

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida  
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

September 2017

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080  
3/4 mile 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

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

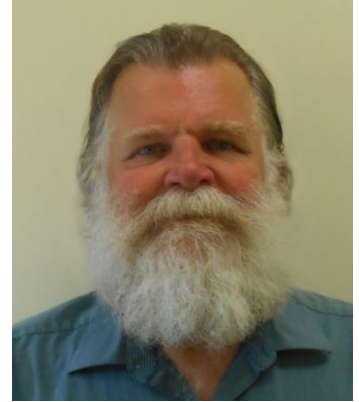
**Materials for the October issue are due by September 15.**

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

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

# From Your Minister

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer because we are hitting the ground running here at UUFSA. By now everyone should have received their invitation to the Fall Stewardship Dinner on September 16. I hope to see everyone there, we need everyone on board to ensure the best possible future for Unitarian Universalism here in St. Augustine. Stewardships is an ancient concept, and just as we are all stewards of the earth, we are all stewards of this Fellowship. As stewards, we recognize that the Fellowship is not owned by any single person and every member is responsible to support and maintain it. Just as previous generations worked to leave an institution for us today, it is our responsibility to build on their success and leave something even better for the following generations.



This isn't just about whether you will have a minister next year, or a music program, or children's program, it is about living a life of integrity, aligning our values with our living. It is very easy to become a member of our Fellowship, too easy perhaps. It is easy to say that we are Unitarian Universalists and it is easy to attend a Sunday service and maybe put a few bucks into the collection plate. I would argue, however, that it should not be so easy to be a Unitarian Universalist. Our principles are not mere abstract statements of belief, they are a real world call to action. The preamble to the principles states that we both affirm and promote those principles, and we do that by using our time, talent, and treasure for that purpose.

It is understood that we are not all able to give at the same levels. Some of us have little time and considerable treasure, some have little treasure and much time while some of us have precious little of either to spare. Regardless, we are all invited to consider how important this Fellowship is in our lives and in the life of this community. We are invited to consider if that level of importance is equal to our level of commitment. I am leaving Florida next June, so I have absolutely no stake in the outcome of this stewardship campaign except the desire to see this Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism remain strong and relevant in this area.

As I shared in one of my talks last month, I am leaving the ministry to follow a different path. I have not given up on Unitarian Universalism or our principles, rather I think I can better serve the movement through writing and perhaps traveling around the country doing some old fashioned UU evangelism. So, in a few years when the Minnesota winter comes to be a bit too much for me and I show up in town, I am expecting to find a thriving and relevant UU community in St. Augustine. That is only possible if each one of us commits to making it happen, and that commitment begins with a generous pledge of support today.

***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, September 3, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Then They Came For Me . . .”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader – John Porter

In the wake of the Charlottesville violence and the growing divide along racial and religious lines, what is our role as a community of faith? What would we do if a similar rally came to our town? Where do we draw the line between freedom of speech and incitement to violence? Where is the line between freedom of religious expression and state sanctioned discrimination?

**Sunday, September 10, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“The Power of Music: Body and Brain”**  
**Luci Butler and Sam Williams**

Service Leader – NanaRoyer  
This I believe – Heather Sostram



Music powerfully affects the brain and body. Cognition, mood, motor function, communication, and emotion are just a few of the areas touched by music and its inherent properties. Learn of the power of music through experiential demonstration and live performance.

*Luci Butler, a trained music therapist, studied the neurological effects of music on the brain and body during her time at Beth Abraham Hospital in New York City. Sam Williams, a performing musician, worked with Luci at Bayview Healthcare Assisted Living in St. Augustine leading seniors through therapeutic music activities. Shortly after they began writing music together and performing, guiding audiences through various types of musical experiences, with an interest on the healing effects of music.*

To learn more go to: [www.facebook.com/lightelixir](https://www.facebook.com/lightelixir) and [www.lightelixir.com](http://www.lightelixir.com)

**Sunday, September 17, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Water Ceremony”**

**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader – Robin Mahonen

There will be a children and youth food collection.

