

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

January 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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In This Issue

From Your President2
From Your Minister.....3
Sunday Programs 4-5
Coming Events 6-9
Announcements, Teams and Repeating Events.. 9-12
Calendar.....11
Beyond Our Congregation..... 12



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



From Your President




HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Janus, the ancient Roman god of myth and legend, is the ruler of beginnings, gates, transitions, passages, and endings. Generally depicted as having two faces, he looks to both the past, and the future. 2016 has given us both triumphs, and trials and tribulations, not only as individuals, and as a divided nation, but as members of this beloved community. We hear that hindsight is 20/20. Let us use this wisdom to propel us into our future with determination, compassion and hope. As we begin this New Year, let us leave the past year behind, and look forward to constructive efforts to build our future.

Author and poet Georgia Byng tells us, "There's no time like the present, no present like time. And life can be over is the space of a rhyme." Two revered spiritual leaders speak to the matter of the past, the present, and the future. Mother Theresa reminds us: "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin", and Mahatma Gandhi tells us: "The future depends on what you do today."

In that spirit, I'd like to personally ask each and every one of you to pencil some important dates into your calendar! **On Sunday, January 15th, following the service, we will be holding our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, and on Saturday, February 4th, our Mission and Vision Workshop**, which was delayed due to the visit of Hurricane Matthew. Our UUA Fifth Principle reminds us to use the democratic process in building our congregation and our world. We envision both events as essential to determining our focus, and accurately aiming our efforts toward our future goals as a spiritual community. As such, it is critical that we see participation by as many members of our congregation as possible, in order that we adequately and accurately determine our course.

On Saturday, March 4th we will be holding our major fundraiser for the year, our Service Auction. Last year it was very successful for us financially. We had lots of fun at the auction itself, and tightened the bonds of our community by joint activities we enjoyed for the benefit of our fellowship. It doesn't hurt that we make money to keep the lights on and our doors open, and to continue to be the voice of liberal religion in St. Augustine. If you'd like to contribute or participate, please touch base with Rosi Angeli or Chuck Chambers.

"A great big ATTA BOY and THANK YOU with a big THUMBS UP from me to all the people who helped with our Christmas Day brunch. It was headed up by Yosi McIntire, and with the help of a large contingent of people. Thanks to each and every one of you, from the beautiful holiday set-up, to the cooks who made a delicious variety of foods, to the folks who cleaned up and locked up, and to all of you who CAME and made this a spectacular community event which we hope to continue in the future, and for other holidays and special events in our fellowship. It is THIS kind of spirit that energizes our fellowship. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work." When we all reach out and contribute, we have an amazing time with each other. Breaking bread with like minds is one of the reasons I love being a UU. Thanks from me to all of you. You can find pictures of the event on the UUFSA Facebook page. Go to our web site (uufsa.org) and look for the Facebook logo  at the top of the home page.

As always, a grateful thank you to all those who volunteer to help keep our fellowship active and vibrant. We work best when we have your input, and there's always room for more! Join us as we meaningfully head forward into 2017.

Robin Mahonen, President, UUFSA

From Your Minister


For many of us, 2016 could not come to a close any sooner. The exceedingly long and arduous election season was emotionally draining and regardless of our personal political perspectives, the expanding political divide and increased global tensions should concern anyone who shares our Unitarian Universalist values. Our affirmation of the right of conscience, the use of the democratic process, and the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all invite us to resist any and all actions, policies, rhetoric to the contrary.




With so much going on politically, it is all the more important that we remember that we are first and foremost a religious institution and our mission is to build and sustain the beloved community. This is our mission each and every Sunday and it is the mission our committees and Board are charged to fulfill. Next month on **Saturday, February 4**, we will be having our rescheduled **Mission and Vision Workshop** to consider our congregational mission. The workshop itself is an integral part of our mission and it is essential to the long-term health and vitality of the Fellowship that everyone that can be is there. It is not possible to build beloved community without you.

Another very important event coming up is a **Congregational Meeting on January 15**. There will be a meeting immediately following the service to discuss the future of professional ministry here at UUFSA. We are roughly halfway through the initial 3-year ministry contract that was funded in large part by an anonymous donation. Whether there will be professional ministry at UUFSA when the initial contract is complete will be determined by our feedback and commitment.

**Covenant Group
Informational Meeting**



Wednesday, January 25
7:00 p.m. (Upstairs)



For general information about the topic,
visit: www.uua.org/re/group
or contact Rev. Schmidt

Last month I mentioned the possibility of starting some **Covenant Groups** to help us in our mission to build community and foster personal growth. Several people were eager for such a group and so we will move forward in the process. An initial **informational meeting will be held Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.** This is just an informational meeting to talk about how Covenant Groups are organized and to develop greater interest. If you want to learn more before that meeting or you can't make it then, please contact me with your questions or concerns..

