlando (FLD), Montgomery (MSD), Greensboro (SED), or New Orleans (SWUUC). Our theme is "We Are Building a New Way." The 2015 joint Annual Assemblies will feature:

- an important vote which will help to define our relationships as UU congregations, clusters, elders, and staff in the Southern Region
- a keynote address by the Rev. Jeanne Pupke, broadcast to all of the district sites
- programming, fellowship, singing, and fun!



# A Peace of Mind

## From The President



The Ministerial Search Committee is composed of the following members: Claudia Atkins, Barbara Battelle, Beverly Cree, Cal Marshall and Toni Wallace. I would like to thank each of them for volunteering their time and energy for such an important endeavor for our Fellowship. The Board will be giving them a charge from the congregation, after reviewing the comments made in the opinion papers and at the congregational meetings, as to what Members expect of a minister.

It will be up to the Search Committee to decide if they need more input from Members, to put together a packet which will tell a candidate about our Fellowship, to find and interview qualified candidates and finally to present their selection to our Membership for consideration. The Search Committee plans to begin meeting right away. Let's all offer them our support.

David Wright has been confirmed Assistant Treasurer by the Board. He is learning our current accounting system from our Treasurer, Ruth Weber, and working diligently to computerize our operations. We are so grateful for his participation in this process and taking on this new role.

The Strategic Planning Committee has just submitted their final report to the Board. We will be discussing it at our January meeting. Much appreciation to Dave Perkins, Lola Sorensen and Charlie West for their months of dedicated service in research, meetings and conducting the Member's cottage meetings to produce these documented results.

We are extremely grateful to Megan Porter and Joyce Peterson, who will be taking over the editing duties on our website for text and photographs, respectively. If there is anyone else who would like to be involved in this project, please let me know.

The Board has decided that our Fellowship will make the most difference if we rotate our monthly Share the Plate collections with just three agencies. They are the St. Johns Food Pantry, Home Again St. Johns, and the Wildflower Clinic. These agencies receive less funding than other more well known nonprofits in St. Augustine. We thank you all for your very generous contributions to these essential human service agencies which are struggling with their budgets.

Thanks also to Yosi McIntire, who is coordinating Christmas dinner at the Fellowship, and to all of you who are assisting with various tasks. It's wonderful that the UU family can be together on the holiday!

At long last, the downstairs is scheduled to get new carpeting installed on January 7th - 9th. Any meetings those days will need to take place upstairs. A round of applause goes to Ruth Weber for being our liaison with Hasty's Carpets and making multiple trips there on our behalf. And to John Porter who always does so much of the behind the scenes prep work.

Wishing everyone peace and many blessings in the New Year,

*Cherie Dolgin*

