

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida

July and August 2015

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

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

A summer program will run from July 12 through August 9, 2015 at 10:30 a.m..

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

No services will be held July 5 or August 16 through September 6

Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on request.

Board of Trustees 2015 - 2016

PresidentLola Sorensen
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 TrusteeCherie Dolgin
 TrusteeCharlie West
 Trustee.....Megan Porter
 Trustee.....Pat Moore
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Materials for the September issue are due by August 21.

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donaldblandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.



From the Presidents

A Peace of Mind



It's been a fascinating 15 month journey as your president! You are an amazing group of dedicated individuals who come together to share beliefs, compassionate friendship and community action. You do express your differences, which is essential. We can all continue to work on our effective communication skills, which is equally imperative.

A heartfelt thank you to all who give so much of yourselves for the operation and growth of our Fellowship. I think that we will only become stronger in the year ahead, with the addition of a halftime professional minister, Rev. Tom Schmidt. And under the competent leadership of Lola Sorensen.

*With peace of mind,
Cherie Dolgin, Past Board President*

Letter from Lola

Dear Congregation,

We have a tremendously exciting year ahead of us, as we welcome Rev. Tom Schmidt and begin the brand new experience of working with a part-time minister. I am honored to be your President at this time of transition, and I know with our excellent Board of Trustees, we will have a wonderful year. The Board will be meeting for our summer retreat in mid-July, when we will be together as a team to talk about the coming year and how we will work together to build on the successes of last year and create a positive experience for Rev. Tom, for the Board itself, and of course for you the congregation, the most important component.

As you know, we are offering a summer program this year that will be at the regular hour, 10:30am on Sundays, and will begin on July 12. The Program Committee has spent a lot of time preparing for this new approach to our summer gatherings, and we all hope you'll come experience what they have to offer.

Then on September 1, Rev. Tom will be here, and we'll be off and running on our grand new adventure. In the meantime, I hope you will have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you at the Fellowship.

*Lola Sorensen
2015-2016 Board President*



Summer Program

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that our Sunday Summer Programs will begin on July 12th and run through August 9th. These programs will be more informal and intergenerational than our regular services and are lay-led. The speakers are members of our congregation, and Taffy Rook will continue as pianist. Of course, there will be coffee and conversation after the program!

July 12

“The Right Way to Right Speech”

An intergenerational play about something we know is a challenge for us all. We anticipate it will be entertaining with an important message.

July 17

Charlie West

“Humanist Ethics and Morality”

Approaching the problem of deciding whether an action is considered right or wrong from a UU Humanist perspective. This will not be a formal “sermon” but rather a vehicle for congregational discussion and interaction.

July 26

Megan Porter

“Vegetarianism and Ethical Eating”

Vegan? Vegetarian? Pescatarian? Flexitarian? Sorting out the differences in vegetarian diets and following a plant based diet in the real world. Is a vegetarian diet always ethical? Not always...

August 2

Don Brandes

“Putting Fear Into Perspective”

Understanding the nature of our fears and how to confront them.

August 9

Lola Sorenson

“A Matter of Death and Life”

Lola Sorensen will present an interactive program called "A Matter of Death and Life" in which she will be sharing paintings and writing done during and after her late husband's illness and death. Questions and discussions invited throughout.

Megan Porter/Program Committee

July Calendar

2 – Care Connection – 10:30 a.m. - noon
3 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –
5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
10 – Movie 6:30 p.m. –
15 – Program Committee 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
16 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
17 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –

20 – Board of Trustees Retreat 9:30 a.m -2:30 p.m.
24 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
24 – Possible movie to be announced 6:30 p.m.
31 – Darts Night 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



August Calendar

2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
7 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –
5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
14 – Possible movie to be announced 6:30 p.m.
19 – Program Committee 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

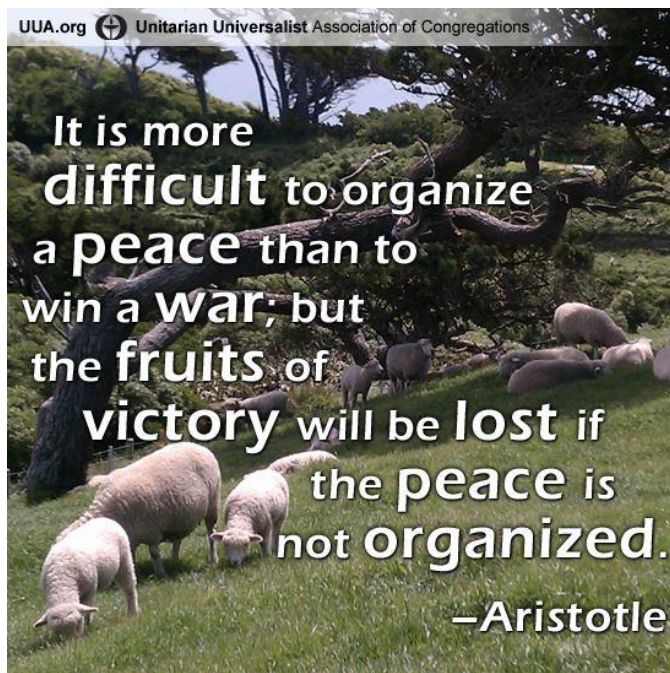
20 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
21 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. –
21 – Deadline for Quest contributions
28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
28 – Possible movie to be announced 6:30 p.m.

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



Lifelong Learning

Youth Program



A Busy Program Year

This year, our middle and teen youth classes have been immersed in learning about a variety of religious traditions and practices, in addition to the UU Principles video done by our teens. In June, as we considered how religion might be related to how we live our values, one class focused on the environment and our interdependent web. The discussion included exploration of the bulletin board display for our UU Environmental Action Team, how hard it can be to actually put our beliefs and values into daily practices. In the following photos, our youth are creating something that expresses their individual concerns and commitments to the care for our environment. Applying the principles they discussed, all of their creations were made with recyclable materials.



Thank You to John Porter

This drawing by Ania Wareham expresses our appreciation for John Porter who did a lot of work to restore our swing set – replacing a support beam and swing chains and seats. The swing set and climber are frequently used after class, and it is wonderful being able to use this again.

Please join us on the playground for visiting after the service, a nice way to get to know one another.

Summer Program for Youth

This summer from July 12 through August 9, our UU congregation is having a service on Sunday morning at 10:30. There will be a program for all youth – birth through high school – on these Sundays. Our youth will be doing a variety of activities – music, drama, and service projects. July 12, the service will be an intergenerational play. Youth are encouraged to join adults for the play.



Beverly Cree

St. Johns Food Pantry



THE FOOD PANTRY: OPEN FOR BUSINESS ALL SUMMER

As you may know the SJEM Food Pantry is open 12 months a year in order to accommodate those who avail themselves of its services. Your UUFSA volunteers continue to support this worthwhile outreach program through the heat, humidity, and sans hubris for those who depend on it for support. I noticed that the Fellowship also made a cash donation of \$255.00 in May, which is greatly appreciated. And to those individuals who make cash donations, a big thank you as well.

Your donations help SJEM help those who need it the most in our community. Total donations from the participating churches and their membership for May were \$2,708.50, The April total was over \$4000.00; however, every donation is gratefully accepted. Also the USPS carriers conducted their annual food drive in which the Food Pantry was the fortunate recipient. What a pleasant greeting when the drive ended of row upon row in every room of the Pantry brimming with those donations! Please thank your postal carrier for their generosity at a time when the cupboards were close to bare. The increase in homeless families with children is a reality, as well as those households that barely keep roofs over their heads. The Pantry fed 235 families in May. So YTD the Pantry distributed to 343 in January, 231 in February, 281 in March, and 302 in April, for a total of 1,392 families! These figures make it abundantly clear that we are on a winning mission.

