

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida

September 2015

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

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

uufsamail@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Fellowship sermons 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.

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 the October issue are due by September 25.

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

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.



From the President



Hello Dear Ones,

We are really excited as this year of transition begins! A big WELCOME to Rev. Tom! The Board is hosting a party for Tom on Friday, September 11 at the UU. Come at 5:30 with your to share hors d'oeuvres and conversation with our first ever part time minister. (Details on the party to follow.) Then on Sunday the 13th, Rev. Tom will deliver his first sermon, and we will be off and running, ready to enjoy his presence in our pulpit every first and third Sunday, and around the Fellowship other times.

Some changes have taken place over the summer, especially in the lower level great room, where Beverly Cree, Rosita Angeli, Barbara Battelle, and Elle Barry have been moving tables, cleaning cupboards, and switching the classrooms around to prepare for the growing numbers of children and teens in the Lifelong Learning programs. The nursery will be in the main classroom, the 4-6 year olds in the old nursery, the teens in the art/meditation room, and we've adapted a corner of the great room, where the Green Team bulletin board used to be, for the 7-12 year olds. The space will only be a classroom during our Sunday service and Lifelong Learning programs, and will be opened up for adult use all the rest of the time, including during coffee hour. It's wonderful to have such an adaptable space so we can meet our changing needs. Big thanks to the "rearranging" team.

As you enter the great room downstairs, you will see our new "Tree of Acknowledgement" on the wall to your right. We sometimes hear that the work at UUFSA is done by only a few, and we do have some members who have worked to support the Fellowship for years, even decades. But you might be surprised to know how many others in this congregation have made a variety of contributions over the years. And now you will see exactly "who" and "what" on our "Tree of Acknowledgement."

Beautifully painted by Annette Jones, the tree project began with Beverly Cree, Claudia Hanson, Nana Royer and Ruth Weber putting their heads together to find a way to highlight the work of so many of us. Each leaf acknowledges a member's contribution. Prepare to be amazed at how many have contributed so much, for so many years, in support of the work of our UU community. Beverly says, "We want to include as many people and contributions as feasible, so please complete a "Tree of Acknowledgement" form on the announcement table. It takes a village – and our tree reflects the caring and sharing of many, as we continue to build the beloved community."

Request from the Finance Team

First of all, thank you all for your generous contributions to our operating fund, our ministerial reserve fund, and our chosen local charities. We appreciate your willingness to share in support of our mission.

When you write a check, always make it out to UUFSA and note on the memo line what you intend, whether donation, operations pledge, Ministerial Reserve Fund pledge, or a 3rd Sunday charity. Also, you should know that if you donate to the Wildflower Clinic, The Food Pantry, or Home Again St. Johns on any Sunday except the Sunday designated for that charity, your check may be held until that charity's Sunday comes around again. So remember, fill out the memo line and ensure that your contribution is going where you intend it to go. And again, thank you for your continued generosity.

Think “Teams,” not “Committees”

At the Board of Trustees summer retreat, we decided to make a change in how we refer to ourselves and the work we do. We feel that calling our working groups “teams” rather than “committees” is a much better indication of what they actually do, and is more action oriented. I will be meeting with all the team leaders early in the Fall, and everyone will be reviewing goals and personnel needs. Look for more on this topic to come.

So here we go, everyone, into our year of change and opportunity. Our traditional “gathering of the clan” will be a little early this year, as we hold our Water Ceremony on Sunday September 6. I'll see you then; can't wait to get going!

*In faith,
Lola Sorensen*

September Calendar

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 – Interfaith Council 450 th Birthday at First United Methodist 6:30 | 14 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 4 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. – | 16 – Program Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | 17 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. |
| 7 – Amnesty International: Juan Melendez 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. | 18 – Darts Night 7:00 p.m. – |
| 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| 11 – Tom Schmidt Reception 5:30 p.m. | 25 – Movie <i>Places in the Heart</i> 6:30 p.m. |
| 11 – Movie 6:30 p.m. – to be announced | |



Tom Schmidt Reception
SAVE THE DATE - Friday, September 11th, 5:30 pm.
Welcome Reception for Rev. Tom
Details to follow.

Sunday, September 6, 10:30 a.m.

“Water Communion”

"Water is the driver of Nature" Leonardo da Vinci

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water" Benjamin Franklin



Our regular services begin September 6 with the Water Ceremony. Like many other Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country, we celebrate an annual ingathering tradition on the first Sunday after Labor Day that includes a Water Communion/Ceremony ritual. Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.

The Water Ceremony/Communion Service is an excellent opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to express commitment to our Sixth Principle: We covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Please remember to bring your water to the service and plan to participate. In view of the many assaults on our oceans, lakes and bodies of water this ceremony is especially meaningful and important.

Megan Porter

Sunday, September 13, 10:30 a.m.

“Transitions”

Rev. Tom Schmidt



There is something special about transitions. Every human culture marks the occasion of a transition with ritual and celebration, weddings and funerals being just a small example. Even many animals mark the occasion of a sunrise with a moment of stillness to acknowledge the transition from night to day. As we begin our shared ministry together, let us explore the significance of this transitional period we are entering.

Rev. Schmidt has been active in the ministry for over 10 years, having served churches in California, South Carolina, and Texas before arriving here in St. Augustine. Rev. Schmidt has an Associates degree in Biology, a Bachelor's in Literature and a Masters of Divinity, which he credits for shaping his unique theological perspective. Rev. Schmidt is well versed in many different religious traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Paganism, Taoism, the Sufism of Rumi, and of course Unitarian Universalism. This sermon is his first as minister of the UUFSA.

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 a.m.

“Humanist Ethics and Morality”

Charlie West

How do we decide between right and wrong? In many situations, judging an action as either good or evil may seem easy and obvious. But other situations are more nuanced and complex, requiring some sort of systematic process for choosing among alternative courses of action.

Since a humanist, by definition, does not accept the idea of supernaturally revealed rules of conduct, s/he must have some rational process for deciding how to behave, what is right and what is wrong.

Charlie West will present such a process that works for him, and how he developed it. Hopefully these remarks will spark spirited discussion among other humanists among us who have arrived at their own ethical/moral frameworks in a different fashion. Let many flowers bloom! UUism is about sharing, not preaching.

Charlie West is a dedicated humanist and member of the American Humanist Association, as well as a dedicated Unitarian Universalist and member of this congregation. He is a retired professor of organizational behavior. Before receiving his PhD, he had an earlier career in engineering, marketing, and management in industry.



Sunday, September 27, 10:30 a.m.

“Celebrating the High Holy Days”

Rev. Tom Schmidt

The Jewish High Holy Days begin this year on September 14 with Rosh Hashanah and conclude on September 23, Yom Kippur. Let us consider how the lessons of these ancient traditions can help guide us still today in our ongoing search for truth and meaning.



Lifelong Learning

Youth Program



Welcome families to our new program year! This past year has been wonderful, getting to know all of our families better, and working together to support our young people in learning about themselves and their world. We are excited about our program this year – please encourage others to check us out.

Infant through Three-Year-Olds – a nurturing environment to interact with other children and adults, and explore through books, music, art, and construction materials.

Four-Year-olds through First Grade -- Through *Creating Home*, children explore the deep sense of sacredness, the beauty of hospitality, the gift of loving relationships, and the roles and responsibilities of being part of a community. The *Wonderful Welcome* curriculum engages and challenges children to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even our animal friends and nature itself.

Second Grade through Eight Grade -- *Love Will Guide Us* has an emphasis on asking big questions and shaping one's answers, while including love and wisdom from many sources. *Riddle and Mystery* engages youth in activities for their own search for understanding.

High School -- there are many options for our high school youth, they will be involved in planning their program for the year. Stay tuned!

To learn more about these and other UU curricula, please see <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children>. In addition to the UU curricula, we also integrate activities related to social and environmental justice.

As expressed by John Whitehead, “*Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. It's why we do what we do. We want the message we send to the future to be one of hope. It's the message nature urges us to send.*”

Beverly Cree



Adult Learning Meeting

Sunday, September 27

We will be having a general meeting on Sunday, September 27 of all those interested in the Adult Learning Program for the coming year. The purpose will be to meet with our new minister, Rev. Tom Schmidt, and provide input for planning our Adult Learning program for the year. What kinds of Adult Learning programs do we want? What subjects interest us? How long should they be, and when should they be scheduled? Despite strong interest in Adult Learning expressed in recent cottage meetings, actual signups for recent programs have been disappointing. Now is your chance to express your preferences. We will also be discussing a new course in environmental justice, tentatively scheduled for October (See item below).

We will meet in the Meditation Room after the post-service potluck, so no one will need to be hungry. If you cannot attend the meeting but have ideas and opinions about Adult Learning, please shoot me an email (westjrcw@gmail.com) or phone call (904-471-0335).

Hoping to see you Sunday, September 27 in the Meditation Room after the potluck.

Charlie West
Co-chair, Adult Learning

New Course in Environmental Justice



We are tentatively planning a new course on Environmental Justice, starting in October. This course combines materials on two of our most important UU principles, focusing simultaneously on social justice and care of the environment. It will be led by a team of Nana Royer, Rev. Tom Schmidt, and Charlie West.

The course will consist of five or six 2-hour sessions, tentatively starting on Wednesday, October 14, in the late afternoon, to accommodate both working folks and also those unable to drive in the evenings. Hopefully, we can firm up the schedule at the September 27 meeting (see above). All course materials will be provided to those signing up. This course is open to interested folks in our community outside our congregation.

For more information on this course, visit: <http://uuministryforearth.org/EJ-Curriculum>

Let us know now if you have a definite interest in this course, because final scheduling details are flexible. Contact Charlie West (westjrcw@gmail.com) or (904-471-0335). We'll also have a signup sheet on the signup table downstairs.

Invitation from Amnesty International

Monday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.

We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to hear Juan Melendez, the twentieth Death Row inmate to be exonerated for false conviction in Florida speaking at the UUFSA.

Mr. Melendez will be in our area because his story is the subject of a film, soon to be released by a Spanish filmmaker, part of which is being filmed in Starke. His presence here in St. Augustine is sponsored by Amnesty, FADP, Pax Christi, and Compassionate Action St. Augustine, and the ACLU of Jacksonville.

Juan Melendez is reported to be a very moving speaker. Please join us to kick off a year of activities focusing on prison reform and abolition of the death penalty. After the program there will be a wine and cheese reception and a number of reform actions, including petitioning.

More information to follow. For information or directions, call Jo Anne Engelbert at 904-460-1190.

Jo Anne Engelbert

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

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, September 6, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Claudia Atkins



UUFSA Biographer

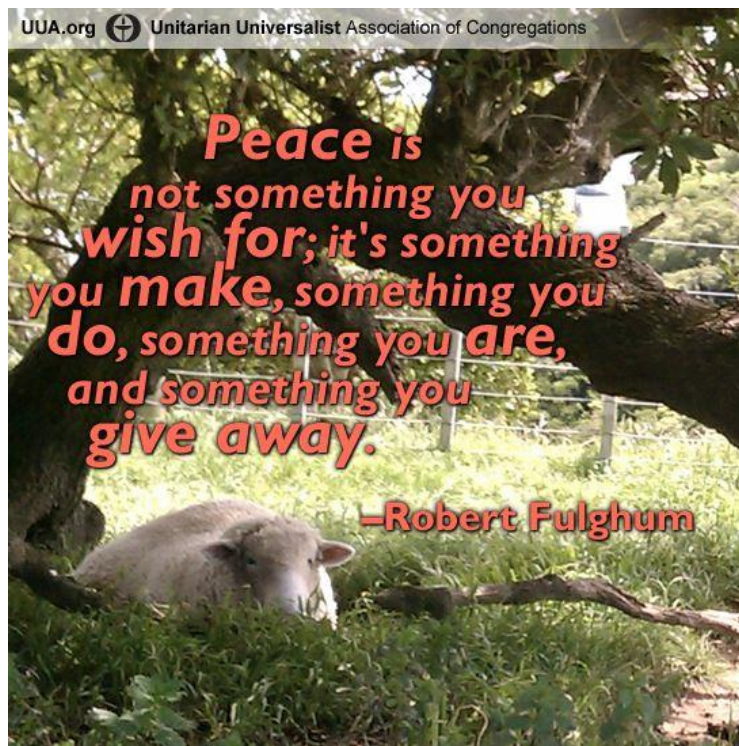
I will be joining the Membership Team and taking on the job of Biographer. I plan to contact new and relatively new members to interview them for the Quest. This will provide the opportunity for all of us to get to know newcomers more quickly and seek them out for conversation. I will rely on our resident photographer, Joyce Peterson, to take their photo as well. Please go out of your way to make all new visitors, Members and Friends as comfortable as possible.

Thanks very much,

Cherie Dolgin

Sound Booth

Anyone interested in working in the sound booth at the UUFSA please stop by on Sunday morning to see what is involved. This could be an opportunity to learn new and useful skills. Contact Ray Adman (797-8694 or ray.adman@yahoo.com) for more information or to express your interest.





St. Johns Food Pantry

THE FOOD PANTRY SUMMER RECAP

Summer is almost over. Your faithful UUFSAs continued your support of this worthwhile outreach program through the heat, humidity, and Dog Days for those who continue to avail themselves of its services. A grateful thank you to the Fellowship for plate donations, to those individuals who made separate contributions, and to those of you who donated food to restock the Pantry shelves. Know that you made a difference in the lives of many families and individuals who need this assistance.

The continuing need of homeless families with children is a reality, as well as those households struggling to stay afloat. The Pantry fed 293 families in June and 289 in June. This brings the YTD stats to 1974 families/households that received assistance. This summarized as follows: 2975 adults and 1904 children with a total of 2941 bags of food in the 150 days the doors were open in this calendar year through July. If you take the total of adults and children which is 4879 and multiply a modest \$10 per person the total is a staggering \$48,790. We as a religious community comprising the Food Pantry do an amazing job of providing a critical service to the St. Johns County community.

You are invited to make your cash donation or check made out to the UUFSAs with a note that it is for the Food Pantry, to Larry Cowart, UUFSAs Treasurer, and he will donate it to the Food Pantry on your behalf. You can also use PayPal. This extra step documents UUFSAs generosity on our own records. Finally, you can also make a donation with a gift card.

When you bring food for the Food Pantry, please remember that we can still use jams and jellies to go with peanut butter which continues to be a favorite for children of all ages. We still are well stocked with peanut butter for now, however, there is a continuing need for canned meat, cereal, pasta/sauce, dried beans, rice, and soup, to help replace donations no longer coming from Nourishment Network.

Our volunteers for the summer months for UUFSAs include Dave and Lee Ann Forrest, John Porter, Nana Royer, Cherie Dolgin, Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire, Lou and Jill Cerulli 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. All of the volunteers put in extra time and effort on behalf of the UUFSAs. Thanks to all of our volunteers and to all of you who contribute food and/or money to help sustain this dynamic outreach program.

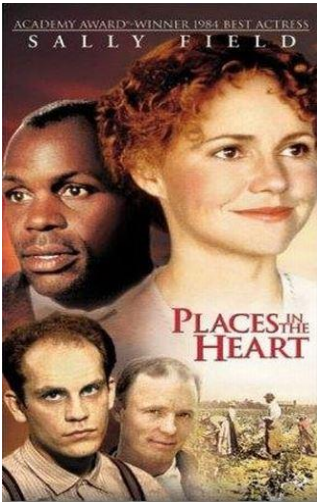
We need volunteers for the Food Pantry. We cover the second and fourth Fridays of each month, from 12:45 to 4p. If you are available even for one of those dates, and interested shoot me an e-mail at watashiwasan@aol.com. Remember, this commitment is dependent on your support.

Guy Reid
Food Pantry Coordinator for UUFSAs

Movies

Friday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.
To be announced.

Friday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.
Places in the Heart



Sally Field, John Malkovich and Danny Glover.

The story takes place in Texas in the thirties. Recently widowed Field in order to make ends meet takes in a blind boarder (John Malkovich) but still faces losing the farm if she can't get the cotton crop in. Along comes hobo Danny Glover to show her how. But not before other obstacles stand in the way. Rotten Tomatoes ranks it with a 96 and Sally Field received her second Academy Award for best actress. A real good feel movie. See ya at the movies.

Remember the money collected at the box office goes into the Fund Raising coffers. You get to see a good movie and contribute at the same time. What a deal.

Palmer Short

Darts Nights

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



Palmer Short

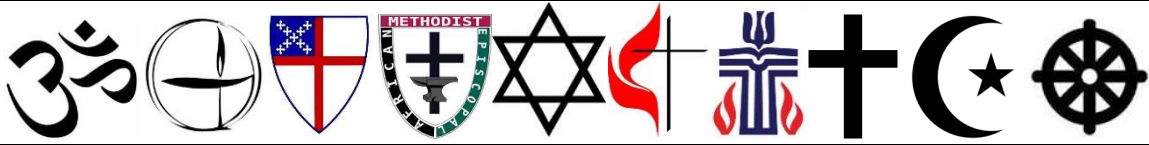


Aria Grace Cowart

Born August 15, 2015

Kept her parents, Larry and Laura, from attending the last darts night!

Beyond Our Congregation



Interfaith Commemoration of St Augustine's 450th Birthday

Tuesday

September 1, 2015 at 6:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

118 King St., St. Augustine, FL



First United Methodist Church—The Center for Spiritual Living
Members of the Native American Community—Islamic Center
San Sebastian Catholic Church—Temple Bet Yam
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship—Grace United Methodist Church
Saint Cyprians Episcopal Church—Chinmaya Mission
Members of Saint Augustine Presbytery—The Buddhist Community
First Coast Metropolitan Community Church—Holsey Temple

**All are invited to attend this special commemoration of our city's 450th founding as we
seek to work towards being one community.**

We are requesting everyone to bring finger food to share.

Directions to First United Methodist Church. From U.S. 1, turn on King Street heading toward downtown. Turn left at Riberia. Church is on the corner of Riberia and King Street. From Anastasia Island, take King Street. Turn Right on Riberia. Parking is limited. Parking available in city lots, at Post Office, side streets.

Call 904-825-3600 for further information.

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!

Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI): October 4 - 9 An award-winning storyteller and a UU minister join together to inspire us to a destination of “A Renewed Sense of Self & Potential,” a state of fresh thinking, new approaches, new understanding, aligned purpose and action.



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

UU Womenspirit: October 14 - 18 This all-women retreat places an emphasis on exploring and celebrating the Feminine Divine in her many forms. This fall's retreat will focus on how **Love Matters**.

Thanksgiving: November 25 – 29 Join The Mountain community for Thanksgiving! Enjoy people, workshops, entertainment, hiking, and the Thanksgiving feast!

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 attend these programs.





Buckman Bridge Events

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244

The Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) will meet at 7pm on Wednesday, September 2 and 16. CUUPS provides a safe space within the BBUUC community where interested people can learn about and practice paganism. Contact cuups@bbuuc.org for more information.

Religious Texts and Society. Thursday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m., the Religious Texts and Society group will discuss *Islam: A Short History*, by Karen Armstrong.

"No religion in the modern world is as feared and misunderstood as Islam. It haunts the popular imagination as an extreme faith that promotes terrorism, authoritarian government, female oppression, and civil war. Karen Armstrong's short history demonstrates that the world's fastest-growing faith is a much more complex phenomenon than its modern fundamentalist strain might suggest."

All are welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford (treasurer@bbuuc.org) or Scott Cromar (pr_communications@bbuuc.org).

Prayer Shawl Affinity Group. The Prayer Shawl affinity group creates shawls and lap blankets to comfort community members in need. The group meets the first Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m.- noon, at the Mandarin Panera (11111 San Jose Blvd). The next meeting will be September 7. If you would like to attend, please contact Lisa Cromar at prayershawls@bbuuc.org no later than the day before the meeting. If there are no RSVPs, the meeting will be cancelled.

River City Pride. BBUUC's Welcoming Ministry will be participating again in the River City Pride festival in Jacksonville. Plans include marchers and cheering sections for the October 3 parade as well as a festive booth for the October 4 festival. The Welcoming Ministry is recruiting volunteers to assist with several aspects of BBUUC's plans for the festival. For more information, please contact lgbtq_welcoming@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 web site <http://www.uua.org/>

