

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

September 2016
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080.
3/4 miles south of State Road 312
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

PresidentRobin Mahonen
Vice President.....Chuck Chambers
Secretary Nana Royer
Treasurer..... Dave Perkins
Trustee Pat Maguire
TrusteeMegan Porter
TrusteeCharlie West
Trustee.....Pat Willott

In This Issue

From Your President2
From Your Minister.....3
Sunday Programs 4-5
Announcements, Events, Teams & Movies..... 6-13
Calendar.....11
Beyond Our Congregation..... 14



The *Quest* is published monthly from September through July.
Materials for the October issue are due by September 23.
Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donalddbrandes@gmail.com
Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

From Your President

Namaste!



Welcome back to our UUFSA snowbirds as they flock back into St. Augustine, and to all who will join us in our 2016-2017 program year.

I'm excited to report, we will all be sitting pretty and much more comfortably in our new sanctuary chairs which should arrive by the end of this month! Thanks again to Dave Perkins who did painstaking research in catalogues, and arranged for samples to be sent which we could actually try out. When we did, the choice was 100% unanimous. In addition to being much more comfortable, the new chairs will also have pockets for our hymnals. No more picking up the hymnals and taking them back to the table!

Over the summer, much has happened with our building. The stage area has been better defined, and we can now adjust our curtains to better suit performing arts on our stage. We are actively seeking bids to replace our road signage. The lighting in the sanctuary has been adjusted to better meet our worship and other needs, and the sound dampening project has been completed in the downstairs hall, to make the large area more conducive to conversation. We have been advised that art tapestries are quite effective for sound baffling purposes, and we would love to encourage some of our more artistic members to make and donate one or more to beautify as well as soundproof our cinderblock walls. Thanks to all the congregation members who volunteered their time to these projects, saving us quite a bit off of our projected costs!

Which brings me gracefully to segue into my next subject, which is to remind you all how amazing you are! I'm still a newcomer, but I have been studying this congregation and its members, and the talents of the people here are almost overwhelming. My next task of course, is to figure out how to inspire all of you to bring all your best to our Fellowship.

As members of this beloved community, some of us are able to give that all important green paper which enables us to do the mundane things like keeping on the lights and the water, and on a more spiritual level, to bring interesting speakers and presentations to our sanctuary. Some of us have gifts and talents that benefit our community directly by performing a service, completing a task, or by contributing something we would have to purchase. On whatever level, we need YOU. All of us have something of worth to contribute, and our community becomes more diverse and richer by our enthusiastic participation.

*May you never thirst,
Robin Mahonen*



From Your Minister

It has now been one complete trip around the sun since I began my work here as your minister. As some people already know, I will be living much closer to the Fellowship and so will be able to more fully participate in the life of the community. Given all the activities we have coming up this Fall it will be very helpful to be living so close. Besides the annual Water Service on September 18, we are helping to organize an interfaith event and in October we will be holding the Mission Workshop that was postponed last Spring and we are participating in “Make a Difference Day.” This is what it means to be a small and mighty congregation.



Working with the Interfaith Community of St. Augustine, we are organizing a Faith in Action Forum to discuss faithful responses to hatred and violence. The instigation of this event is the September 20th airing of the Ken Burns documentary “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War.” The movie tells the story of Rev. Waitstill and Marsha Sharp who left their home and children in 1939 to help Jews and other refugees trying to escape Nazi persecution. Acting from their Unitarian beliefs, the Sharps risked everything to help faceless strangers living thousands of miles away. More information will be published once it is finalized.

Last Spring the Fellowship approved the hiring of a Music Coordinator. Interviews are taking place this month and we expect to have the position filled by October. I am impressed by the high level of qualifications of the candidates and I don’t expect it to be an easy decision but I am confident that our music program will be greatly enhanced. “Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything,” wrote Plato. I am grateful for all of musicians, volunteers and professionals, who have given wings to our minds and flights to our imaginations. The position of Music Coordinator is not intended to replace our current music program but to enhance it and I look forward with high expectations to this new collaboration.

Rev. Tom Schmidt



Sunday, September 4, 10:30 a.m.
“Bread and Circuses”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

It was the Roman poet Juvenal that coined the phrase Bread and Circuses (Panem et Circensus) as a commentary on the Roman system of government. It was the formula used to keep the population peaceful and happy while the emperor did as he pleased to expand his wealth and power. Could it be that this same strategy is still in use today two thousand years later?

Sunday, September 11, 10:30 a.m.
“And A Child Shall Lead Them”
Robin Mahonen



Adults often forget the innocence and naivete of childhood, and indeed, we could learn many things from observing and emulating some of the things children do. We might just be happier people!

This service will feature a special musical guest: 12 year old Kyah Palmisano, performing with her father, Guy Palmisano.



Sunday, September 18, 10:30 a. m.
“Water Communion”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

We will celebrate the new Fellowship year with our traditional Water Service. If you remembered to collect water during your summer travels, please bring it and as always we will have some symbolic water available for all of us who didn't.

Sunday, September 25, 10:30 a.m.
“The Little Rock Nine”
Ron Zamora and Robin Mahonen



The integration of public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas was a pivotal event in the civil rights movement. On this anniversary, we honor and celebrate the bravery of those who speak out when they hear injustice. Black lives matter! In these troubling times, we need to find the courage to express our own voice.

This service will feature special musical guest, Alex Soltow.



Downstairs Dialogue
“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion
Sunday, September 11
9:15-10:15 a.m. downstairs

To kick off our new program year for Adult Learning, 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, September 11, downstairs.

Meanwhile, we are always soliciting new ideas for our Adult Learning program here at UUFSA. What would be a good topic for a new multi-session course that would attract a following? What smaller topics would make for a good one-hour discussion at a Downstairs Dialogue? Any ideas on interesting presenters we might invite? Contact me by email (westjrcw@gmail.com) or phone call (904-471-0335) with your ideas.

Charlie West
Co chair, Adult Learning

From the Program Committee

I am very much looking forward to starting our new Program year. We are so fortunate to have a pool of interesting, great speakers with very diverse viewpoints, and we will have several returning speakers along with some new faces this year. All look forward to their visits here, and comment on our friendly and welcoming Fellowship. We will also have new, much more comfortable chairs, which will greatly enhance our worship experience!

Our summer program has been quite successful, and I want to thank all of the participants who worked so hard to make it possible. We will probably continue the summer program next year, format to be decided.

One change has been made to our Order of Service regarding the talkback part of our service. We are NOT doing away with the talkback segment of the service. We are letting the speaker decide when and how he or she wishes to answer questions, respond to comments, etc. If the speaker prefers to interact with the Fellowship directly after the sermon, we will employ our former procedure of talkback followed by the close of the service, followed by Coffee Hour. If the speaker prefers to interact in a smaller setting after service, the service will close after the sermon and those who wish further dialogue with the speaker will be invited to talk to the speaker downstairs during Coffee Hour.

I look forward to seeing you all starting September 4nd!

Megan Porter



Announcements For Sunday Morning

In order to make the job of Program Chair more manageable, we are making a few changes-- one which affects the committee/team chairs, the folks responsible for issuing announcements.

If you have an announcement you would like read on Sunday morning, go to this link:

<http://www.alastudio.com/announce/>, fill out the form, and hit send. It will go directly to the UUFSA printer using your email! The service leader will then pick it up on Sunday at 10 a.m. to read.

You will note that there are only 150 characters available for you to describe your event on this form. This is intentional. If you would like to have more information available, type it out and it may go on the Announcements board in the foyer and/or downstairs on one of the bulletin boards. Bear in mind that your event may also be posted in the Quest, if it is known far enough ahead of time. It can also be posted on the website calendar as well as go out in the weekly "What's Going On" email. We are making an effort to minimize the service time taken up with announcements. For further commentary on announcements, please refer to this link: http://www.worshipfacilities.com/article/millennial_perspective_stop_doing_announcements

Treasurer's Note

Bookkeeping — A Friendly Reminder — When writing checks for Donations, Pledges and MRF Pledges etc.

We want to thank the vast majority of the congregation who already fill out their checks in the manner requested below but because we are now using a bookkeeping company to handle our monies (e.g. registering donations, pledges, bills etc) we are asking everyone to follow these guidelines. Of course, the Treasurer deposits all the cash and checks into our accounts at Harbor Bank. The Bookkeeping Company doesn't handle any cash (i.e. they are only informed as to the amount of cash) and they only work with copies of checks.

In order to avoid confusion regarding checks please always write your checks to "UUFSA". Also, it would help if you would write "Pledge", "MRF Pledge" or "Donation" on the memo line as appropriate and please DO NOT place more than ONE item on the memo line. e.g. either a REGULAR pledge or a MRF pledge; either DWD or Pledge or Donation --- please avoid COMBINING items on one check --- write two checks or three as the case may be.

Third Sundays --- On the third Sunday if you wish for your check to be given to the designated Non-Profit organization for that Sunday please write out the check to "UUFSA" and then write the name of the organization on the memo line e.g. Food Pantry, Home Again, etc. for that specific Sunday only and that specific organization only. We will combine the total of the checks and cash and make out a check for that specific organization. If you don't write anything on the memo line it will be considered a regular donation for the Fellowship unless specified otherwise e.g. pledge. On Sundays other than the third, please do not write the name of a Non-Profit organization on the memo line since we would need to generate a specific check for that organization for only your check. Thanks. For more information, please contact Dave Perkins.

Dave Perkins

We're Still Listening

You may have noticed that the UU Board recently took down the Suggestion Box. Why? Anonymous suggestion boxes don't facilitate effective or healthy communication. Now what? Here are the many ways you can continue to share your comments, concerns, and cheers.

- Reverend Tom Schmidt holds office hours, Tuesday 1-3, and Wednesday 5-7
- Reverend Tom Schmidt can be reached at 432-559-2411 or uurev@icloud.com
- Contact Committee on Ministry members Vanessa Friedman at 904 819-0408 vfriedman32084@yahoo.com or Elle Barry at ellepaper@hotmail.com or 904-810-5915
- Board Members and Trustees can be called or emailed. Please see the UUSFA Membership and Friends contact list for phone numbers and emails, too lengthy to list here.
- If you are not sure where to best direct your comments, email Board President Robin Mahonen at RRafael2@aol.com or call her at 304 639-5538
- You can also talk with any board member at services or UU events.

Make A Difference Day – Oct 22

Here's an opportunity to provide hands on help for our larger community as we work to Make A Difference in others' lives. UUFSA has been registered as an organization which will provide volunteers.

The St Johns Housing Partnership Make A Difference Day Project will enlist more than 150 volunteers who will spread out over the entire county to help paint, clean and repair more than 15 homes for veterans, elderly or disabled families. We invite you to join us in service on Make A Difference Day 2016 on **Saturday, October 22, 8 am to 5 pm**. Eight to fifteen (8 – 15) volunteers will be used per project doing things such as exterior painting, repairing porches, landscape and yard clean up, etc.

If you would like to participate in this most satisfying project, please give your name to Nana Royer, 904-461-3541, nanaroyer@gmail.com. We will be firming up with SJHP later as to how many volunteers we have and what tasks we will be assigned.

Nana Royer

Share The Plate 2016-17

For two years now UUFSA has been sharing 100% of our Sunday collection, once Sunday a month, with a local non-profit organization in alignment with our values. The Board opted to continue this practice this Fellowship year and will begin with the third Sunday in September--the 18th--donating the plate to St Johns Housing Partnership. SJHP works with businesses within the community to lend a hand in improving the lives of neighbors less fortunate every day. Our contribution will assist SJHP in continuing to fulfill its mission on Saturday, October 22, and beyond. That is the day we are asking for volunteers to take part in "Make a Difference Day".



The October Share the Plate is also earmarked for St Johns Housing Partnership. We will then return to the practice of rotating each month through three other organizations: the St Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry, the Wildflower Clinic, and Home Again St Johns. Several members of our congregation volunteer in these organizations and they are special to us.

Thank you for your willingness to help serve those in our community who are in need. Having served myself in two of these organizations, it is very satisfying and humbling to participate in their good work. This is in the true spirit of our mission and our Fellowship.

Nana Royer
Secretary of the Board

Social Concerns: Call for Members

The Social Concerns Team will meet briefly right after Coffee Hour on September 4 in the Meditation Room to choose a meeting time. Whether you would like to be a member of the team or just learn more about its work, please join us, or contact me at engsch@bellsouth.net, or at 904-460-1190.

Jo Anne Engelbert, Chair, Social Concerns



A Cautionary Tale for Our Times: “Defying the Nazis—the Sharps’ War”

Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp, WWII Unitarians who secretly worked in Nazi-occupied Europe to rescue Jews, dissidents and refugee children, are the subject of a 2016 PBS documentary by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky. Today, Unitarian Universalists carry on their legacy.

A preview of the film was presented at this year's General Assembly, with the Sharps' grandson, Artemis Joukowsky in attendance.

Given the current political climate and divide, this film is very timely. We hope many of you will be able to view it on PBS, **September 20, 9 pm.**

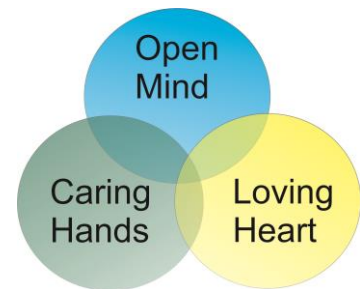
At a future date we plan to have a showing at the Fellowship (following September 20). In addition, Rev Tom is in the process of working with the interfaith council to hold a follow up forum with speakers from various faiths addressing the challenges of dealing with xenophobia and racism. Stay tuned for more information.

Nana Royer/Rev. Tom Schmidt

Life-long Learning - Children and Youth.

Summer Activities

The Life-long Learning Team for Children and Youth has been busy this summer. Young people have attended services each Sunday. The youngest were nurtured by Maggie McElhaney; older children attended classes with Dianna Hull, Vanessa Friedman, and Claudia Atkins. Marianne Wareham helped design and is distributing flyers throughout the community to advertise our programs for young people. Claudia Atkins and Pat Willott are interviewing candidates for a teaching position in our program beginning in the fall. Marianne Wareham and Barbara Battelle consulted with Mary Kellough about how to make our common area west of our building more attractive and usable for all in the Fellowship, and under Mary's leadership, changes are being made. Take a look.



A New Congressional Year

We will begin the year with three classes. Our youngest children will continue to be nurtured by Maggie McElhaney. We will have a “middle group” overseen by a hired teacher who will be mentored by Claudia Atkins and Pat Willott. During September, activities in this group will focus on our first principle: **The Dignity and Worth of Every Person**. Finally, we will have a teen group that will design their own program with the guidance and mentorship of Vanessa Friedman.

It Does Take a Village

During the beautiful child-dedication ceremony this summer for Aria Cowart, we, as members of our Fellowship, dedicated ourselves to protect and nurture her. Similarly, **members of the Life-long Learning Team for Children and Youth invite all members/friends of our Fellowship to help protect, nurture and contribute to the development of each one of our children. In that spirit, we invite each of you to participate in the UUFSA's children and youth program.** You can participate in two ways:

1. We invite you to donate *at least* one Sunday this year to be downstairs with the children to serve as the adult “on-call” for safety, and to assist teachers as needed (like escorting a young person to the rest room). No special preparation is necessary, but this will give you an opportunity to watch, and if you like, to interact with the children as they explore the moral values that will shape their lives.
2. We invite you to share your passion, expertise or talents with our children (music, art, travel, science, social justice) by developing a short, simple lesson for them. Members of our team can help you with that, if you like. The children gain so much by getting to know YOU! Moreover, we guarantee, you will be enriched as well.

With your involvement, we will be able to provide our children and youth a safe and accepting community where they can learn and grow into thoughtful, compassionate adults. If you would like to help, please contact Claudia Atkins (claudiadeland@aol.com) or Pat Willot (pwillot@comcast.net). We need each of you!

Calling All UU Artists

The first Art Exhibit of the 2016/2017 year will be opening on Sunday, October 2. We hope you will take part. Please bring your work (limited to 3 pieces and ready to hang) on Sunday, September 25. Stay after the service and coffee hour to meet the other artists and help hang the show.

Please see Joyce Peterson or Annette Jones if you have any questions.



Book Club

The first UU Book Club of the season will be Tuesday, **September 20th at 1:00 pm**. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Books for the season will be selected--so please bring your suggested book titles.

The Book Club always meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from September through May; the luncheon will be in June. If you have any questions, please email joyce.peterson1@gmail.com

Septmeber Calendar



- 2 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 4 – Social Concerns Team – Coffee hour
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 16 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 20 – Book Club 1:00 p.m. – ?
- 21 – Program Team 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 23 – Deadline for October Quest
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 23 – Movie: *Romeo and Juliet* 6:30 p.m. - ?
- 25 – Bring art for display– Coffee hour
- 30 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Food Pantry



It has been a busy summer at the St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry! 452 bags of food were given to needy individuals/families in June and 407 bags in July. I am thrilled to tell you that three new volunteers have joined our UU team. They are Mary Kellough, Ruth Weber and Marsha Williams. Welcome ladies and thank you so much for donating your time! They join Cal Marshall, Chris Fosaaen, Dave and Lee Forrest, Guy Reid, Jill and Lou Cerulli, John Porter, Kathleen Paracer, Lenny Gemski, Nana Royer, Pat Maguire and myself in serving at the Food Pantry twice monthly. Pat and Cal also are shoppers for the Pantry.

With the donations the Pantry has received, we were able to buy two much needed new refrigerator/freezers. This will be extremely helpful in keeping produce fresh. In addition to canned fruit, the Pantry can use empty egg cartons. If you are able, please put either item in the basket located in the entrance to the Fellowship. Thanks very much.

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, September 4, 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.

Palmer's Pics

September 23, 6:30 p.m.

Romeo and Juliet

The movie for September 23rd is what has been called the best version ever of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Italian director Franco Zeffirelli stunned the screen world when he cast two young unknowns to portray the star crossed lovers. But it was a gamble that resulted in one of the most popular motion pictures of all time, garnering four Academy Award nominations. If you have never seen this version or saw it when it was released in 1968, you owe it yourself to revisit it and be seduced by it's grandeur and one of the greatest love stories ever told. Be warned there is brief nudity, which was censored from the earlier version. It's stars are Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting. Leonard Whiting was seventeen and Olivia Hussey's age was reported to be fifteen, causing quite a scandal because of the nudity.



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 **September 2, 16, and 30**. Contact Palmer Short (palshort@gmail.com) for details..

Palmer Short



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.

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

<http://themountainrlc.org/event/suufi-southern-uu-fall-institute>



The view from Meditation Rock is spectacular!

Come for a colorful autumn week as we explore *Play* in many ways: games, arts, conversations, stories, music and writing.

Typical of SUUFI, the schedule balances Mind and Body. Short morning sessions link to week long endeavor in hands on, thought provoking, and heart felt pursuits. Outdoor activities, entertainment and fellowship are part of the Mountain experience.

For more information: www.TheMountainRLC.org or 828.526.5838 or contact Beverly Cree, Lyn Klarman or Priscilla Gulliver at UUFSA. Plan now to be part of these or other 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/>

Regional and National Events

For 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/>

