

QUEST



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

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

Materials for the January issue are due by December 21.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West and Adele DelSavio for proofreading.



From Your President



Maybe you noticed my new portrait accompanying this article. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. This month I'm the Grinch, and I am proud of it!

Why should I be proud of being identified with one of the most universally disliked characters in our age? After all, the very term "Grinch" has evolved from a proper noun to a common noun. Don't be a Grinch! Well, if you haven't recently seen the movie *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, or read the famous book on which the movie is based, you will likely have forgotten the very important detail of – The Ending!

We all remember the Grinch as the mean character who hates Christmas and everything about it. He hates the decorations. He hates the presents.

Maybe most of all, he hates the music! Of course, he then proceeds to pretend to be Santa Claus and steals all the presents, assuming that this will ruin Christmas for everyone.

Ah, but the Ending of the story. That is the important thing. Having stolen all the Christmas presents, the Grinch stands triumphantly on the top of his mountain reveling in his evil deed. Then he hears the sound of songs and joy rising from the valley below. He is forced to realize that the spirit of Christmas is greater than presents and will endure despite the efforts of the Grinch. It is then that the Grinch learns the lesson of Christmas, that it is the season of love for one another and that the true meaning of Christmas has little to do with presents and the other commercial trappings of the season.

In the end, the Grinch saves all the presents by growing a super large heart. When he returns the presents to the Whos below, he is restored by the love flowing to him from the Whos. But he learns that the love he is receiving is not based on the presents he is returning, but rather simply because the spirit that is Christmas is in the Whos and they are willing to share it with him, the Grinch. With his newly enlarged heart, he is able to accept their love and return it.

So being the Grinch turns out to be not such a bad thing. It allows me to remember the true meaning of the season is not the material part that we again started being reminded of in ads early this fall. Rather, and I quote here from *The American* magazine, vol. 28 (1889):

"To give up one's very self — to think only of others — how to bring the greatest happiness to others — that is the true meaning of Christmas."

We realize that the tradition of celebrating the winter solstice has a very long history. It is celebrated under many names by different groups. Its history is a subject for a separate column in its own right. Whatever we call it, the Grinch found the essence that day of a long and venerable tradition. So I am proud to be depicted today as that green, hairy, pot-bellied fellow who ultimately learns and lives the true meaning of the season.

May the spirit of the season fill your heart and help you bring the greatest happiness to others.

Chuck Chambers

Chuck Chambers

904-679-1853

Johnchuck1@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 2, 10:30 a.m.

“Fair Trade is Good Trade”

Purity Wangui Gikunju

Service Leader: Palmer Short

Music: Alex Soltow



Purity will be speaking on the topic of fair-trade practices, and will discuss the human, environmental and economic impacts of fairtrade, the role of Growers Alliance Café and Gift Shop in our community, and how to be a part of fairtrade.

Following the service, Purity will be providing a Kenyan breakfast in the social hall, as well as an opportunity to pick up some fairtrade coffee, nuts, handbags, jewelry and other items from Kenya.

Purity Gikunju is from Embu, Kenya but is now a dual citizen of the USA and Kenya. She comes from coffee farmers from the foot of Mt. Kenya. She is one of the founders of Growers Alliance, Inc.

Sunday, December 9, 10:30 a.m.

“My Advice To Pilgrims”

Grant Peeples

Service Leader: Ed Mahonen

Music: Taffy Rook

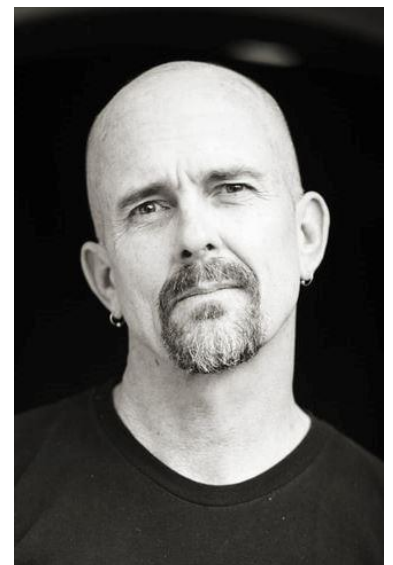
This I Believe: JoAnne Engelbert

Family and Children Chalice Lighters

Grant Peeples is a native Floridian, singer-songwriter, poet, activist and musician. He has made ten studio records, three live recordings and two poetry books. He tours coast-to-coast, primarily as a solo artist, but often with a side man. He lived on a small island off the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua for eleven years. And much of what he writes about today is informed by that experience. He saw ... a lotta stuff.

Gurf Morlix – who has produced Lucinda Williams, Mary Gauthier, Ray Wiley Hubbard, Robert Earl Keen, and Slaid Cleaves – has produced four of Grant’s Records, including his most recent, “Settling Scores Vol II” (2018)

“My Advice to Pilgrims” is the title of one of his two books of poetry. He will share both poetry and music with us.



Sunday, December 16, 10:30 a.m.

“Mary, Did You Know”

Rev. Pat Ray

Service Leader: Ozzie Boutin

Music: Alex Soltow

There will be a children and youth food collection.

Plate Donation will go to the Food Pantry



Many of us have been parents, either to human or animal. What would happen if your child believed and was believed to be the Messiah? How would it shape your world, or would it? This sermon talks about Mary, and Jesus, and love. Especially relevant at this particular time of conflict with immigration and human rights.

"Our mission at Christmas is not just to get stuff for people to open on Christmas morning, although a child's delight cannot be dismissed. Our mission though is to be the light that Mary was – to offer hope and help."

The Reverend Patricia (Pat) Ray has been a UU for 28 years and a member of Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Jacksonville for 17. She is a registered healer with the International Natural Healers Association (INHA), Reiki Master and member of the Association of Professional Chaplains. A Registered Nurse with a

Masters' degree in Public Administration, she has served in all roles on the BBUUC Board. An interfaith minister, she obtained her graduate certificate from Hartford Seminary, and her CPE at Baptist South. Living her own faith path as a Universalist Christian, she currently facilitates the Christian Fellowship, and serves as a chaplain and facilitator of the Pastoral Care Team for BBUUC.



Sunday, December 23, 10:30 a.m.

“The Night the Animals Spoke”

Rev. Elizabeth Teal

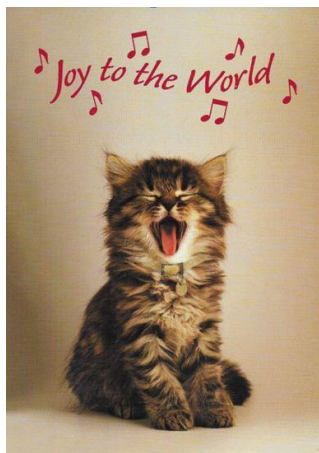
Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook



This presentation is a look at the meaning and message behind the myths and fables of the winter holy days, an interfaith approach to the magic and meaning of being here with each other no matter if you are feathered, furred, scaled or bare skinned!

Reverend Elizabeth Teal is the executive director of Giving Paws. She is also the Spiritual Director for The Ministry of Animals, and a monk in the world. Past credits include: Training Director and Consultant for Pattes Tendue (headquartered in Geneva Switzerland); coordinator of the ASPCA's Visiting Pet Program; the AACR team training and co-ordinator of the NYC 9/11 response; member of Delta Society's first Pet Partners National Committee; and handling the first installed Canine Guardian ad Litem in the state of Florida. Rev. Teal thought she was going to grow up to be an ethologist focusing on interspecies relationships, but along the way became a monk, an artist, a storyteller, and an interfaith minister instead. She has taken the vows of the Community of the Mystic Heart. She is committed to equity, justice and compassion in all our relationships and blogs daily at MinistryofAnimals.org.



Sunday, December 30 , 10:30 a.m.

“A Born Again Calligrapher”

Gina Jonas

Service Leader: Michael Read
Music: Alex Soltow

In this talk you will learn how the role of calligraphy in Gina's life morphed from a personal one, dedicated to physical and emotional survival, to a public one, dedicated to bringing new life and meaning to the field of calligraphy. She'll recount the story of the life, times and breakthroughs that led to writing her new book, *Calligraphy as Art and Meditation: A New Approach*. You'll discover how this book translates calligraphy into an art for our times.



Gina has been a professional calligrapher since 1971. She is the author of *Finding the Flow: A Calligraphic Journey*, *Hebrew Calligraphy Styles*, and *Calligraphy as Art and Meditation: A New Approach*. She has taught classes, workshops and private students, and given talks for organizations and at international calligraphy conferences. She enjoys playing the piano, learning Italian, and walking on the beach.



Grant Peeples

Coffeehouse

Saturday, December 8th, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for our third coffeehouse of the 2018-2019 season with internationally known, native Floridian singer-songwriter and activist, Grant Peeples.

Grant Peeples' Mission Statement

"To try to weave and dance through the troubles of the day.

To shadow box with my memories.

To write like my feet are on fire.

To not be afraid to take a punch.

To encourage others in their respective endeavors.

To remain thick-skinned and bone-tired.

To keep my teeth sharp and my heart soft.

To steer clear of cheap rhyme.

To remember that the symbol IS the message.

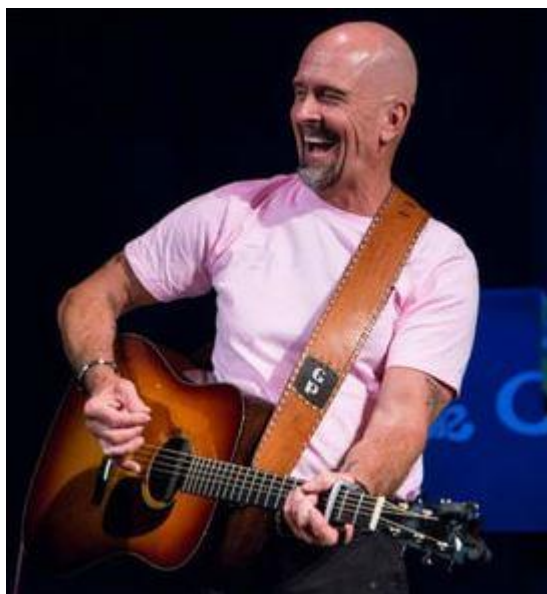
To pick a fight every day.

To see the world through the eyes of others.

To find my people, and deliver unto them.

To not succumb to harmless artistic endeavors.

And to never give up, ever."



What They Say About Grant Peeples:

"He's the Woody Guthrie of the New Millennium" --- Larry Newman – WSCA

"The only songwriter I have ever called 'ruthless'"--- John Conquest – 3rd Magazine

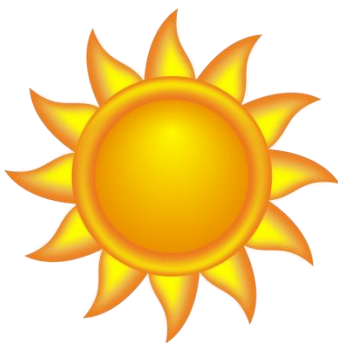
"A man of deeply held conviction....and cajones" --- D.C. Bloom – Lonestar Magazine

"No performer holds a crowd like Grant Peeples" --- Barry White – S. Florida Folk Network

"Comedic, acute, smart, intensely political" --- Mark Stern – WMBR Cambridge MA

Suggested Love Donation – \$10, proceeds to go toward solar panels on the roof of the fellowship.

<https://www.grantpeeples.com/>



Solar Panels at UUFSA

We are on our way to extending the ways we live our principles of compassion, justice, and respect for the interdependent web.

Our solar panels will:



Reduce our use of fossil fuels



Model for others the importance of addressing climate change



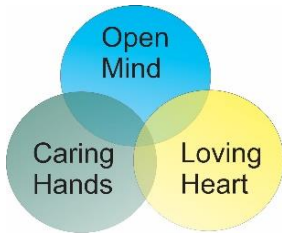
Solar panels on the UUFSA roof

The cost to provide 100% of our energy use will be \$40,000. With \$20,000, we will complete installation of all the needed electronics built into our facility and install enough solar panels to provide 40% of our energy needs. Additional panels can then be added later easily.

We are so fortunate to have a generous donor who will match up to \$10,000 at the end of December. With \$1,750 in the “Solar Fund,” \$3,000 in pledges, and at least \$700 in the “Solar Jar” – we potentially have \$15,450 – a great start!

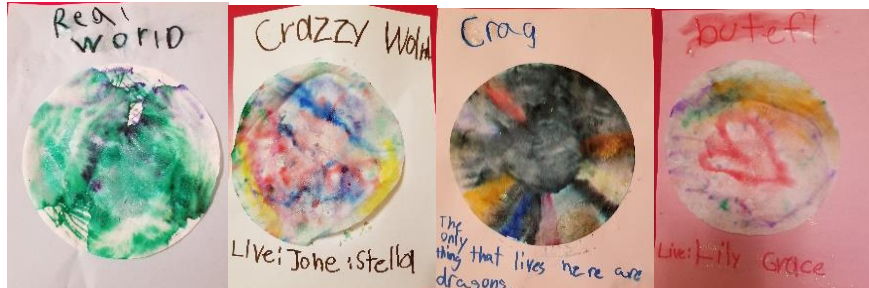
Every donation makes a difference – change or bills in the jar, checks designated for the solar project, stock transfer – it is all tax – deductible. With sincere gratitude for our matching-fund donor, and all the ways members of our congregation are making this happen.

Beverly Cree



Programs for Children and Youth

During October our children focused on our seventh principle: taking care of our world. They also imagined and illustrated all kinds of worlds: real ones, crazy ones, a world filled with dragons and beautiful worlds.



October also brought Halloween, and for that celebration the children decorated goodie bags for the people at Home Again St. Johns and filled the bags with treats.



Our children are beginning to ask hard questions about the origins of things, so in their classes during November, the children considered wonderfully imaginative creation stories from different parts of the world and then what 21st century science tells us about the creation of the universe and the origin and evolution of life.



We wish all our families a very HAPPY HOLIDAY!

“The Meaning of Life”
Wisdom and Knowledge from the World’s
Great Intellectual Traditions
Thursday, December 13, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
“Job’s Challenge- Who are we?”

‘If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of humanity? Why have you made me your target?’

We continue our course with a second session from the Book of Job. This will be the only session in December due to the holidays.

Job’s central concern is how a righteous person’s faith and integrity come through a crisis. It is a good man’s struggle to understand unexpected misfortune. In it he comes to terms with his suffering and gains understanding of his place in the universe. Growing wise is a complex dynamic process.

In the movie, “The Fiddler on the Roof,” Tevye says to God, “Troubles ... Troubles ... That’s all you ever hear from me. But who else can we simple people bring our troubles to?” Following is one of the best lines from the movie: “I know, I know. We are Your chosen people. But once in a while, can’t You choose someone else?”

Please come and join us for an evening of learning, good discussion and conversations.

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





Holiday Poinsettias

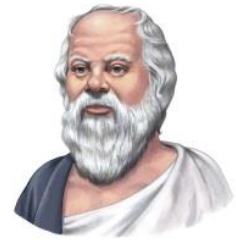
Holiday Poinsettias on display in the Fellowship hall are for sale. Please purchase one or more of them to bring holiday spirit to your home. This is a UUFSA fundraiser.

Annette Jones

Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

Sunday, December 9, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Downstairs



We will gather again for Downstairs Dialogue on Sunday, December 9, at 9:15 a.m., 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.

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

Meanwhile, be sure and check out the announcement of the latest session of “The Meaning of Life.” See details on page 10.

Charlie West
Co-chair, Adult Learning

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will not meet in December or January. Meetings will begin again on February 18, 2019.

December Calendar



- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 8 – Grant Peeples Coffee House 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 9 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 – The Meaning of Life Adult Ed. 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Children and Youth food collection at Sunday service
- 18 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45
- 21 – Deadline for January Quest contributions
- 21 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 28 – Movie, *The Bishop's Wife* 6:30 p.m.



November UUFSA Treasurer's Report

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

From the Food Pantry



Last year the Food Pantry distributed 100 Winn Dixie gift cards, in the amount of \$10 to each family, at holiday time. Clients used them primarily for holiday dinners and were extremely appreciative. This year the Board decided there was not enough money in cash reserves to repeat this gift. They are still hoping that more money will be donated, so more food can be purchased to provide nice holiday dinners.

I want to remind you that ANY Sunday (except when it is a Share the Plate Sunday for another agency), you can drop a check in our Fellowship's collection basket, with FOR THE FOOD PANTRY written on the memo line, and that amount of money will be sent by our Treasurer to the Food Pantry. Please keep our clients, who are your neighbors, in mind when writing up your holiday gift lists.

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, December 2, 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 serves 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. We accept and appreciate donations.

Claudia Atkins, Chai..... 386-717-6765
Elle Barry 904-392-5722
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..... 904-797-1944

UUFSA Book Group



The UU Book Group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 1:00 p.m. Our book selection for this month is ***Educated***, by **Tara Westover**. Discussion leader will be Kathleen Paracer.

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 December 28, 6:30 p.m.

The Bishop's Wife



The movie for December is the Cary Grant and Loretta Young version of ***The Bishop's Wife***. The bishop, played by David Niven, has lost his faith and thinks building a grand cathedral will restore it. In a moment of despair he calls on God to help him and an angel in the form of Cary Grant appears – not your normal idea of an angel. Each time I view this movie I see something different. Pay close attention towards the end when the bishop's wife suddenly realizes he is not what he seems to be. The angel has fallen in love.

Palmer

Friday Darts Nights December 7 and 21, 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.

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/>

Stewardship Webinar Series

The Southern Region staff team is offering a **series of webinars for congregational leaders and members**. There is no cost to attend but **pre-registration is required**. Save the dates for these webinars:

Stewardship, January 17, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time
Planning Your Pledge Drive – Late!

Your pledge drive needs to happen soon, but it is late and you still don't have a drive leader, or maybe just got one in place! What are options for congregations when they don't have time for volunteer recruitment, good planning, identifying strategies that fit, creating effective messaging, or coordinating with other parts of the congregation? We will present 11th-hour strategies and learn from each other's experiences. Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPbmE5JwwolFI Sut8KhfsUqeuA15V3xlaBAeJzhDlvfFm bCw/viewform>

Justice, February 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 pm Eastern Time

Leadership Resources, March 21, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time



This is a website focused on church stewardship.

<https://stewardshipforus.com/talking-about-money-with-care/>

Florida UU Women's Retreat

April 5-7, 2019, [Florida UU Women's Retreat](#), Parrish, FL (Near Bradenton)



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

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!



Ten from UUFSA at the “Aging to Saging” program. Let’s plan now to attend another event – a great way to get to know one another and enjoy the program, at a great place.

MUSIC WEEK 2019
at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Highlands NC

“Mind, Body and Spirit in Harmony”
April 21 – 26, 2019
Performances, Jams, Songwriting, Skill-building all with a Welcoming Community
\$25 Early Bird Discount until February 28th, 2019

New Year’s At The Mountain

December 28, 2018—January 1, 2019



Join us at The Mountain for a celebration of Peace & Love this New Year’s. From hippies to disco we’ll explore and celebrate the 60s & 70s. We invite you to bring your tie-dye, hippy and disco costumes / clothes for the New Year’s Party. We will also be building a living time capsule. Bring your stories, photos and mementos. Check our website for updates about our New Year’s celebration. TheMountainRLC.org

Rates: Adult 4 Nights / 5 Days \$360.00 (Friday - Tuesday)
Youth \$145.00
Adult 3 Nights / 4 Days \$275.00 (Saturday - Tuesday)
Youth \$110.00
Adult 2 nights / 3 days \$190.00
Youth \$75
Children free
Private room charge (when available) \$35.00 a night .

Additional 2019 Programs:

Music Week April 21-26
Womenspirit May 25-19
Youth Mountain Camp & Farm Camp June-July
Climate Justice August 4-9
Aging to Saging October 6-10

For more information:

www.TheMountainRLC.org or 828-526-5838
or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA.