

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida

March 2016

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

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

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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 online.

Board of Trustees 2015 - 2016

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

Materials for the April issue are due by March 25.

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

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

From Your President

Dear Ones,



"The Unitarian Fellowship of St. Augustine is a dynamic, loving community that nurtures spirit, mind and ethical action. Guided by the principles of our liberal faith, we serve our congregation and the greater community."

This is our mission, a picture in words of who we are and why we exist. This is the statement that is meant to guide our decisions and the work of our committees. Do you think it accurately reflects our congregation and the work we do within our own four walls as well as out in the community?

We also have a strategic plan, and in that plan it says we will review and update our mission statement every few years. Now it is time to do that work, to take a look and see how we may have changed as a congregation, and what new statement might better reflect our mission today. On Saturday, April 30, Maggie Lovins, Congregational Life Staff, UU Southern Region, will join us and will guide us through a new exploration of our values, from which we will create our mission statement. This is a job for the whole congregation, including you. Look elsewhere in the Quest for a note from Maggie about this important day.

In other news, it's Stewardship time again. Your Stewardship Team is being formed right now, and there will soon be news about the campaign. Everything we want to do, from the recommended hiring of a Music Director, to beautification of our space, to providing upgrades on our playground area; it all depends on our budget, and that in turn depends on the support we each can pledge. Watch for more from the Stewardship Team, and consider what you can do to support our congregation and its mission.

Meantime, Dear Ones, take some time to breathe deeply, and enjoy the arrival of Spring in St. Augustine.

*In faith,
Lola Sorensen*



From Your Minister

Twice a year the tilt of the Earth's axis is inclined neither away from nor towards the sun. At that time, the sun's rays fall perpendicular to the earth's rotational axis. We call this an equinox, which is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night), because at the equinox, night and day are equal in length over the entire globe. As if you needed to be told, the spring equinox arrives this month marking official beginning of Spring. Personally, I don't need a calendar to know that. Every Spring I get the insatiable drive to be in nature, go hiking, camping, anything to be outside and in nature.



Since time immemorial, people have marked the passage of the seasons with rituals and celebrations, in recognition of our internal and eternal connection with the natural rhythms of time and space. In the words of Alan Watts, our ancestors fully recognized that "We do not "come into" this world; we come out of it, as leaves of a tree. As the ocean "waves," the universe "peoples." Every individual is an expression of the whole realm of nature, a unique action of the total universe."

When we are paying attention, when we are awake to our internal and eternal connection with the natural rhythms of time and space, all illusion of permanence is destroyed. It is the folly of our species that we so often cling to the delusion of permanence. Why is that when all of nature reminds us that change is the order of things?

Imagine, a completely static universe? Imagine that Yin and Yang, darkness and light, hot and cold, male and female, good and evil, what if everything in the universe were so perfectly balanced that nothing ever changed? Life as we know it would end if this were the case. Ocean currents would stop. Winds would stop. The seasons and all weather patterns would cease. If we did not first die from hunger and thirst, we would surely die of boredom if everything that makes life interesting, if everything that drove the evolutionary process suddenly ended. We may fight it, we may rail against it, we may try our hardest to deny it, but change isn't simply inevitable, it is foundational to life.

As Spring emerges, we again celebrate the many new members that have joined our Fellowship and we will begin our stewardship campaign to fund our mission and our vision. The time for planting the seeds of growth and change is now! The future of this Fellowship, the future of Unitarian Universalism, is in your hands.

Rev. Tom Schmidt



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

“Preparing the Soil”

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Spring will soon be here and for many of us it is time to prepare the soil for planting. In many ways, gardening and spirituality have a great deal in common, not the least of which being that gardening itself is a wonderful spiritual practice. Just as we must prepare the soil before planting, we too must prepare ourselves if we wish something new to take root in our lives.

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

“Entheogens and the Power of Scripture”

Paul Wise

Paul Wise was born in Athens, GA where his mother carried him to term while finishing an English degree at the University of Georgia. His father was pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Athens. The hospital was located near the church, so it wasn't long before he started attending.

Paul was always interested in literature and was skeptical from an early age, studying the Sunday school lesson with the aim of asking embarrassing questions that would stump the Sunday school teacher.