Rev. Thomas Schmidt
Phone: 432-559-2411
E-mail: uurev@icloud.com

Office Hours
Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
By appointment anytime.

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Sunday, January 1, 10:30 a.m.
“Reflections on the End of the World (Again)”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader – Nana Royer

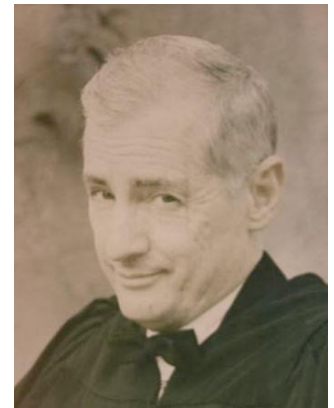
As 2016 draws to a close and we prepare for 2017, let us reflect on the some of the major events of the year and what lessons we might learn from them as we prepare to face the consequences of some of those events. For those who believe in fate, the future may seem bleak and unwelcoming, but for those who do not hold to such archaic idea, we recognize that we create the future with every kind word and good deed.

Sunday, January 8, 10:30 a.m.
“Charles and Jean McGehee in Jacksonville”
Jerome Fosaaen

Service Leader – Palmer Short

The Reverend Charles White McGehee served the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville from 1960 until 1976. His wife Jean's support was essential to his ministry throughout his career, and together their tenure in Jacksonville is considered something of a "Golden Age" for Unitarianism Universalism in Northeast Florida.

Active in the Civil Rights movement from the time they arrived, after threats were received because of their support for the NAACP, congregational members had to stand guard outside their home. Critical of the Viet Nam War and the nuclear arms race, Charles championed a rational approach to belief, while celebrating the mysteries of our existence. He left a large written legacy including books and pamphlets of both essays and poetry, as well as over 700 typewritten sermons.



Sunday, January 15, 10:30 a.m.
“A Message from the Mountaintop”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader – Robin Mahonen

According to the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. considered becoming Unitarian Universalists at one point but realized he could never “build a mass movement of black people if they were Unitarian.” What is it about Unitarian Universalism that serves to limit our size and influence at a time when growing numbers share our values and beliefs? Rev. King’s Message from the mountaintop may give us some clues to an answer.

Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m.

“The Sacrament of Resistance”

Rev. Chris J. Antal

Service Leader – JoAnne Englebert

Resistance is what love looks like in the face of U.S. policies of global military supremacy, "preemptive war" and "defensive strikes" by lethal drones. The religious community contributes to the peacemaking struggle through spiritual disciplines like prayer, confession, and prophetic witness.

The Rev. Chris J. Antal is the called and settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, New York. Prior to that he was a chaplain in the U.S. Army and served one tour in Afghanistan. While there he witnessed armed drones and since then he has joined the growing number of religious voices resisting U.S. drone policy. His ministry has been featured in Disarmament Times and Sojourners and his public resignation in protest was reported on Democracy Now!, in Army Times, and on ABC news. He is active in the D.C. based Interfaith Working Group on Drone Warfare and joined their delegation as the Unitarian Universalist Representative for Disarmament, Peace and Security Advocacy at a recent meeting on drone killing with staff members of the National Security Council.



Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m.

“Emerson and the ‘Spiritual But Not Religious’ Crowd”

Rev. Dr. Fred Howard

Service Leader – Megan Porter



People who claim to be “spiritual but not religious” now constitute nearly one-fifth of the American population according to a recent article in Huffington Post. What people who so identify mean by that phrase varies widely, but there is at least one common thread – these folks seem to have a suspicion of or an outright disdain for religious institutions. As I did research on this segment of our population, I was fascinated by how often they seem to quote Emerson. Would Emerson appreciate being appropriated by this group? And does this group really get Emerson anyway? These are interesting questions that helped me put my own ambivalent feelings about that phrase “spiritual but not religious” into perspective. This morning I’ll elaborate further.

Rev. Dr. Fred Howard has roots deep in Georgia soil. He was born and raised in Macon, attended Valdosta State College and then the Medical College of Georgia, and practiced medicine as a family physician in Cairo and Douglas for twenty years. In 2002 he moved to Atlanta, and began studies at Candler School of Theology. After graduation in 2006, he spent a year in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Emory Hospital. For the past 8 years Fred has served as minister of the Valdosta UU Church. He also continues to work part time in the medical field as an emergency room physician.

Fred has special interests in contemplative spirituality, mind body medicine, and interfaith and intercultural exchange. He is past board member of Project Harvest Hope, an organization that works with our sister Unitarian congregations in Transylvania to promote sustainable economic development. Fred has traveled to Transylvania many times and loves to lead pilgrimages there to the birthplace of the Unitarian Church. He is author of Transforming Faith: Stories of Change from a Lifelong Spiritual Seeker, recipient of numerous awards including the coveted Nautilus Book Award. Kirkus Reviews called it “a profound, moving take on faith in an age that often vehemently challenges it.”

New Art Show Beginning January 8

We have so many talented people in our congregation. Let's see some of your creations. Please deliver your art work to the Meditation/Art Room downstairs at the UU by January 1. Make sure your work is ready to hang with a wire and be sure to fill out the paperwork which will be on the side table.

Questions? See Joyce Peterson (joyce.peterson1@gmail.com) or Annette Jones (beadsaj@aol.com).

Congregational Meeting January 15 (Following the service)

This is an informational meeting so everyone knows what is going on at the Fellowship. We will have updates from the Board and Finance Committee and begin a Fellowship-wide dialogue about the future of professional ministry at UUFSA.

Palmer's Pic (movie)

Eye In The Sky

January 27, 6:30 p.m.

Nothing could be more timely than this movie about drone warfare. If you missed it earlier, now is your chance to see Helen Mirren at her best and Alan Rickman in his last performance. The decision makers have to decide just how important is collateral damage in taking out a highly regarded terrorist. One warning - it will have you on the edge of your seat.



Mission and Vision Workshop

February 4

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? Participate in 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! Watch for more information.

Game Night January 28



Buy your \$26 ticket during Coffee Hour

No Later Than (NLT) 1/22

See Mary Kellough

Bring your favorite board or card games and a few friends to FUUD TRUCK GAME NIGHT at UUFSA 1/28 at 4PM.

See www.uufsa.org/game-night-2017.html for details & reservations

Please CARPOOL to this event!!!

The food truck will be in our parking lot - ride sharing appreciated!

- Authentic Tanzanian food by [African Love Kitchen Food Truck](#): vegetarian or carnivore choices plus free "nibbles" and non-alcoholic beverages for \$26 (use a reservation form* to order your meal and to prepay by 1/22).
- PLUS a fabulous \$3 cash wine bar featuring South African wines by the glass or a "Safari" tasting flight of four varietals. (Bring dollar bills to event, please.).
- And a few \$1 surprise 50-50 games/raffles (bring dollars to play).

**Info & Reservation Forms will be downstairs for coffee hour and online at the game night 2017 link above. Return reservations form with \$26 to [Mary Kellough](#) by end-of-coffee hour on 1/22.*

Vegan Meal Options:

Vegetable Curry & Rice
or
Coconut Cauliflower & Rice

Carnivore Options:

Chicken Curry & Rice
or
Jerk Chicken & Rice

Complimentary Items:

Plantains
Sambusas
Non-Acoholic Beverages

Great Decisions

Monday, **February 6**, 7:00 p.m.

“The Future of Europe”

The outcome of the United Kingdom referendum on EU membership sent shockwaves across the globe. It even caught British voters by surprise! The European Union has helped secure peace in Europe for the past 70 years. Now it faces an uncertain future. Amid a refugee crisis, lingering financial recession and the constant specter of terrorism, unity seems more imperative than ever. But the Brexit vote underscores the complexities of integrating an extremely diverse continent.



What will post-Brexit Europe look like, and how can U.S. foreign policy adapt? The presentation and discussion will be led by Vanessa Friedman. The discussions are open to the public. Please join us in the UU basement at 7: p.m.

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

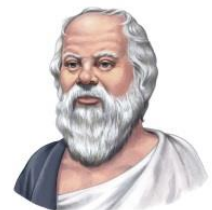
ADULT LEARNING – 2017

Looking to the New Year in a challenging and complicated world, we are seeking ideas and suggestions to help us with planning our future Adult Learning programs for the congregation and community. Recently, we have been offering multi-session courses during weekday afternoons/evenings, and a monthly discussion group, “Downstairs Dialogue,” on the second Sunday, before the service .

- 1) What topics that would interest you should we consider for new courses?
- 2) Would you like to offer a short course, or discussion session? Or know of an effective presenter?
- 3) Are there alternative times or locations that need to be considered?
- 4) Other constructive suggestions for our Adult Learning at UUFSA?

Please send us your feedback at westjrcw@gmail.com

Meanwhile, **Downstairs Dialogue will be cancelled for January**, since I am having problems with my back. Should be back in action in February.



Charlie West
Co chair, Adult Learning

Service Auction

March 4

Get ready for the UUFSA 2017 Service Auction!

What can you do?

1st: Mark your calendar and save the date: Saturday night, March 4, 2017.

2nd: Plan a service you can provide to someone in our Fellowship.

3rd: Come to the auction and bid on as many services as you want!

4th: Watch for more info coming up about the UUFSA 2017 service auction.



Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. downstairs.
No experience necessary. Come sit with us.

Peter Gibbon

Food Pantry



At this time of year, I would like to honor our volunteers and YOU. First and foremost, a huge thank you to Guy Reid, who is retiring from our team. Guy has been a volunteer for many years, as well as Team Coordinator for two of them. We really appreciate your hard work and devotion, Guy, and we will miss you! Other long time volunteers include Jill and Lou Cerulli, Dave and Lee Ann Forrest, Chris Fosaaen, Lenny Gemski, Pat Maguire, Cal Marshall, John Porter and Nana Royer. You're the best!

And we have welcomed newer volunteers Mary Kellough, Kathleen Paracer, Ruth Weber and Marsha Williams. Thanks so much for joining us and providing much needed assistance.

Our team staffs the Food Pantry two Fridays a month and works with other community churches to provide food for needy county residents. We very much appreciate YOUR financial contributions and food donations. Many, many thanks.

Cherie Dolgin

UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

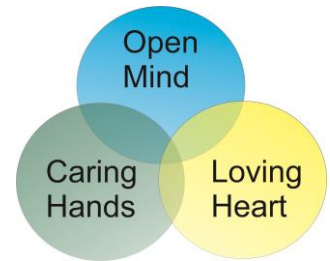
Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, **January 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Toni Wallace



Programs for Children and Youth

Our children, and all of us involved with our children's programs, have had great fun together during the past month. In the sanctuary, Reverend Tom engaged our children in an intergenerational story based on the "Star Wars" saga and another on this season of festivals. The children also brought in and collected food from Fellowship members to fill a huge basket destined for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and they provided percussion accompaniment for favorite holiday songs. In their classes, in addition to their wonderful regular teachers Maggie McElhaney and Jennifer DeLaRosa, the children got to know and work with very special guest teachers from among our Fellowship.



Dianne Battle, with Maggie and Jennifer, introduced the children to foods Native Americans shared with the immigrant Puritans to help the Puritans through their first winter on this continent. Dianne and her creative young assistants prepared delicious snacks from these foods for our coffee-hour.

Claudia Atkins, assisted by Maggie, organized a holiday cookie-decorating party. The children worked with enthusiasm to decorate cookies baked by Claudia that became dessert for the "Dining with Dignity" meal served by Fellowship members to the hungry and the homeless of St. Augustine.



Claudia Atkins also introduced our children to traditions of Hanukkah using a beautiful menorah loaned by Bobbie Brenner. The children learned a Dreidel Song and played a Dreidel Game in which the prizes were little yellow bears.



Then, on the last Sunday before Christmas, Robin Mahonen brought the children a large, plain, brown box in the shape of a house which the children, Robin and Maggie quickly transformed, inside and out, into a fantastic gingerbread house! Great fun was had by all!



BEFORE



AFTER



On New Year's morning, regular lessons will be suspended but child care will be offered. Regular classes will resume January 8 when the children will welcome another special guest teacher from the Fellowship, Peter Gibbon.

We wish all our children and families a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing all of you again on January 8.

Third Tuesday Book Group



Increase your E.Q. (Empathy Quotient) this year. Read more good books! The book club selection for January is, "The Japanese Lover," by Isabel Allende. Pat Maguire will lead the discussion. Preview the book and other upcoming fiction and non-fiction reads at www.uufsa.org/book-club-reading-list.html The club meets the third Tuesday of the month (January 17) downstairs at 1:00 p.m. Contact Barbara Brenner at barbbren25@gmail.com for more information.

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

December Calendar



- 1 – Art works due for new show
 - 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 - 3, 10, 17, & 24 – Meditation each Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
 - 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 - 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 - 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 - 15 – Congregational Meeting after service
 - 17 – Book Club 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
 - 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 - 21 - Social Action Dinner: Rev. Chris Antal 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
 - 25 – Covenant Group Info, upstairs 7:00 p.m.
 - 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 - 27 – Deadline for December Quest
 - 27 – Movie: *Eye in the Sky* 6:30 p.m.
 - 28 – Game Day 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 4 – Mission Workshop
Mar. 4 – Service Auction

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 January 6 and 20, 7:00 p.m.



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 **January 6 and 20**. Contact Palmer Short, palshort@gmail.com, for details.

Beyond Our Congregation 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%20UPDATE%20D.pdf?dl=0>

June 21-25, General Assembly 2017, New Orleans, LA

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130.

<http://www.uua.org/ga>

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/>