You are invited to make your cash donation or check made out to the UUFSA with a note that it is for the Food Pantry, to Larry Cowart, UUFSA Treasurer (there may be a new Treasurer by now so proceed accordingly) and she will donate it to the Food Pantry on your behalf. You can also use PayPal. This extra step documents UUFSA generosity on our own records. Finally, you can also make a donation with a gift card.

A big thank you to those of you who continue to bring food to the UUFSA for the Food Pantry as well. Remember if you give one item, make it jams/jellies to go with peanut butter (in excellent supply at the moment) which is a favorite of children from 2 to 102. Also, The Pantry depends on your continuing to provide items like canned meat, cereal, pasta/sauce, dried beans, rice, and soup, to help replace donations no longer coming from Nourishment Network.

Our volunteers for this month for UUFSA include Dave and Lee Ann Forrest, John Porter, Nana Royer, Cherie Dolgin, Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire, and me. Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire also continue to be food shoppers for The Pantry whenever there is a fifth week in the month. Cal and Pat, and all of our volunteers deserve our special thanks so when you see them let them know how much they are appreciated. Thanks to all of our volunteers and to all of you who contribute food and/or money to help sustain this dynamic outreach program.

Are you interested in volunteering for the Food Pantry? We cover the second and fourth Fridays of each month, from 1 to 4p. If you are available even for one of those dates, and interested shoot me an e-mail at watashiwasan@aol.com. Remember, this commitment is year round, including the good ole summertime.

Guy Reid
Food Pantry Coordinator for UUFSA

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunities to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be July 5 and August 2, 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



Darts Nights



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

Palmer

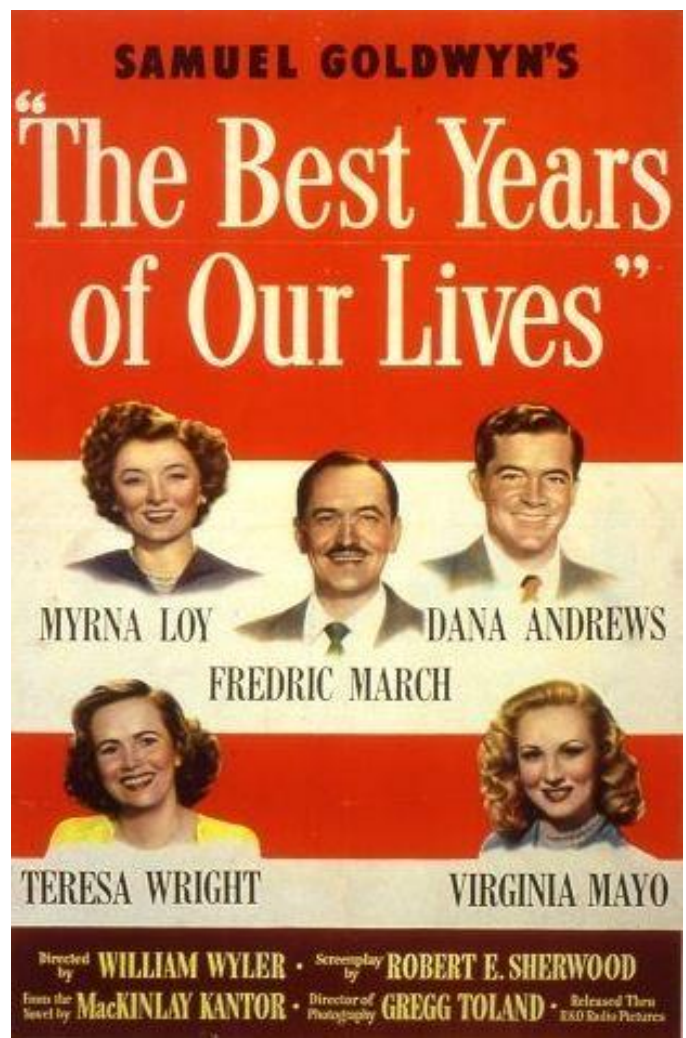
Movie

("Palmer Presents")

July 10, 6:30 p.m.

