

# QUEST



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida  
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

June 2018

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

[uufsacontact@gmail.com](mailto: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 July-August summer issue are due by June 22 .**

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

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

# From Your President

**Namaste,**

This is my last letter as your president, and I want to use this time and space to express my gratitude to all those who have assisted my work with this Fellowship over the last two years.

Some of you have served in multiple capacities with nary a complaint, and in fact, a cheerful, “Yes, of course!” when asked for help.

First and foremost, for those who served tirelessly on the Board: Chuck Chambers, Don Brandes, Barbara Battelle, Pat Maguire, Rosi Angeli, Bill Maguire, Charlie West, Pat Willott.

To our Minister: Rev. Tom Schmidt for his words of wisdom and nudges in the right direction.

For those who have served as Team Chairs: Mary Kellough, Ruth Weber, Fred Dolgin, Megan Porter, Nana Royer, Claudia Atkins.

For those unsung heroes who have helped with building related issues: Ray Adman, Cal Marshall, Yosi McIntire, David Wright, Annette Jones, Hunter Burnette.

To those who have assisted with Programming, Music and A/V: Taffy Rook, Alex Soltow, Jerome Fosaaen, JoAnne Englebert, Palmer Short, Jindy Gelow, John Porter, Barbara Brenner, Tony Rose, Bill Beaman, Rae O'Hair, Priscilla Gulliver, Surinder Paracer, Dick Hull.

To those in our Children and Youth and programs of religious exploration: Maggie McElhaney and Jennifer De La Rosa.

To those who have offered a warm smile, a hug, and words of encouragement: Cherie Dolgin, Priscilla Caine, Joyce Peterson, Toni Wallace, Adele Del Salvio, Beverly Cree, Elle Barry, Lyn Klarman, Janis May, Susan McLaughlin, Marsha Williams, Jane Mahoney.

And last, but not least, my dear husband, who has stood by me through this journey with a ready ear, and a patient heart: Ed Mahonen.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.” ~Melodie Beattie~

Thanks to all of you for making this a memorable and remarkable endeavor.

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



# Minister's Musings

Thank you. Thank you for this opportunity to serve this Fellowship, this community, and our Unitarian Universalist movement. I cannot begin to show my appreciation for all the various acts of kindness, large and small, that have made my tenure here special. This Fellowship was going strong for over 30 years before I arrived and will continue to be a beacon of hope in this area long after I leave. The driving force of our movement is not found in the clergy, it is found in the members. I am humbled by the generosity of spirit I found here and I can only hope to carry it with me as I move on.



With that being said, I would like to share some final thoughts that I hope you find useful should the Fellowship consider hiring another minister in the coming years. I have heard it said often in the past year that the Fellowship is returning to lay leadership. Without animosity or any intent to offend, I will take this opportunity to disagree with that notion. The role of clergy in Unitarian Universalism has long been fraught with difficulty and confusion. Except for a few exceptions, every culture and religion has developed a role for some sort of spiritual leader. We use the terms shaman, priest, priestess, minister, imam, and rabbi to distinguish individuals who have assumed the mantle of spiritual leadership. The problem with us Unitarian Universalists, of course, is that we do not all agree on what it means to be spiritual or even if the term has any real meaning at all.

On top of that lack of clarity of fundamental purpose, our congregational polity means that clergy have little authority except that explicitly given by the congregation. The only real authority given a minister in our tradition is the free pulpit and that is restricted by the fact a congregation can easily vote a minister out of a job at any time. In short, a Unitarian Universalist minister is given considerable responsibility but very little authority. To be clear, I'm not complaining, merely pointing out what I knew to be the arrangement when I accepted the role.

With that in mind, because a minister brings specialized training and experience, it is understood that when a congregation votes to call or hire a minister, the congregation is agreeing to accept the counsel and guidance of the minister. All this is to say that you have always been and will always be lay-lead. This was true before I came and most definitely was true the three years I served.

My advice, if you should ever hire another minister? Be willing to give up some of the control you hold to the person with the experience and training you are hiring. Lay leadership is one of our greatest strengths, it is a distinguishing characteristic of our faith, and it is one of our greatest vulnerabilities. While no minister should be given free reign, if we do not trust our ministers to fully utilize their extensive training and expertise then why hire them to begin with? Another bit of advice, be clear on what you are expecting before you even begin your search for a minister. I was your first minister, I knew that coming in and was prepared to break new ground. I can only hope that the seeds I have planted here may someday bear fruit to feed the next generation of Unitarian Universalists in St. Augustine.

***Yours in Peace and Service,  
Rev. Tom Schmidt***

**Rev. Thomas Schmidt**

Phone: 432-559-2411

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

**Office Hours**

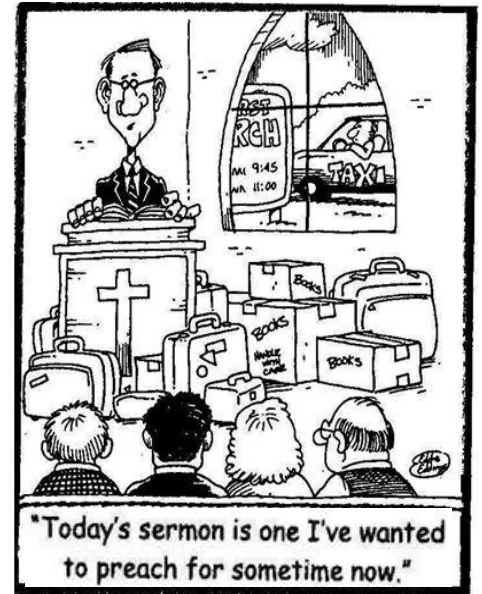
Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

By appointment anytime.

**Sunday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“So Be It. Amen. Blessed Be.**  
**Namaste. Farewell”**  
**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader: John Porter

Though this is not my final service, this is the big one, the “one I’ve wanted to preach for some time now.” In our tradition, individual congregations hold the power of ordination. It seems fitting then, to invite your participation as I put aside the mantle of clergy in a very UU version of the Catholic ritual of laicization.



**Sunday, June 10, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Joy Moja Redux”**  
**Christina Joy**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen  
This I Believe – Bill Maguire



Christina is returning to update us on her journey as the founder and the face of Joy Moja, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization aimed at improving educational opportunities for children in Tanzania. She was inspired to start the organization after studying abroad there in 2012. Christina personally travels to Tanzania, purchasing products directly from markets and artisans and works directly with schools and students that are the very heart of Joy Moja.

*Christina has a BA in International Studies from the University of North Florida where she focused her studies on African countries and post-colonial development, as well as an AS in paralegal studies. In August, Christina will start the Master of Sustainable Development graduate program at the University of Florida, a practice-based degree that will make her efforts in developing countries more effective. When Christina isn't working on Joy Moja or traveling to Tanzania, she works as a bartender, and she enjoys spending time with her pets, camping, and empowering people to pursue their dreams.*

<http://www.joymoja.com/>



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

**“Flower Communion”**

**Rev. Tom Schmidt**

Service Leader: Megan Porter

There will be a children and youth food collection.

Plate Donation to Wildflower Clinic

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 at the end of the church year.

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

**“The Health and Wellness Benefits of  
Volunteerism, for Mind, Body and Spirit.”**

**Loni Wellman**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

*Loni Wellman is the Volunteer & Event Manager at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. Prior to that, she was the educational program facilitator at the Art & History Museums—Maitland and educational Program Manager at the Children's Museum of Memphis. In these positions, Loni has witnessed the changes in volunteerism firsthand and has tailored her programs to meet the needs of the new volunteer. Loni earned her Bachelor's Degree in History from Flagler College, and her Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Loni has participated in many professional conferences including the American Alliance of Museums' annual conference, Florida Association of Museums, and the Southeastern Museum Conference. She is a 2011 American Alliance of Museums GOLD Muse Award recipient for a video she created for the Textile Museum in Washington DC. In 2016, Loni co-wrote the book *Recruiting and Managing Volunteers in Museums*, published by Rowman & Littlefield. Loni is also a member of the Junior Service League of St. Augustine. While in the JSL, she has served as chair of the Ways & Means Committee, Social Committee and the Entertainment Chair for the annual JSL Gala.*

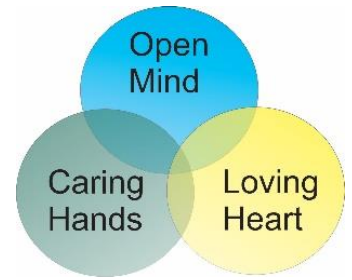


# Programs for Children and Youth

***School is out! Summer break is here!***

As the academic year comes to a close, and our children move into their summer vacation mode, it is a good time to reflect on how our children and their families have enriched our Fellowship this year.

In our Sanctuary, we all enjoyed the intergenerational stories presented by Rev. Tom and our teachers Jennifer and Maggie. We also loved seeing our families light our chalice and our children run to fill the basket with donations for the Ecumenical Food Pantry.



Our children spearheaded the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table fundraiser, through our "Children's Choice" Share the Plate Sunday, they helped raised money for Ayla's Acres, an organization that rescues abandoned and abused animals, and they decorated over 100 holiday cookies for Dining with Dignity!



They planted a lovely garden in our back yard, fall and spring.



The "Signs of Inclusion" they posted and the "Kindness Rocks" they spread around our Fellowship remind us to be inclusive and to spread kindness and love. We can learn much from our children.



# Flowers for Sunday Services

We like to see fresh flowers or flowering plants at Sunday services!

Annette Jones has volunteered to manage our Fellowship's flower rotation.

Here's how it works:

If you'd like to bring a bouquet of flowers or a flowering plant to any Sunday service, just give Annette a call at 904-417-0617 or email her at [ajones@greyvictory.com](mailto:ajones@greyvictory.com)

Annette will let you know if someone else is already bringing flowers on that Sunday or not.

If you want to dedicate your flowers to a special occasion, a person or a memory, then just write up your dedication words as an announcement and send it to the UUFSA printer ([UUFSAprinter@hpeprint.com](mailto:UUFSAprinter@hpeprint.com)) or give it to the Service Leader on Sunday morning.

Place the flowers at the front of the Sanctuary so they can be seen during the service. (You can borrow a vase from the downstairs kitchen.) And please remember to take your flowers home at the end of the service!



## May UUFSA Treasurer's Report

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



# **Great Decisions**

## **"Turkey: A Partner in Crisis"**

### **Monday, June 18, 6:00 p.m.**

The Great Decisions discussion group meets at UUFSA each third Monday to discuss U.S. foreign policy issues.

Of all NATO allies, Turkey represents the most daunting challenge for the Trump administration. In the wake of a failed military coup in July 2016, the autocratic trend in Ankara took a turn for the worse. One year on, an overwhelming majority of the population considers the United States to be their country's greatest security threat. In this age of a worsening "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West, even more important than its place on the map is what Turkey symbolically represents as the most institutionally westernized Muslim country in the world.

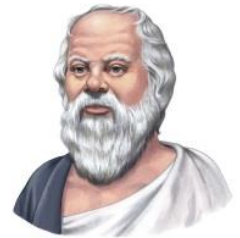
Rosi Angeli and Chris McDermott will lead the discussion. All are welcome. Please join us. For more information contact Yosi at 904-461-3175 or [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net).

Note: The Great Decisions discussion group will break for July and August and meet again in September. We wish everyone a happy productive summer!

## **Downstairs Dialogue**

### **"Socrates Café" – Open Discussion**

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



This month, we will gather again for Downstairs Dialogue on the second Sunday, June 10, 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, June 10.

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



# **Plant-based Lifestyle and Health**

## **Sunday, July 1, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

### **Rene Oswald**

The presentation is free and all are welcome. Rene is the author and creator of "Transitioning to Living Cuisine" program. She is also a registered nurse who overcame mastocytosis, a rare autoimmune illness.

For more information contact Yosi at 904-461-3175 or Candice Griffin (Plant-based Floridian) at 308-730-2980.



## **June Calendar**



- 1 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 3 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Indivisible 7:00 – 9:00 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.
- 15 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 18 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 19 – Book Group, annual lunch time and place TBD
- 22 – Deadline for July/August Quest contributions
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 22 – Movie, Steve McQueen in **Bullit** 6:30 p.m.
- 29 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- July 1 – Plant-based Lifestyle and Health 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

# Food Pantry



If you have questions about the St. John's Food Pantry or are interested in volunteering there, please contact Cherie Dolgin, the UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator, 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 3, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

***Mary Kellough & 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 Tuesday, June 19



Annual member lunch at a local restaurant, date subject to change. Contact **Barbara Brenner** at [barbbren25@gmail.com](mailto:barbbren25@gmail.com) for more information.

# **Palmer's Pics**

## **June 22, 6:30 p.m.**

### **Steve McQueen Double Feature**



## ***Bullit***

What was supposed to be a routine protection for a witness against the mob turns into a murder and the unforgettable car chase through the hills of San Francisco. This film co-stars Robert Vaughn, Jacqueline Bissett and was an Oscar winner for Best Film Editing.

## ***Love With The Proper Stranger***

Steve McQueen and Natalie Wood star as a charming, footloose musician and the innocent Macy's salesgirl who is carrying his child.

## **Friday Darts Nights**

### **June 1, 15, and 29, 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](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

## **Beyond Our Congregation**

## **St. Johns County Public Library Survey**

Our Public Library System is in the process of updating its long-term plans and would like to incorporate your thoughts, ideas and opinions about today's Library System into the planning process. Examples of what the Library is looking for are covered by questions such as:

- Do you think we have enough brick and mortar libraries to serve our county's communities?
- Are our libraries open at the right hours?
- How do you use the Library and its programs?
- If the County were to introduce a fee for you to use the Library, would you be willing to pay it?
- If you are willing to pay, what is the most you would be prepared to pay (if anything)?

When you have ten minutes or so available to go online, it would be appreciated if you were to take the time to complete the Library's Current Use and Facilities Survey. It has about 40 questions. Here is a link to the confidential survey: <http://www.sjcpls.org/survey/>

***Heather Sostrom***

***Anastasia Island Branch Manager***



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 delve 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>

## **Our Shared Future: Legacy Giving in UU Congregations**



Would you like to learn how to encourage your members, friends, and supporters to shape the future of Unitarian Universalism and to make a difference through legacy giving? Join us for an upcoming webinar!

Jay Pacitti, UUA Legacy Gifts Officer, will present the basics of legacy giving and best practices for building a healthy legacy giving program in your congregation; and Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, will discuss the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge. This free webinar will be held on June 9, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT The workshop will consist of a presentation followed by Q&A.

Learn more about this webinar, including how to sign-up, at: <https://goo.gl/5f1RrJ>  
To learn more about legacy giving, visit [www.uualegacy.org](http://www.uualegacy.org), where you will find helpful information and tools. To learn more about the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, visit <http://www.wakenowourvision.org>.