Plate donation goes to the Wildflower Clinic

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



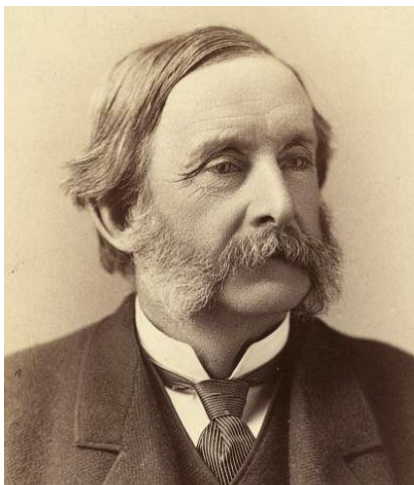
**Sunday, September 24, 10:30 a.m.**

**“An Interview with**

**Thomas Wentworth Higginson.”**

**Barbara Brenner and Jerome Fosaaen**

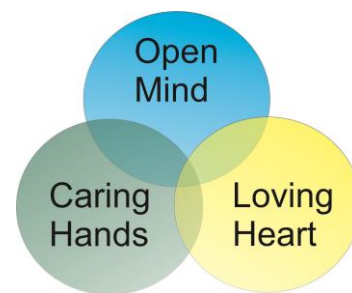
Service Leader – Jerome Fosaaen



Barbara Brenner and Jerome Fosaaen will present “An Interview with Thomas Wentworth Higginson.” Through Higginson's writings and speeches, they'll explore the life of this many-faceted 19th century Unitarian Minister, famous for his command of the first Black Regiment during the Civil War, and for his connections to other historic figures such as John Brown, Lucy Stone, and Emily Dickinson.

# Programs for Children and Youth

After our summer break, we began our regular classes on August 13. We are delighted to welcome back our two wonderful teachers: Maggie McElhaney who will continue to work with our younger children and Jennifer De La Rosa who will work with our older children. In addition to being one of our teachers, Jennifer has taken on the duties of Coordinator for our Children and Youth Programs. Please introduce yourselves to Maggie and Jennifer.



Teacher/Coordinator  
Jennifer De La Rosa



Teacher  
Maggie McElhaney

There will be one new component to our teaching program this year. One Sunday each month we will invite a different member of our Fellowship to be a guest teacher in our Program. In this way, we will be able to introduce our children to some of the wonderful adult members of our Fellowship with their rich and diverse talents and life experiences while, at the same time, members will have an opportunity to get to know our wonderful children. Jennifer is preparing a schedule for these guest teaching

opportunities, so please let Jennifer know if you are interested in working with our children. If you have questions about what it is like to work with our children, members who have already done so can provide insights. These members include Claudia Atkins, Barbara Battelle, Dianne Battle, Robin Mahonen, Jessie Rutland and Nana Royer. In addition, Jennifer will provide support and guidance as volunteers prepare their lesson.

During the coming year, Rev. Tom will continue to offer an intergenerational story on the first Sunday of each month, on the second Sunday, we will invite one of our families to be our chalice lighters and on the third Sunday, our children will collect food from members in the sanctuary for our local Ecumenical Food Bank.

Our teachers and the volunteer team supporting our Program for Children and Youth strive to provide our children engaging and creative lessons and activities through which they can develop a positive sense of self and practice the values expressed in our UU Principles. Our children and young people are important members of our congregation, and it is our joy and privilege to be part of their growing up. If you would like to learn more about our program, please contact Jennifer De La Rosa ([JDeLaRosa985@flagler.edu](mailto:JDeLaRosa985@flagler.edu)) or the current members of the volunteer team supporting these programs: Barbara Battelle ([babattelle32137@yahoo.com](mailto:babattelle32137@yahoo.com)) and Jindy Gelow ([jindyms@yahoo.com](mailto:jindyms@yahoo.com)).

Finally, we would like to heartily thank all those members who volunteered this summer to serve as safety back-up for our children's classes: Palmer Short, Megan Porter, Chris Fosaaen, Rosi Angeli, Susan McLaughlin, Cal Marshall, Priscilla Gulliver, Joyce Peterson and Claudia Atkins. Thank-you for supporting our Programs for Children and Youth!