"The Best Years Of Our Lives"

Palmer will be showing the movie "The Best Years Of Our Lives" on Friday July 10th at 6:30. This movie which Roger Ebert said will never be outdated and gave it four stars. It won eight Academy Awards, one honorary. Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 93. It stars Frederick March, Myrna Loy, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright and Harold Russell, an actual double amputee veteran. See it and the problems the Greatest Generation had in returning to a much different world than the one they left.



Beyond Our Congregation

Friendship Association Concerts in Havana

In celebration of the imminent normalization of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba, ten St. Augustine musicians will travel to Havana under the auspices of The Friendship Association. In Havana, this premier group of musicians will perform five goodwill concerts in support of a grassroots community project that promotes the inclusion of children and youth suffering from Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities.

The concerts will encompass unique American music genres including Blues, Jazz, Traditional and New Americana, and Folk presented from the unique perspective of “La Florida” and the influence of St. Augustine. In Havana they will have opportunities to interact with Cuban musicians to explore not only the differences, but also the many similarities of our musical culture and over 450 years of growth and progression.

For this people-to-people initiative, the Friendship Association (www.staugustine-baracoa.org) has partnered with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida (www.dcacf.org), and Sociedad Civil, the community-development branch of the Office of the Historian of Havana. Representatives from the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida will accompany the musicians.

The Havana-based project, Quinta de los Molinos, will accommodate up to sixty challenged youth and their families. These families will be selected each year from different municipalities throughout Cuba and will be offered training and occupational therapy. Therapy will include music, art and theater, community-gardening, psycho-dance, social skills training, and sports.

To learn more, and for information about supporting and/or accompanying this delegation to Havana, see www.AcrossTheStraits.com - or contact Yosi McIntire at Yosi@AcrossTheStraits.com

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!



For more information about Mountain programs: www.mountaincenters.org/calendar or 828-526-5838 or contact Lyn Klarman, Priscilla Gulliver or Beverly Cree at UUFSA. Plan now to be part of these special programs. Register for early discount and assure you are included.

July 21 – 24 Health and Wellness

July 26 - August 2 (also partial week programs) Intergenerational Family Camp

October 4 – 9 SUUFI – Southern UU Fall Institute

See The Mountain calendar for other programs.



Buckman Bridge Events

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244

Popcorn Theology. This summer at 7:00 p.m., movie, good company, and thought-provoking discussion! Contact Dani Slader at dre@bbuuc.org for more information or if you are interested in leading a presentation.

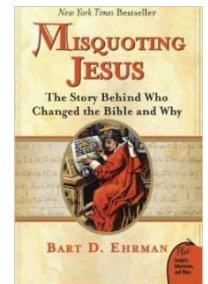
- July 2: Erik Slader-V for Vendetta
- July 8: Josh Dean-Begin Again
- July 15: Barbara Bujak-When Night is Falling
- July 22: Erik Slader-All Star Superman
- July 29: Barbara Bujak-I Origins



CUUPS Schedule. The Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) will meet at BBUUC at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1 and 15. The July 1st meeting will be a full moon drum circle. Everyone is welcome, Pagan or not. You can drum or you can chant, or you can dance, or simply just listen and watch, however the mood strikes you! Children will be welcomed to join in with adult supervision. Please bring your own drum, and extras would be appreciated to lend to those who are without. Drum circles are fun events! If you have never been to one, we encourage you to come try it out! The July 15th meeting will be our "God/Goddess monologues". Dress as your favorite deity and play the part. We will all learn something new and have a lot of fun doing it! Contact cuups@bbuuc.org for more information.



Religious Texts and Society. On Thursday, July 9 at 7pm at BBUUC, the Religious Texts and Society group will discuss Misquoting Jesus by Bart Ehrman. "For almost 1,500 years, the New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand—and mistakes and intentional changes abound...many of our widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself are the results of both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes." If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford (treasurer@bbuuc.org) or Scott Cromar (pr_communications@bbuuc.org).



Other Events

For more information about other events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html> and the UUA qweb site <http://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule>

