

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

November 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 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

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

Materials for the December issue are due by November 25.

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

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.



From Your President

Namaste!



This has been a traumatic and tragic month for many of us, and we want to express our sadness and sympathy for those who lost so much. But we also look with great gratitude to the ray of hope which shone on us in the guise of our own UU angels who swooped in and took charge when our fellowship was struck by the storm. It appears these types of crises always seem to bring out the best in our fellow human beings, with neighbors reaching out to neighbors, and people paying it forward. Some of you know, our basement was flooded right in the midst of our kitchen repair project, on the close heels of our new chair installation, and yet our Building and Grounds Team were right there, assuring a minimum of damage, and a quick return to function by our spiritual family. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts, and give them a pat

on the back and a great “Atta Boy!” HUGE thanks go to: our Minister, Tom Schmidt, Chuck Chambers, Mary Kellough, Don Brandes, Ray Adman, Jerome Fosaaen, Dave Perkins, Nana Royer, and Ed Mahonen.

The month of November will bring us the answer to our election fears and angst, and we invite you to join us in hopefully a collective sigh of relief, with a poignant and humorous presentation by the nationally recognized political satirist and musician, and my friend, Roy Zimmerman. He will be appearing here on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m., with Amnesty International, we are co-sponsoring a presentation, “Reflections on DAPL”, where Ed and I discuss the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Standing Sioux who are protecting the water, and our experiences while there.

Lastly, we look to next month, December, and find that the Christmas holiday falls on a Sunday this year. If there is adequate interest, I am willing to host an informal Christmas Eve or Christmas morning get together for those who want to come to the fellowship, or, for whatever reason, may not be spending the day with their families. Please let me know you are interested, by speaking with me at the Fellowship, or by sending me an email. If we have a significant number sign up, I'll be in touch to see what is important to all of you to acknowledge on that day.

In the meantime, may you all feel gratitude in your hearts as we join with our loved ones for Thanksgiving.

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



From Your Minister

When October began, I was expecting to have a very busy and very exciting month with all we had planned here at the Fellowship. I'm sorry to say, it was a very busy and exciting month but not for the reasons expected. Because of Hurricane Matthew, we had to again cancel our Mission Workshop as well as our Pizza and Brainstorming event for our children and their parents. We are still looking for a good date to reschedule the Mission Workshop but the Pizza and Brainstorming event has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 3. All parents are invited to attend and childcare will be provided.



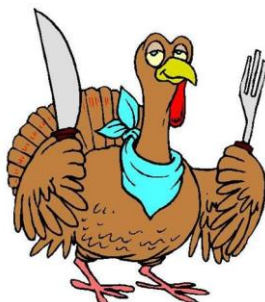
Because things could have been much worse, we are grateful that we have the resources to make the needed repairs with minimal disruption to our regular services. As most are aware, we experienced some flooding downstairs but nothing several high-speed fans and some commercial dehumidifiers couldn't fix. We were fortunate that the carpet did not have to be torn out and replaced. We also lost a large percentage of shingles off of the roof and it has been fixed temporarily with a more permanent solution coming when contractors are freed up from their emergency repairs.

We know that several of our members and friends have suffered considerable damage to the homes and property and they remain in our thoughts during this difficult time. If you know of a member or friend of the Fellowship in particular need of help because of Matthew, please let us know. The hurricane has caused many of us to consider a means to keeping track of everyone during future events. If you are interested in being part of a task force to develop such a means, please give me a call.

One thing I have heard from several people in the aftermath of Matthew is that it helped to give life perspective, it helped to remind us what is truly important in life. While many of us had property damage and the storm invaded our homes, we are all fortunate to have survived and are able to rebuild. The Interfaith Community of St. Augustine is hosting a "Grateful St. Augustine" Thanksgiving celebration on November 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church on King Street. I can think of no better way to help each of us and our community to put everything in perspective and help us rebuild our community to be even better than it was.

”

Rev. Tom Schmidt



Sunday, November 6, 10:30 a.m.
“Sacred Activism: A Hope for the Future”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader - Nana Royer

With the election only a few days away and many of us feeling overwhelmed by the whole process, let's explore the larger meaning of Albert Einstein's famous quote, "No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it."

Sunday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.
**“Assent to Mortality:
Living Lives Worth Dying For”**
Robert Deyle

Service Leader - Megan Porter

In this service, drawing from the writings of Leo Buscaglia, Ursula Goodenough, and Forrest Church, and his own experience with mortality, our guest in the pulpit, Bob Deyle (dial), will invite you to consider how we can free ourselves by accepting the Mystery of death, assenting to our mortality, and embracing Reverend Church's call to "live lives worth dying for."

Bob and his wife of 42 years, Trudy, are members of the UU Church of Tallahassee (UUCT). He describes himself as a humanist with a panentheistic conception of that which is greater than ourselves. Bob had, until recently, offered Sunday services once or twice a year, using those opportunities to explore dimensions of his personal spiritual journey. He retired from the faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at FSU three years ago. With more time of his own, he recently took on the role of VP for Worship and coordinator of lay services which has provided opportunities to work collaboratively with many members of the UUCT congregation to create transformative worship experiences. He also serves as a member of the Tallahassee Leon County Planning Commission and as a volunteer river boat tour guide at Wakulla Springs State Park.

Sunday, November 20, 10:30 a.m.
“Election Reflections”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader - Vanessa Friedman

However this election turns out, I believe we should all be concerned of the election process that brought us here. Let us explore the implications of both the results and the system so that we can begin the healing process

Sunday, November 27, 10:30 a.m.
“We Are Vibration!”
Sam Williams and Luci Butler

Service Leader - Nana Royer



Energies on Earth are moving. Whether as a result of electromagnetic solar flares, extraordinary planetary alignments, hurricanes, or politics, humanity is experiencing an awakening of consciousness. Light Elixir uses the power of music to guide listeners to become more familiar with the energy that already flows through us and all things. Through conscious participation we can raise these energies to better support ourselves and those around us.

Sam Williams, originally from Easton, Maryland, has performed professionally for years in St. Augustine. His talents led him to tour nationally with recording

artist, Zach Deputy, playing guitar and serving as tour manager. Luci Butler, originally from Savannah, Georgia, studied music therapy and worked for almost a decade as a music therapist in neurologic rehabilitation in New York City. She has also toured playing keyboards for Moby and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. She moved to St. Augustine to concentrate on writing original music where she paired up with Sam Williams. Together they created Light Elixir and are currently in the process of recording their first album.



Polly Edwards

Great Decisions

November 7, 7:00 p.m.



“Climate change is no longer some far-off problem. It is happening here. It is happening now” - President Obama (August 2015). Indeed we have all been witness to a steady stream of unusual and violent weather events. Some of the results have been catastrophic: glacial melts, tsunamis and flooding, droughts - and all the accompanying “threat multipliers” leading to mass emigrations and civil strife. To what extent are political solutions feasible?

The Great Decisions group will meet on Monday November 7 to discuss US Foreign policy with relation to climate. The discussion will be led by Richard Lahey.

Please join us downstairs at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Prep reading material available at:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/22001007/Climate%20geopolitics.pdf>

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

Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

Sunday, November 13

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

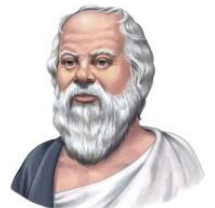
We will continue our open dialogue on topics of the day that interest and concern us.

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 UU’s 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, November 13, 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



Autumn Potluck Lunch November 6, After Sunday Service

We are having a fall season potluck lunch instead of the monthly potlucks of the past. Let's make it one to remember! Bring whatever you like. All types of dishes are appreciated. If you cannot bring anything, come anyway and enjoy the food and companionship. All are invited.

This I Believe

We are pleased to announce that the popular "This I Believe" portion of the service is being revived. Every second Sunday a Fellowship member will explain why they are a UU and how it has impacted their lives.

Our November speaker is Barbara Battelle, and Palmer Short will speak in December. We very much look forward to hearing from these two vital and dedicated members.

Megan Porter



Highway Clean-up November 16, 8:00 a.m.



Volunteers are needed to pick up trash along State Road A1A each direction from the Fellowship. **The clean-up starts promptly at 8:00 a.m.** and takes about an hour. Participants get together for breakfast afterward. Contact Palmer Short if you are interested in helping (palshort@gmail.com).

Q: How many Unitarian Universalists does it take to stuff a turkey?

A: Only one, but you have to push really hard to get him into the turkey.

Roy Zimmerman In Concert

This Machine

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.



Roy Zimmerman, political satirist and musician, will be helping us heave a collective sigh of relief in this both poignant and humorous post-election concert.

In our first musical fundraiser of the fellowship year, Roy will be singing songs of peace and justice, religious freedom, and progressive anthems. What can one person do about racism, gun violence, climate change, income inequality, bigotry, ignorance, war and greed? “Write funny songs,” says Roy Zimmerman.

