

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

April 2018

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

uufsacontact@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>

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

Materials for the May issue are due by April 20.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldblandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

From Your President

Greetings!

April is National Poetry Month, I thought it fitting to share this poem by David Bumbaugh.

"The seasons are shifting, The winter shades lifting,
The springtime is filling Earth's children with mirth.
The daffodil yellow, The south wind so mellow,
The gentle rain falling, Upon the green earth.
The song sparrow singing, New life quickly springing,
All nature is telling
A tale of rebirth:
The deep wells of being, Beyond each day's seeing,
O'er flowing with new Life,
Restoring the earth."



The days grow longer, the temperatures warmer. Spring awakens all of Nature, and we glory in the splendors of budding flowers and gentle rains. Birds sing joyously and squirrels scamper through the treetops. It is the time of planning, planting and preparing ourselves for the awakening season of bountiful growth.

Spring, even more so than New Year's, is an appropriate time to think about what you sow, and eventually what you plan to reap, not only in your garden, but figuratively and metaphorically in your spiritual life. What seeds do you choose to plant in your garden? How do you fertilize your garden, and how do you enrich your daily life? What do you weed from your garden, how do you make room for growth in your life? Is your garden well-tended, with profusion of blooms, is it gnarly and twisted, or has it suffered drought and neglect? Perhaps some well-placed pruning is necessary to bring your garden into balance? Does it get enough clean, fresh water, sunlight, and plenty of fresh air? Do the plantings in your garden stand straight and tall and alone, or are you part of a lush and rich forest of like-minded yet diverse individuals? Do you mingle your roots, and do you share yourself and your abundance with your fellows? Do you like what you find when you finally harvest and pluck your garden and examine the fruits?

How do you restore the Earth in your garden?

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

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.

Minister's Musings



For the past several hundreds of years, western philosophy and science have advocated a mechanistic and objectifying view of nature. No longer do we see spirits living in nature that require appeasement, no longer do we see judgment cast down from the heavens in every bolt of lightning, no longer do we cower in fear and guilt when the earth quakes or when the hurricanes blow. The material benefits of this objectification of nature are countless. Life expectancy has nearly doubled in the past few centuries. We are enormously safer and more comfortable than previous generations could ever imagine. The material benefits of the objectification of nature are just beyond measure.

That all being said, however, it is necessary to question the cost of this comfort and safety. The first Earth Day nearly 50 years ago was an attempt to educate the public on the true cost of our estrangement from nature. How many of us remember the burning rivers and lead-filled air of the 1970s? Real progress has been made thanks in large part to greater awareness and effective legislation. We've made progress, to be sure, but as evidenced by the growing number of concentrated animal feeding operations, the reduction of our rain forests, the increasing demand for fossil fuels in spite of viable alternatives, we are not done.

"We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person" is the first principle of our shared faith. Yet, I wonder how many of us have considered the source of that inherent worth and dignity? Why do all people have inherent worth and dignity? Generally speaking, we recognize in our fellow humans the same interior depth that we ourselves experience. We recognize not only a physical resemblance, but also a subjective experience that mirrors our own. We recognize that all humans are not mere objects for our private use, but carriers of this thing we call consciousness. That recognition is the source of the inherent worth and dignity.

The spiritual task of Earth Day, I believe, is to awaken in ourselves that same awareness of inherent worth and dignity present in all of nature. It is an opportunity to consider that all living things are subjects and not merely objects. The simple fact of our large brains and opposable thumbs and a conscious and subconscious awareness of own impending deaths, does not make us fundamentally more important than any other species on the planet. Human intelligence is but an accident of evolution and not "more evolved" than any other type of intelligence. The assumption that we have some special right to use and abuse other beings for our comfort and pleasure has proven to be toxic, the legislative victories of the past have proven temporary, and "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" are proving to be insufficient. Earth Day invites us to take the next step, recognizing our place within the natural order of things, not above or beyond it. It is an invitation to live in true interdependence, in cooperation with nature world and not in competition with it.

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Rev. Thomas Schmidt

Phone: 432-559-2411

E-mail: uurev@icloud.com

Office Hours

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

By appointment anytime.

Sunday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.
“Life is Not Always Beautiful”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader: John Porter

Easter is held up by many as the ultimate sign of hope and promise of a better future. Easter, however, does not just happen. There is no Easter without Good Friday, no spring without the cold and dark of winter. This Easter, let us be mindful of all the pain and suffering in our lives;; let us recall that life is not always beautiful. And, let us find a way to embrace the imperfection of our lives, and so create the promise of a life transformed.

Sunday, April 8, 10:30 a.m.
“Justice, Equity, and Compassion
in Human Relations”
Linda Crawford

Service Leaders: Megan Porter and John Foster
This I Believe – Ruth Weber



Linda will examine our mandate to promote “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations”. She will discuss why these three particular words were chosen, and how they naturally extend our first principle to the broader society. Most crucially, she will discuss why justice, equity, and compassion are so difficult to achieve in today's world.

Linda and her husband Dale have been happy members of Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Jacksonville for about nine years. They originally joined to find community, but they have found so much more in this faith. Along with dear friends, Linda has received guidance for living a kinder and more ethical life. She is very proud to be a Unitarian Universalist.



Sunday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.
“A Covenant of Right Relations”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader: Megan Porter

There will be a children and youth food collection.
Plate Donation to the Food Pantry

Conflict is a natural and expected fact of every form of human community. While many of us have been conditioned to avoid conflict and see it as a problem, in truth it is a sign that the system in question is alive and vital. Conflict brings with it a choice: to treat the issue as a problem or an opportunity. Let us explore how we might create the conditions for a spiritually safer and welcoming community that uses conflict to fuel vitality and growth

Sunday, April 22, 10:30 a.m.
“Poetry as North Stars”
Ann Browning Masters, PhD

Service Leader: Palmer Short

As part of the celebration of April as Poetry Month, Dr. Masters will share literature that can provide insight and illumination, comfort and courage, and nudges to our better selves. She will include some traditional poems that are often reached for at momentous times, and poems that provide humor to help gain perspective on our lives. With time permitting, UU members will be invited to share a few lines of their North Star poem instead of the usual question-and-answer session following the Service message.

Ann Browning Masters completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Master's and Specialist's degrees in Counseling Education, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Florida. Her doctoral dissertation, The Evolution of the Legal Concept of Environmental Sexual Harassment of U.S. Higher Education Students by Faculty received the Education Law Association Outstanding Dissertation Award.



Dr. Masters has held clinical and administrative positions in mental health and drug abuse treatment agencies. She retired with 27 years of service as a counselor and faculty member at St. Johns River State College. She is a multiple recipient of Who's Who Among American Teachers awards. In her academic career, her writing focused on gender and equity issues.

Sunday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.
“Climate Change: What's Religion Got t`o Do With It?”
Ray Adman, PhD, MD

Service Leader: Ray Adman

Dr. Adman will discuss the effects religious beliefs have on attitudes toward climate science. He has found that there is a lot more than one might think.

Dr. Adman's background is primarily in science and medicine with PhD and MD degrees. He has had a long-standing interest in all things scientific. He was a meteorology teaching assistant and member of the American Meteorological Association. He has held research positions in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, and genetics in several universities including Harvard and the University of Washington. Dr. Adman has practiced pathology and emergency medicine in civilian and naval hospitals and has been medical director of commercial and hospital medical laboratories in several states, including Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine.



Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 20

at noon following brief refreshments after the Sunday service

Please mark your calendars for this very important meeting where we will vote for our 2018-2019 slate of officers as presented by our Nominating Committee.

We also will review and vote to approve the budget proposed by the Finance Committee and the Board, and vote on a number of other issues related to our membership in the larger UUA family that are critical to the ongoing operation of our Fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Program Team Meeting

Monday, April 2, 5:00 p.m.

"Sharing Our Selves"

As you most of you know, as of July 1, we will be returning to our status as a lay-led fellowship.

We are also bidding a very sad farewell to Megan Porter who has resigned as chair of our Program Team as of the end of this program year. For several years, Megan has led our Program Team by providing a wonderful array of fascinating and very diverse programming for our Sunday mornings. Thank you Megan, from all of us!

Robin Mahonen will be assuming the role of chair of this team, and is asking for the support of everyone in our congregation to make this transition as smooth as possible.

After our Board of Trustees, our Program Team is the most critical team of our Fellowship. It is WHY we are all here! We want to welcome and encourage each one of you to participate in this effort in whatever way you can. The task of providing a richly rewarding and diverse spiritual service every Sunday morning is monumental, and will work best with input from each of you, in whatever way you are able. We hope you would consider it an honor to serve on this Team.

Our Summer Program will start on July 1, and run 7 weeks through to August 12. The structure will be informal, and each week we will focus on one of our UUA Seven Principles.

The Fall Program will begin on Sunday, August 19. As we begin this transition back to a lay-led fellowship, the theme of the year will be "Sharing Our Selves."

Not only do we need assistance in arranging for speakers, but as a lay-led fellowship, we hope that we may call on you to share your unique talents, interests and abilities with your spiritual family. We greatly appreciate the active participation of our members in sharing their spiritual path and life journeys with us. If you have a particular idea for a service, and are able to serve as a speaker for us, please let us know!

We will be meeting to plan for the 2018-2019 program year on Monday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Come and join us as we look forward to another fulfilling year at UUFSA.

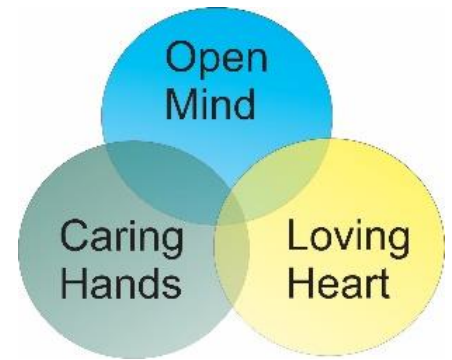
Robin Mahonen, President, UUFSA



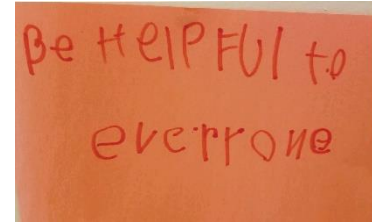
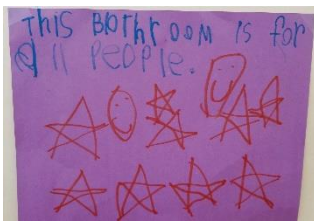
Programs for Children and Youth

Our children have had a very busy and exciting run-up into spring that has impacted our Fellowship well beyond the classroom.

In February, Rio and Arbor Dowey-Blank and their mom Anya, shared tales of their exciting trip to Australia with children and adults alike. They described what they did, saw, and learned about Australia's unique animals, what life is like on a sheep station, and at the beach! It is good to learn what life is like on the other side of the world. Thank you Rio, Arbor and Anya!



In recognition of Black History Month, our children discussed what life was like for African-Americans during the Jim Crow era and the unwelcoming “Whites Only” signs that Blacks encountered during that period on bathroom doors and drinking fountains as well as in restaurants, hotels and a multitude of other places. The children were then challenged to create welcoming signs and signs of inclusion that are now posted on the doors and walls all around our Fellowship. Their signs are reminders for all of us.



As the weather warmed, it was time to plant flowers in our garden. Our back yard now blooms! They planted seeds, too, but it will take some time to discover what they will become.



To spread the joys of spring, our children created beautiful “kindness rocks” with the help of Kelly Shuford and Maggie McElhaney, and the children spread the rocks all around our Fellowship. If you find a rock, our children invite you to take it, hide it for someone else to find, and spread joy and kindness well beyond our walls.



Drum Circle

Tuesday, April 10, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10 we will gather in the sanctuary from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. to play some rhythms. Drums are provided, and you may bring your own if you like. Michael “Derm” Dermody will facilitate. Beginners welcome. Friends welcome. Children welcome!

Health and Healing Circle

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

More and more the evidence shows us how meditation and contemplative prayer serve to calm the mind and so reduce stress hormones that promote inflammation and disease in the body. Thus, prayer and meditation are not about bending the universe to our whims; they are about aligning ourselves to the natural order of things. Rev. Schmidt is facilitating a monthly prayer and healing circle that will use the well-documented power of intention and mediation for health and healing on the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

March UUFSA Treasurer's Report

The March Treasurer's Report and a summary of that report are posted on the UUFSA News bulletin board downstairs.



Great Decisions

Monday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

GREAT DECISIONS, an initiative of the Foreign Policy Association, is America's largest discussion program on world affairs.

In the last 15 years, China has implemented a wide-ranging strategy of economic outreach and expansion of all its national capacities, including military and diplomatic capacities. While the United States has taken a step back from multilateral trade agreements and discarded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), China has made inroads through efforts like the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). What is driving these changes? Is there a new geopolitical equation?

Background reading material available at <https://tinyurl.com/ycadgkb5>.

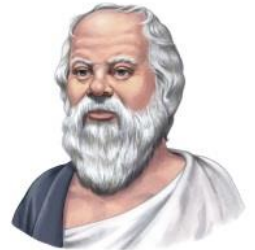
Please join us at the UU upstairs (2487 A1A S, St Augustine, FL 32080 - see map at uufsa.org). Yosi will be leading the discussion. And bring a friend!

For more information contact Yosi at 904-461-3175 or jomcintire@bellsouth.net.

Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

Sunday, April 8, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Downstairs



This month, we will gather again for Downstairs Dialogue on the second Sunday, April 8, for 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 Cafe method used successfully at our local Council on Aging. 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 should 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, April 8.

Charlie West
Co-chair, Adult Learning

Food Pantry



Technically the name of the Food Pantry is “St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.” That is because 13 churches/fellowships banded together to provide the service of giving food to county residents in need. The following churches actively work with our Fellowship to manage the building, purchase the food, give the food to qualified individuals and comply with state mandates. As with any volunteer endeavor, some members give more of their time and effort and should be whole heartedly applauded.

Member churches are Anastasia Baptist, Ancient City Baptist, Center for Spiritual Living, First Coast Metropolitan Community, First United Methodist, Memorial Lutheran, Memorial Presbyterian, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Trinity Episcopal Parish, Shores United Methodist, St. Anastasia Roman Catholic, St.

Cyprian’s Episcopal and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Also St. Andrew’s Brotherhood frequently helps us with large pick-ups. Each of these churches helps to maintain the food pantry and keep it open Monday – Friday, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. This community endeavor is about 25 years old and one that we can be very proud to be a part of.

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

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



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 or 392-5722) if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.

**Palmer's Pic
(movie)
April 27, 6:30 p.m.**

The Fabulous Baker Boys



The movie for April 27 is ***The Fabulous Baker Boys*** starring Jeff Bridges, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Beau Bridges. The Baker Boys, down on their luck as lounge duo, start looking for a singer. None of the auditionees fit the bill, then up comes Michelle Pfeiffer. Case closed.

**Third Tuesday Book Group
Tuesday, April 17 at 1:00 p.m.**

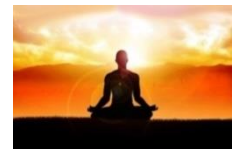


April's book is ***The Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towle. Contact **Barbara Brenner** at barbbren25@gmail.com for more information.

April 17 - *The Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towle,
May 15 - *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann,
June 19 (date subject to change) - Member lunch at a local restaurant

Tuesday Meditation Group Canceled

The Tuesday meditation group will no longer meet.



**Friday Darts Nights
April 6, and 20, 7:00 p.m.**



Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (downstairs at UUFSa) or occasionally at a real local pub, at **7:00 p.m.** on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. Contact Palmer Short, palshort@gmail.com, for details.

April Calendar



- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Great Decisions 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- 5 – Indivisible 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 8 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 10 – Drum Circle 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Book Group 1:00 p.m.
- 17 – Health and Healing Circle 7:00 p.m.
- 19 – PFLAG 7:00 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for May Quest contributions
- 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Movie, *The Fabulous Baker Boys* 6:30 p.m.

Using the UUFSA Online Calendar

If you desire to place an item in the UUFSA online calendar and, thereby, reserve space at the fellowship for the event, please contact the appropriate person in the list below. If the event does not concern any of the listed topics, contact Yosi.

Nana Royer	Indivisible events
Don Brandes	Synchronizes Calendar with Quest
Barbara Battelle.....	Children and Youth Programs
Cherie Dolgin.....	Food Pantry
Fred Dolgin.....	Membership
Tom Schmidt	Vegan group
Megan Porter.....	Speakers though June
Mary Kellough	Game Days and Grounds
Yosi (Jo McIntyre)	Calendar Manager and all other events



The link to the UU Calendar can be found on the home page of our website at <http://www.uufsa.org/>. Click on the calendar icon, as shown above.

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/>

General Assembly 2018 June 20-24, Kansas City, MO



Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. For more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

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.

April 1-6, 2018 Music Week

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

May 20-25, 2018 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 call The Mountain 828-526-5838 or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA.



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