

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

October 2016

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

3/4 miles south of State Road 312

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

Fellowship services 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 2016 - 2017

President	Robin Mahonen
Vice President.....	Chuck Chambers
Secretary	Nana Royer
Treasurer.....	Dave Perkins
Trustee	Pat Maguire
Trustee	Megan Porter
Trustee	Charlie West
Trustee.....	Pat Willott

In This Issue

From Your President	2
From Your Minister.....	3
Sunday Programs	4-5
Mission and Vision Workshop.....	7
Announcements, Events, Teams & Movie	6-14
Calendar.....	12
Beyond Our Congregation.....	14



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

Materials for the November issue are due by October 28.

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

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

From Your President



Namaste!

The arrival of October places us in Autumn, a time of cooler days and nights, and yet a hotbed of diverse activities for our Fellowship.

First, we'd like to welcome Alex Soltow as our new Music Coordinator. Some of you may have met Alex at the Little Rock Nine service in September as a guest musician. When you see her, please take some time to say hello and make her feel at home here.

We have three special events coming up this month:

First, our **Mission and Vision Workshop** being held on Saturday, October 15th, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in our Lower Level, with our UU neighbors from Buckman Bridge, being facilitated by Rev. Ken Hurto. This is in keeping with our Strategic Action Plan developed by the Board with congregational input, and we look to all of you for continued participation to work toward the challenging goal of making this beloved community as relevant as possible to our very diverse needs. Please sign up downstairs with either Nana or Robin.

Second, on Saturday, October 22nd, we are partnering with St. John's Housing Partnership to help elderly and disabled neighbors get their homes cleaned up and/or repaired. We have designated the Third Sunday plate collection to this effort for both the months of September and October, to help purchase supplies for this event. We are looking for UUFSA volunteers to help with this worthy effort.

Third, on Sunday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m., we are co-facilitating a Samhain celebration and ritual with Pantheon, a Pagan group from Flagler College, who we connected with at the WAVE Outreach event last month. There will be drumming and dancing.

You may notice with these three events; the first is an in-house, UU focused event, and opportunity to connect on a deeper level with your chosen spiritual family, the second is an opportunity for us as a community to reach out with real action and support to our neighbors and the town we love and call our home, and the third, is an opportunity for us to open our doors and welcome young newcomers into our sanctuary and spiritual space as part of their spiritual quest.

Next month, watch for a repeat performance by political satirist and musician, Roy Zimmerman on November 10th, and a play with Palmer Short, "Incommunicado", on our UUFSA stage on November 19th.

***May you never thirst,
Robin Mahonen***



From Your Minister

As I write, the new chairs haven't yet arrived but hopefully they have arrived by the time you read this. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped offload the delivery truck and get everything unpacked and in place. I think it would be a good idea to log how many volunteer hours it takes to run our Fellowship for a month. Every week we have volunteers working in the hot sun to make our grounds look so great by trimming trees and bushes, pulling weeds, and laying mulch. If we took the time to add up the hours committed to meetings and making coffee and cleaning and editing this newsletter, practicing music, I bet we would all be astonished of how much time our members and friends spend making our Fellowship happen. It truly is amazing what a small group of committed and caring individuals can do when we are working for a common cause.



With all that being said, buckle up ladies and gentlemen, we are in for a very busy month ahead. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to sign up for the **Mission and Vision Workshop** on the 15th. We are hosting the Buckman Bridge congregation for this event, so it provides not only a great opportunity to share your vision for our Fellowship but also to build relationships with other Unitarian Universalists in our area. Rev. Ken Hurto, the Executive Lead of the Southern Region of the UUA will be leading the workshop.

All of our children and youth, and their parents, are invited for an evening of pizza and brainstorming at 6:00 p.m. on October 13. Our Sunday programming for children and youth is a vital aspect of who we are and what we do. Unitarian Universalism has always been a forward looking movement and with that comes a strong commitment to prepare the next generation to address the very changing needs of society. If you are a parent or know of a parent who is interested in offering their children and youth a journey of discovery then please sign up to attend.

Of course, we haven't forgotten about our adult learners. I will be facilitating a class based on the Sam Harris book, "Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion." Classes begin Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. and will continue every Wednesday for five weeks. Reading the book is highly recommended but not necessary as the classes will be based on topics addressed in the book but I will be bringing in additional materials to provide for deeper reflection and discussion. This class is open to the public so invite friends and family or anybody you know who identifies as "spiritual but not religious."

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.
“The Blessing of Animals”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

It has become customary in churches of many denominations to celebrate the Blessing of the Animals in early October to coincide with the Catholic feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. In recognition of this tradition, everyone is invited to bring a picture or other memento of a beloved pet to share during the service.

Sunday, October 9, 10:30 a.m.
“About Rules”
Sharon Scholl

Rules are usually made sacred by some vast power, but what if good rules are implicit in our own experience as humans on this earth? What might this approach teach us?

Sharon Scholl is retired professor of humanities and non-western studies from Jacksonville University. She is a long time UU, member of the UU Musicians' Network, and directs the seasonal choir at her church in Jacksonville. She hosts a website for the Network that gives away free choral music. From her study of ancient cultures, she became interested in the written and unwritten rules we observe for living together.



Sunday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.
“Philosophical Anarchy”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

One can argue that Unitarian Universalists are very much theological anarchists, in that we generally do not recognize any authority beyond our own experience in matters of religion and spirituality. This doesn't mean we are all atheists, rather it means that we accept the concepts of free will and self determination. Philosophical anarchism is really just an extension of that belief to all aspects of life and living. Philosophical anarchists of historical note include Mohandas Gandhi, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Henry David Thoreau.

Sunday, October 23, 10:30 a.m.

“Islam 101”

Dilara Hafiz

This introduction to Islam will cover beliefs, rituals, myths, misconceptions and surprising facts.



Dilara Hafiz has a BA in Economics from Johns Hopkins University and an MSc in International Political Economy from The London School of Economics. She currently teaches a class on Muslim Culture & Traditions at Jacksonville University, as well as various Islamic topics in Flagler's Adult Education & Lifelong Learning. She has worked in a variety of European and Middle Eastern countries including England, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia as a writer, editor, and educator. She is the co-author of The American Muslim Teenager's Handbook (2nd edition 2009 Simon & Schuster) along with her two children, Yasmine and Imran Hafiz. As the former Vice President of the Arizona Interfaith Movement, she has a keen interest in interfaith issues and her writings have appeared in the Huffington Post, Common Ground, and the Religion News Service. She currently serves on the board of Compassionate St. Augustine.

Sunday, October 30, 10:30 a.m.

“We are Golden”

Mark Yount

So much depends on how we see ourselves - our view of human nature, and of our own potential. Let others debate origins and end times: this life offers contrast enough to set us wondering who we might be. In my peak experiences I am golden; in the pits, leaden. Can we accomplish in our lives what the alchemists could not in their laboratories? Can we turn our leaden selves to gold?

Mark Yount taught Philosophy for 12 years at Trinity College (Hartford), Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia) and Jacksonville University after earning degrees in Philosophy from The College of William and Mary (B.A.), Villanova (M.A.) and University of Colorado at Boulder (Ph.D.). He has given over 80 sermons at Buckman Bridge UU Church (Jacksonville) and served as YRUU/Beacon youth advisor for over a decade. Since April 2015 Mark has worked with Mental Health America of northeast Florida helping homeless or at risk people with mental illness apply for disability benefits. Mark is writing a book titled Wisdom on the Way.



Great Decisions

October 3, 7:00 p.m.



On the eve of the international organization's 70th birthday, the United Nations stands at a crossroads. This year marks a halfway point in the organization's global effort to eradicate poverty, hunger and discrimination, as well as ensure justice and dignity for all peoples. But as the UN's 193 member states look back at the success of the millennium development goals, they also must assess their needs for its sustainable development goals—a new series of benchmarks, which are set to expire in 2030. With the appointment of the ninth Secretary-General in the near future as well, the next U.S. President is bound to have quite a lot on his or her plate going into office.

This month the group will discuss US Foreign policy with relation to the United Nations. The discussion will be led by Surinder and Yosi. Please join us downstairs. All are welcome.

Prep reading material available at:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/22001007/GD%20UN%20%20Oct%202016.pdf>

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

Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

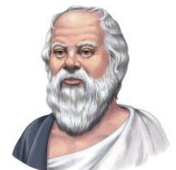
Sunday, October 9

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? Maybe we can come up with some ideas to make things better!

We will decide what topic(s) to discuss using the Socrates Café method. At the beginning of the session, each attendee will suggest a topic, and we will “vote” on which one(s) to discuss. Discussion led by Charlie West.



So bring your favorite issue or question and come join us at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 9, downstairs.

Charlie West
Co chair, Adult Learning

Mission Workshop

with Ken Hurto

October 15, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AHOY MATEYS!
Join the FellowSHIP!



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 Rev. Ken Hurto, 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 8:30 a.m., work together in large and in small groups, have a little lunch, and hope to be wrapped up by 3:00 p.m. Come with an open mind, sense of adventure and your sense of humor, see you there!

We are welcoming our friends from Buckman Bridge for this workshop.
GRUB AND GROG being served.

Samhain Celebration with Pantheon

Sunday, October 30, at 7 PM

**“Corn and grain, corn and grain.
All that falls shall rise again!”**

We will be welcoming our young friends from Pantheon, a Pagan group from Flagler College, and will be celebrating the Pagan Sabbath of Samhain.

Members of the congregation are welcome to join us in this event with drumming, dancing, and ritual.



This I Believe

Hello All,

Your Program Committee is pleased to announce the return of a popular segment of our Sunday service, ***This I Believe***. Each second Sunday, we will hear a statement of belief from a member or friend.

By way of background: ***This I Believe*** is an international organization that seeks to engage people in sharing essays describing the fundamental core values that guide their daily lives. Over 125,000 of these essays, written by people from all walks of life, have been archived on the ***This I Believe*** website, heard on public radio, chronicled through books, and featured in weekly podcasts. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

This I Believe is about telling the stories of our core values. Your statement may be a story that tells how *you* came to hold an important personal belief—something that guides your daily living. It may even be a statement that describes how you came to be a UU and a member of our Fellowship. In any case, your essay should describe your own experiences, not be simply an opinion about a social issue.

Essays should be approximately 500 to 600 words, or about three minutes when read aloud at your natural speaking pace. Ours will not exceed five minutes in total.

So who is willing to do the work and then share? There are still a few Sundays to fill! Please contact Ruth Weber at rweb423@gmail.com or at 904-347-5293 (or even in person!) to reserve your week.

Sharing your ***This I Believe*** statement is a generous way to help us all to connect more deeply, to know each other better, gain insight into fellow-UUsers, and generally involve more of us in our Sunday services. It's also an interesting personal experience to write one (or more) statements of belief.

If you need extra inspiration, go to the ***This I Believe*** website.
I look forward to hearing YOUR ***This I Believe*** segment!

Megan Porter
Program Committee Chair

PS – shy about presenting? There are options! Contact Ruth Weber for details.

Meditation Group

Starting October 4, 3:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.



The meditation group will be meeting on Tuesday's starting October 4, 3:00 p.m.-4:30PM. All are welcome; no experience necessary.

Sitting meditation in chairs or on cushions as you prefer, practice concentration and mindfulness.

Peter Gibbon

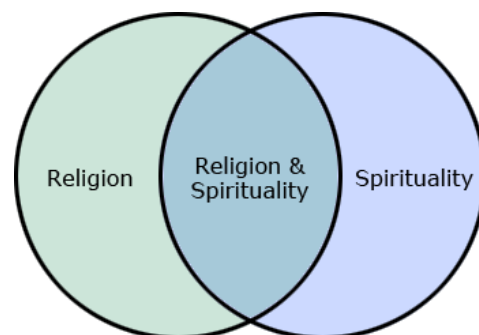
New Adult Learning Course – Sign Up Now!

“Waking Up-Spirituality Without Religion”

Wednesdays, October 19 - November 6, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Using the book *Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion*, by Sam Harris, we will explore such topics as: differences between religion and spirituality, consciousness, the idea of "self," meditation, and other paths to spiritual awakening. Reading the book (245pp) is optional, but highly recommended. It is available through all major booksellers.

The five sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Tom Schmidt, who has a Master of Divinity degree and twelve years of experience as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Supplemental material will be provided for added depth and understanding, and we will explore some of the practices mentioned in the book.



Meetings are open to everyone interested in exploring personal spiritual growth that is absent of any religious dogmatism. Members of the broader community are especially invited to join us. So bring your friends who are searching spiritually! We will meet in the sanctuary, so there will be plenty of room on our comfortable new seats.

Sign up now, even if you will be unable to attend all sessions, which are relatively independent of each other. To sign up, contact Charlie West by email (westjrcw@gmail.com) or telephone (904-471-0335 – leave message). Then get the book, and start reading!

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.

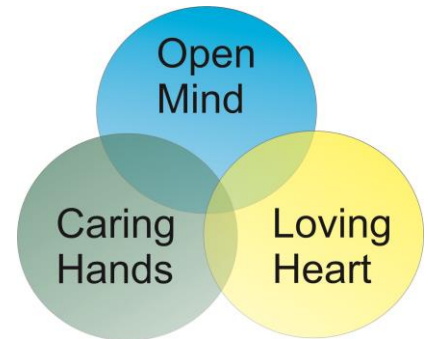
The St Johns Housing Partnership Make A Difference Day Project will enlist more than 150 volunteers who will spread out over the entire county to help paint, clean and repair more than 15 homes for veterans, elderly or disabled families. We invite you to join us in service on Make A Difference Day 2016 on **Saturday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** 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

Life-long Learning - Children and Youth.

Our new congressional year is off to a good start. We begin the year with three classes. Our youngest children will be nurtured by Maggie McElhaney, who was with us last year. We are delighted Maggie is with us again. As the teacher for our “middle group” we are pleased to welcome back Jennifer DeLaRosa who also worked with our children last year. Jennifer is a Flagler College senior majoring in elementary education, and she loves working with our kids. Jennifer will be mentored by Claudia Atkins and Pat Willott. During the coming month, activities in this group will focus on our first principle: **The Dignity and Worth of Every Person**, the **Magic of the Changing Seasons** and the **Upcoming Holidays**. Our teen group will design their own program under the guidance and mentorship of Vanessa Friedman.



A Special Message to Our Parents

We are looking for input from our parents about how to make our programs most meaningful for your children. To that end, we hope all of you can attend a special Pizza and Brainstorming event for parents with Reverend Tom Schmidt described in the invitation on the following page. Please RSVP to Barbara Battelle (babattelle32137@yahoo.com) so we know how much and what kinds of food and drink to provide. Child care will be provided. If you know of other families who might be interested in our programs, please invite them to attend as well.

It Does Take a Village

We invite all members/friends of our Fellowship to help protect, nurture and contribute to the development of our children by participating in our Programs for Children and Youth. You can participate in two ways:

1. 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. 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 Willott (pwillott@comcast.net). We need each of you!

You're Invited!



Thursday, Oct. 13 @ 6:00

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine
Invites you to a fun night of . . .

Pizza & Brainstorming

Help us explore ways to make Unitarian
Universalism for our children and youth a
more vibrant and meaning-filled experience

Share your ideas for greater participation and attendance.

Learn about the values and goals that define our program.

Meet other families that share your values.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Come help us celebrate and grow our RE
Program, we can't do it without you!

Free pizza and beverages available for the entire family.
Childcare will be provided downstairs during the Brainstorming.

Please RSVP number of children and adults and any dietary restrictions to
babattelle32137@yahoo.com or 905-540-3720

2487 AIA South, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Book Club

The UU Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 18, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. downstairs. The October book selection is: *When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi, discussion leader: Janet Jamal

Anyone interested is invited to attend. The Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from September through May; the luncheon is in June. Book selections are listed on the UU Calendar and below.

If you have any questions, please email Diane Battle at battled@gmail.com

October 18 - *When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi, led by Janet Jamal

November 15 - *The Martian*, by Andy Weir, led by Pat Moore

December 20 - *A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah, led by Rita Golts

January 17 - *The Japanese Lover*, by Isabel Allende, led by Pat Maguire

February 21 - *The Little Red Chair*, by Edna O'Brien, led by Barbara Brenner

March 21 - *She's Come Undone*, by Wally Lamb, led by Gale Burnick

April 18 - *The Heart of a Woman*, by Maya Angelou, led by Kathleen Paracer

May 16 - *Ragtime*, by E. L. Doctorow, led by Dianne Battle

June - luncheon - date and time to be determined



October Calendar



- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 – Great Decisions 7:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 4 – First week of Mediation Group 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- 7 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 9 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 – Religious Education Brainstorming 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Mission and Vision Workshop 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 18 – Book Club 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 19 – Program Team 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Start of Lifelong Learning – Waking up 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 22 – Make a Difference Day 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 24 – Social Concerns Team – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 28 – Deadline for November Quest
- 28 – Movie: *Charley Varrick* 6:30 p.m. - ?
- 30 – Samhain Celebration 7:00 p.m.

Food Pantry



Many thanks to those of you who have been dropping canned items in the entryway basket for the St. Johns Food Pantry. Canned fruit and jelly are especially needed at this time.

To give you an idea of how the Food Pantry helps our community, these are the August numbers: The pantry served 305 families (463 adults and 286 children), providing 448 bags of food which should make 10,752 meals. You can see how vital your donations are! As always, I am very grateful to our committed volunteers.

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, **October 2, 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.

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 **October 7 and 21.** Contact Palmer Short (palshort@gmail.com) for details..

Palmer Short

Palmer's Pic

October 28, 6:30 p.m.

Charley Varrick

Starring Walter Matthau. Charley Varrick, a former crop duster and now a small time bank robber picks the wrong bank. Instead of the expected \$15,000 or \$20,000. They come away \$250,000 of Mafia money. The bank is a drop for the bad guys. It's Las Vegas money being laundered. So now it's not just the police he has to worry about, it's a Mafia hit man. Rotten Tomatoes gives it an 86 rating. Very fresh.



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>

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.

Regional and National Events

For information about other events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at:
<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html>
and the UUA web site <http://www.uua.org/>