Zimmerman’s hilarious, rhyme-intensive originals are also incisive calls to action, smart, savvy and undeniable. He’s calling his show “This Machine,” a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world. “Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful form of expression,” says Roy, “because in calling out the world’s absurdities and laughing in their face, I’m affirming the real possibility for change.”

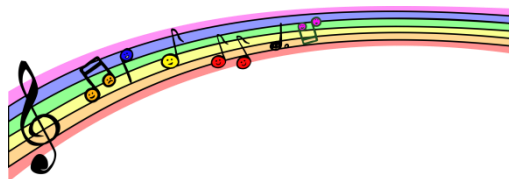
Zimmerman has shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Robin Williams, Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, The Roches, Andy Borowitz, The Chambers Brothers and George Carlin. His work has been featured on NPR’s “All Things Considered,” and he shared the air with Al Franken on NPR’s “Talk of the Nation.”

Our President, Robin Mahonen, is a personal friend! She and Eddie give Roy FOUR THUMBS UP!



Do you enjoy singing?

Do you enjoy singing? Please consider adding your voice to ours here at the Fellowship. Sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and all in between are welcome in the choir! Contact Alex Soltow (pamra@verizon.net or 914-830-9517) if you are interested.



INCOMMUNICADO

Saturday November 19th 7:00 p.m.

Mark it on your calendar. Local actors will be a reading of an original play by our own Palmer Short on our revamped UUFSa stage. *Incommunicado* is a one act play with four scenes which deals with the difficulty people have communicating with each other. There will be wine and cheese afterward.



Reflections on Dakota Access Pipeline Monday, November 21, 2016 6:00 p.m.

In early October, Water Warriors Robin and Ed Mahonen traveled to North Dakota to support the Standing Sioux and over 100 indigenous tribes who are protecting their tribal lands and water and oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline. Many friends have asked them about their experiences while there. Most people don't know anything about the actions being taken there, because there is very little mainstream news reporting, and what reports have come out have a very inaccurate portrayal of what is happening there. The Lakota Sioux have demanded that we honor our treaties with them, and have decided to protect their water, and are taking peaceful and prayerful action against corporate greed and governmental oppression in the Dakotas. Actions and a reception will follow the program, which is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by Amnesty International and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Social Concerns Team. Robin and Ed will be sharing their stories with us. For information, call or email Jo Anne Engelbert: 904-460-1190; engsch@bellsouth.net



How to Submit Announcements for Sunday Morning

To have your announcements read during the Sunday Service, please follow this procedure:

1. Go to: <http://www.a1astudio.com/announce/>
2. Fill out the form
3. Click on "Send" on the form
4. You will be taken to an email with the message you have written out
5. Click on "send" in your email which includes the information you filled out and it will be printed out on the UU printer
6. You will receive confirmation that the printer has received the email and you will receive confirmation that your announcement has been printed

Your announcement will go directly to the printer. Please note that any announcement over 140 words will be edited for brevity.

Thank you

Megan Porter

Palmer's Pic (movie)

The Conversation

November 25, 6:30 p.m.

The movie for November is *The Conversation*, starring Gene Hackman in a Golden Globe winning performance. This showing is very timely coinciding with all the talk of invasion of privacy. Harry Caul (Gene Hackman) has the reputation of being the best at wiretapping. But what appears as a routine surveillance of a wife cheating becomes much more than our expert can comprehend. Can he solve it? Come and see. Harrison Ford costars. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola of *The Godfather*. Rotten Tomatoes gives it a 98 and, for you Roger Ebert followers, he calls it a taut intelligent thriller..





Attention Parents! You're Invited!



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

*Pizza & Brainstorming
with Rev. Jom*

Thursday, November 3 @ 6:00 PM

*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 Religious
Education Program. We cannot do it without*

Free pizza and beverages for all.

Childcare will be provided downstairs during the Brainstorming.

Please RSVP by Oct 31 to babattelle32137@yahoo.com
or 904-540-3720 with

Number of children and adults and any dietary restrictions.

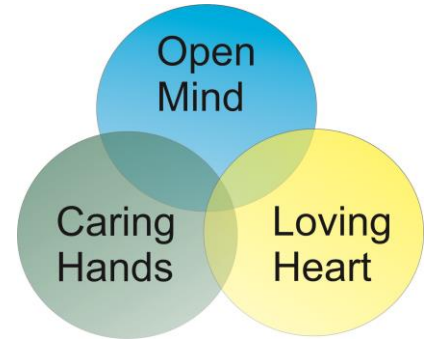
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Life-long Learning - Children and Youth.

In conjunction with Reverend Tom's "Blessing of the Animals" service, our children had a very special visit from Joan Guglielmo and her dog Melissa from Ayla's Acres, a no-kill animal rescue organization in St. Augustine.



With Joan and Melissa, our young people discussed how to care for pets, how to read and understand the behaviors of dogs, how to approach a dog they don't know and how to behave around a service dog. Joan and Melissa were a great hit with all of us, and we learned a great deal from both of them.



Hurricane Matthew kept all of us busy for two weeks in the middle of the month, but when we returned, it was time to begin planting our fall garden with marigolds and radish seeds to *celebrate the Earth*. For the last Sunday in October our children will learn about and celebrate diverse autumn holidays. Our goal with this lesson is to *foster in our children knowledge and respect for different cultures*.



Our evening of Pizza and Brainstorming for parents with Reverend Tom, cancelled because of the hurricane, has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m.. We hope as many parents as possible will come to discuss how we can better serve our families and grow our programs for children and youth.

Meditation Group



If you are interested in meditating with us please call Peter Gibbon at 240-338-3879 or e-mail at pogg11744@gmail.com. I want to poll folks with a couple of suggested evening times to find one that will serve most interested. Tuesday afternoons are cancelled.

Peter Gibbon

Book Club

The UU Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 15, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. downstairs.

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 Dianne Battle at battled@gmail.com

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



November Calendar



- 3 – Religious Education Brainstorming 6:00
- 4 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 – Potluck Lunch after Sunday service
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Great Decisions 7:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 8 – Election Day
- 10 – Roy Zimmerman concert
- 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 13 – Membership Team 12:00 noon
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 15 – Book Club 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 16 – Highway Clean-up 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
- 16 – Program Team 3:00 p.m.
- 17 – Grateful St. Augustine Thanksgiving 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church
- 18 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 19 – Stage play Incommunicado 7:00 p.m.
- 21 – Reflections on Dakota Access Pipeline 6:00 p.m.
- 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 25 – Deadline for November Quest
- 25 – Movie: *The Conversation* 6:30 p.m.

Food Pantry

November is the special month of the year for giving thanks for all that we have. Please remember the St. Johns Food Pantry and our neighbors who are not as fortunate as we are. This can be done by donating canned goods and leaving them in the basket in the entrance to the Fellowship. You can also send a donation to St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. at PO Box 860191, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Or donate online at www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org. You can also donate generously when the Food Pantry is the recipient of the third Sunday collection plate. The Pantry hopes to be able to supply every needy family with a turkey and some of the fixings for Thanksgiving.



Thanks very much for your continued support,

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

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

Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Claudia Atkins



Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. The Care Connection includes everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty. Contact ***Elle Barry*** if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.

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 **November 4 and 18.** Contact Palmer Short (palshort@gmail.com) for details..

Palmer Short

The New Chairs Arrive!



Drying out the Basement



Water seeping into the Fellowship basement from Hurricane Matthew soaked most of the carpet but did little overall damage and we were able to dry out the carpet.

Kitchen Cabinet Repair



Not related to the hurricane but coincident with drying out the carpet, repairs were made to long-term water damage from a leaking sump pump in the kitchen where particle board had turned to mush or warped. The bases and bottom shelves of some cabinet sections and the counter tops for the whole kitchen were replaced.

Beyond Our Congregation

NOV. 17
Thursday
6:30 PM
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
118 King Street
St. Augustine



St. Augustine Interfaith Community invites you to join us...

'GRATEFUL ST. AUGUSTINE' A Thanksgiving Celebration

Fellowship and light refreshments following the service

The offering will be given to
St. Johns Ecumenical Pantry,
a ministry to the hungry



Donations for the Pantry of non-perishable
food will be gratefully accepted.
Greatest need: Rice, Cereal, Canned
vegetables, Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned
meats, Powdered milk, Pasta & sauce

Our Mission: The St. Augustine Interfaith Community (SAIC) seeks to embrace the religious diversity present in the nation's oldest city. Through celebration, education, and cooperation, SAIC members pursue a vision of spiritual plurality.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/staugustineinterfaithcommunity

Regional and National Events

April 7-9, 2017, Florida UU Women's Retreat, Ellenton, FL. For more information, go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lcng1kppd2sf9b5/FL%20Women%27s%20Retreat%202017%20UPDATED.pdf?dl=0>

For information about 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/>

