

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida  
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

June 2017

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

[uufsamail@gmail.com](mailto:uufsamail@gmail.com) <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Fellowship services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

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 at

<http://www.uufsa.org/2016-2017-sunday-services.html>

### Board of Trustees 2016 - 2017

President .....	Robin Mahonen
Vice President.....	Chuck Chambers
Secretary .....	Nana Royer
Treasurer .....	Dave Perkins
Trustee.....	Pat Maguire
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Trustee.....	Charlie West
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The **Quest** is published monthly from September through July.

**Materials for the July/August issue are due by June 16.**

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

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

# From Your President

## Greetings!

For the past year and a half, this fellowship has for the first time used the services of a paid, professional Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Tom Schmidt. It was time for the membership to decide whether half time paid professional ministry was meeting the needs of the fellowship. Although it was within their parameters to make this decision themselves, the Board decided to bring this choice to the larger fellowship, as it was felt the whole congregation's voice needed to be heard, and they needed to "own" this decision.



Earlier this year, facilitated by the tireless work of Trustees Chuck Chambers and Pat Maguire, the Board held a number of small group meetings to discuss and gauge how ministry was meeting the needs of the fellowship. Those members who were not able to attend were contacted by phone for their input. We held our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 7 and our fellowship voted overwhelmingly, by 86%, to continue with half time paid professional ministry for our congregation.

The next question posed to the congregation was whether to empower the Board to renegotiate another contract with Rev. Tom, who requested a mandate of 80% approval by the congregation in order for him to feel comfortable to continue his work with us. That standard was not achieved, in fact, the congregation was pretty much equally divided on this vote, so the Board is now in the position of beginning a search for a new minister. In other Congregational Meeting news, after much spirited debate, the fellowship did not approve the proposed Mission Statement, so for the meantime, we shall continue with our current one.

Not surprisingly, as UUs, this clearly tells us that there are striking differences of opinion on these important issues. For some leaders, they might see this as a congregational crisis, indeed, in my past, I have seen a congregation fractured by such controversial decisions.

However, we are taking an optimistic stance, and instead of viewing these events as filled with risk, we choose to see this as another chance for members of the fellowship to see an opportunity for more involvement with their spiritual family. Whether as greater stewardship in the form of a greater pledge or more cash donations, which enable us to continue the programs which you have told us you want in our congregation, or by stepping up our volunteerism. As always since moving to St. Augustine, I like the maritime reference: If you are concerned about where our UUFSa boat is going, please jump on board and help us steer and do the important work of this beloved community. The Board and I welcome your support.

Robin welcomes direct communication from any congregation members for feedback and other concerns. If you can't speak with her in person at the fellowship, please feel free to call her at (304) 639-5538 or email her at [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com).

***May you never thirst!***  
***Robin Mahonen, President, UUFSa***

# From Your Minister

As we draw this “church year” to a close and prepare for our summer programming, we find ourselves at an interesting crossroads. The Fellowship has voted to support professional ministry beyond the initial three-year contract that brought me to Florida. Since the original goal of my ministry here was to help make that happen, then clearly we can name my time here a success. The fact that I will not be that minister is ultimately not as important as the Fellowship moving forward with a unified vision of who you are and what you want to be.



I do want everyone to know that I do not take personally the decision of the congregation that I am not the best fit to lead the Fellowship beyond my initial contract. Your vote makes it clear that where I feel called to lead, much of the Fellowship does not wish to follow. Ultimately, it is for the best that we face that fact now rather than later, and it will help you better select the right minister for you going forward. I will support the effort to find a new minister in every way I can, and I hope everyone who has supported my ministry here will do the same. I sincerely hope that you find the best minister for the congregation, one that will help this Fellowship thrive for many years to come.

In the meantime, the life of the Fellowship moves forward and we have much to do. The Stewardship drive continues and we are at 75% of our goal. The congregation approved a bold budget at the annual meeting and to move forward responsibly, the Stewardship Team needs to hear from you. Your decision to accept the proposed budget is a commitment to support existing and proposed staff and programs. Your pledge of financial support makes everything we do as a congregation possible including our expanding music program and hiring a part-time teacher/coordinator for our children’s program.

I believe Unitarian Universalism and this Fellowship have much to offer the world. This does not mean we have all the answers or that our way of being religious is the best or only way. What I believe we get right, what is unique about this movement of ours is that it is always moving, always changing. This is possible because we have not anchored ourselves to a creed that might limit our potential. The problem is that the inverse is also true: we do not have an anchor to keep us secure in tumultuous times. While this insecurity may create some discomfort for us, it isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Think of that discomfort as a wave and that we have a choice about what happens next. Do we avoid the wave and quickly duck underneath the water until it passes, safe until the next wave comes along? Do we stand in place, daring the wave to knock us down? Or do we ride the wave to see where it might take us?

***Rev. Tom Schmidt***

**Rev. Thomas Schmidt**

Phone: 432-559-2411

E-mail: [uurev@icloud.com](mailto:uurev@icloud.com)

**Office Hours**

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

By appointment anytime.

**Sunday, June 4, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Where the Light Enters”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader – Nana Royer

We have all been wounded but not all in the same way and surely not all to the same degree. It is not a contest, though there is no prize for the most wounds suffered in this life. The prize is not in the wounding, it is in our response. "The wound is the place where the Light enters you," wrote Rumi. Let us explore how the different ways we respond to life's inevitable wounds can help or hurt us.

**Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Sacred Space”**  
**Rabbi Fred Raskind**

Service Leader – Ozzie Boutin  
Chalice lighters – Dax and Jayda Speight  
This I believe by Cal Marshall



What is sacred space and how does it impact modern religious adherents--Unitarian Universalists, Reform Jews et al., and what are the implications of the Biblical 'Holy Land' viewed through the lenses of Judaism and modernism?

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

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

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



**Sunday, June 18, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Flower Communion”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader – Megan Porter  
There will be a children and youth food collection.

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



**Sunday, June 25, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Learning to Walk”**  
**Rev. Elizabeth Teal**

Service Leader – Nana Royer

*Reverend Teal specializes in eco-theology, the human-animal bond and all their healing aspects. She is the Spiritual Director for The Ministry of Animals.*

*She graduated Summa Cum Laude in Behavioral Science from Mercy College in New York, with additional concentration and studies in animal-assisted therapies. She holds a certificate in Interfaith, Inter-spiritual Counseling. Her ordination is from One Spirit Interfaith Seminary. Rev. Teal has taken vows with The Community of the Mystic Heart. She is a mystic, a minister, a chaplain, an artist and a storyteller, as well as being a third generation Unitarian Universalist.*

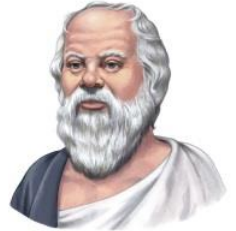


# **Downstairs Dialogue**

## **“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion**

### **Sunday, June 11, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Downstairs**

With all the fast-breaking developments going on in the world, we have plenty of issues to discuss. What’s going on in religion, politics, economics, security, justice, etc. in the world, nation, state, local community, or even within our own congregation that concerns YOU? Maybe we can come up with some ideas that could 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. The discussion will be led by Charlie West.

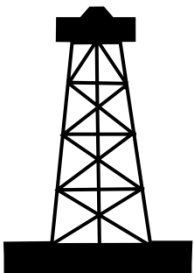
So bring your favorite issue or question and come join us at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 11, downstairs. **This will be our last session before our summer break.**

*Charlie West*

## **Great Decisions**

### **Monday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.**

### **“U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum - What is the effect of U.S. petroleum security on foreign policy?”**



The discussion will be presented by Chuck Chambers and Stuart Bicknell  
A background article by Jonathan Chanis is available at <http://bit.ly/2p4ogT2>

**Great Decisions will take a summer break in July and August.** After summer break, the next discussion will be on September 4. Topic: Latin America’s Political Pendulum led by Bill and Penelope McCormick.

For more information, contact Yosi at [yosi@acrossthestraits.com](mailto:yosi@acrossthestraits.com) or (904) 461 3175.

# Summer Program

The Program Committee is pleased to announce the following members of our congregation will be the speakers for our Summer Program, which will start on July 2 and end July 30:

July 2 ..... Palmer Short: "Poetry Theirs And Mine"

July 9 ..... Megan Porter: "Livin' La Vega Loca"

July 16 ... Charley West: "Liberals, Conservatives, and Community"

July 23 ... Robin Mahonen: "Putting Optimism into Practice".

July 30 ... David Wright: "First Hand Experience with a Hydrogen Bomb Detonation"

We will have music, childcare, coffee and fellowship. Our regular services will begin August 6.

***Megan Porter  
Program Committee***



## New UUFSA Board

The members of the UUFSA Board of Trustees for 2017 – 2018 are:

**Officers:**

President ..... Robin Mahonen  
Vice President ..... Chuck Chambers  
Secretary ..... Nana Royer  
Treasurer ..... Don Brandes

**Trustees:**

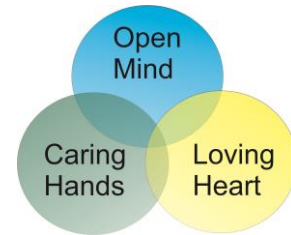
Barbara Battelle  
Pat Maguire  
Bill Maguire  
Rosita Angeli

# Programs for Children and Youth

Our family chalice lighters in May were, from left, Teddy, Jessie, Marlow and Lenny Rutland.



It is SPRING, and our children continue to celebrate the season. Thanks to Nana Royer, our children had the opportunity to directly observe the lifecycle of butterflies at the UUFSA from larvae to chrysalis to mature butterflies. After modeling the life cycle with Nana, our children released their butterflies into our butterfly garden. Thank-you, Nana!



With Dianne Battle, the children exercised their creativity on Mother's Day by decorating wreaths with bird nesting material. Thank-you, Dianne!



At this writing, Jessie Rutland is preparing for the children's next project: painting and decorating bird houses. The Carolina wrens will love them!

These activities are designed to engage our children with nature in a fun way and give them a greater appreciation of the interdependent web of life.

Very soon, the summer school break will be upon us. At the UUFSA, Maggie McElhaney will be on hand each Sunday throughout the summer break to provide engaging activities for our children. Since Maggie will be alone with the children, we are asking adult members of the Fellowship to volunteer for one Sunday during June and July to help Maggie as needed. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. We are looking for six more.



## **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA) is accepting applications for a Teacher/Coordinator for our Programs for Children and Youth**

This position is designed to help expand our on-going Programs for Children and Youth. The Teacher/Coordinator will teach classes and coordinate programs for our children and youth consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. The position will require 12 hours per week (average), including Sunday mornings, in-office meetings with the minister and one meeting per month with the team supporting our children/youth programs. The appointment will be for 40 weeks/year with a start date of August 1, 2017.

We are seeking someone who has the following qualifications:

- Knowledge of (or is willing to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Advanced computer skills including word processing, data management and social media.
- Experience with planning and implementing programs and activities.
- A valid driver's license.
- Is 21 years of age or older.
- Some knowledge of child development is highly desirable.

### **Job Summary**

The Teacher/Coordinator for Children/Youth Programs will work independently with the support of members of the Children/Youth Program Team and will report directly to the minister. The Teacher/Coordinator will be responsible for planning and implementing programs for our children and youth and will be expected to teach classes on Sunday morning except for one Sunday per month. Program responsibilities will include:

- Curriculum/activity selection, planning and adaptation.
- Materials and space preparation.
- Implementation of UUFSA policies especially related to child safety.
- Coordination and supervision of childcare.
- Coordination of special events involving children.
- Volunteer recruitment and support.
- Regular communication with parents and support for parents.
- Regular communication with the broader Fellowship to inform them of Children/Youth Program activities.
- General administrative tasks including budget development and monitoring and record keeping.

To apply, please submit a cover letter describing why you are interested in this opportunity and any relevant experience. Also include a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references. Please submit your application via email to Rev. Thomas Schmidt (uurev@icloud.com) with the subject line "Teacher/Coordinator application". All attachments should include the applicant's last name in the file name. The application deadline is June 1.

## Food Pantry



Many thanks to members of the congregation who bring in cans of food monthly for the Food Pantry. It is wonderful to see the children collect them from Sunday attendees and thus play a part in thinking about our needy neighbors and witnessing our Fellowship in service to others. Your generosity is appreciated!

If you have questions about the St. Johns Food Pantry or wish to volunteer, please contact me at (904) 461-1604.

***Cherie Dolgin***  
***UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator***

## Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, **June 4, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

***Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Toni Wallace***



## 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*** ([ellepaper@hotmail.com](mailto:ellepaper@hotmail.com) or 392-5722) if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.



# Third Tuesday Book Group Annual Luncheon

## Date and time to be determined



Contact Barbara Brenner at [barbbren25@gmail.com](mailto:barbbren25@gmail.com) for more information.

## Meditation Group

### June 6, 13, 20, & 27

The meditation group will continue to meet thru June 30th on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. We will suspend meeting for the summer.

*Peter Gibbon*



## June Calendar



- 2 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Great Decisions 7:00 p.m. (downstairs)
- 6 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 15 – PFLAG 7:00 p.m.
- 16 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 16 – Deadline for July/August Quest materials
- 20 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 23 – Movie: *The Black Stallion* 6:30 p.m.
- 27 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 30 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## (Palmer's Page!)

### Darts Nights June 2, 16, and 30, 7:00 p.m.

Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (Basement at UUFSa) at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. This month they will be **June 2, 16, and 30**. Contact Palmer Short, [palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

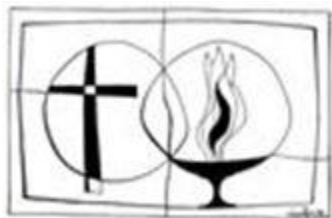


### Palmer's Pic *The Black Stallion* Friday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.

The movie for June 23rd is ***The Black Stallion***. From its turbulent beginning in a storm swept sea to its unforgettable horse race finale, ***The Black Stallion*** is a modern-day landmark. One of the most highly praised productions of 1979. It's a wonderful experience for adults as well as kids, says Roger Ebert. A boy and a black stallion are the survivors of a ship wreck at sea. They depend of each other for survival. Then become the darlings of the whole country after being rescued. You can bring your kids to see this wonderful movie. I brought my boys in 1979 and they loved it. Starring Kelly Reno, Mickey Rooney, and Terri Garr.

#### ***Palmer Short***

PS: For this movie only, children twelve and under will be admitted free. We request a donation of five dollars for children thirteen and older. Remember this money goes right back to the UUFSa. So support your Friday night movie. It's for a good cause.





# Beyond Our Congregation



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/>

## **August 6-11, Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE), Wirtz, VA**

The core pedagogy of the Southern Region Leadership Experience rests on the philosophy that leadership is about discernment, presence, and functioning of the self. Everyone brings their own gifts and talents to the experience, and over the course of the week, each individual gets an opportunity to see how those gifts can manifest as a leader in a spiritual community. To augment this individual discovery and growth, knowledge of systems and group dynamics are taught to shed light on how each individual can play a unique and important role in creating a vibrant religious community.

Sending leaders to a Leadership Experience is an investment in the future of the congregation and in the future of Unitarian Universalism. Leadership Experience graduates return to their congregations more grounded in Unitarian Universalism and head a deeper call to serve. They function at a higher level and are able to inspire and invite others.

For more information: <http://www.uua.org/southern/leadership-experiences>

## **New Webinar Congratulations, Your Stewardship Drive is Over! Now What?**

Your stewardship campaign for this year is finally over. Take a well-deserved break. But first - let's take a few notes and make some preliminary steps, learning from this year and using best practices to ensure NEXT year's campaign is the best it can be. In many ways, the first day of the next campaign is the last day of the last campaign. The team that takes a little time this year to prepare will have a much better – and easier – campaign next year. Let's go over some of the specific steps you can use to get that jump start on next year. We will discuss lessons learned, data analysis, scheduling, volunteer recruitment and management, share our stories of success and challenge, and more.

**To join us on Tuesday evening, June 27, at 7 p.m. EDT, use this link: <http://bit.ly/2rsqpss>**  
**To join us on Thursday evening, June 29, at 7 p.m. PDT, use this link: <http://bit.ly/2pMsjaQ>**

Questions? Contact Bill - [bill@stewardshipforus.com](mailto:bill@stewardshipforus.com) or Rev. Dawn - [DCooley@uua.org](mailto:DCooley@uua.org)

# *Happenings at The Mountain*

*Come to The Mountain for a great program at an amazing place in the Blue Ridge Mountains – join us and let your spirit soar!*



Outdoor activities, entertainment and fellowship, in addition to the individual program are part of the Mountain experience.

A place. An experience.  
A way forward for all ages.

## **Mountain Adult Youth Advisor Training - June 1 – 3**

The Mountain and the Southern Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association are excited to provide a training for adult youth group advisors at the Mountain this June.



The view from Meditation Rock is

## **Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI)**

### **~ The Best of Us: October 1 - 6**

Come for a colorful autumn week as we learn from one another – sharing our thoughts and skills. Typical of SUUFI, the schedule balances mind and body, thought provoking, and heartfelt pursuits.

## **Thanksgiving -- November 22 - 26**

Program provides indoor and outdoor activities for this intergenerational event. This is a great way to enjoy a special feast prepared by The Mountain chef and staff while you enjoy the program.

**For more information:** [www.TheMountainRLC.org](http://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.