He wrote poetry, taught himself to play guitar, began attending the University of Georgia, dropped out, went to Europe, where he stayed for a year, making money playing and singing in the streets, cafes, and folk clubs of Geneva, Paris, Zurich, Frankfurt, Cologne, Basel, and especially Bern, where he first felt it. Actually the first time he felt the Bern was while staring at a flower for about 6 hours while lying in a garden in Geneva. Later, he returned to the US, went to university for real and eventually ended up with an MA and PhD in English literature. Paul is an associate professor of English at South Georgia State College. He has a child and two grandchildren, and is married to Jackie Rock, a local artist.



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

“Sowing the Seeds of Change”

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Once the soil has been prepared and the time is right, it is time to sow the seeds of change. When we can begin the process of living fully in the present and recognize that the seeds of the future are our thoughts and actions of this moment, then we are ready to plant the seed of change.

Sunday, March 27, 10:30 a.m.
**“Easter and Its Promise of Transformation,
Metamorphosis and Resurrection”**
Uncle Eddie & Robin



Uncle Eddie & Robin are a husband/wife musical duo from Wheeling, West Virginia, where they performed an eclectic mix of classic rock, bluegrass and original music. Ed was an icon on the Appalachian music scene, having performed there for over 40 years, and having the honor of being a member of the staff band of the legendary Wheeling Jamboree.

They have two original CD's: "My Own Words" and "When We're Together." They are also social and environmental activists, having founded the Wheeling Water Warriors, organized the Great Ohio River Relay, and attended Occupy Wall Street and the People's Climate March in NYC.

Robin is a graduate of Hunter College of CUNY with a BA in psychology and sociology. She also holds a Master's in Social Work from Adelphi University, as well as additional post-graduate training at the University of Pittsburgh in Social Work and Public Health. She had a private mental health practice for 15 years in Washington, PA. She is a lifelong UU, and was on the Board of Trustees at the Ohio Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation in several capacities, as President, Vice-President, and Trustee. She is a mother of four.

Uncle Eddie & Robin have conducted services and performed at numerous UU congregations throughout the Midwest and Northeast, and performed at the Universalist Convocation in Jacksonville at Buckman Bridge UU Church last May.

*Look them up on the web at www.uncleeddieandrobin.com
or on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/UncleEddieandRobin?fref=ts>*



Great Decisions

Discussion Topic is Middle East Alliances

March 7, 7:00 p.m.

The Great Decisions group meets the first Monday of every month.

On March 7, Ken Maass will lead a discussion on "The Rise of ISIS."

On April 4, Yosi will lead a discussion on "The Kurdish People."

All are welcome. For more information, contact Yosi at 904 461 3175.



Downstairs Dialogue

Sunday, March 20

9:15-10:15 a.m. downstairs



This month, we will gather for Downstairs Dialogue on the third Sunday, March 20. We will again have an open dialogue on topics of the day that interest and concern us.

What's going on in religion, politics, economics, security, justice, etc. in the world, nation, state, local community, or even within our own congregation? Would an open-minded sharing and discussion among thoughtful UUs in our traditional safe space be of interest? Maybe even come up with some ideas to make things better? We think so!

We will decide what topic(s) to discuss using the Socrates method used successfully at our local Council on Aging. At the beginning of the session, each attendee will suggest a topic, and we will "vote" on which one(s) to discuss. Topics should be of general interest. And since we are a religious institution, topics should typically have some connection to our UU Principles. Discussion led by Charlie West.

So bring your favorite issue or question and come join us at 9:15am on Sunday, March 20 downstairs. .

Palmer Short and Friends Musical Review

March 26, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door. Ladies, be sure to hold on to your tickets, because if it is picked Palmer will sing just to you. All proceeds go to the UUFSA general fund.



New Course UU101 - Sign Up Now!



Who was Francis David and why is he important to Unitarians around the world? How is Unitarian Universalism related to Puritan churches founded in the 17th Century? What is the relationship between our church and the national Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) located in Boston? These and so many other questions about Unitarian Universalist history, theology and polity will be explored in upcoming UU101 classes.

Classes are designed for everyone interested in learning more about our Unitarian Universalist tradition, including both new and long-time members. Rev. Schmidt will share his extensive experience with the subject through primary documents, lectures, and videos.

Classes will begin Tuesday, March 8, 2016 and continue each Tuesday through April 5. They will last about 1-1/2 to 2 hours. To allow for the greatest amount of participation, we request you contact Charlie West (westjrcw@gmail.com) with your preferred time slot, 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m by Friday, March 4. We will choose the time which allows the most people to attend, and announce it on Sunday, March 6.

Charlie West, Adult Learning Co-Chair

Plant Up, Clean Up, and Spruce Up Day April 1

The Plant Up, Clean Up, and Spruce Up Day @ the UU will be held Friday, April 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be inside and outside projects to brighten our Fellowship spaces. Project areas include playground and butterfly habitat/garden, kitchen, children's classrooms, grounds, and storage and stage. Please plan to contribute time to spruce up our congregational spaces on April 1.

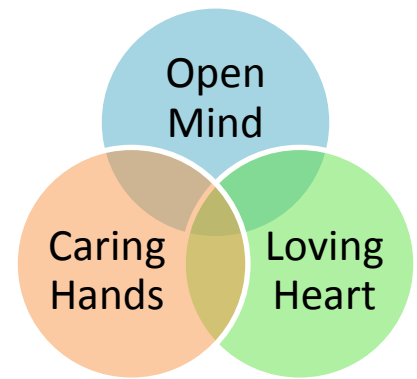
Mission Workshop with Maggie Lovins April 30

What is at the core of UUFSA? What keeps us bound together and working toward the same goal of beloved community? What are UUFSA's deepest Values that guide our Mission and help us to dream the Vision? Join Maggie Lovins, our UUA Southern Region Congregational Life staff for a day of deep questions and sharing to discern what lies at the core of our congregation. This is the first step in the process of creating our new mission and vision statements, all are welcome *and needed* for this process! We will gather at 9:30 a.m., work together in large and in small groups, have a little lunch, and hope to be wrapped up by 4:00 p.m. Come with an open mind, sense of adventure and your sense of humor, see you there!

Lifelong Learning

– Children and Youth

Our children, youth and teachers are involved in a variety of activities to support the development of our open minds, caring hands and loving hearts. Please check us out.



Interfaith Youth Group

We are honored to be invited to participate in a local Interfaith Youth Group – with youth from St Cyprian's Episcopal, Memorial Presbyterian, Islamic Center and Temple Bet Yam.

Upcoming events:

- 🌀 *Miniature Golfing* on March 13th at 2:00 PM at the Fiesta Falls Mini Golf course at 818 A1A Beach Blvd, Saint Augustine, FL 32080.

Middle and High School youth have no charge, donations are appreciated.

- 🌀 *Chinese Acrobats* on Thursday, March 17th at 7PM. Spring Break starts the next day so this is not a school night. We have four tickets available, please contact Beverly ASAP.



Nature Exploration

Mehina, Ania, Lily and Ayler are with their teacher, Jennifer as they observe, discuss, record thoughts and draw what they see. Thoughts include: *I see wilted and also living flowers! There are bees buzzing around the blue flowers! The peach tree has some leaves...the tree is not growing anymore. I might go home and do some research about it. Moss on a tree means it is dying. Water it! Give it sun! Put a blanket on it! The egg shells are in the compost, it helps....*

Pen Pal Project March 1, we are launching a pen pal project to anonymously pair an adult in our congregation with one of our children–birth through high school. There will be opportunities to secretly communicate with and learn about one another – in May we have an event to meet our secret pen pals and celebrate making intergenerational friends. 😊 Sign up with Beverly.

Meet Maggie McElhaney

Maggie is our new teacher– providing a caring environment for our youngest children as they make friends, have adventures through books, sing, dance, learn about themselves and their world – basically the same things UU adults do!

Please introduce yourself to Maggie and welcome her.

Our previous teacher, Amy Kovalsky, had a great opportunity to teach Hebrew at the Temple on Sunday morning. We wish her the best in her life journey.



Beverly Cree

Food Pantry

January 2016



January figures show an upswing over December of last year, at 443 bags distributed, while the December number was 404. Your UUFSAs volunteers continued contributing their time and efforts in assisting those who came for help by giving freely of smiles and good will along with the food bags. The Pantry fed 312 families, 470 adults, 259 children total in January, which is a worthwhile effort in which we can take pride in creating a reality as a valid outreach program. That distribution included 11,712 meals that could have meant the difference between being fed and going hungry. There were 5,672 bags or 135,948 meals distributed in the calendar year 2015. Recent and/or pending cuts in food stamps most likely signify that we will get increased requests for Food Pantry assistance this calendar year

The Pantry still welcomes the monetary contributions made by the Fellowship members, and friends, as well as the actual food donations collected at the UUFSAs. Food with long shelf lives continues to be the ideal choice. However, since we still have a bread shortage at this time, bread product donations are also welcome. The Pantry also needs canned fruit. We continue to rely on these donations to ensure the shelves are stocked. Monetary donations are routed through the UUFSAs Treasurer Larry Cowart and you can continue to make checks payable to the UUFSAs with a note that the recipient is to be the SJEM Food Pantry.

The Pantry is partnering now with Haven Hospice and I will share details as they become available. We will be posting Grief Counseling notices in the Pantry for those who may need their services.

Your star volunteers at the Pantry are: Cherie Dolgin, Lou and Jill Cerulli, John Porter, Nana Royer, Lennie Gemski, Kathleen Paracer, Cal Marshall, Pat Maguire, Dave and Lee Ann Forrest, Chris Fosaaen, and me. Everyone worked hard and made this a successful program. Cal and Pat also picked up additional volunteer duties as purchasers again this year, for which we extend a special kudo.

If you find this program appeals to you and you want to help on the second or fourth Friday of the month, let me know at guysan4@gmail.com, or watashiwasan@aol.com

My thanks to all Pantry volunteers, and to the members/friends at UUFSAs. May your lives be enriched through your generosity of spirit. Those who give with willing hearts receive the greatest gifts.

Namaste.
UUFSAs Food Pantry Coordinator
Guy Reid

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, March 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



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 Team.

Afternoon Book Club

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m., lower level of U.U. If you cannot attend every meeting but are interested in a particular book, feel welcome to join us the month that it is discussed. For information contact Isobel Siegel 904-794-2293.

Reading List is for spring-2016

March 15	<i>Station 11</i> , by Emily St. John Mandel, led by Rita Golts
April 19	<i>Sing You Home</i> , by Jodi Picoult, led by Isobel Siegel
May 17	<i>On the Move: A Life</i> , by Oliver Stacks, led by Uldis Golts
June?	Lunch Date/Place/Time to be determined



mUUVies

Second Friday of Month, 6:30 p.m.



March 11 - *A New Leaf* (1971) - Comedy, Romance (Sweden) - **Stars:** Walter Matthau, Elaine May, Henry Graham lives the life of a playboy. When his lawyer tells him one day that his lifestyle has consumed all his funds, he needs an idea to avoid climbing down the social ladder. So he intends to marry a rich woman and ... murder her. **Nominated for 2 Golden Globes**

April 8 - *A Clockwork Orange* (1971) Crime, Drama, Sci-Fi - **Director:** Stanley Kubrick - **Stars:** Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates - In future Britain, charismatic delinquent Alex DeLarge is jailed and volunteers for an experimental aversion therapy developed by the government in an effort to solve society's crime problem - but not all goes according to plan - **Nominated for 4 Oscars**. Another 12 wins & 13 nominations

May 13 - *In America* (2002) - drama, comedy - **Stars:** Paddy Considine, Samantha Morton, Djimon Hounsou - A family of Irish immigrants adjust to life on the mean streets of Hell's Kitchen while also grieving the death of a child - **Nominated for 3 Oscars**. Another 28 wins & 46 nominations.

June 10 - *Kolya* (1996) - Comedy, Drama, Music - **Stars:** Zdenek Sverák, Andrey Khalimon, Libuse Safránková - 55-year-old Louka (Zdenek Sverak) is a gifted musician in Czechoslovakia who once made a good living playing in the State Symphony Orchestra. However, he has little use for the government, and after putting a playfully insulting statement on a government form, he's been banished from official music making - **Won 1 Oscar**. Another 20 wins & 12 nominations.

Darts Nights

Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (Basement at the UU) at **7:00 p.m.** on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. This month they will be **March 4 and 18**. If you are interested get in touch with Palmer Short (palshort@gmail.com).

Palmer Short



Drumming Circle

The Drumming Circle meets once each month at approximately the time of the full moon. This month the circle will get together on **March 21 at 7:00 p.m.** to drum and chant. Contact Nana Royer for more information (nanaroyer@gmail.com).



Nana Royer



March Calendar

2 – Stewardship Team 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 4 – Darts 7:00 p.m. – 9:00
 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 7 – Great Decisions – 7:00 p.m.
 8 – First meeting of UU 101 class
 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 11 – MUUvie *A New Leaf* – 6:30 p.m.
 12 – Florida Spring UU Gathering
 14 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 15 – Book Club *Station 11* 1:00 p.m.
 17 – Highway Pickup 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
 16 – Program Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 17 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
 18 – Green Sanctuary Team – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 18 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

20 – Downstairs Dialogue – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
 20 – Finance Team 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
 21 – Drumming Circle 7:00 p.m.
 25 – Deadline for April Quest
 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 26 – Palmer & Friends Musical Review 7:00 p.m.
 28 – Social Concerns speaker M. Jaeger-Lane 7:00

April 1 – Pick up, Clean up, Spruce up Day 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Beyond Our Congregation



Happenings at The Mountain

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



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

Work Weekend March 25 - 28

Beverly is going March 24-28 and would love to have others come along – a great way to get to know one another better while enjoying this special place.

(Reduced rate of only \$32 per night in exchange for helping with Mountain projects)

UUWomenspirit: May 11 - 15

Appalachian Spring: May 22 - 27

Homecoming Weekend and Annual Meeting: May 27 - 29

MountainCamp: June 12 - July 23 *see the website for individual camp session dates*

Family Camp: July 24 - 31

Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI) ~ Creativity in Our Lives: October 2 - 7

UUWomenspirit: October 19 – 23

Beverly Cree

Denominational Meetings Coming Up

This is a “heads up” regarding several important denominational meetings this year. They are a great opportunity to represent UUFSA in the wider world of Unitarian Universalism, and to meet fellow UU’s from other congregations to discuss common problems and interests.

The **Florida Spring UU Gathering** will take place at the UU Congregation of Clearwater, FL on March 12. The program includes a morning keynote on Covenanting, and afternoon workshops on Cluster Development, Social Justice, Stewardship, and Leadership. All will be led by professional members of our UUA Regional Staff. For more information and registration, go to www.uuasouthernregion.org Some reimbursement for registration may be available.

General Assembly (GA), the annual governance meeting of our UU denomination, will be held in Columbus, OH on June 22-26. This largest worldwide gathering of UUs is an impressive event that includes a cornucopia of meetings, workshops, worship services, speakers, demonstrations, an exhibit hall, and other experiences, including entertainment. Early registration is \$350 before April 30. Some reimbursement may be available. For more information, go to www.uua.org/ga

Southern UU Leadership Experience (SUULE) will be held this year on July 24-29 at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. This inspirational experience is intended for present and future leaders of our congregation, and the registration fee, which covers all expenses for a two-person team, will be funded by UUFSA. For more information, go to www.uuasouthernregion.org

If you are interested in representing UUFSA at any of these meetings, contact Lola Sorensen or Charlie West. Attendance at the Florida Gathering is open, but final decisions on delegates to GA and SUULE will be made by the UUFSA board.



For more information about these and 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/>



Buckman Bridge Events

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244

World Religions Class

Charles Rippo will be presenting an 8 week class using the book "[World Religions](#)" by Huston Smith. The book is available through [Amazon](#) for \$10. The class will start **Wednesday, March 2** and will finish **Wednesday, April 20**, meeting from 7:00-9:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

OWL for Young Adults age 18-35 and Adults 35+

What it's not - Therapy or a magic wand that will solve all your problems

Who it's for - Everyone! Attached, unattached, with your other half or on your own.

What it is - Our Whole Lives for Young Adults age 18-35 and Adults 35+ is a series of workshops providing an overview of many aspects of human sexuality.

It can provide a time to learn about an extraordinarily rich and complex area of human behavior, an opportunity to better understand sexuality and self, and a space for growth beyond present limits and concerns.

Workshop topics will include:

- Values • Communication
- Spirituality • Self
- Diversity • Family
- Aging • Health
- Early, Developing and Committed relationships

When - 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Sundays, February 28 and March 6, 13, 20 at BBUUC.

Sessions facilitated by Michael and Tara Crisp and Colleen Goodwin. Please sign up with Stacy Asimos at admin@bbuuc.org. Child care will be available.

Religious Texts and Society

The next meeting of [Religious Texts & Society](#) will be held Thursday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. at BBUUC. The book that we will discussed is [From Jesus to Christianity: How Four Generations of Visionaries & Storytellers Created the New Testament and Christian Faith](#), by L Michael White. All are invited.

The book selected for the May 5th meeting is [Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, subtitled Taking the Bible Seriously but not Literally](#), by Marcus J Borg.

All are welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford.