

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida

June 2016

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

3/4 miles south of State Road 312

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 .....	2
From Your Minister.....	3
Sunday Programs .....	4-5
Summer Program.....	6
Events, Teams & Movies.....	6-10
Calendar.....	8
Beyond Our Congregation.....	11-12



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

**Materials for the July/August issue are due by June 24.**

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

# From Your President



Dear Ones,

In my last communication to the Fellowship, I'll just say simply that you have given me an emotional, intellectual, spiritual and social home for the past 10 years. I love this Fellowship and I love you all, and I have great confidence in your future.

This past year has been one of growth and change, and I think we've done a good job of welcoming Rev. Tom and getting used to working with, listening to, and enjoying our minister. Lots of new faces have joined our congregation, and if you are one of those, we say "WELCOME!" We are glad you are here. And to all the "old timers," as the hymn says, don't be afraid of some change. Change is good, which is an advantage, since it is pretty much constant.

At our annual congregational meeting, we did a couple of very important things. We passed an ambitious budget for next year, and now we need to up the pledging to support it. I have confidence in you and in our Stewardship Team. We also elected a new Board of Trustees, headed up by Robin Mahonen. In my view, you have an excellent Board, and I hope you will all support their efforts to bring more success to UUFSA. And don't, for heaven's sake, forget to volunteer!!! It takes all of us to make this work, so even the smallest job you can do will contribute to the overall effort.

I will miss you all. I will miss our building. I like going in to the sanctuary during the week, I like the quiet and I like its familiar smell, I like the light coming in through the beautiful stained glass windows, and I like the energy I can sense there, lingering after a Sunday service. I will be joining Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, where, as I've said to a few of you, I plan to sit in the back and keep my mouth shut. At least for a while. And I will think of you often, with great fondness, and with gratitude that you will continue on your path, as I continue on mine. We will be parallel travelers now.

*Blessed Be,  
Lola Sorensen*



## From Your Minister

As Summer nears and our regular programming comes to a close, I am drawn to reflect on all that we have shared since I arrived in September. I can only hope that the members and friends of the Fellowship have enjoyed this year half as much as I have. I know that my presence represents a significant change for the Fellowship, yet I believe the transition has gone smoothly and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone over the next few years. I am especially pleased and proud with the results of our Congregational Meeting last month. It is a bold and forward looking budget that was passed, a budget that speaks to the values and principles of our faith and our community. Naturally, passing a budget is one thing and funding it another. Working together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish except those we put on ourselves.



We still have some work to make the budget a reality but I am convinced by my experience with this Fellowship and all that we have accomplished that the funding will be there to expand our music and children's programs. The Fellowship owes its existence to the many volunteers who make everything we do happen and it is easy to forget how much time and effort it takes to make Sunday mornings happen. While everyone has an important role to play, two of the most time consuming and challenging jobs include music and children's religious education. They are too often underfunded and underappreciated yet we cannot imagine not offering either of them. Our new budget is an acknowledgement of just how important these programs are to us and allows us to expand what is possible. The hiring of new staff will serve to support our volunteers, not replace them, expanding what is possible to meet the needs of our growing congregation.

At the Congregational meeting, we also voted to ask the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly to vote to discuss changing our first principle from "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" to "The inherent worth and dignity of every being." The vote was far from unanimous and our discussion raised many good points both for and against. As I had previously made my opinion known through sermons and facilitating a Downstairs Dialogue on the issue, I chose to remain silent at the meeting and listen. I heard the passion and concerns from both sides of the issue and remain impressed how well we lived up to our principles throughout the discussion and following the vote. More than the positive outcome of the vote, I am most proud to be part of a congregation that embodies the notion that we do not have to think alike to love alike. We will continue to consider this topic next year. If the General Assembly does vote to address this change, we will again have the opportunity to vote as a congregation to make the change official. I look forward to hearing everyone's perspective on this.

*Rev. Tom Schmidt*

**Sunday, June 5, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Today, All Will Be Maya”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

In a most vivid dream some time ago, someone whispered in my ear, “Today, all will be Maya.” The haunting images and experiences that followed have yet to fade as dreams tend to do. After some reflection and research, I believe the “maya” referenced in the dream is a Sanskrit word with many meanings though chiefly it can be understood to mean illusion or magic..

**Sunday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“If Jesus Came to St. Augustine”**  
**Rabbi Fred Raskind**

*Rabbi Fred Raskind graduated from Boston University and attended Columbia University, where he studied philosophy and comparative religion and at 3 Christian Divinity Schools: Boston University, Union Theological Seminary [NYC], and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. After being ordained by Hebrew Union College in New York, Rabbi Raskind spent the next ten years serving Reform congregations in Greenville SC and then in Athens GA, along with Hillel College Campus ministry.*

*For 15 years, he commuted from Atlanta to serve part-time small congregations in Gadsden and then in Anniston, AL. He has been involved in interfaith and outreach work throughout his career. Rabbi Raskind advised and helped start two congregations, has done Executive consulting in the Atlanta area. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in GA.*

*In 1999, he became full-time spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom in Vero Beach, and then served as interim Associate Rabbi at Hollywood’s Temple Solel. In 2003 he assumed the pulpit of Congregation B’nai Abraham in Hagerstown, MD & was Jewish Chaplain at the V.A. facility in Martinsburg, WV for 2 years. Rabbi Fred and his fiancée Judy arrived in St. Augustine in August, 2013, has played an important role in community and interfaith activities.*

**Sunday, June 19, 10:30 a. m.**  
**“Flower Communion”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Please bring a flower or two from home to share in this traditional Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates our unity amidst diversity. The Flower Communion was first celebrated in Prague on June 4, 1923 by Norbert Čapek, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. The ritual was brought to the United States in 1940 by the Rev. Maja Čapek, Norbert's wife, and has since become a tradition for many Unitarian Universalist congregations.



## **Sunday, June 26, 10:30 a.m. “End of the Year Celebration”**

Our last regular service of the year will take place June 26. It will be an in-house End of the Year celebration with awards recognizing outstanding members of our Fellowship followed by our regularly scheduled Potluck. Please plan to attend this time of fellowship, sharing and of course great food!

Although this is the last regular service, we will be having a modified summer program July 10 through August 28th. The program will be led by members of our congregation and will take place at the same time Sunday mornings at 10:30.

**Thank you for all you do!  
Megan Porter**

## **Downstairs Dialogue “Socrates Café” – Open Discussion Sunday, June 12 9:15-10:15 a.m. downstairs**



This month, 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 Café method used successfully at our local Council on Aging and in similar groups all over the world. 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 would 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, June 12, downstairs.

# Summer Program

Our Summer Program this year will feature members of our Fellowship speaking on a variety of interesting and thought provoking topics that they would like to share with the Fellowship. The program will start as usual at 10:30, and we will be using a modified schedule. The programs will be informal and interactive, we hope to spark some lively conversations! There will be music and, of course, coffee afterwards. We look forward to seeing you!

The program will start on July 10 and run through August 28. The following is our tentative schedule:

July 10 Robin Mahonen  
July 17 Nana Royer  
July 24 Vanessa Friedman  
July 31 TBA  
August 7 David Wright  
August 14 TBA  
August 21 Dean Hull  
August 28 Charley West

## Dining With Dignity



Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, June 5, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team:

*Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Claudia Atkins*

## Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group is on its summer break. The group will meet again on the first Monday of September.

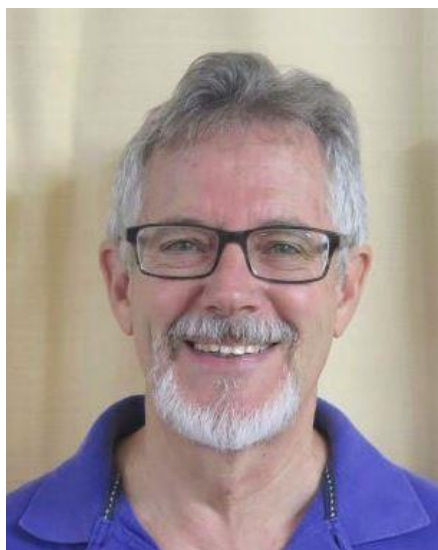
The first topic on our agenda concerns the challenges of inter-Korean relations and the US role in that dangerous area of the world.



Our discussions are usually quite lively and enjoyable. Please consider joining us. For more information, please contact coordinators: Yosi McIntire ([jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net)) or 904-461-3175.and/or Ken Maass.

We take the opportunity to wish everyone happy summer!

# Meet Bill Maguire



Bill Maguire currently lives in Green Cove Springs but is relocating to St. Augustine in June. From Boston originally, Bill lived in California many years. Since moving to Florida in 1977, he has lived in Tallahassee, Jacksonville and St. Petersburg.

Bill and his partner, Rose, have been together 20 years. Rose lives and works in St. Pete and the couple commutes alternate weekends. Bill has a younger brother who lives in Maine and he provides supervision for an older brother.

Working now as the administrator of Silver Treasures at St. Augustine, a new transitional community which will open in June, Bill has previously worked as a Hospice Bereavement Counselor, Career Counselor with underserved youth and owned a printing based company. He is currently Volunteer Ambassador for Community Hospice and works closely with residents' families during crisis periods.

Bill has been a past member of UU Clearwater and UU St. Pete. He was active with Membership, Homeless Issues and a Board Member at UUSP. Factors that influenced him joining our Fellowship were finding our members to be very welcoming and Bill especially valued the addition of ministerial leadership. He has visited UUFSA sporadically over the last four years but is “thrilled to share in the growth since the addition of Tom.” Once Bill is situated in town, he will be available to assist more with committee work. At this point, he uses his skills as a mental health counselor to attend to the emotional needs of first time visitors.

We are very fortunate to have such an energetic and talented new member in our UUSFA family. Please introduce yourself to Bill so he can learn more about each of us and we can get to know and appreciate him.

## 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.

# Call for Humanists

Unitarian minister Raymond Bragg was instrumental in coordinating the drafting of the original Humanist Manifesto in 1933. Several other Unitarian ministers were among the 34 signers of that document. If you count yourself among those who likewise view life's profound moral and ethical issues through a secular and humanistic perspective, I would like to hear from you.

*Jerome Fosaaen*

[904.417.7344](tel:904.417.7344) [fosaaenj@gmail.com](mailto:fosaaenj@gmail.com)

## Afternoon Book Club June Lunch

Date/Place/Time to be determined . For information contact Isobel Siegel 904-794-2293.

## June Calendar

- 3 – Darts 7:00– 9:00 p.m.
- 4 – Interfaith Beach Cleanup 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- 5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – MUUvie *Kolya* 6:30 p.m.
- 12 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 15 – Program Team 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- 17 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 24 – Deadline for July/August Quest
- 24 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



## Cleaning Up after the pledge dinner.





# Food Pantry



The April figures climbed up again closer to the January demand at the Food Pantry. There were 10,584 meals distributed: 296 families with 456 adults, 263 children (exceeding January) and 441 bags (443 in January). The UUFSA volunteers continued to provide first rate service to continue the SJEM mission in the St Johns County community of providing food for those who need it. Once again they donated time, food and cash with a willingness that inspires others. You can be proud that the volunteers who staff the UUFSA effort make a commendable statement in this vital outreach program. The distribution figures continue to be consistently higher than a year ago in April 2015. We still assist people who are homeless as well as those who have no visible means of income in this program, and low income families struggling to keep their lives together.

The Pantry depends 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 again in April, including canned fruit, and we owe them a special thank you for that effort. They continue to walk the extra mile for the less fortunate. Food with long shelf lives continues to be the ideal choice. The Pantry still needs canned fruit as well. The Pantry relies on the church 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. Still no new information yet on that enhancement. I believe Grief Counseling notices are now posted 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. As previously mentioned, Cal and Pat also picked up additional volunteer duties as purchasers again this year, for which we extend a special thanks..

If you find this program appeals to you and you want to help on the second or fourth Friday of the month, let Cherie Dolgin know at [cdolgin@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdolgin@bellsouth.net). Since I am leaving the Board after June, Cherie will be taking that position on your behalf again. Thanks to all Pantry volunteers, and to the members/friends at UUFSA. Your generosity has made this rewarding and serving with the volunteers has been especially enriching in sometimes surprising ways.

Let's make every day Earth Day and treat the old lady with kindness. Remember to fly your Old Glory flag on June 14<sup>th</sup>!

*Namaste.*  
*UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator*  
*Guy Reid*

# U.U. Art News

A heartfelt thank you is being sent to Lola Sorenson (and all others who helped) for the great job of organizing our art displays and moving out U.U. Art Works to a more visible spot in the social hall. Now many more people are enjoying the works of our talented visual artists.

We are losing Lola, but Joyce Peterson and Annette Jones will attempt to "fill her shoes" and organize shows for the coming year. The first show will be opening the first Sunday of October. So all you artists, have a great productive summer, create lots of art work and bring in your show entries on or before the last Sunday of September.

For more information contact: Joyce Peterson (386-515-6860) or Annette Jones (386-225-4453).

## mUUVie June 10, 6:30 p.m. 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 **June 3 and 17.** Contact Palmer Short ([palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com)) for details..



*Palmer Short*



# Beyond Our Congregation

## Regional and National Events

**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](http://www.uua.org/ga)

### **Presidents' Convocations, July 8-10 in Orlando, Birmingham, Greenville, and Dallas**

The goal for The Presidents' Convocation is to come together in a learning community, to network, share and deepen our experience. Far too often congregational presidents come into office without a complete understanding of the resources that are available to them outside of their individual congregations. We can sometimes feel alone in the work. The Presidents' Convocation is an opportunity to gather with other congregational Presidents and your Regional Staff and learn from one another. You can register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uua-southern-region-presidents-convocation-orlando-florida-registration-21829089394>

**Southern UU Leadership Experience (SUULE). 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](http://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/>



# 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.

**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

**For more information:** TheMountainRLC.org or 828-526-5838 or contact Lyn Klarman, Priscilla Gulliver or Beverly Cree at UUFSA. Plan now to be part of these special programs.



## 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/>

**Tuesday, June 21 at 7 pm - Summer Solstice Ritual**

Join CUUPS in celebrating the holiday of Litha, also known as Midsummer or Summer Solstice. We will have a ritual honoring this point in the Wheel of the Year. Bring an item that represents something you would like to call into your life, and an offering to the Fae Folk.