QUEST

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida April 2016

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 online.

Board of Trustees 2015 - 2016

President	Lola Sorensen
Vice President	Elle Barry
Secretary	Nana Royer
Treasurer	Larry Cowart
Trustee	Cherie Dolgin
Trustee	Charlie West
Trustee	Megan Porter
Trustee	Pat Moore
Trustee	Pat Willott

In This Issue

From Your President	
From Your Minister	2
Sunday Programs	
Events, Teams & Movies	
Calendar	13
Beyond Our Congregation	13-14





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

Materials for the May issue are due by April 22.

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donaldbrandes@gmail.com
Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

From Your President

Dear Ones,



Somehow, it is April already. The year is flying by. Soon it will be May and time for our annual congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, May 15. This is a most important day. At our annual meeting, we elect officers and trustees for next year, and we discuss and pass our budget. Every single thing we do all year long, all our community outreach work, all the programs and services and classes we have, our music, our films, the religious education of our children and the spiritual nourishment and educational enrichment of our adults, the beauty of our building and grounds and the support of our minister: all of it depends on our ability to support it financially and to organize and present it. It all comes down to our budget, and to our Board of Trustees and Committee Chairpersons.

On April 16 we will hold our annual stewardship dinner, "April Showers." This is your opportunity to come and enjoy your Fellowship community, and to take responsibility for contributing your part of the funding that supports everything I mentioned above, and more. This year our "dream budget" is bigger than usual because, in response to the years of complaints and suggestions for how to improve our music program, we are proposing hiring a quarter time music director. We are also proposing that we hire a bookkeeper who will work for a few hours each week in support of our Treasurer and Finance Committee. You will receive a full explanation of these and other budget items well in advance of the annual meeting. The bottom line here is that if we truly want the things we have said we want, then our pledges will have to reflect that. So, join in for "April Showers" and pledge your support of our Fellowship and its mission.

Mary Kellough and the Leadership Team have worked tirelessly to create a slate of officers and trustees for next year. Despite their months of work, the team has been unable to fill the Secretary and Treasurer slots. Please, think about whether you might offer your services. It is fun to be on the Board. It's work, of course it is, but to be part of the team of people that takes on the running of our Fellowship is sacred work. It is valuable work. And as I said, it's fun. Talk to Mary if you can see "Secretary" or "Treasurer" in your future.

My dear friends, we have a valuable thing here in this Fellowship. We have created a beloved community. We care for one another. We serve our community. We have much to be proud of, and we have much to do. Please come to the April 16 dinner, and make your pledge. Then come to the May 15 annual meeting and cast your votes for our future.

In faith and love, Lola Sorensen



From Your Minister

April is now upon us and I realize that it was a year ago this month that I first met many of you and the Fellowship voted to hire me as your minister. If you are like me, you're probably wondering where the time has gone. So much has happened since then I can hardly believe it, yet I remain energized and ready for whatever the future may bring.

This past month, the Board, Finance Committee and the newly formed Stewardship Committee have all been actively working to draft what we are calling a "Dream Budget" to help establish our goals for the upcoming stewardship campaign. While the Dream Budget includes some significant increases, it is based on input received from the congregation.



The largest increase came out of discussion of the Music and Program Teams in a joint meeting. Everyone agreed how important music is to our Sunday service and wished to expand the music program to make it as diverse as our congregation. It was agreed that the best way to move forward was to hire a part-time music director because it would simply be too much to expect volunteers to do even more than they are now.

Another significant increase will allow our Lifelong Learning program for children and youth better serve the growing number of families joining the Fellowship. When I was talking to the Search Committee last year, we talked about the desire of the Fellowship to be more inviting to families. It seems we have been successful enough that we need to expand our program and ensure greater consistency for our youngest members.

Stewardship is an ancient concept that recognizes that what we share today was made possible by others. If it wasn't for the commitment and foresight of previous generations, our Fellowship would not exist today. Stewardship recognizes that we do not own the Fellowship but we are responsible for it and we are responsible to ensure it is here for generations to follow. We are grateful to those who took responsibility to ensure this Fellowship would be here for us and it is up to each of us to ensure that it is here for those to follow. To help us celebrate this legacy everyone is invited to join us at our Every Member and Friend Annual Dinner on Saturday, April 16. I hope to see you there, we have much to celebrate not the least of which is a successful first year of ministry.

Rev. Tom Schmidt



Sunday, April 3, 10:30 a.m. "Fostering a Reverence for Life" Rev. Tom Schmidt

Given the difficult decisions that need to be made about the state of our environment and the increasingly divisive political environment, what can we do to turn things around? Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer's ethical philosophy was based on one simple yet profound idea, a reverence for life. How might such an idea help us turn matters around?

And

Singers Of United Lands

Singers Of United Lands ("S.O.U.L.") is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 2002. S.O.U.L. is a unique quartet of four professional young adult singers - each from a different country. Every year a new team of four singers representing high-quality vocal musicianship, geographical diversity, and enthusiasm for sharing about their respective cultures, is formed to share their native songs and cultures with schools and communities throughout the U.S. and beyond. The S.O.U.L. team members are all professionally-trained singers, their skills and abilities are especially appreciated by students and teachers of music.



Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. "Ending Silence to Prevent Domestic Violence"

How each of us can play a role in ending domestic violence

Katelin Maloney



When Katelin Maloney sees a huge wrong in our society, like domestic violence, she doesn't just wish it away. She works diligently and passionately to help right that wrong. A dedicated advocate and survivor of domestic violence herself, Katelin writes novels exposing the complexities of this social epidemic and the impact it has on victims.

Not only will Katelin bring awareness to this sensitive topic during her presentation, but she will share tools to change the feeling of helplessness and bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations. While knowing that one voice is important, Katelin also understands that many voices together can make a tidal wave of impact on society.

Katelin will also discuss her first novel, *Drowning*, which raises awareness to domestic violence through its powerful story that allows the reader to witness an abusive relationship and 'walk on eggshells' along with the victim. Aching to see the resolution, most readers claim *Drowning* is a book they cannot put down. She donates a portion of the proceeds to local and national domestic violence organizations.

For more information on Katelin Maloney, you can visit her website at www.katelinmaloney.com

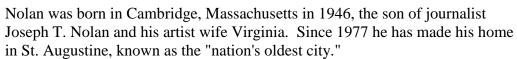
Sunday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. "The Earth, Upright and Proud" Rev. Tom Schmidt

According to one of the hymns in *Singing the Living Tradition*, we are the earth, upright and proud. In that song, writer Kenneth Patton declares, "Our labor is our strength, our love will win at length; our minds will find the ways to live in peace and praise." What are the implications of this idea? Are we up to the task of making the difficult decisions necessary to live in both peace and freedom? How can our Unitarian Universalist Principles help us in this process?

Sunday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. "Historic Preservation in St. Augustineand its Shortcomings" David Nolan

David Nolan has spoken many times to the UUFSA. Nolan learned about the Ancient City back in the 1970s, when he worked on the first official survey of old buildings here, tromping up and down every street, stopping in front of every house, and filling out a form that got him cursed out under the misapprehension that he was the tax assessor. Those forms have been the basis for much of the preservation work done here since that time.

A veteran of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Nolan knew that there was a rich Black history here, but distressed to see it was swept under the rug. He has been involved in many efforts over the years to try to correct that. He has been active in campaigns to preserve local landmarks. Those who think that St. Augustine has done everything right in the field of historic preservation will definitely find their thinking challenged by Nolan's talk.





His first book, *Fifty Feet in Paradise: The Booming of Florida*, dealing with the booms and busts in the state's colorful real estate history, was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in 1984, and he received the annual author's award from the Council for Florida Libraries.

In 1995 he collaborated with artist Jean Ellen Fitzpatrick and photographer Ken Barrett to produce The *Houses of St. Augustine*, which has become the bestselling book about the Ancient City and its historic buildings.

He was a founder in 2002 of ACCORD (Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations), a group designed to honor the participants in St. Augustine during the Civil Rights Movement. Demonstrations in St. Augustine in 1963 and 1964 led by Dr.Robert Hayling and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. resulted in the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the two great legislative accomplishments of the movement. ACCORD has launched a permanently marked Freedom Trail of historic sites of the civil rights movement that has gained international publicity.

During Black History Month in 2009, he received the Governor's Points of Light Award for outstanding community service.

On July 2, 2009, the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he received the President's Volunteer Service Award from Barack Obama.

He has served as president of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society and trustee of the Fort Mose Historical Society.

Great Decisions "The Kurdish People." Monday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

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

On April 4, Yosi will lead a discussion on "The Kurdish People." – who they are, what role are they playing in the Middle East, what is the future of Kurdistan."

On the first Monday of May the discussion will cover international migrations.

Hope to see you there. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Yosi (jomcintire@bellsouth.net) or 904-461-3175.



UU101- Denominational Polity Tuesday, April 5, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

The basic course in Unitarian Universalism that started in March has been enjoyed by all, including Marianne Wareham, Heather Sostrom, Ozzie Boutin, Lucia Drain, Charlie West, Dax Speight, Nana Royer, Pat Foley, Peter Gibbon, Nena Vreeland, Rosemary Wheeler, Dick & Ellee Lahey, and Chuck Chambers. It will wind up this month, with a final session on Denominational Polity, led by Rev. Tom. New students are welcome at this final session, which will explain how our denomination is governed, and how decisions are made.

Come join us on Tuesday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Downstairs Dialogue "Tolerating vs. Reacting to Unpopular Opinions" Sunday, April 10 9:15-10:15 a.m. downstairs



Last month, we had an active discussion of Death With Dignity (Assisted Suicide), after choosing that topic using our "Socrates Café" voting process for topic selection. But we didn't get to another issue that definitely needs to be addressed by our group, suggested by Rosi Angeli.

So this month, we'll start by discussing that issue: Tolerating vs. reacting to unpopular opinions, especially in public places, such as political rallies, government meetings, or even at "Congregational Conversation" right here at UUFSA. After that, we'll go on and discuss other issues suggested by the voting process.

So, bring your own "hot button" discussion issue, and join us on Sunday, April 10 at 9:15am downstairs.

.

Green Sanctuary and Landscaping Teams

APRIL 1, APRIL FOOL'S CLEAN UP AND SPIFF UP DAY, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This is our annual push to get the interior and exterior of the Fellowship looking good. There are many ways you can help: Outdoors help spread mulch and weed. Indoors, Clean and re-organize kitchen, storage closets and stage area. Help Beverly reorganize the educational areas. Any and all help is appreciated, and we'll top off our work

time with a bite to eat and maybe even a brew!

APRIL 9, ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE DAY, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Willie Galimore Center. Sponsored by many organizations, including the UUFSA. We will have a table where we'll have recipe books for sale, Green Sanctuary info, and even instructions on making your own worm hotel, plus a vegetable challenge for kids. There will be various speakers on environmental issues. Please see posting downstairs on UUFSA social justice/environmental justice bulletin board.

APRIL 23, EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT UUFSA, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bees, worms, solar, books, Environmental Youth Council table, and more. Come, bring your kids and neighbors and celebrate our Mother.

Green Sanctuary and Landscaping Teams



Environmental JusticeReaping the Rewards of Course on Environmental Justice

This past winter up to 15 of us participated in a 6 session course on environmental justice written by the UU Ministry for the Earth and co-led by Rev Tom Schmidt and Nana Royer. One way of considering environmental justice is with the question: How does what benefits me affect you? For example, our garbage which is taken to the Tillman Land Fill, as a transfer station, is driven to south Georgia. We benefit because we don't have to create more hills, but what are the effects of that garbage on the people who must live near the Georgia landfill? What is the quality of that landfill? Who does it harm in order to serve us? We love the conveniences of disposable plastic water bottles and Styrofoam cups. What are the costs of our conveniences to the ocean and sea life—which finally come back to us?

We explored these questions and many others, and at the end we came up with an action plan. It includes: (1) screening films related to environmental justice like the film <u>Come Hell or High Water</u> to be screened here on April 7 at 6:30 pm; (2) serving more vegan and vegetarian dishes during potlucks; (3) replacing all disposable kitchen items with reusable ones; (4) discouraging use of plastic water bottles and Styrofoam; (4) better labeling of trash and recyclables in kitchen.

In addressing the harm of fossil fuel pollution and our automobile culture, we have **Mary Kellough** to thank for the mapping she did of which members live near one another, which could make for improved carpooling. That list will be posted downstairs, as well as being emailed to all. **Please refer to it and consider driving with others to fellowship when able.**

Nana Royer, Chair Green Sanctuary Team

Contribute to Bringing our Principles to Life

We have an exciting opportunity—to be the 15th, and final, congregation needed to vote for a resolution to change the First Principle to bring to the UUA General Assembly.

Passing a resolution basically means "this topic is worth of discussion" and that we wish to reflect upon how humans relate to and care for other species. If the study commission of UUA takes it on, there will be a period of one to two years of "deeper reflection" before any change would occur. Voting now does not lock us into changing the first principle, or any. So I'm asking our congregation to pass a resolution to put the topic before us, for deeper living and compassionate action on this earth.

Our congregation's resolution would read, Drum roll...... We the UUFSA do hereby call on the General Assembly of the UUA to omit "every person" and replace with "every being" in Article II Principles and Purposes, Section c-2.1 Principles, Line 12, UUA bylaws.

There will be more information on this suggested change available to you in the coming month, and I suspect you may hear a bit about it from Rev Tom in his sermons. We will plan to have a separate meeting to further discuss this resolution before the annual congregational meeting on May 15, at which time we will vote on the resolution.

Let us reach out our hands in solidarity with the many others!



For more information and questions about this resolution, please take the opportunity to check it out at www.firstprincipleproject.org, www.ofeverybeing.blogspot.com

Nana Royer, Chair Green Sanctuary Team

Mission Workshop with Maggie Lovins Saturday, 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!



Uncle Eddie and Robin present "Ginger Ackley, the Lark of the Clan" Saturday May 7, 7:00 p.m.

Please plan to join us for a fun evening of great Celtic music, fellowship, coffee and food in a coffee house atmosphere.

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, April 3, 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.

April 19 Sing You Home, by Jodi Picoult, led by Isobel Siegel
 May 17 On the Move: A Life, by Oliver Stacks, led by Uldis Golts

June? Lunch Date/Place/Time to be determined



Food Pantry



In February, the Food Pantry, including UUFSA volunteers continued contributing their time, donations, and efforts on behalf of those who came to the Pantry for assistance in providing for themselves and their families. The challenge is still very real and is expected to be greater as more people are cut from food stamps and other federal programs. The attitude of the UUFSA volunteers is consistently positive and each one serves as an excellent ambassador of the tenets of the Fellowship. In the month of February, we disbursed 310 bags, which fed 225 families comprised of 352 adults and 145 children. What a worthwhile outreach program! The figures also are consistently higher than a year ago. We still assist people who are homeless and who have no visible sources of income in this program.

The Pantry depends also on monetary contributions made by the Fellowship members, and friends, as well as the actual food donations collected at the UUFSA. The volunteers brought extra food in February to stock up on canned fruit, and we owe them a special thank you for that effort. Food with long shelf lives continues to be the ideal choice. The Pantry still needs canned fruit as well. We continue to rely on these donations to ensure the shelves are stocked. Monetary donations are routed through the UUFSA Treasurer Larry Cowart and you can continue to make checks payable to the UUFSA 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 nod of gratitude.

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 gwsan4@gmail.com, or watshiwasan@aol.com

My thanks to all Pantry volunteers, and to the members/friends at UUFSA. You show your generosity of heart through your willingness to help those who need your help. The reward is inherent in the act itself as you already know.

Happy Easter and Purim.
Namaste.
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator
Guy Reid

mUUvie April 8, 6:30 p.m.

A Clockwork Orange

(1971) <u>Crime, Drama, Sci-Fi</u> - **Director:** <u>Stanley Kubrick</u> - **Stars:** <u>Malcolm</u> <u>McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates</u> - 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





Palmer's Pic April 22, 6:30 p.m.

Time Bandits

Stars: John Cleese, Michael Palin, Sean Connery, and David Warner. *Time Bandits* is described by Roger Ebert as a strange and weird and wonderful mix of a boys adventure, Python-esque humor, and grim irony all wrapped in tall tales, ancient myth and historical figures.

Palmer

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 **April 1, 15, and 29.** Contact Palmer Short (<u>palshort@gmail.com</u>) for details..



Palmer Short



April Calendar

- 1 Pick up, Clean up, Spruce up Day 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
- 1 Darts 7:00 p.m. 9:00
- 3 Dining with Dignity 6:00 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Great Decisions 7:00 p.m.
- 5 UU101 Denominational Polity 4:00 5:30 p.m.
- 7 *Hell or High Water*: Documentary about Turkey Creek 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food Pantry 1:00 4:00 p.m.
- 8 MUUvie A Clockwork Orange 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Environmental Day at Galimore Center 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- 10 Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 10:15 a.m.
- 11 Green Sanctuary Team 3:00 p.m.
- 11 Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 8:30 p.m.
- 15 Darts 7:00 9:00 p.m.
- 16 -April Showers Dinner 5:30 6:30 p.m.

- 17 Dining with Dignity 6:00 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Book Club Sing You Home, 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Deadline for May Quest
- 22 Food Pantry 1:00 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Movie Time Bandits 6:30
- 23 Earth Day Celebration Day 11:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.
- 29 Darts 7:00 9:00 p.m.
- 30 Mission/Values Workshop 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

May 7 – Uncle Eddie and Robin: Ginger Ackley, the Lark of the Clan 7:00 p.m.

May 15 - Annual Congregational Meeting



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!

The Mountain RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER, INC.

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

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

Regional and National Events

Teaching As Relationship. May 14, 2016, 10:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m.. Calling all Florida DREs, Faith Development professionals, and volunteer RE teachers! Join Connie Goodbread, UUA Southern Region Congregational Life staff member, at the UU Congregation of Venice, FL for "Teaching As Relationship."

Differences That Make a Difference. May 21, 2016 at UU Church of Ft. Myers, FL. As Unitarian Universalists we have a history of being inclusive. We have a pluralistic faith that makes room for all kinds of god/gods or none at all. Many of us came from other faiths where we felt different, out of place, not really seen or counted. We know that differences matter. So as people who have a tradition of "giving them hope not hell," how do we live in today's world where differences divide us so often? Let's explore together how we can be in relationships that matter.

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 GA or SUULE, contact Lola Sorensen or Charlie West. 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 For information about programs at Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church go to: http://www.bbuuc.org/