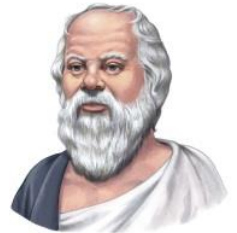
# **Stewardship Dinner September 16.**

Save the date! The Fellowship begins a vitally important Pledge Drive for Fiscal Year 2019. That's right. Not for this year. For the following year. Why? We need to show Ministerial candidates that we have Pledges to support the ongoing Part-Time Ministry. This last year of Reverend Tom Schmidt's term we have Angel Funds and matching funds that allow us to pay for Rev. Tom. The year after that we will need to increase our Pledges by up to 50% or so. So we will begin the process September 16. **You are receiving a letter by US Mail covering this very important issue in more detail. We voted to hire a new Minister. Now we must vote with our wallets.**

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

To kick off our new program year for Adult Learning, we will again have an open dialogue on topics of the day that interest and concern us.

What's going on in religion, politics, economics, security, justice, etc. in the world, nation, state, local community, or even within our own congregation? Would an open-minded sharing and discussion among thoughtful UUs in our traditional safe space be of interest? Maybe even come up with some ideas to make things better? We think so!



We will decide what topic(s) to discuss using the Socrates Café method used successfully at our local Council on Aging and in similar groups all over the world. At the beginning of the session, each attendee will suggest a topic, and we will “vote” on which one(s) to discuss. Topics should be of general interest. And since we are a religious institution, topics would typically have some connection to our UU Principles. Discussion led by Charlie West.

So bring your favorite issue or question and come join us at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 10, downstairs.

We are tentatively planning a multi-session UUism-based course, to be offered during the week, probably starting in October. Watch for details in future email notices and in the October Quest.

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](mailto:westjrcw@gmail.com)) or phone call (904-471-0335) with your ideas.

***Charlie West  
Co chair, Adult Learning***

# Great Decisions

First Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## September 4

### “South America”

Great Decisions will start their monthly foreign policy discussions with U.S. foreign policy regarding South America (<http://bit.ly/2vRTuDw>). The pendulum of Latin American politics is swinging rightward once again. Yet as the “pink tide” recedes, the forces of change have more to do with socioeconomics than ideology. Dramatic economic and political crises have coincided in countries like Brazil and Venezuela. Still, the final result for Latin America may be the emergence of centrist, pragmatic modes of governance, and with them, opportunities for the U.S. to improve relations. The discussion will be led by Bill and Penelope McCormick.

## October 2

### “Afghanistan and Pakistan”

Major internal conflict has plagued Afghanistan for four decades. The U.S., for its part, has conducted military operations in the country nearly continuously since 9/11. Today, war with the Taliban persists, and tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan have gradually deteriorated. Does the U.S. face a no win situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan? The discussion will be led by Kathleen and Surindar Paracer. The background article for the Afghanistan/Pakistan GD discussion is available at <http://bit.ly/2w1j5ud>.

Great Decisions meets in the basement of the UUFSA (2487 A1A S, St Augustine, FL 32080 - see map at [uufsa.org](http://uufsa.org)) on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!! Bring a friend!!

**For more information, contact Yosi at (904) 461 3175.**

## This I Believe

***This I Believe***, a brief statement offered by members on the second Sunday of each month, is back this year. Based on feedback we’ve received, it’s quite popular, and we’re grateful to those who have generously shared their stories with us. But to keep it as an ongoing part of the service, we need volunteers.

- What experiences made you who you are today?
- Why did you take a certain path when others were available to you?
- Who put you in the way of all of this?
- Why does it matter?
- What do YOU believe?

As we learn about each other through sharing and listening, ***This I Believe*** serves our third principal: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth...

To schedule your ***This I Believe*** presentation, please contact Ruth Weber at [rweb423@gmail.com](mailto:rweb423@gmail.com) or 904-347-5293. Or in person – that’s always nice too!

PS - If you’re shy about speaking in front of a group, we can help you develop skills to master your five-minute presentation. You may be amazed at the experience.

# Sunday Announcements

Please send your announcements for Sundays directly to the UUFSA printer at this address: [uufsaepsonprint@print.epsonconnect.com](mailto:uufsaepsonprint@print.epsonconnect.com) Do not write anything in the subject line as it will not print, and keep your announcements brief and to the point. We reserve the right to edit for brevity.

## Calling All Artists

Up to three works of art can be entered in our **Fall UU Art Show** opening on Sunday, October 1. Bring your work to our downstairs meditation room on Sunday, September 24. Be sure to fill out the registration form and have your work gallery-ready.

**Contact Joyce Peterson or Annette Jones for more information.**

## Food Pantry



The Food Pantry volunteer team welcomes our new member, Chris McDermott. Chris will join us in distributing food to low income St. Johns county residents. The basket for food donations is again located in the front foyer.

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

## Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, **September 3, 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



The Book Group will have its first fall meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 1:00 p.m. Members will discuss the summer read, *Enemies: A Love Story*, by Isaac Bashevis Singer and will complete their selection of books for the new season.

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

## Meditation Group

**August 29**

**September 5, 12, 19, and 26**



Meditation group practice will begin on August 29, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Led Buddhist meditations from Theravadin school. From one pointed concentration to sitting in open awareness, it is all good. No experience necessary.

Contact **Peter Gibbon** at 240-338-3979 or [pqg11744A@gmail.com](mailto:pqg11744A@gmail.com) or just show up

## September Calendar



- 1 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 3 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Great Decisions 7:00 p.m. (downstairs)
- 5 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 8 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 11 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 12 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 14 – PFLAG 7:00 p.m.
- 15 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 15 – Deadline for October Quest contributions
- 16 – Stewardship (Pledge) Dinner TBA
- 19 – Book Group 1:00 p.m.
- 19 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 22 – Movie: *A Face in the Crowd* 6:30 p.m.
- 26 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 29 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

(Palmer's Page!)

## Darts Nights

### September 1, 15, and 29, 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 **September 1, 15 and 29**. Contact Palmer Short, [palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

## Palmer's Pic

# *A Face in the Crowd*

**Friday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.**



The movie for September is *A Face in the Crowd*. Here is Andy Griffith as you have never seen him before as Lonesome Rhodes an Arkansas drifter who becomes an overnight sensation. But there is a darker side to this man. Starring Andy Griffith, Patricia Neal and Walter Mathau. Directed by Elia Kazan.



# 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/>

## Congregational Presidents Webinars

**September 6, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
and  
**January 3, 2018, 7 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

UUA Southern Region Presidents Convocation 2017-2018. Current presidents, and currently serving presidents-elect and past presidents, your Southern Region wants you to feel supported, connected, and prepared while you lead your congregation! Learn more and register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-2018-uua-sr-congregational-presidents-webinar-subscription-registration-34869231811>

## Ships Ahoy! Youth LE Webinar Session

**December 12, 2017, 9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Ships Ahoy! Webinar Session 1 Sail to great adventure in Unitarian Universalism! For Youth ages 15-18. Youth are invited to cruise on this amazing journey into Unitarian Universalism which will prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association on at large. Ships Ahoy! There are ships on the horizon: Leadership, Scholarship, Discipleship, and Partnership! Join us for the adventure of a lifetime! Flyer: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mrc7>



# *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.

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

## **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.

### **October 11-15 Womenspirit:**

#### **Embodying the Goddess: Rise Up, Reclaim, and Embrace Your Power!**

Women coming together to learn, worship and commune. A journey through time and place to remember our sacred heritage and revive the rich mysteries of our inner being.

### **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.



The view from Meditation Rock is spectacular!

### **Thinking Ahead to 2018**

#### **April 1-6 *Music Week***

A remarkable week of workshops about music, private lessons, choral group, instrumental group, song-writing, jamming on the deck while enjoying the views, and evening concerts.

### **May 20-25 From Sustainability to Climate Justice**

Featured presenters include Rev. Fred Small, a UU minister for climate justice and former environmental lawyer; the musical team, Friction Farm, with Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn; and Rick Crume, who helped write the Clean Power Plan at the EPA. A wide variety of workshops and activities provide opportunities to learn about Climate Justice.

For more information: <http://themountainrlc.org/> or 828.526.5838 or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA.