

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

October 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 on our website.

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Trustee	Annette Jones



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Materials for the November issue are due by October 12.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldblandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West and Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Fall is arriving. Maybe a little slower than we might prefer, but the days of 90+ degrees and high humidity will soon be a rarity and the best weather of the year (in my opinion) will be upon us. It is our obligation to get outside and enjoy it.

We all know that our spirits rise when we are able to enjoy some healthy activities outside, and the great weather makes it our duty to take advantage. For many of us, this is why we moved to St. Augustine. For the native Floridians, you already know from years of experience.

Your friends and acquaintances at the UU would probably like an invitation to join you and others in fall activities. Go down to the “Pumpkin Church” on King Street. Buy some pumpkins and do some carving. If you have the skills, use the inside of the pumpkin for a pie. Visit a nearby park or beach. We live in Paradise. Take advantage of it.

There are a lot of activities at the UU this month. Each of you, if you have an email address, gets a weekly copy of the calendar for activities at the UU for the coming week. It is a very simple document and easy to read. If you want to know more about the calendar items, it's probably here in this month's Quest. If you want to see the full calendar, just go to our webpage and click on the calendar.

If you struggle finding our webpage, all you need to do is go to any search engine and type in “UUFSA.” The first entry will be our webpage. Of course, there is also a page on Facebook.

Explore! Inside and outside. Keep exploring. It makes life so much more interesting.

I can tell you that being President has lead me to exploration. I am discovering old and new things constantly. Our projects at the Fellowship Hall have uncovered files and documents from the past, and have forced us to do some serious thinking about the building and what we want it to be in the future. Rosi Angeli and Annette Jones are leading the Beautification Committee and doing a fine job. Keep it up. Please.

Often, what we get out of the UU is what we put in. I'm putting a lot in right now and find I am getting more out than ever. The best part of the UU is our people. Get more involved to meet and interact with more UU people. We are, if I may say so myself, pretty terrific.

Make it your mission this month to get outside and to get more involved in the UU. Guaranteed methods of making your life better. And it is mostly non-fattening!

See you at the Fellowship Hall and more.

Chuck Chambers

904-679-1853

Johnchuck1@yahoo.com

Sunday, October 7, 10:30 a.m.

“Ekvn-Yefolecv”

Marcus Briggs-Cloud

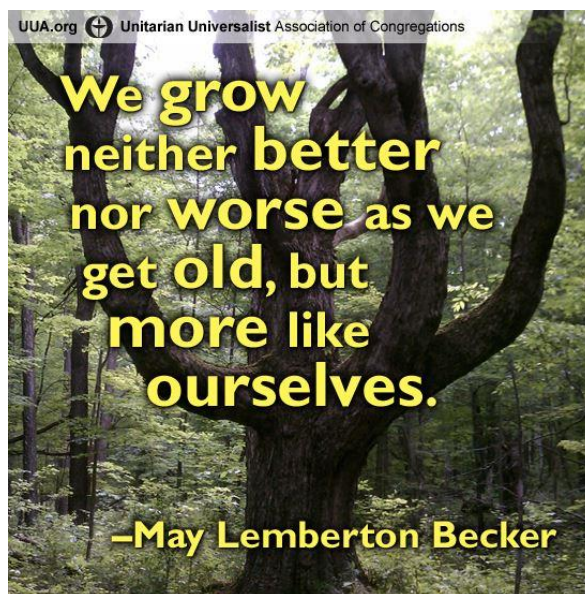
Service Leader: Barbara Brenner



It is “Indigenous People's Day” weekend. Our speaker will address his work with Ekvn-Yefolecv, an intentional Indigenous Maskoke Ecovillage community. The community is committed to reclaiming their ancestral homeland and practicing linguistic, cultural and ecological sustainability. He will speak from a philosophical/cosmological perspective and will note specific programming, with a focus on social justice. He will also perform some of his original music.

Marcus Briggs-Cloud (Maskoke) is a community organizer, scholar and musician. He is founder and director of Ekvn-Yefolecv. He has been nominated for two Native American Music Awards for his Maskoke language hymn album "Pum

Vculvke Vrakkuecetv" (To Honor Our Elders) and in October 2012 served as the choir conductor and composer in Rome, Italy for the Vatican Canonization Liturgy of the first Native American Catholic Saint, Kateri Tekakwitha. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, he is currently a PhD candidate in Interdisciplinary Ecology at the University of Florida. He is the author of several academic peer-reviewed articles intersecting liberation theology, ecology, linguistics, and race and gender identity. Marcus has served as an indigenous spokesperson at the United Nations on the topic of global indigenous language endangerment and is the director of Este-Cate em Ponvkv Cuko, a Creek language immersion program for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Sunday, October 14, 10:30 a.m.

“Discover the Ruby Within”

Dr. Martha Bireda

Service Leader: Richelle Ogle

This I Believe: Mary Kellough



Ruby is the young enslaved character in the book, *The Womb Rebellion*, who recognized and never surrendered her “true” self, despite the label of slave or the conditions under which she was forced to live. This interactive presentation will have congregants answer two questions: “Who am I?” and “What greater thing(s) am I to express in my life?”

Martha R. Bireda, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Blanchard House Museum of African-American History and Culture of Charlotte County. She has over 25 years’ experience as an equity consultant specializing in race, gender, cultural diversity and empowerment issues. Dr. Bireda is a true “Grits,” “girl raised in the sun.” She is a fifth-generation Floridian and her ancestors were among the first settlers in Punta Gorda.

*She has just returned from presenting her Living History Re-enactment on “Powerful Doctoring Women” based upon her book, *The Womb Rebellion*, at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, DC.*

Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 14, after the service

The autumn potluck lunch will take place after the service on Sunday, October 14.



Sunday, October 21, 10:30 a.m.
**“From Pedestals of Privilege:
Deconstructing Confederate Monuments”**
Mark Yount

Service Leader: Michael Read

There will be a children and youth food collection.

Plate Donation will go to Wildflower Clinic, with Special Guest: Elisabeth Chismark

A majority of Americans believe the South waged a Civil War to defend "states' rights," not slavery. Many argue that to remove or relocate Confederate monuments amounts to revising the past. But our present lives have been shaped by white privilege, whether we acknowledge that or not. What will it take for the causal chains of slavery to stop rattling our history? Can we find a way to respect conflicting "heritage" even as we work to deconstruct Southern mythology, so we can move toward a future with opportunity for all?

Mark Yount taught Philosophy for 12 years at Trinity College (Hartford), Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia) and Jacksonville University after earning degrees in Philosophy from The College of William and Mary (B.A.), Villanova (M.A.) and University of Colorado at Boulder (Ph.D.). He has given over 100 sermons at Buckman Bridge UU Church (Jacksonville), UUFSA, and All Souls (Palatka). Mark currently works for Mental Health America of Northeast FL, helping people with mental illness, who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness apply for disability benefits. He is writing a book titled Wisdom on the Way: Drawing Ourselves to Truer Perspective Where Philosophy, Psychology and Spirituality Meet.



Sunday, October 28, 10:30 a.m.
**“Buddhist Philosophy and Practice –
My Experience”**
Chris McDermott

Service Leader: Jane Mahoney

Relying on research and analysis from highly regarded sources, the presentation will review the main tenets of teachings, principles and philosophy attributed to the Buddha and will review what are widely accepted as the requirements and benefits of practicing Buddhist teachings and how they have been incorporated into Western thinking and psychology. Chris will touch on his own experience in Buddhist temples and with esteemed monks, and then we'll open up the session for questions and comments.



Chris retired from the U.S. Foreign Service here in St. Augustine after a 30-year career working on international development, primarily health programs. His posts abroad include exotic locations such as Haiti, Congo, and Malawi, as well as Egypt, Liberia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hardship tours were completed in Washington, DC. It was a 3-year tour as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea which got him into the health field, and led him to earn master's degrees in public health and health economics at the University of Michigan. Chris has two children from his first marriage.

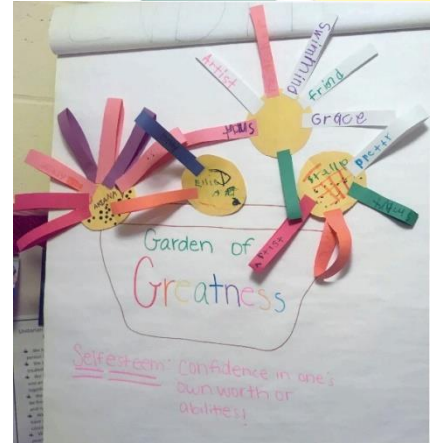
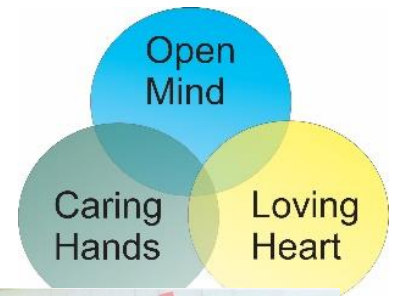
His wife Quan was born in Chiang Mai and also worked as a program manager in international development. After a 2-year courtship which began in a USAID training seminar, they were married at a temple in Bangkok in 2006. She is a practicing Buddhist, as are most Thais.

Chris is active in supporting environmental causes and in helping local green candidates who value our natural history and treasures. He also volunteers in the county elementary school program and provides comfort to his mother Gerre, 95, who lives at an assisted living facility in town. Studying comparative religion and psychology at Holy Cross College in the 1970s, Chris developed an interest in world religions, particularly Buddhism. In Korea, he and a French monk studying at a local Zen monastery became friends and visited temples together, including several in Kyoto, Japan. Since then, Chris has been more of an armchair Buddhist, reading and meditating off and on, and only more recently renewed his interest to learn and practice more. Chris believes that Buddhist culture and tradition shouldn't deter those born outside of it from appreciating the insight and truth of Buddhist teachings and benefitting from its practice in everyday living – something the Buddha was very clear about. Chris joined the UUFSA in 2017, after doing time as a Catholic, a Presbyterian and an atheist.

Programs for Children and Youth

As the new congregational year began, our children began their studies of our UU Principles.

They created a beautiful Tapestry of Faith and discussed the idea that everyone is important, including each one of them, while creating a Garden of Greatness.



Our children are also practicing the value of giving by collecting **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** to help support their school and **they are asking for our assistance**. On the packaging of many products you may normally purchase, look for coupons that look like this:

Each one is worth \$0.10! You will find them on packages of General Mills cereals, Green Giant vegetables, Kleenex products, Ziplock and Hefty products and many more. You can find a full list on the bulletin board outside our sanctuary. A collection box prepared by Grace and Stella is downstairs on the announcement table. Look for it during coffee hour. **If you would like more information, speak with Grace, Stella or Kelly Shuford**, and please support our children's efforts to help their school!



If you have questions about our Programs for Children and Youth, please contact Barbara Battelle (babattelle32137@yahoo.com) or Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) or talk with one of our teachers, Maggie or Liz.

Maggie



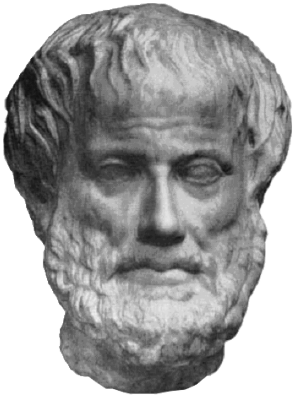
Liz



“The Meaning of Life”

What does it mean to be a good person?

Thursdays, October 11 and 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m.



Welcome All! Aristotelian thinking determined the orientation and the contents of Western intellectual history, and became embedded in both Christian and Islamic thought for centuries. Thus the background of our new Adult Learning Course: “The Meaning of Life”.

In our first session on October 11, we will explore The Nicomachean Ethics, the idea of “anima” (soul or life principle) and its many different layers.

For October 25, our focus will be Aristotle’s “The Highest Good” and the role of the sciences and arts. The collective good (politics), the good of a group of people is always better than the good of an individual. Happiness is the highest good. If you have, you have everything.

Each session will begin with a half-hour of illustrated lecture on DVD from Dr. Jay Garfield, Professor of Humanities and Philosophy, Smith College. This will be followed by a moderated discussion on the issues and comments raised during the evening, led by our own Dr. Surindar Paracer. So come join us on Thursday, October 11 and Thursday October 25, as we seek “The Meaning of Life.”

Contact Surindar Paracer (904-217-3802 sparacer@worchester.edu) or Charlie West (904-471-0335, westjrcw@gmail.com) for more information.
Co-chairs – UUFSa Adult Learning

Membership Committee Chili Dinner

Saturday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.

The Membership Committee will host a chili dinner at the Fellowship. This is a fun, not fund, raiser, so please bring your appetite and thirst for good food and conviviality. No cash donations will be taken. Attendees may, but are not required or expected to, bring their favorite chili, side dish, or dessert.



COFFEEHOUSE

Sam and Luci Williams

Saturday, October 13, 2018 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.



Sam and Luci Williams are two world-touring musicians who understand music's timeless power to transcend culture, race, age, and status, and unite human beings worldwide. Both were musicians from a young age; guitar and piano are the main instruments carrying their rock-pop-folk blend. Sam and Luci take their listeners on a journey of self-discovery and beauty, combining memorable melodies with uplifting lyrics. They know everything is vibration. Let their high-vibe music lift yours!

Please contact Robin Mahonen if you'd like to help with this event

October Calendar



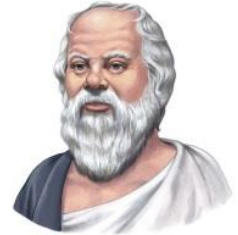
- 1 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 11 – The Meaning of Life 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 12 – Deadline for November Quest contributions
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Coffee House, Sam and Luci Williams 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 15 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 16 – Book Group *Charming Billy* 1:00 p.m.
- 17 – Social Action 7:00 p.m.
- 19 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 21 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 21 – Children and Youth food collection at Sunday service
- 25 – The Meaning of Life 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 26 – Movie, *Casablanca* 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 – Membership Team Chili Dinner

Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

Sunday, October 21, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Downstairs

We will gather again for Downstairs Dialogue on Sunday, **October 21**, a week **later than usual**, for an open discussion 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 by 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. Hopefully, topics should typically have some connection to our UU Principles. Discussion led by Charlie West.

Meanwhile, be sure and check out the announcement of our new Adult Learning course: “The Meaning of Life.” See details on page 8.

Charlie West
Co-chair, Adult Learning

Great Decisions

"South Africa's Fragile Democracy"

Monday, October 15, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



The African National Congress (ANC) party has governed South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. But the party today suffers from popular frustration over official corruption and economic stagnation. It faces growing threats from both left and right opposition parties, even as intraparty divisions surface. Given America's history of opportunistic engagement with Africa, there are few prospects for a closer relationship between the two countries. Meanwhile, a weaker ANC could lead to political fragmentation in this relatively new democracy. The discussion will be led by Pat McGuire.

Background reading: “South Africa's Fragile Democracy” by Sean Jacobs is available at <https://bit.ly/2MSuHng>.

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

From the Food Pantry



In this season of hurricanes, we hear suggestions about what items we should have on hand in case of an emergency. The people who we assist at the Food Pantry often do not have the money to purchase them. This month, please bring one of the following items and place it in the basket located in the foyer. Our clients could use food that does not have to be refrigerated or heated (cans of chicken, tuna, etc.); canned food that has a pull top and does not need a can opener (canned fruit, nuts, etc.); water (individual bottles or gallon jugs) and batteries (sizes D and AA for flashlights). If each member and friend of our Fellowship could donate one of any of these items, it will help our neighbors who utilize the Pantry immensely. Thank you,

Cherie Dolgin

904-461-1604

UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, October 7, 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 one of our members listed below if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.

Claudia Atkins..... 386-717-6765
Elle Barry..... 904-810-5915
Adele DelSavio..... 315-529-6287
Cherie Dolgin..... 904-461-1604
JoAnne Engelbert.....904-460-1190

Maureen Herth.....904-463-1032
Cynthia McAuliffe.....904-863-1303
Rosemary Wheeler.....352-339-4157
Anne Wilke.....904-797-1942

Join the UUFSA Book Group Third Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.



The UUFSA Book Group currently has openings for a few new members. If you don't know us, we meet once a month downstairs at the Fellowship, third Tuesday, 1 p.m. The group usually picks the books at the beginning of the season. We try to mix it up, contemporary fiction, non-fiction, foreign authors, writers of color, maybe a "golden oldie" or a first novel by an up-and-coming writer. We take turns leading the talk. We never all agree, which makes it fun, and we always come away having learned something from one another.

The book for our October 16 meeting is **CHARMING BILLY**, by Alice McDermott. Come join us and sit in, even if you haven't read the book. Friends of UUs are welcome.

Bobbie Brenner
Group Coordinator

Palmer's Pic October 26, 6:30 p.m.

Casablanca

Everybody gathers at "Rick's Americain Café" in that fabled city Casablanca. It's been seventy-six years. It is time to gather once more. Here's looking at you, kid.

Palmer



Friday Darts Nights October 5 and 19, 7:00 p.m.



Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (downstairs at UUFSA) 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.

Solar Fundraiser

UUFSA has collected over \$600 so far in its Pocket Change for a Solar Change fundraiser. The big clear bottle in the red wagon will continue to be around for your donations. Thanks for your support!



Beautification Team News

You will be seeing changes inside our UUFSA building during the coming months. The old, soiled curtains will be removed from the stage. The storage area behind the stage is being cleared out and reorganized. The office back there is getting a facelift! The restroom is being refurbished with new floors and cabinets. And cleaning and painting is happening everywhere. Please contact the Beautification Team with your feedback and ideas.

UUFSA Team Chairs 2018-2019

Adopt a Highway	Palmer Short <palshort@gmail.com>
Audio-Visual	Jerome Fosaaen <fosaaenj@gmail.com>
Beautification	Annette Jones <ajones@greyvictory.com>
.....	Rosita Angeli <rosiangel6@gmail.com>
	Or text Rosi at 904-315-4284
Building/Landscaping	Mary Kellough <LKellough@comcast.net>
Care Connection.....	Claudia Atkins <claudiadeland@aol.com>
Children/Youth Programs	Barbara Battelle <babattelle32137@yahoo.com>
.....	Jindy Gelow <jindyms@yahoo.com>
Communications.....	OPEN
Green Team	OPEN
Hospitality	Pat Maguire <Maguire-p@hotmail.com>
Lifelong Learning, adults	Charlie West <westjrcw@gmail.com>
Membership.....	Fred Dolgin <fdolgin@bellsouth.net>
Programs.....	Robin Mahonen <RRafael2@aol.com>
Social Concerns	Joanne Engelbert <engsch@gmail.com>
UU Movies	Palmer Short <palshort@gmail.com>

September UUFSA Treasurer's Report

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

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 website at <http://www.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.



Southern Unitarian Universalist Fall Institute (SUUFI)

October 14 – 19, 2018

The Southern Unitarian Universalist Fall Institute (SUUFI) is based on the book, *Aging to Saging*. Topics covered include: Significance, fulfillment, clarity, fellowship, and designing an extraordinary elderhood.

For more information: www.TheMountainRLC.org or phone 828-526-5838 or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA, 904-471-0335.